RBI GUV FLAGS CONTINUED HIGH INFLATION AS 'A MAJOR CONCERN'

HYDERABAD, THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

he pioneer

SERENA MAKES WINNING RETURN

BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA *LATE CITY VOL. 4 ISSUE 253

HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW

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'I WANT TO PLAY A COOL, BUBBLY CHAR-ACTER'

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22-YEAR-OLD BRAINDEAD STUDENT GIVES **8 PEOPLE NEW LEASE OF LIFE**

22-year-old braindead college student gave 8 people a new lease of life as his organs were harvested and transplanted at a hospital here. S V Dhineesh of Salem met with an accident near Annur, some 35 km from here, on June 18 and was taken to a private hospital for first aid and then admitted to KMCH here for specialised treatment. As he did not respond to treatment, he was declared braindead on June 20, a release from KMCH said on Wednesday. His parents - Venkateswaran and Shanthi - came forward to donate their son's heart, kidneys, liver, eyes, skin and bones as was prescribed by the Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu, the release said.

GOVT BUS DRIVER'S SON STEERS HIMSELF TO DON IPS HAT

government bus driver's son has become the toast of the town after joining the IPS after clearing the UPSC civil service examination. Hailing from Bhalki and brought up in the district headquarter town of Bidar in north Karnataka, Anurag Daru would don the IPS hat after he got the 569th rank in the civil services exams the results of which were announced last month. To celebrate Daru's success, the KSRTC (Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation) on Wednesday organised a felicitation ceremony where the KSRTC chairman M Chandrappa and managing director V Anbukumar honoured him and his parents Manik

NO OF ITC EMPLOYEES WITH OVER RS 1 CR SALARY GOES UP TO 220

The number of employees at conglomerate ITC drawing a salary of over Rs 1 crore per annum has gone up by 44 per cent in the recently-concluded FY2021-22 fiscal, according to the company's annual report. The total number of ITC employees drawing a salary aggregating Rs 8.5 lakh per month or over a crore rupees per year was 220 against 153 in 2020-21, said the latest annual report of ITC. "There were 220 employees, who were employed throughout the year and were in receipt of remuneration aggregating Rs 8.5 lakhs per month.

ISRO'S PSLV-C53 TO LAUNCH 3 SINGAPORE SATELLITES ON JUNE 30

ndian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Wednesday said it will be launching - the second dedicated commercial mission of its commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) - 'PSLV-C53' carrying three satellites from Singapore on June 30. The launch vehicle carrying DS-EO satellite along with two other co-passenger satellites is scheduled to lift off at 18:00 hours IST from the Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The countdown of 25 hours leading to the launch begins at 17:00 hours IST on June 29. The mission, proposes to demonstrate the utilization of the spent upper stage of the launch vehicle as a stabilized platform for scientific payloads.



Rythu Bandhu disbursals from June 28

O CM KCR directs CS for further action

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao has decided to deposit Rythu Bandhu investment benefit for the coming 'Vanakalam' crop into farmers' bank accounts from June 28. The Chief Minister directed State Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar for further action. The state government will deposit Rythu Bandhu funds into farmers' accounts in a phased manner. Under the scheme, the State government gives Rs 5,000

each to farmers for both Vanakalam and Yasangi seasons. The farmers can use the amount for buying inputs for the ensuing season. The disbursals will be credited to the bank accounts of all the eligible farmers. It may be montioned here farmers. It may be mentioned here that, about a fortnight ago, both BJP and Congress demanded that Rythu Bandhu be disbursed quickly as it would help farmers in purchasing seeds and fertilisers.



Encourage progressive states

O KTR asks Centre to rethink about Atma Nirbhar policy in the defence sector

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Wednesday urged the Centre to reconsider its decision about the Atma Nirbhar Bharat policy in Defece sector and reconsider its decision to set up a defence industrial production corridor in Uttar Pradesh, saying that Hyderabad-Bengaluru is the ideal location for the project.

Industries Minister K. T. Rama Rao said the Centre should rise above political considerations and

political agenda to encourage progressive states like Telangana.

Industries Minister K.T. Rama Rao, on Wednesday, urged the Centre to by encouraging firms to invest in the "already-existing ecosystem in progressive and develop-ment oriented States like Telangana" rather than act as a "big brother" and take them towards States like Uttar Pradesh just

"because it is in power there". He was speaking after laying the

BJP TS unit hopes to benefit in reserved seats



foundation stone for VEM Technologies's Integrated Defence Systems at National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ), Zaheerabad in Sangareddy dis-trict. He recalled that he had requested then Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to approve a defence industrial production corridor between Hyderabad and Bengaluru as they have the required

ecosystem for the project.

He pointed out that Hyderabad has many defence public sector undertakings and more than 1,000 small and medium companies, while Bengaluru has HAL and Air Force-related institutions. If a defence industrial production corridor is created here, it will benefit districts like Mahabubnagar, Rangareddy and Wanaparthy in Telangana, Kurnool and Anantapur districts in Andhra Pradesh.

He said that if the defence industry is to gain impetus and a slogan like 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' is to be translated into reality, the Centre should reconsider its decision.

"It should set up the corridor at a place where there is an ecosystem. If you set it up in Uttar Pradesh because you have votes and seats and political preferences there, it won't work," he said.

won't work," he said.

"Even in Hyderabad, this did not happen overnight. The PSUs have been in existence for decades, creating a favourable environment for the growth of the sector," he said. KTR also told the Centre that when major global companies when major global companies come to invest, they look at places where there is infrastructure and they see how soon they get return on investment.



Edible oil prices ease; major brands cut MRP

PNS NEW DELHI

Edible oil prices in the retail market have started easing with soft-ening of international rates and the government's timely intervention, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said on Wednesday. As per government data, the average government data, the average retail prices of packaged edible oils have ease slightly, except for groundnut oil, across the country since the beginning of this month and are ruling between Rs 150 and 190 per kg. Last week, edible oil firms Adani Wilmar and Mother Dairy reduced the MRP (maximum, retail price) for different mum retail price) for different varieties of cooking oils by Rs 10-

Murmu certain to win

YSRCP, BJD declare support; JMM also may back her Challenge for Oppn to show their unity

SNCN ACHARYULU

Winning in the forthcoming Presidential election has become easy for the National Democratic Alliance's candidate Draupadi Marmu, with the YSR Congress in Andhra Pradesh and the Biju Janata Dal in Odish: extending their support. YSR Congress president and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has already assured the BJP leadership of his party's support to the NDA's choice in the Presidential election.

After the NDA declared former governor Draupadi Murmu, hailing from Odisha, as its Presidential candidate, Odisha Chief Minister and president of Biju Janata Dal Naveen Patnaik expressed his happiness. Naveen Patnaik tweeted:" Congratulations to Draupadi Murmu on being announced as candidate of NDA for the country's highest office. I was delighted when the Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed this with me. It is indeed a

proud moment for the people of Odisha. I am sure Murmu will set a shining example for women empowerment in the country". Biju Janata Dal also expressed its support to Draupadi Murmu. The BJP leadership feels that the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) headed by Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant so extend the party's support to Draupadi Murmu. The reason is that when Draupadi Murmu was Governor of Iharkhand

The Bharatiya Janata Party's Telangana

unit leaders are exultant at the selection

of Draupadi Murmu, a tribal figure and

former governor, as the NDA's Presidential

candidate since it would help the party win

particularly in the constituencies reserved

for STs, in the forthcoming Telangana



she maintained good relations with the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. So, the JMM lead-

The BJP, which aims to come to power

in Telangana, has been focusing on

reserved Assembly constituencies. In

Telangana, out of the total 119 con-

stituencies, 19 are reserved for SCs and 12

Assembly elections.

Murmu likely to file nomination on June 24

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu is likely to file her nomination on June 24, and is expected to be accompanied by its top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi

chief ministers, and key leaders of some other supporting parties like the Biju Janata Dal will join her during the nomination-filing as a show of support, sources said, adding that the prime minister is expected to be the first proposer.

A presidential candidate requires a set of 50 proposers and 50 seconders for his or her nomination. At least four sets of nominations may be filed in Murmu's support, BJP sources said. BJP president Nadda also held a meeting with party



several Union ministers

leaders involved in the polling process.

Afghanistan quake kills 1,000 people, deadliest in decades

A powerful earthquake struck a rural, mountainous region of eastern Afghanistan early Wednesday, killing 1,000 people and injuring 1,500 more in one of the deadliest temblors in decades, the state-run news agency reported. Officials warned that the already grim toll may still rise. Information remained scarce on the magnitude 6.1 temblor near the Pakistani border, but quakes of that strength can cause severe damage in

an area where homes and other buildings are poorly constructed and landslides are common. Experts put the depth at just 10 kilometers another factor that could lead to severe destruction. The disaster posed a major test for the Taliban-led government, which seized power last year as the U.S. planned to pull out from the country and end its longest war, two decades after toppling the same insurgents in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.



13k successful in Civils prelims

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

qualified the civil services (preliminary) examination 2022, the results of which were declared on Wednesday by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Over 13,000 candidates have

The preliminary examination was held on June 5, 2022.



TODAY

ALMANAC Month & Paksham:

Jun 22 08:45 PM Tithi: Dashami: to Jun 23 09:41 PM Ekadashi: Jun 23 09:41 PM to Jun 24 11:12 PM

Jun 22 05:03 AM to Jun 23 06:14 AM Rahukalam: 1:56 PM to 3:33 PM

Nakshatram:

Yamagandam: 03:45 AM to 05:29 AM Varjyam: 05:39 PM to 07:19 PM 9:02 AM to 10:40 AM HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly cloudy **Temp:** 30[∞]

Humidity: 79% Sunrise: 5:43 AM Sunset: 6:53 PM Updated: JUNE 22, 2022 5:00 PM

AMID SPIKE IN COVID CASES

Kids seen without masks

DEEPIKA PASHAM HYDERABAD

After a 40-day-long summer vacation, schools in Telangana have reopened amid Covid scare. Many of the children in primary sections are seen without masks. Some parents are wondering whether they should send their children to schools. Although the managements of some schools claim that they have been following Covid protocol related to children on their premises, parents are questioning whether the state government has been monitoring it.

As for children without masks, they say matter-of-factly: "We do not have it". Those who had them wore it inappropriately. In a recent meeting, Telangana Director of Public Health G Srinivasa Rao cautioned educational institutions that children eligible for vaccines must be instructed to get vaccinated. The principal of one of the private schools said: "We have mandatory rules to follow all the protocols of social distancing, wearing masks, and frequent sanitizing hands.

WhatsApp groups' **Admins arrested**

PNS HYDERABAD

The TS Police have arrested admins of 10 key WhatsApp groups in connection with the Secunderabad Railway Station and vandalism. arson Investigations so far have reportedly revealed that these admins instigated people through the WhatsApp groups. All the accused were produced before the court and remanded. An army aspirant involved in the Secunderabad Railway Station arson case reportedly attempted suicide.

DETAILS IN PAGE 03

NAVEENA GHANATE

New pensions from next

Maha crisis is mockery of democracy: TRS PNS HYDERABAD

Amid the deepening political crisis in Maharashtra triggered by Shiv Sena Minister Eknath Shinde's rebellion, the TRS party observed on Wednesday that the developments were a mockery of democracy by the BJP govern-

The TRS officially shared: "The BJP, led by Narendra Modi, is ridiculing the country's dem-

ocratic system and overthrowing various constitutionally elected state governments with a thirst for power".

The party's statement on Twitter was re-tweeted by Minister K T Rama Rao. The TRS party said: "The dic-

tatorial and authoritarian attitude of the BJP is making the very existence of democracy in the country questionable". The party cited instances of state

governments collapsing in Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Goa, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, and Jammu and Kashmir. The rebellion by Shinde, claiming the support of 46 MLAs, has pushed the two-and-a-half-year old Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government to the brink



Unprecedented digital transformation in India: Modi

O Indian economy expected to grow by 7.5%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian economy is expected to grow by 7.5 per cent this year which will make it the fastest growing major economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday. Highlighting the growth of India's digital economy, he said its

value will reach USD one trillion

by 2025 and that the government

is supporting innovation in every

sector. In a virtual address at the



opening ceremony of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) Business Forum, Modi said there are investment opportunities to the tune of USD 1.5 trillion under the country's National

Infrastructure Pipeline. He said that the kind of digital transformation that is taking place in India today has never been seen in the world before.

HYDERABAD Social media is shaping the

persona of politicians, if one goes by how parties are recognising their social media warriors and rewarding them with plum posts. At least five such SM warriors in TRS and a couple them in BJP have been made Chairpersons and spokespersons. The realization now is that you cannot become a politician of significance without dipping your toe into the world of social media and supporter engagement. On the flip side,

with the advancement of social media platforms, becoming a politician is relatively easier.

Of course, it is definitely not an easy task to upload a vlog or photos on a daily basis. But some of them have managed to crack the code. And, they are being rewarded. On Tuesday, TRS social media convenor Yeruva Sathish Reddy was appointed as chairperson for the State Renewable Energy Development Corporation. Before him, Jagan Patimeedi and Krishank Manne were social media convenors of the party before being appointed as chairmen of various corpo-

rations last year. This practice is not confined to TRS. Even in BJP, such warriors' level of engagement in social media determines who ultimately gets the post. Kishore Poreddy, BJP spokesperson, Gayathri Bandari BJYM spokesperson were all active on social media and countering opposition parties with logic. Sathish says: "Definitely there is influence of social media on me being elevated. I will continue to be active on social media which is where the future is compared to print or electron-

Social media shaping persona of politicians







PREZ POLL DAY

Fill form to vote from any Assembly if not present in Delhi: EC to MPs

निर्वाचन सदन

NIRVACHAN SADAN

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

ELECTION COMMISSION

Members of Parliament who would not be present in the national capital on July 18 to cast their vote in Parliament House for presidential election can do so from state assemblies, provided they inform the Election Commission in advance.

In a letter addressed to all members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, the poll panel has reminded them that they can cast ballot at Room no 63 in Parliament House.

"However, on account of unavoidable reasons and exigencies of circumstances, if you cannot be present in New Delhi on the date of poll, you can opt to exercise your right to vote at the presidential election at any of the polling places situated in the state or Union Territory of Puducherry and NCT of Delhi," the June 16 letter said.

The MPs who intend to vote from one of the state legislative assemblies have to send a "formal request" to the EC by filling up a form. The request should reach the poll panel

"not later than ten days before the date of poll" so that necessary arrangements can be made. "It may kindly be noted that the request once made and accepted by the Commission to vote at any State Legislative Assembly will be final and no further changes will be entertained in this regard," the poll

While normally MPs vote in New Delhi and MLAs at the premises of legislative assembly of each state, facilities are provided by EC for any MP to vote in the legislative assembly

panel has cautioned.

Similarly, an MLA can vote at the polling booth set up in Parliament House, if he or she is in Delhi on the date of poll.

In exceptional circum-

stances, MPs and MLAs may permitted by the Commission to vote at other state legislative assemblies also. Elected members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, but not the nominated members, are

part of the electorate. Similarly, elected MLAs, not nominated MLAs, can vote. Members of legislative councils (MLCs) cannot vote in presidential

New pensions from next month: KTR

Municipal and Administration Minister KT Rama Rao has announced that pensions to the new beneficiaries would be given from July.

On Wednesday, KTR visited Zaheerabad and inaugurated several developmental projects there. He later addressed a public meeting at the Baga

"After Zaheerabad become a municipality, the credit for giving a lump sum of Rs 50 crore goes to CM KCR", he said. He said that many facilities had already been set up in the municipality and a veg and non-veg market complex for women was being set up at a

cost of Rs 14.50 crore. "Everything we see in

spent Rs 2.55 crore on greenery. We have released Rs 18.79 crore for urban development and another Rs 50 crore for infrastructure," KTR said.

The Municipal Minister said that Telangana was the only state that provided electricity 24 hours to farmers. "Before 2014, pensions were Rs 200; now it is Rs 2,016. We are giv-

across the state. In another month or two, we will give pension to all those who are eligi-

The Minister took potshots at the Congress and said Rahul Gandhi was coming to Telangana and asking the Congress party to give him one more chance. "Geeta Reddy, who had worked here in the

Deputy secretary in CM Kejriwal's office, 2

but the people of the area said nothing had changed. We are just starting to rid the state of the stink and poverty that Congress party has created for 65 years. If we go on doing things like providing water, drinking water, setting up companies, some are trying to provoke by creating castes and reli-

gions issues", KTR said.

Odisha-based public transport service gets UN Award

PNS ■ UNITED NATIONS

An Odisha-based public transport service is among the 10 global initiates honoured with a prestigious United Nations award on Wednesday for their role and efforts in helping the world recover better from COVID-19. Mo Bus, Capital Region Urban Transport India is the recipient of the prestigious UN Public Service Awards, the global organisation announced. Ten initiatives from Brazil, Canada, India, Ireland, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Ukraine have been recognised for their innovative public service

delivery with the prestigious UN Public Service Awards at a virtual celebration organised by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs on Wednesday. The awards recognise 10 innovations to help the world recover better from COVID-19 and the winning initiatives help keep children safe, advance gender equality, and protect life below water. The 2022 UN Public Service Award winners were announced by Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, during a virtual event to commemorate the United Nations

SDMs suspended on corruption charges office," a Delhi government official said.

PNS NEW DELHI

A deputy secretary in Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's office and two subdivisional magistrates (SDMs) have been suspended by Lt Governor V K Saxena on corruption charges, official sources said on Wednesday.

The charges of "procedural lapses indicating corruption in land related matters" against the deputy secretary were from his tenure as Narela SDM, they said.

The case against the deputy secretary at CMO has nothing to do with the Delhi CM's

Prakash Chandra Thakur posted as deputy secretary in the chief minister's office (CMO), Vasant Vihar SDM Harshit Jain and Vivek Vihar SDM Devender Sharma were suspended and disciplinary proceedings ordered against

them, sources said. "The charges against the three officials were related to procedural lapses in land matters hinting corruption," an official said.

The trio are DANICS cadre officers. "The transfer and postings of officers of Delhi government comes under the Services department that is handled by the Lt Governor. So, Delhi government has no say in whoever is given a post-ing," the Delhi government official said. The move reflected LG Saxena's commitment to zero tolerance to corruption and ensuring probity in the functioning of the government, one of the sources said.

The lieutenant governor had on Monday suspended two assistant engineers of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) after finding lapses in the construction of EWS flats

Rythu Bandhu...

Continued from page 1

State Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy on behalf of the farmers thanked Chief Minister KCR for implementing the Rythu bandhu scheme for the farmers in spite of any difficulties. The 9th installment of Rythu Bandhu will start from June 28. Nirajan said, "Despite Central government trying to create adversities, This is a testament to Chief Minister KCR's admiration for farmers and his passion for the agricultural sector. We hope

that this year agriculture will be good, the crops will grow well and this support will be helpful".

Department Agriculture requests CCLA to send details of eligible farmers in the wake of Chief Minister KCR's order to implement Rythu Bandhu from 28th of this month. During the monsoon season last year, Rs.7360.41 crore was provided to 60.84 lakh

In the last Yasangi, Rs.7412.53 crore was provided to 63 lakh farmers.

Biden nominates Indian-American Arti Prabhakar as top science advisor

Leading Indian-American scientist Dr Arti Prabhakar has been nominated by Joe Biden as a top science advisor to the US President, a decision hailed by the White House and the Indian-American community as "historic." If confirmed by the Senate, Dr Prabhakar would make history as the first woman, immigrant, or person of colour to head Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). She will also be the latest high-

ly-qualified professional from the Indian-American community to be named for a key position in the Biden administration. Dr Prabhakar is a brilliant and highly-respected engineer and applied physicist and will lead the Office of Science and Technology Policy to leverage science, technology, and innovation to expand our possibilities, solve our toughest challenges, and make the impossible possible, Biden said on Tuesday. I share Dr Prabhakar's belief that America has the most powerful innova-

tion machine the world has ever seen. As the Senate considers her nomination, I am grateful that Dr Alondra Nelson will continue to lead OSTP and Dr Francis Collins will continue to serve as my acting Science Advisor, he said. Once confirmed, she would also be Assistant to the President for Science and Technology. In this capacity, Dr Prabhakar will be the President's Chief Advisor for Science and Technology, a cochair of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, and a member of the

President's Cabinet.

Further, if confirmed to lead OSTP, Prabhakar, 63, would become the third Asian American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander to serve in President Biden's Cabinet, joining Vice President Kamala Harris and US Trade Representative

13k successful in Civils...

Continued from page 1

Nearly 11.52 lakh people have applied for the examination and as many as 13,090 candidates have qualified it, an official said. The UPSC has put up on its website -- www.upsc.gov.in -- a detailed list mentioning roll numbers of candidates who have been declared successful in the test. Initially, a total of 861 vacancies were sought to be filled through the civil services examination 2022, which have now been increased to 1,022, the official said. All the successful candidates have been asked to apply again in the Detailed Application

Form-I (DAF-I) for the civil services (main) examination 2022 a statement issued by the UPSC said. The dates and important instructions for filling up the DAF-I and its submission will be announced in due course of time on the website of the commission, it said.

Candidates are also informed that marks, cut-off marks and answer keys of the civil services preliminary examination 2022 will be uploaded on the commission's website only after the entire process of the civil services examination 2022 is over, i.e. after the declaration of the final

Kids seen..

Continued from page 1

It is definitely an impossible task to tackle children below 10 years as they give various reasons for removing masks in classrooms." Å parent Sushmitha said: "We are explaining to our children and giving them all the essential things such as masks, sanment doing checks in schools? Are they being asked how many students are made to sit in each bench? Are there sanitizers in every classroom? Are teachers asking children to wash hands frequently because as parents we are not allowed inside premises. Still, government officials have all the rights to inspect both private and government schools. They can seal the (errant) school and such punishments will teach the managements to work efficiently." When schools were reopened, Minister for Education Sabitha Indra Reddy said that there was no need for parents to panic over the recent spike in Covid-19 cases.

Afghanistan quake kills 1,000 people...

Continued from page 1

Rescuers rushed to the area by helicopter Wednesday, but the response is likely to be complicated since many international aid agencies left Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover. Reaching rural areas even in

the best circumstances remains locked nation just smaller than Texas with rutted mountain roadways that may now have sustained significant damage. Neighboring Pakistan's

Meteorological Department said the quake's epicentre was in Afghanistan's Paktika province, some 50 kilometers southwest of the city of Khost. Buildings were also dam-

aged in Khost province, and tremors were felt some 375 kilometers away in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad. Footage from Paktika

showed men carrying people in blankets to waiting helicopters. Others were treated on the ground.

One resident could be seen receiving IV fluids while sitting



in a plastic chair outside the rubble of his home and still more were sprawled on gur-

Some images showed residents picking through clay bricks and other rubble from destroyed stone houses, some of whose roofs or walls had

The death toll given by the Bakhtar News Agency was equal to that of a quake in 2002 in northern Afghanistan.

Those are the deadliest since 1998, when a 6.1 magnitude temblor and subsequent tremors in Afghanistan's remote northeast killed at least 4,500 people.

In most places in the world, an earthquake of that magnitude wouldn't inflict such extensive devastation, said Robert Sanders, a seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. But a quake's death toll more often comes down to geography, building quality and population density.

Because of the mountainous area, there are rockslides and landslides that we won't know about until later reporting. Older buildings are likely to crumble and fail, he said.

Due to how condensed the area is in that part of the world, we've seen in the past similar earthquakes deal signif-

icant damage. The Taliban are still trying to reconstitute government ministries abandoned by staff loyal to its previous Western-backed government, and it was not clear how officials arrived at the casualty tolls reported by Bakhtar.

In Kabul, Prime Minister Mohammad Hassan Akhund convened an emergency meeting at the presidential palace to coordinate the relief effort, spokesman for the Taliban government, wrote on Twitter to urge aid agencies to send teams to the area.

The response is on its way, the U.N. resident coordinator in Afghanistan, Ramiz Alakbarov, wrote on Twitter. That may prove difficult given the situation Afghanistan

finds itself in today. After the Taliban swept across the country in 2021, the U.S. military and its allies fell back to Kabul's Hamid Karzai

International Airport and later

withdrew completely. Many international humanitarian organisations followed suit because of concerns about security and the Taliban's poor human rights record.

Murmu certain to..

Continued from page 1

Now the challenge is for the opposition parties. In the Presidential election, the victory of NDA candidate Draupadi Murmu is almost certain. The opposition parties need to show unity by supporting its common candidate n Sinha. To win the Presidential election, the support of YSR Congress and Biju Janata Dal is crucial for the BJP. The YSR Congress is directly supporting the BJP and its government at the Centre. The Biju Janata Dal is maintaining equidistance from the BJP and the

After being assured of support from YSR Congress, the BJP zeroed in on Draupadi Murmu as the NDA's Presidential candidate knowing that the Biju Janata Dal

Likely to file nomination.. Continued from page 1 majority support majority support with the

They will be travelling across the country to spearhead Murmu's campaign as she will be reaching out to the members of the presidential electoral college made up of MPs and MLAs, for their support. With the Opposition fielding former Union minister Yashwant Singh as its candi-

date, the election will be held on July 18. Numbers heavily favour Murmu, a tribal leader from Odisha, more so after the BJD's support to her, ensur-

ing that she already has the also would extend its support, considering that she hails from Odisha state. In the

BJP expecting some other regional parties like the YSR Congress and the AIADMK to back her as well. Nadda on Tuesday

announced her name as the NDA's presidential candidate following a meeting of the party's parliamentary board, which included the prime minister and other senior leaders.

Murmu (64), a former Jharkhand governor, will be the first person from Odisha and the first tribal to occupy the top constitutional post if she is elected, a strong possibility.

Presidential election, everything is going on as expected by the BJP leadership.

Encourage progressive..

"They don't see states or cities while deciding to invest. They look at the countries and what they offer in terms of infrastructure and ecosystem," he said. VEM will invest Rs. 1,000 crore in the facility com-

ing up on 511 acres in NIMZ. This is billed as the largest investment in the private sector in the defence manufacturing industry in India. The unit will employ 2,000 people in the next five years. VEM is a defence and aerospace company that offers end-to-end tech-

nology solutions and systems their unit at NIMZ.

for various weapon systems for land, air, and naval applications. One of the top five defence companies in India, VEM will manufacture weapons systems and defence equipment like anti-tank guided missiles, small arms, sniper rifles, unmanned aerial system, underwater weapons systems and radars at

Continued from page 1 Both the companies said the stock with new MRPs will hit the market shortly. "Trends in edible oils prices are very positive due to the government's timely intervention and global developments," Pandey told reporters. Not only

Edible oil prices ease... edible oils, retail wheat and wheat flour prices are stable as well, he said, adding that regulations have been useful in keeping domestic prices in check. A senior food ministry official said major edible oil brands have reduced MRP in phases and most recently they cut the price by Rs 10-15 per litre.

BJP TS unit hopes to benefit..

Continued from page 1

Following directions from the party high command, the BJP Telangana unit has concentrated on the 31 reserved Assembly constituencies as per its Mission-19 and Mission-12.

Now, the BJP Telangana unit is of the considered view that the selection of Draupadi Murmu, a tribal leader, by the high command for the nation's highest position will help the party gain additional

strength by winning the reserved constituencies in the forthcoming Assembly elections. The BJP has appointed separate teams to work out in these reserved constituencies. The BJP feels that if strong candidates are fielded in these constituencies, it can win a majority of the seats. The BJP aims to win at least 25 seats out of the total 31 reserved Assembly constituencies. In Telangana, it has to win minimum 60 seats out of the total 119

Assembly constituencies to

form the government. The BJP's plan is to win 25 reserved seats and 50% of the total 88 general seats to achieve its purpose. The BJP is identifying strong candidates for the reserved as well as general constituencies. If the candidates are finalised in advance, they will work in their respective constituencies. The BJP high command is sending three to four committed and strong leaders to each of the Assembly constituencies. In some constituencies, they have already started campaign in the villages.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG ₹225 Dressed/With Skin

₹235

₹200

₹4.84

Without Skin

Broiler at Farm

RETAIL PRICE

RATES ₹/100 VIJAYAWADA 477 **HYDERABAD** 484 VISAKHAPATNAM 477

Unprecedented digital...

Continued from page 1

"In order to deal with the economic problems arising out of the pandemic, in India we have adopted the mantra of "reform, perform and transform. And the results of this approach are evident from the performance of the Indian econo-

my," he said.
"This year, we are expecting 7.5 per cent growth, which makes us the fastest

Transformative changes are taking place in every sector in the emerging 'New India'," Modi said.

He said a key pillar of India's current economic recovery is technology-led growth and that the government has made innovationfriendly policies in many areas like space, blue economy, green hydrogen, clean energy, drones and geo-spatial data.

Maha crisis is mockery of...

Continued from page 1

The Sena has 55 members in the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly. 'KILLING DEMOCRACY' Husbandry Animal

Minister Talsani Srinivas Yadav has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not want democratically elected governments to exist. Talasani said, "They are killing the democratic system. What

do Narendra Modi and Amit

He said there was an attempt to overthrow the government in Maharashtra as had been the case in Madhya Pradesh. He raised suspicion over the involvement of BJP as the MLAs were given security and buses were given to move them; with Goa Governor being given addicharge after tional Maharashtra Governor called

in sick. He said the MLAs were being moved from one place to another in a conspiracy to overthrow the government in Maharashtra.

Minister Talsani Srinivas Yadav urged the party leaders to remember that power is not permanent and the BJP will not be in power for life. "When things go haywire, the situation in Maharashtra will come to the BJP as well," he said.

Social media..

Now the responsibility has increased further. The Chief Minister told me to be active on social media and that there is a huge scope in the chairman post Renewable Energy Corporation. Being from B.Tech ECE, it will be a good role to be chairperson of Renewable Energy Corporation and we will take forward social media further to all constituencies and strengthen it." So far social

media has given rise to influencers who did not exist before. It is not easy to become one. It requires years of relentless hard work in terms of making content without giving a chance to trolls. Kishore Poreddy, BJP spokesperson, said, "Social media presence played a role, but it is not the only criterion to become a BJP spokesperson. Some of the analysis of videos and tweets went viral, which led to a good word going around.

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10 more arrested for arson in **Secunderabad Railway Station case**

PNS HYDERABAD

The Secunderabad Railway Police on Wednesday arrested 10 more persons in connection with the violence at the Secunderabad Railway Station last Friday.
All those arrested were pro-

duced before the court and remanded in judicial custody. The parents and the family members of the arrested staged a protest, saying that false cases were foisted on the youth.

Among those arrested was Prudviraj, who hailed from Adilabad, who took the videos of setting fire to coaches. He was identified as the main accused. The police identified with the help of videos found in the mobile phones of some of the persons who were arrested in the past.

The police claimed that the investigation into the violence revealed that the youth were provoked through videos cir-culated through WhatsApp groups. The investigation revealed that the admins provoked people through 10 WhatsApp groups.
The videos of the accused

who initially set fire in train coaches in Secunderabad

team identified Prudviraj with Railway Station have gone The main accused, the help of videos found on the Prithviraj from Adilabad, and mobile phones of some of the the others, Bingi Ramesh (A3), arrested persons. Police officials said Prudviraj Raja Surendra Kumar (A4),

WhatsApp groups and provoked protesting Army jobs at Sabar (A6), Yogesh (A57), (A58),(A59), the railway station. Shivasunder Reddy (A60), A total of 61 accused had Tukaram (A 61) had encourbeen identified, the police said. It may be recalled that 300 peoaged other youths who had ple equipped with sticks and come to protest peacefully to petrol cans entered the Secunderabad Railway Station resort to violence at the

had circulated videos on all

Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) tried to stop the crowd, but they started damaging the CCTV cameras and platform display boards inside the station. At that time, there were three trains filled with passengers ready to depart; they were East Coast Express, Ajanta Express and Danapur Express. The crowd started damaging the coaches of these trains and when the RPF tried to stop them, the crowd moved to the railway tracks and start-

Army aspirant attempts suicide

youth, who was allegedly involved in the agitation against the Agnipath scheme at the Secunderabad Railway Station, on Wednesday attempted to commit suicide.Govind Ajay, a youth from Station Ghanpur om Jangaon, attempted to commit suicide fearing that he may be arrested in connection with the violence at the Secunderabad Railway Station. Police said he had consumed pesticide in an attempt to commit suicide. He was admitted to MGM Hospital in Warangal, His condition is stated to be critical.

ed pelting stones on the police. About 30 trains' coaches were damaged and four coaches were set on fire using the petrol cans they had.

The videos of Prudhviraj indulging in violence went viral on social media platforms after some persons leaked them. A police official said the video would serve as clinching evidence in court

Minister asks Film Chamber, producers to meet workers' demands

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Minister Cinematography Talasani Srinivas Yadav asserted that the demands of Telugu film workers should be addressed and directed the Film Chamber and the Producers Council Association to call the film workers for talks and take initiative to resolve the issue.

The Minister at a media conference, said it was necessary to hold talks with the workers and resolve the issue. He said that most of the workers are poor. They had suffered a lot during the pandemic with the film shootings being cancelled, he said.

He explained that the film

workers had gone on strike demanding hike in remuneration. Film shootings came to a standstill on Wednesday as the workers went on strike. Nearly 25 films under production in indoor and outdoor areas were affected.

Film shooting in and around Hyderabad was affected on Wednesday as more than 20,000 Telugu cine workers began a protest demanding a hike in wages.

Large number of cine workers laid siege to the office of the Telugu Film Industry Employees Federation in Jubilee Hills to demand a 45

per cent increase in wages Police stopped the protesters, who raised slogans in support of their demand.

The Federation president and general secretary assured the workers that a solution will be found by the evening after talks with the Film Producers' Council. The workers' unions, comprising 24 crafts of cinema, have called for indefinite strike. However, there was no clarity on whether the workers were staying away from work indefinitely. The protesters left the Federation office after an assurance by the leaders that they will ensure a 30 per cent hike but it was immediately not

clear if they will resume work. The workers said they had long been demanding revision in wages in view of the increasing cost of fuel and all essential commodities. They said

they extended all cooperation to the filmmakers by not pressing for their demand as the film producers were hit hard

The union leaders said they were forced to launch the protest as no steps were taken to meet their demand though they had been discussing the issues with the Telugu Film Chamber for the last six months. They said since the film industry has recovered from the impact of Covid and has produced some big hits including pan-India movies, the Film Chamber should take the initiative and address their long-pending demand.

They expressed disappointment over the lack of coordination between the Telugu Film Chamber, Telugu Film Producers Council and Film Industry Employees Federation

The protest affected production of about 20 films, including Chiranjeevi's 'Waltair Veerayya', 'Bholaa Shankar' and Prabhas' 'Salaar' and 'RC 15'.Meanwhile, actor Naresh found fault with the decision to go on strike. He said such a move would hit the interests of the industry which was recuperating from the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. He urged the unions to hold talks to find

Jubilee Hills gangrape case: Bail of 4 accused rejected

PNS HYDERABAD

The Juvenile Justice Board on Wednesday rejected the bail plea of four minors who are accused in the gang-rape of a

The bail petition of another minor is likely to be filed

The lawyer representing the accused approached the Juvenile Justice Board on Tuesday, seeking bail for four

131 more Basthi Dawakhanas to be set up in city

from Gate number 3. The

PNS HYDERABAD

The remaining 131 basthi dawakhanas will be ready by August 15, said Minister for Health T Harish Rao on Wednesday.

Santosh (A5), Mohammad

Secunderabad railway station,

the police said. The police

Parushuram

Ayyappachari

During a review meeting held at the Marri Channa Reddy HRD institute here, Harish Rao said, 'The government has set up 259 basthi dawakhanas in Greater Hyderabad Municipal limits under the guidance of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao to provide healthcare to the people in urban areas. People can avail the T



Diagnostic services and Tele-Consultation services in the basthi dawakhanas.

With the completion of the 131 dawakhanas, the total operational units would rise to 390. The Minister directed the authorities to set up the remaining basthi dawakhanas

by August 15.The Minister added that the basthi dawakhanas are being set up taking into account the population of the locality and also the availability of medical services in that particular area. Harsih Rao also said that the poor can avail themselves of the scheme. The review meeting was attended by Health Secretary S A M Rizivi, Director of Family Welfare Swetha Mohanty, DME Ramesh Reddy, DPH Srinivasa Rao, TSMSIDC MD Chandrasekhar Reddy, OSD Gangadhar and othee officials

from the health department.

Abdullapurmet Police Station new bldg inaugurated

PNS RANGAREDDY

A new police station at Abdullapurmet was inaugurated by Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali on Wednesday. The State government allotted 1.10 acres of land at Abdullapurmet for the police station. Foundation stone was laid on July 1, 2021.

The new police station is built on 9,090 sft (Ground + 1st floor) with an open area at a cost of Rs 3 crores.

Ramoji film city, Mount Opera, Śanghi Temple, Fruit Market, and Logistic Park are some important establishments under police station

limits MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, P V Surabhi Vanidevi, MLC, Manchireddy Kishan Reddy, MLA, Ibrahimpatnam, Mahesh M Bhagwat, Rachakonda Commissioner,

Vijayeswari, MD of the RFC, Shivaramakrishna, director of RFC, Sunpreet Singh, DCP, LB Nagar, Narayana Reddy, DCP Bhongir, Saleema, DCP She teams, V Srinivas, DCP Traffic and others were pre-



Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali inaugurating new police station at Abdullapurmet on Wednesday. MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and others were present

Artefacts of self-sacrifice found in Siddipet district

Over a thousand years ago, on society was more prominent and the immortality of heroes in Shaivism is unparalleled.

It is thought that there is no greater offering to God than self-sacrifice. A new Virgal sculpture which depicts prayer before death was discovered in Salakpur Patigadda under Cheryala Mandal in Siddipet District.

The members of Telangana Charitra Brundam, Ahobilam Karunakar, Mohammad Nasir and N Kiran worked for two days on the information they received regarding the sculpture. "This black stone sculpture depicts a seated man in a ardhapadmasna position. Manipatta crown, ear piercings, neck rudraksha, necklaces, shoulder crowns, bracelets, knife in belt, cloth belt, half garment, 5 rows of bracelets for the legs. Sword in right hand, broken left arm," members explained.

Not far from his sculpture is a horse artefact. This horse is at rest. The big sword is vis-



ible on the right side of the saddle on its back. It is as if he was sitting in a prayer before death which is sacrificing himself away from where the horse was parked, they added. The Historian Shivanagireddy confirmed that this sculpture was of the Rashtrakuta period and style.

The twins of these sculptures were not previously found anywhere else. These are examples of heroism in Shaivism. The proverb 'Bondito Kailasam' seems to have been born by them.

The members of Ahobilam Karunakar, Mohammad Nasir and N Kiran worked for two days on the information they received regarding the sculpture.

seeking Devotees Sivasayujya cut off the Ashtanga from their body, cut it and offer it to God. Massive crashes in which boulders jump over spears and die. All these are parts of heroism, a culture of self-sacrifice that originated in ancient Shaivism. Athmarpana Veerulu is the name given to those who have sacrificed their lives to God in various

Hundreds of Satavahanaera potsherds, swamps, dabur and snails were found on the



SCR wantsT-Hub to back Startups for Railways initiative

PNS HYDERABAD

In an effort to develop solutions for some of the critical areas, the South Central Railways (SCR) has invited T-Hub to encourage startups.

SCR General Manager Arun Kumar Jain met T-Hub Chief Executive Officer M Srinivas Rao and his team and discussed how to take the initiative forward.

Indian Railways has introduced a novel concept to promote the participation of emerging entrepreneurs as part of its efforts to solve some of the critical areas in the Indian Railways, according to a press statement.

With the objective of harnessing these growing technological advancements in the startup ecosystem and to promote participation of emerging entrepreneurs to address quality, reliability and maintainability related issues of the Indian Railways, the Ministry of Railways launched a unique initiative, namely, 'Startups for Railways.'As part of the initiative, Indian Railways has identified 11 critical areas wherein solutions from the startups are being invited and this number will

Railway Board to the startups. The funding scheme will be on a cost-sharing basis in equal proportion, between

be progressively increased over

a period of time. The Railways

has set aside a seed fund of Rs

1.5 crore to be given by the

Indian Railways.

Under the policy, the Startup/MSME/Innovator/Ent repreneur will have exclusive ownership of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) created in the project.

A structured timeline framework has also been laid down so as to ensure speedy implementation of the projects showing potential.

Santosh might stop sunrays thru Green India Challenge: Salman Khan

Bollywood star Salman Khan asserted each plant supplies required oxygen to each perin Hyderabad for his film shooting and participated in Green India Challenge 5.0 along with Rajya Sabha MP and Green India Founder J Santosh Kumar here on Tuesday.

Accompanied by his film crew, Salman planted sapling at Ramoji Film City.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that every person should take the responsibility of plantation programme and also take adequate care of the saplings until they grow big trees. It is unfortunate that human loss due to natural calamities, heavy rains and floods is immense. The only solution to check human loss is promoting massive planta-tion. Salman said, 'Santosh ji has done very nice work. 17crore such trees which give shade have been planted. I hope that this will continue. Santosh ji might stop sun rays from falling on earth by blocking everywhere. he might

make it Amazon forest.' Salman praised the TRS



MP Santosh for taking up the big task of plantation probig task of plantation programme. He said that the MP's endeavour to improve Green Cover in India will help to safeguard the earth and future generations. He called upon his fans and followers to join Green India Challenge his fans.

the Bollywood star for accept-ing his request and joined the Green India Challenge . He said that the Bollywood

star's initiative to plant saplings will definitely inspire crores of

For over past 10 years, RTC has not acquired new buses

PNS HYDERABAD

There is no sign of the TSRTC acquiring new buses even in the current rainy season. The age-old RTC buses are somehow pulling along during summer but their engines fail to rev during the monsoon season. The commuters are forced to push the bus to get it started.

The Greater Hyderabad zone acquired express buses 10 years ago and ordinary buses 15

years ago. Even if the TSRTC were to place orders for supply of over 1015 electric buses, they are unlikely to be delivered before 2023 due to delays in their

manufacture. These RTC buses have become a real hell for commuters. Controlling them has become a Herculean task for

In case, if the bus were to be stopped near traffic signal, the commuters have to push it to rev up the engine. Also, the traffic police have been switching on the signals

only after clearing the route for the RTC buses. It indicates the sorry state of affairs. It appears that the TSRTC has no option except making

do with the old buses during the current rainy season. Because of the fitness problems, a RTC bus belonging to Kukatpally bus depot on Sunday went berserk at Pragatinagar traffic signal and barged into the roadside shops. Out of the 45 commuters in the

bus, two passengers sustained

injuries in the incident. Recently, RTC invited bids to acquire 1015 new buses under FAME-2(Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric



Vehicles). Ancilliary unit of the public sector Energy Efficiency Limited Convergence Energy Services Limited - expressed its inabil-

ity to manufacture 300 buses allotted to FAME-2 immediatelv. Even if the RTC wants to run bus services on hire basis, it would take at least six months

to 12 months to acquire the buses under the scheme, according to the RTC offi-

The RTC is not in a position

to acquire diesel services, given the increase of diesel charges. The mileage the diesel buses get is hardly 4 km per litre. In this backdrop, the RTC finds it suitable to run electric

buses on hire basis. Meanwhile, the RTC hiked ticket fares, putting a burden of Rs 10 for every 2 km. It also increased the bus pass charges too, the increase is as good as three times the previous fares. There are at least six-lakh student bus passes in the city

region.

The total number of bus passes for all categories crossed 8 lakh. On an average at least 23 lakh use RTC bus services. They have to make do with only 2,860 buses. However, the commuters have been demanding the RTC to run required number of buses at least during the peak hours.

Bharosa Center in Hyderabad helps 13-year-old victim overcome trauma

The police in Bharosa Center in Hyderabad helped a 13-yearold victim, who was sexually assaulted by her stepfather, overcome the trauma and arranged access to education and healthcare and also offered all the legal aid at the centre.

It all started when the victim attended an awareness session conducted by Bharosa team, which boosted her confidence. After that, the victim informed her teacher about being abused by her stepfather. The teacher then tipped off the Bharosa team and an FIR was registered in Kachiguda Police Station. Ever since then, the trained professionals of Bharosa Centre have been going beyond the normal call of duty and guarded the child like a family by providing all the possible support.
The team accompanied the victim and produced her before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and arranged accommodation in a good hostel. Personal attention was being paid to her getting treatment at Kamineni Hospitals for free and ensured that she had access to education. Since 2018, the victim has excelled in academics and secured a GPA of 9.75/10 in her 10th standard and later also cleared intermediate with distinction.

Touched by the hard work of the victim, a senior woman police officer from Telangana has been paying the fees for the victim's CA coaching. The legal and police teams in the centre worked in tandem and that resulted in 20 years rigorous imprisonment to the





IHG senior officials laud TS govt for improving healthcare

PNS HYDERABAD

Representatives from the International Health Group (IHG) on Wednesday lauded the Telangana State government for its initiative in improving healthcare in the state. The UK-based IHG has completed 480 different healthcare projects in 55 countries.Senior officials from the IHG met Minister for Health Minister T Harish Rao on Wednesday to explore areas of collaboration in healthcare

services in Telangana State. Accompanied by British Deputy High Commissioner for Telangana State and AP Andrew Fleming, the Chief Operating Officer of IHG Simon Ashworth met Harish Rao. He was briefed about the ongoing works related to the establishment of new medical colleges in Telangana State, four super-specialty hospitals in Hyderabad and the mega-

health hub at Warangal. Senior health officials, including Secretary of Health

SAM Rizvi, Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare Shwetha Mohanty, DPH Dr G Srinivasa Rao and others were present at the meeting.

After the meeting, Andrew Fleming tweeted, 'Called on Harish Rao with a UK company to explore a potential area for new collaboration in the state. Positive and focused discussions with him and his team as ever. Sirs humbleness and grace as ever was remarkable and at a level so many of us can learn from.'

Speed up execution of NH widening works, DC tells engineering officials

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

District Collector S Venkata Rao has directed the engineering officials to complete the national highway widening works in the city as early

He paid a surprise visit to Mahabubnagar-Jadcherla national highway widening works at Shashab Gutta in the town. In view of the commencement of the monsoon season, he wanted the officials to execute the works as early as possible. He asked them to ensure that people did not suffer due to

He wanted the officials of the concerned government departments to coordinate

works to overcome any hiccups in the execution of works. Asking them engineering officials to speed up execution of works, he asked the municipal engineer in consultation with govern-ment pleader should get the stay vacated with immediate effect if there are any cases pending with court with regard to the highway widening works. He asked the officials to immediately take steps to relocate the electric poles and electric transformers to elsewhere as they are obstructing the highway widening works.

Municipal Engineer Subrahmanyam, NHAI official Ramesh were also pre-



Mahabubnagar District Collector S Venkata Rao inspecting the ongoing national highway works in Mahabubnagar on Wednesday

Mahindra's 3,00,000th TS-made tractor rolled out

Mahindra Tractors, part of Mahindra's Farm Equipment Sector, the world's largest tractor manufacturer by volume, rolled out its 300,000th Telangana-made tractor from the company's tractor manufacturing facility in Zaheerabad.

Mahindra's 300,000th

Telangana-made tractor was rolled out in the presence of Minister for Municipal Administration K Taraka Rama Rao.Sharing the picture on twitter, KTR said, "Was delighted to launch the 3,00,001st MahindraRise tractor made in Telangana at Zaheerabad today. Hey Anand mahindra Ji, you may have to bring more business to my state for the way I've been posing & marketing your

Responding to it Mahindra said, 'You are a phenomenal brand ambassador, KTR, no doubt about that. My only concern is that you may be stolen by the skyrocketing Tollywood

Meanwhile, Speaking at launch, 'The Government of Telangana is very proud of what the Mahindra group has been able to achieve in the state, through the roll-out of its



Minister for Municipal Administration K T Rama at the wheel of Mahindra's 300,000th Telangana-made tractor, which rolled out on Wednesday

300,000 Telangana-made tractors. With Mahindra's large presence in Zaheerabad, the company's manufacturing facility has provided opportunities to thousands, in not only making products for the domestic market, but also position Telangana as one of the largest tractor export hubs, based on Mahindra s world-class manufacturing facilities. As we move along, we look forward to Mahindra's next milestone in tractor production in the next few years. 'Commenting on the milestone, Hemant Sikka, President - Farm Equipment Sector, Mahindra & Maĥindra Ltd. said, "Rolling-out out our 300,000th Telangana-made tractor from our Zaheerabad facility, is a significant milestone for all of us at Mahindra, and

for the state of Telangana Besides being a hub to for wide range of products for the Indian market, the plant also caters to over 60 markets, including advanced markets of U.S., Japan and Europe. In line with the agri agenda of Telangana, we thank our colleagues in Telangana and the state government in helping us achieve this feat. We will soon roll-out our new light-weight K2 tractor series from our Zaheerabad

Established in 2012, Zaheerabad is Mahindra's youngest and largest tractor manufacturing plant in terms of capacity. It is the only tractor manufacturer in the state of Telangana and has invested close to Rs. 1,087 crores at its facility in Zaheerabad.

Software engineer from TS shot dead in US

PNS NALGONDA

A software engineer from Nalgonda was shot dead by an unidentified person in Maryland state of the US.

Nakka Sai Charan (26), who hailed from Nalgonda district in Telangana State, was killed when a person said to be a black man opened fire

on him on Sunday evening. His friends in the US informed his family about the incident. Sai Charan was shot dead when he was travelling in his car near Catonsville in Maryland. He was returning home after dropping off a friend at the airport, according to a website.

The techie was shot in the head. He was shifted to the University of Maryland R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center where he was pronounced dead. The software engineer was working with a company in Baltimore city of Maryland for the last two



Sai Charan

His parents and other family members were shocked on receiving the information. They appealed to the Central and State governments to help bring the body home.

A pall of gloom descended on the residence of his parents.

The parents of Sai Charan Nakka said on Wednesday they did not want their son to go to the US, leaving them here and insisted that firearm licences should not be given 'indiscriminately' by the US government to its citizens. His parents said Sai Charan was found injured inside a Sports Utility Vehicle after 2020.

sustaining an apparent gun-shot wound to his head, according to authorities in the US state of Maryland. The family of Sai Charan in Nalgonda town received the news with shock, with his father N Narasimha and mother Padma remaining inconsolable after hearing about their son's death. Narasimha said he got the information about his son's death on Monday night from his brother, who stays in Hyderabad. 'We did not want to send our son to the US. We wanted him to be here. I had no interest in sending him there and told him not to go. But he insisted and then we allowed him to realise his wish as he was very particular to go to the US. We never imagined that he would be coming back as a dead body,' Narasimha, who could not hold back his tears, said. Narasimha said Sai Charan

Collector wants normal deliveries to be norm in Govt hospitals

PNS ■ SURYAPET

District Collector Vinay Krishna Reddy has asked the medical and health officers to work with commitment and ensure that normal deliveries are performed in government hospitals.

Addressing a meeting of medical officers along with Additional Collector Patil Hemant kesav at Collectorate here on Wednesday, he said that the normal deliveries constituted in June are only 69 per cent and wanted more normal childbirths to take place in government hospitals. He wanted the officials to ensure that people are sensitised on normal deliveries.

He stressed the need for medical officers to work with commitment and cautioned that surprise visits to hospitals are conducted without fail

Stating that conduct of sexdetermination tests is prohibited, he asked the medical officers to take suitable measures to prevent foeticide. The sex ratio of girls should



Suryapet District Collector Vinay Krishana Reddy at a meeting in Suryapet on Wednesday

increase further. All scanning centres are prohibited from conduct of sex-determinatin tests. Violators of the rule would be taken suitable action as per law and license of the scanning centres would be cancelled without fail.

He asked the medical officers to provide information to registration officer at district headquarters government hospital if any on sex-determination tests and medical termination of pregnancies. He told them that the names of the informants would be kept highly classified. He asked the private hospital managements should cooperate with the government

authorities without fail.

It came to the notice of the district administration that medial termination of pregnancies are being conducted illegally in hospitals where there are no doctors, he said adding that a tight vigil is being maintained on such treatment facilities. He said the district administratin would get tough in this regard. Rural medial practitioners are under a scanner, he said threatening to initiate action against them if they were found to be violating the

He aked the district med-

ical officers to increase the rate of normal deliveries and curtail the C-section deliveries to a great extent. To achieve the objective, he wanted the advice of gynae-cologists should be taken and normal deliveries should be normal deliveries should be improved with mutual cooperation among medical offi-

Later, he reviewed the progress of deliveries conducted in private hospitals.

DMHO Dr Kota Chalam threatened that the registration of hospitals would be cancelled if they are found to be violating the relevant laws.

The Telangana Allopathic Private Hospitals' Registration Act, Sex-detrmination tests (prohibition) Act 1994 and Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971 would be implemented sternly.

Medical superintendent Dr

Muralidhar Reddy, head of the department of gynaecol-ogy in general hospital Sujata, deputy DHMO, private medical practitioners and others took part in the programme.

2 fatally fall into a ditch in Medak district

PNS MEDAK

Two students of fourth class in the government primary school at Kongodu village under Kolcharam mandal fell into a ditch, dug by earthmovers, behind their school and met with death. The deceased were identified as Ajay (9), Narasimhulu, (9), sons of brothers Mangali Lalaiah and Mangali Sekhar. A pall of gloom descended

on the village following the death of two boys belonging to the same family. Eye-witnesses said that the duo was very much in the school till lunch time. However, they fell into the ditch while playing. Noticing the accident, other pupils complained about it to the teachers. With the help of the locals, the bodies were retrieved from the ditches. The boys were found in one of the ditches. First, Ajay was retrived out of the ditch. He was found to have a weak pulse.

TRS fails to develop Nalgonda district, says Komatireddy

PNS NALGONDA

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) star campaigner and Bhongir MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Wednesday said the TRS government had failed to launch developmental activities in Nalgonda district.

The previous Congress governments only launched several development projects and completed them, observed. Speaking

reporters at Bommalaramaram in Yadadri Bhuvangir district, Venkat Reddy expressed confidence that the Congress would bag all 12 Assembly seats in the next elections. The Congress party would hold a

massive public meeting at

He contradicted Chief Minister K Chandrashekar

Rao's claim that the government was providing power round-the-clock in the State. But, the power was not provided even for six hours a day in Nalgonda district. There was still time for elections. The party would launch political campaign at the time of

elections, he said. He criticised Minister for Panchyat Raj Errábelli Dayakar Rao for saying that 'panchyats can be developed with the revenue earned by collecting and selling empty bottles in

Venkat Reddy appealed to the people to elect Congress candidates in the next elections. He assured the people that the Congress party, if elected to power, would ensure all-round development of the district.

Zilla Parishad meeting witnesses uproarious scenes

flew to the US in August

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Uproarious scenes were witnessed at the Zilla Parishad general body held at the ZP meeting hall here on Wednesday. The trouble began when TRS co-opted member Sukruddin staged a protest at the podium, alleging that funds were not allotted for development activities. The member, wearing a black scarf and holding placards, staged a sit-in at the podium. It led to heated exchanges between the protesting co-opted member and the elected members of the Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (ZPTC). Zilla Parishad Chairperson K Vijaya announced the expulsion of the protesting members. Sukruddin alleged that he was discriminated by the powers that be because he belonged to minorities.

Former ZP chief alleges land encroachment by TRS leaders

PNS KAMAREDDY

chairman Nizamabad Zilla Parishad and BJP leader Kotipali Venkataramana Reddy has alleged that TRS leaders have grabbed lands worth Rs 300 crore in Kamareddy and villages on the outskirts of the

Talking to media at the BJP office here on Wednesday, he said that the land encroachment was underway since 1989. The trend is still continuing even in the regime of TRS. As a result, several innocent persons are being duped, he lamented.

He alleged that some leaders had developed illegal layouts and selling plots to the

gullible public.
In all, 1,000 house sites were sold in a 20-acre illegal layout developed on a government



BJP leader Kotipali Venkataramana Reddy and party leaders addressing a media conference in Kamareddy on Wednesday

newly- built Collectorate, he

alleged. He said that he had taken all this to the notice of the district

Collector Jitesh V Patil.
In Vadulur village on outskirts of Kamareddy, 77 house sites were developed in an area of six acres. Of them, 62 were sold in 2018 alone. TRS leaders have been violating rules in several layouts and

selling house-sites. The TRS leaders who were involved in the alleged encroachment of land would

land, which is adjacent to face the anger of the people, he said Speaking on Srivari Venture, which is the hottest news of late, the former ZP chairman came down heavily on the TRS leaders. He alleged that a road has been developed in forest area at a cost of Rs 3 crore and sought to know the rationale behind Panchayat Raj SE Prabhakar, EE Veeranand giving permissions to the same. As the road comes under Yellareddy constituency, he demanded Yellareddy MLA

Security at Kazipet Railway Station beefed up

PNS ■ KAZIPET

Kazipet Railway Protection Force Circle Inspector Sanjeeva Rao on Wednesday warned of severe action if anyone dared to attack the railway properties.

Speaking at a press conference, Sanjeeva Rao said it is important that everyone should realise the importance of keeping the premises of the railway stations clean. He stressed the need for everyone to protect the properties of the

railways. He said that security was tightened in view of the vio-lence by anti-social elements at some places.

He cautioned people to take all precautions at the level crossing. An awareness campaign was conducted to educate people on the dangers of crossing the level crossing. He warned that severe action



He said that security was tightened in view of the violence by anti-social elements at some places.

would be taken against those who pulled chains on the running trains without valid rea-

DCC demands immediate release of Rythu Bandhu funds

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

District Congress Committee (DCC) president Obedulla Kotwal on Wednesday staged a protest at the District Collectorate here demanding immediate release of Rytu Bandhu funds and raised slogans against the government. He charged the government

with cheating the farmers.
The other demands include payment of Rs 15,000 per acre towards input subsidy and immediate crediting of money in lieu of paddy pro-cured into the farmers' bank accounts.

The State government is yet to deposit Rytu Bandhu funds



into the farmers' bank accounts in spite of com-



Many paddy farmers from whom the government procured paddy are yet to receive the money for the sale of the

paddy. The bankers are also not advancing any loan to the farmer. As such the farmers are facing many hardships, he added. In the event of Congress coming to power, it

implement the collectorate. would Warangal Declaration for the benefit of the farmers.

Later, he submitted memorandum highlighting demands to the official at

TPCC secretary S Jahir Aktar, media cell convenor CJ Benhur, TPCC president Lakshman Yadav and others took part in the protest.

Collector directs officials to visit schools every Wednesday PNS YADADRI-BHONGIR

Surender to respond on the

District Collector Pamela Satpathy on Wednesday expressed happiness over the government schools witnessing a qualitative change in terms of terms of education and infrastructure. She hoped that it would go a long way in improving the standards in the

government schools. The Collector was launching an innovative programme 'Bhodhana' (teaching) at Zilla Parishad High School at Jameelpet under Bibinagar

mandal in the district. Pamela Satpathy said the State government's programme, Mana Ooru-Mana Badi, to give a facelift to the government schools. The Collector directed the mandal



at Jameelpet in Yadadri-Bhongir district on Wednesday

level officers to visit the schools every Wednesday and examine whether the students were reading lessons loudly. It is necessary to encourage students to read lessons loudly.

She said the officers would also interact with the students to find out whether they were facing any difficulty in under-

standing the lessons. If the teacher worked well, the school would get good name. She also instructed the officials to take measures to maintain cleanliness in the schools, particularly in the kitchens mid-day meals. Additional District Collector Deepak Thiwari and HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | JUNE 23, 2022

Maha court sentences ex-defence staffer to life imprisonment in murder

hane, Jun 22 (PTI) A court here in Maharashtra has sentenced a former employee with a defence force to life imprisonment for killing a coolie in 2018. District Judge Kalyan court, Shoukat Gorwade, in his order on Monday, also imposed a fine of Rs 1,000 on the accused Dhananjaykumar Sinha (58), who retired from the Navy in 2006. The designation of the accused was not mentioned in the FIR registered in the case.

Additional Public Prosecutor Sachin Kulkarni told the court that the victim, Kanhu Balu Jadav (then aged 72), worked as a coolie at Khadavali railway station on the Mumbai-Kasara suburban section. He used to assist the railway staff and policemen at times to clear the mess on platforms and drive away beggars and others who created nuisance there. The accused, who lived alone, used to frequently go to the railway station and sleep on a platform bench, to which the victim had objected



Man guns down father, brother in property dispute in UP's Azamgarh

man in a village here allegedly shot dead his father and brother in a property dispute, Apolice said on Wednes day. The incident took place in Dhandhari village in Kaptan ganj area here on Tuesday night, when an argument broke out between one Manoj singh and his father Shrina rain, 75, and his 35-year-old brother Manish Singh, police said. In anger, Manoj Singh shot his father and brother with his licensed pistol, killing

both of them on the spot, police said. The accused also beat up his aunt with sticks when she intervened in the dispute. Superintendent of Police Anurag Arya said that the accused had retired from army a year ago and his father was also an ex-serviceman. "The incident is stated to be fallout of a property dispute. The accused has been detained and interrogation is going on," the SP said. The bodies of victims have been sent for the post mortem examination, police said



Courts expected to pass order at earliest in matters involving personal liberty:SC

he Supreme Court has said that in a matter involving personal liberty, courts are expected to pass orders at the earliest in one way or the other taking into account the merits of the case. The apex court, while hearing a petition against a June 2 order of the Delhi High Court, observed that posting an application seeking anticipatory bail after

two months cannot be appreciated. A vacation bench of Justices C T Ravikumar and Sudhanshu Dhulia noted that the petitioner's grievance is that his application for anticipatory bail moved before the high court was posted for August 31 without granting any interim protection We are of the considered view that in a matter involving personal liberty, the court is expected to pass orders in one way or other taking into account the merits of the matter at the



'Ready to quit, will be happy if a Shiv Sainik succeeds me'

An emotional Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday offered to quit as Maharashtra Chief Minister and extended an olive branch to rebel Shiv Sena MLAs led by Eknath Shinde, saying he will be happy if a Shiv Sainik succeeds him, adding a new twist to the ongoing political crisis that threatens to bring down his coalition government of two-and-a-half years.

Breaking his silence over the revolt led by Shinde, a cabinet minister and Sena strongman from Thane, Thackeray said he was ready to step down if the rebel leader and MLAs supporting him, all camping in Guwahati in the BJP-ruled Assam, declare that they don't want him to continue as CM.

In an 18-minute live webcast which was delayed by 30 minutes, Thackeray, who tested positive for COVID-19 earlier in the day, made an emotional appeal to the rebels as well as common



Shiv Sainiks and admitted to being inexperienced and clarified that a spine surgery late last year kept him away from meet-

ing people.
The CM said he was ready to give up the post of party president as well if Shiv Sainiks feel he isn't capable of leading the outfit which is heading the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, which also includes the NCP and the Congress. "Why make statements from Surat

(where rebels headed first on Monday night) and other places. Come and tell me on my face that I am incompetent to han-dle the post of Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president. I will resign immediately. I will keep my resignation letter ready and you can come and take it to the Raj Bhavan," he said.

The CM said he would be happy if a Shiv Sainik succeeds him to the top constitutional post. Recalling the events of

In 56 years, Shiv Sena faces 4th rebellion; 1st under Uddhav's watch

espite being a party of committed cadres with unflinching loyalty to leadership of the day, the Shiv Sena has been vulnerable to rebellions in its ranks and it has seen revolts by prominent figures on four occasions, three of them under the watch of its charismatic founder Bal Thackeray, with Eknath Shinde becoming the latest leader to join the list. The rebellion by Shinde, a Cabinet minister who has walked away with a bunch of Shiv Sena MLAs, is most significant in the outfit's 56-year-old history as it threatens to bring down the party-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra, while the other revolts took place when it was not in power in the state. The present revolt, which started taking shape post Monday midnight after Legislative Council poll results, throws a big challenge before Maharashtra Chief Minister and Sena president Uddhay Thackeray as the three previous revolts took place when his father Bal Thackeray was still around.

November 2019 when the MVA took shape, Thackeray said he agreed to become CM despite his political inexperience after NCP president Sharad Pawar suggested him to take up the job.

The MVA came into existence despite the Congress and the NCP being Shiv Sena's political adversaries for several decades, he said. Thackeray said he was shocked at the ongoing political developments in the state, which started on Monday night when Shinde (58) raised a banner of revolt and landed in a hotel in Surat, around 280km from Mumbai, with a bunch of disgruntled

Droupadi Murmu: Spiritual and soft spoken

from Kalahandi. It is from

Rairangpur that she took her first step up the BJP ladder. She

was a councillor in the

Rairangpur Notified Area Council in 1997 and rose to

being a minister in Odisha's

BJD-BJP coalition government

from 2000 to 2004. In 2105, she

was appointed governor of

Jharkhand and stayed in the

Murmu was the first woman

Born on June 20, 1958,

PNS NEW DELHI

Councillor to president of India? The arc of triumph forged through personal tragedy is almost complete for Droupadi Murmu, tribal leader, former Jharkhand governor and now the BJP-led NDA's presidential candidate who could well be the next occupant of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The low-profile Murmu, believed to be deeply spiritual, is a keen practitioner of the meditation techniques of the Brahma Kumaris, a movement she embraced after she lost her husband, two sons, mother and brother in the just six years between 2009-2015.

An early image on Wednesday of the 64-year-old who will be India's first tribal president and the second woman in the post if elected was perhaps in sync with this facet -- her sweeping the floor of the Purnandeswar Shiv temple in Rairangpur in her home state Odisha's Mayurbhanj dis-

Catapulted into the national spotlight after being picked the ruling NDA's presidential

nominee in the July 18 polls on governor of the state. If elect-Tuesday, Murmu also visited ed - with the numbers stacked in favour of the BJP-led NDA the temples of Lord Jagannath, Shiva and Hanuman to offer combine she is likely to score prayers. "She is deeply spiritua win over the Opposition al and soft-spoken person," candidate Yashwant Sinha -said Basant Kumar Panda, BJP Murmu will also be the first leader and Lok Sabha member president to be born after

Independence. She has been through a lot of pain and struggle, but doesn't get rattled by adversity, former Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal said.

Born into a Santhal family, she is an excellent orator in Santhali and Odia languages, Samal said.

He added that she had worked extensively to improve infrastructure such as roads and ports in the region.

Two children die as tanker crashes into them

A three-year-old boy and Srishti, and Rishi were standhis cousin sister were killed bitumen hit them while they were waiting at a traffic signal to cross a busy street in suburban Chembur, police said on Wednesday.

Rishi Gupta and Srishti Gupta (2) were killed when they were crossing the road near a hotel on Tuesday afternoon, an official said, adding that Srishti's mother Ranjana suffered injuries to

Ranjana was taking Srishti for a medical check-up with

a doctor and asked Rishi to accompany them. "Ranjana, ing at a traffic signal to cross road when t ver lost his control over the vehicle which rammed into the trio. They were rushed to a hospital by local people where Srishti and Rishi were declared dead," the official

Tanker driver Rajendra Purohit was arrested under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) including 304-A (causing death by negligence). Further investigation is underway, the offi-

5 cops, home guard stabbed inside police station in Delhi Five policemen and a home

Delhi's Shahdara Wednesday, officials said. The incident took place on the third floor of cyber police station, Shahdara, they said. The man is being questioned, police said. According to police, the man entered the police station and started recording a video. When he was obstructed by one of the policemen and asked the reason behind recording the

video, the man suddenly took

out a knife and stabbed the

guard were stabbed by a man



personnel one after the other. All the injured policemen and the home guard were rushed to hospital where they are being treated. One of the cops sustained injuries on his chest and is critical, they said. Meanwhile, the man later claimed that he was a complainant, but no complaint copy was found with him. Police said he also banged his head against the wall and sustained minor injuries.

Sonia seeks more time for appearing before ED

post till 2021.

Gandhi, who was hospitalised complications, on Wednesday wrote to the Enforcement Directorate seeking postponement of her appearance in the National Herald case by a few weeks till she recovers completely. The 75-year-old Congress leader, who was discharged from hospital on June

20, had been summoned by the agency for questioning on June Congress president Sonia 23 in the money laundering case related to the newspaper. Her son and former Cou chief Rahul Gandhi has already been quizzed by the probe agency for over five days. Sonia Gandhi had earlier been scheduled to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on June 8 but had sought more time from the probe agency in view of her COVID-

TELANGANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL OFFICE-1: SANGAREDDY



19 infection. The agency had then issued a fresh summons.

Uma Bharti urges Oppn Prez candidate Sinha to withdraw nomination

PNS ■ BHOPAL

BIP leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Uma Bharti on Wednesday urged Yashwant Sinha, who is opposition parties' candidate for the July 18 presidential election, to withdraw his nomination "if he believed in what he used to say' when he was in the saffron party earlier. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on

Tuesday named Droupadi Murmu, a tribal leader from Odisha, as its candidate, while former Union minister Sinha was declared as a joint nominee by major opposition parties, including the Congress, the NCP and the TMC. Sinha, who served in the cabinet of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had quit the saffron party in 2018 following serious differences with the party leadership.

Mandaviya to chair high-level review on rising COVID-19 cases

Harvana, Uttar Pradesh,

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviva will on Friday chair a high-level review meeting with the core team of experts over increasing cases of COVID-19 in the country, official sources said. India has been witnessing an increase in coronavirus infections over the last couple of weeks. As on date, 10 states -- Maharashtra, Kerala,

Telangana, West Bengal and Gujarat -- have over 1,000 active cases. The core team of experts will include AIIMS director Dr Randip Guleria, ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava and NCDC director Sujeet Singh. Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary of Department of Biotechnology Rajesh S Gokhale, Secretary in the Department of Pharmaceu Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, ticals S Aparna, among others,

will also attend the meeting. In a review meeting of INSACOG held last week, states/UTs were asked to submit "larger number" of samples for whole genome sequencing from districts and areas which had seen a surge in COVID-19 cases over a period of seven days.

The direction was issued to

the breakthrough infections.

check the possibility of any new emerging variant or sub-variant and ascertain the reasons behind

Assam flood situation grim, 55 lakh people hit

PNS GUWAHATI

The flood situation in Assam continued to remain grim with rising water levels of the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers inundating fresh areas in the state and impacting over 55 lakh people across 32 districts, officials said on Wednesday.

Eighty-nine people have lost their lives since mid-May due to deluge, they said.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma travelled to Nagaon by train to review the situation in flood-hit areas in the district, the officials said, adding that he was also scheduled to visit a few relief camps there. Nagaon was severely affected by the current wave of floods with over 4,57,381 people coming under the impact of



the deluge and 15,188 inmates have taken shelter in 147 relief

"Undertook a train journey from Guwahati to flood-affected areas in Chaparmukh and Kampur. The journey enabled

me to take a closer look at the areas ravaged by flood along the railway tracks, which will help us in taking informed decisions and intervene accordingly," Sarma said on Twitter. As the floodwaters of Kopili

have inundated large areas in Nagaon district, necessary steps will be taken to prevent the recurrence of such calamity in the future, he said. Sarma visited Chaparmukh railway station to interact with floodthere and took stock of relief materials provided to them. Assuring them all possible help, I asked district administration to ensure adequate relief to the affected people & be on stand-by," he said.

The flood situation in three districts of the Barak Valley -Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi remained critical with rising water levels of the Barak and Kushiara rivers inundating vast tracts of land in the valley, the officials said.

National Disaster Response Force personnel have been engaged in Cachar districts to evacuate people to safe places, while representatives of State Disaster Response Force and other agencies were deployed in the two remaining districts.

5-1-28, Shantinagar, Sangareddy - 502 001. Ph: 08455-297799, 276795 Email: ee-mdk1-tspcb@telangana.gov.in ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION In accordance with the EIA Notification No. S.O. 1533, dated 14" September 2006 of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt of India, it is to notify that Mis. Sixam Sherikaram Metals has proposed quarry for mining of Rough Stone & Road Metal in an area of 3.23 He, at Sy No. 157, Byathole (V), Kandi (M), Sangaredly District of Telangans State and it is also proposed to have an Environmental Public Hearing (Public Consultation for the project, as the proposed project require prior Environmental Clearance as per 1(a) of the schedule to EIA Notification, 2006 is "Mining of minerals. The details of the project are as given below:

Mis. Sivam Shankaram Metals, Plot No. 23, Jayatheri Meadows, Neer 'Q' city, Gachibowli, Hydenbad - 50046, Phone: 9440323321. E-mail: sivammetals@gmail.com Name of the Company, Address of Reg. office with Telephone No.

Project Location Sy. No. 157, Bathole (V), Kandi (M), Sangareddy District of Telangana State. Extent of Area: 3.23 Ha. Sri. S. Shekhar, Chief Manager, Plot No. 23, Jayabheri Meadows, Naar 'Q' chy, Gachibowli, Hydarabad - 500046. Phone: 9440323321. E-mail: sivammetals@gmail.com Name of the Project consultant / Environmental Consultant Sri E. Shyam Sundar, Mrs. Sri Sai Manasa Nature Tech Pvt. Ltd., Plot No.74/A, Flat No. 102, Central Bank Building, Kalyan Nagar, Hyderabad-500038.Phone: 040-23616333.Mobile: 9391116139. Email: ssmntpl@gmail.com Capital cost of the project Quarry for mining of Rough Stone & Road Metal. (Opencast semi-mechanized mining of Stone & Metal -39,520 Tons/annum). Extent of Area: 3.23 Ha. Line of activity / Project capacity Date: 27.07.2022 (Wednesday) at 10.00 AM Date / Time / Venue of Public Hearing Venue: Ner proposed project site of Ms. Swam Shankaram Metals, located at Sy. No. 157, Bathole (V), Kandi (M), Sangareddy District of Telangana State.

Places of availability of executive summary (Telugu & English) & Draft EIA / EMP report of proposed project are kept open

O/o The Collector & District Magistrate @ Sangareddy District.

O/o The Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Sangareddy District.
O/o The General Manager, District Industries Centre, Sangareddy District.

O/o The Member Secretary, Telangane State Pollution Control Board, Paryavarana Bhavan, A-3, Industrial Estate.

O/o The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Telangana State Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office, H. No. 25-35/11,

2nd Floor, Tulisi Roddy Complex, R.C. Puram, Sangareddy District.

O/o The Environmental Engineer, Telangane State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office-I, H. No. 5-1-28,

Shanlinger, Sangareddy - 502 001, Sangareddy District.

Oto The Ministry of Environmental, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office (SEZ), 1st & 2nd Floor, Handloom

Export Promotion Council, 34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennal - 34

O/o The Principal Secretary, Dept. of Environment, Forest, Science & Technology, Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad. O/o The Tashildhar, Kandi (M), Sangareddy District.

Olo The Panchayat Secretary, Grampanchayat, Bathole (V), Kandi (M), Sangareddy District.

11. The executive summary (Telugu & English) & Draft EIA / EMP report is also displayed in TSPCB website @tspcb.ogg.gov.in.

Suggestions, views, comments and objections of the public on Environmental issues, if any, are invited on the above project within 30 days from the date of publication of the notification from all persons including bonafide residents, environmental groups, others located at project site /sites of displacement / sites likely to be affected. All the above persons can also submit written suggestions to the undersigned of the Telangana State Pollution Control Board or through e-mail: ee-mdk1-tspcb@telangana.gov.in. The interested persons can take part in the proceedings of the Public Hearing on the date and venue specified above.

Date: 20.06.2022

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER. TELANGANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, REGIONAL OFFICE-I, SANGAREDDY, SANGAREDDY DISTRICT DIPR R.O. No.: 274-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

First among equals

The NDA holds a distinct advantage as the presidential election nears

he ruling National Democratic Alliance has selected former Jharkhand' Governor Droupadi Murmu as its presidential candidate. "I am surprised as well as delighted. As a tribal woman from remote Mayurbhanj district, I had not thought about becoming the candidate for the top post," she said at her Rairangpur residence. It did not come as a big surprise to political commentators though, for it was widely speculated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi may opt for a person from either the tribal community or other backward classes (OBCs). All other major groups — Muslims, Dalits, Sikhs, women — have been represented. By choosing her as its presidential candidate, the BJP-led NDA expected to get support not just from the



MPs and MLAs from tribals but also from Odisha, her native State. The BJD, which is in power in Odisha, holds over 2.8 per cent of representation in the electoral college that will elect the President. "I am optimistic of support from all members of the Odisha Assembly and MPs," she said, "I am daughter of the soil. I have the right to request all members to support me as an Odia." Her optimism is well-grounded. Odisha Chief Minister and BJD boss Naveen Patnaik is favourably inclined towards her candidature. He tweeted: "Congratulations Smt #DraupadiMurmu on being announced as candidate of NDA for the country's highest office. I was

delighted when Hon'ble PM @narendramodi ji discussed this with me. It is indeed a proud moment for people of #Odisha." This will help her — and the NDA.

Equally important is the support she has got from Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. "We express happiness at the candidature of Droupadi Murmu for President. She is a tribal woman and it is a matter of great happiness that a tribal woman is the candidate for the highest position in the country," Nitish Kumar said. At any rate, the top BJP leadership is active and adroit enough to have its way, as evident from the political storm raging in Maharashtra. This is bad news for the Opposition which had propped up former BJP leader Yashwant Sinha as its presidential candidate. Opposition politicians had hoped that if somehow they managed to get their candidate occupy Rashtrapati Bhawan, it would not only add momentum to the campaign to eventually oust the BJP from office. That seems to be very difficult today; developments in Maharashtra have shown that not just the anti-BJP coalition is precarious but also that Opposition leaders are flatfooted. On the other hand, the BJP top brass calibrated all its moves. Supporting a tribal woman can be criticised as tokenism, but then it is not the first time tokenism has affected presidential poll; in 2007, for instance, the Congress selected Pratibha Patil, who was not a political heavyweight or household name, as its candidate. The BJP has been playing that game, and bagging rich dividends. And it is likely to get the President of its own choice.



A view of the swollen Jhelum river following incessant rain, in Srinagar

Trouble next door

India will do well to learn lessons from the goings-on in its immediate neighbourhood

here are several political developments taking place in our neighbourhood, and all of these portend to our own polity, what may be wrong with it, or what should be corrected. Sri Lanka is burning. Pakistan is in the black. Afghanistan remains simmering under its newfound cloak of civility. Nepal, under the new Prime Minister, has just about found its step after the former communist-leaning Premier was ousted. The suffocating situation in Myanmar is also nothing new. Now Kuwait's crown prince has dissolved Parliament and called for an early election following a stand-off between the Government and elected Assembly that has hindered fiscal reform. Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah has said that the decree would be issued for the dissolution of Parliament, the Gulf region's oldest. Even the ruling Emir of Kuwait has blessed the dissolution move. The Opposition lawmakers are staging an open-ended



sit-in since last week at the Parliament complex to press Sheikh Meshal to name a new Prime Minister to replace the caretaker Premier who has faced a combative Parliament. The political crisis, which has blocked the country's economic and social progress, seems to be worsening.

Meanwhile, in Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe admitted in Parliament that its economy has "completely collapsed" and an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is the only path to revival. While it is a fact that the island nation faces a far more serious situation beyond mere shortages of fuel, gas, electricity and food, any finan-

cial rescue plan with the IMF is not expected until Colombo agrees with its creditors on restructuring its \$51 billion foreign debt, which could take months. The country first defaulted on its debt in April and went cap-in-hand to the IMF, which asked Colombo to raise taxes and restructure loss-making state enterprises, but it made people angrier. To soothe the seething population, Sri Lanka's Cabinet has approved an amendment to the Constitution that could curtail presidential powers. Besides, Sri Lanka's Parliament sessions will be restricted to two days this week instead of four days amid the current fuel supply crisis. The situation in India is no better. Unemployment is rampant, inflation is rising, growth is slowing and the nation is seemingly in the throes of lumpen elements that threaten to derail our foreign relations anytime. We must seriously be on our guard!

Gulf nations must avow India's step



The Government has asserted its respect for all religions while the Gulf countries have often been suspect in establishing their secular credentials

he démarche issued by a host of Islamic nations with regard to the unfortunate Nupur Sharma incident had stirred up a hornet's nest in India and unleashed a welter of emotions. An ugly cocktail of shame, embarrassment, anger and frustration swirled and vitiated the air. There have been concerns about India's international image; some have rued over its impact on trade with the Arab world.

A former BJP leader sanctimoniously claimed that India's "image has now come crashing down". He further averred that ...(It) caused grievous damage to our image as a liberal, secular democracy...". But is this really so? Do we need to feel ashamed? And did this controversy erode our credibility as a liberal secular democracy?

We, us Indians, suffer from a deep-set flaw in our psyche; a profound lack of self-esteem and self-confidence that stems from not knowing who we are! So much so that even when twobit nations with a combined moral quotient of zero pass adverse remarks about us, we go into a tizzy and subject ourselves o an endless bout of selfloathing. Nothing illustrates this phenomenon better than our current response.

First, one person's aberration, even if the individual belongs to the ruling party, cannot indict an entire nation, its people and its Government. Second, the Government did act to rectify the indecorum by asserting its respect for all religions and by suspending the errant office bearer. Nupur Sharma has since apologised for her remarks.

Next, let us take a closer look at those Muslim countries that are hectoring India on morality. These include Kuwait, Qatar, Iran, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Jordan, Bahrain, Maldives, Malaysia, Oman, Iraq and Libva. The majority of them are autocracies which designate Islam as the official religion; a caveat that automatically relegates all other religions to second-class status.

Countries like Saudi Arabia

prohibit the construction of non-Muslim places of worship; in other Gulf countries, non-Muslims have to seek Government permission. These countries do not even afford non-Muslims the basic courtesy of dignity in death. Kuwait and Qatar do not allow cremations forcing non-Muslims to fly dead bodies out of the country to their native places. And let us not forget that Qatar is the country that indirectly endorsed MF Hussain's blasphemy against Hindu gods by hon-

ouring him with a citizenship.
In contrast, despite all the criticism that the Modi Government has been subject to, both at home and abroad, and despite all the talk of Hindu hyper-nationalism, we still remain a liberal democratic country par excellence that treats all its citizens equally. Muslims have the same rights as any Hindu. They have access to the same educational institutions, same job opportunities, the same health facilities and are beneficiaries of the same ration cards. They can build their own mosques and pray unhindered in these. We cannot be shamed by countries whose record

on religious freedom is ques-



THE MAJORITY OF THESE MUSLIM COUNTRIES ARE **AUTOCRACIES** WHICH DESIGNATE ISLAM AS THE OFFICIAL RELIGION; A CAVEAT THAT **AUTOMATICALLY** RELEGATES ALL OTHER RELIGIONS TO SECOND-CLASS STATUS

tionable. We need to be confident in our own skin and answerable to ourselves alone as the bearers of an ancient moral civilisation.

Coming to the question of trade, the Gulf Cooperation Council (consisting of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates) is a major trading partner with exports of \$44 billion and imports worth \$110 billion (2021-22). About a third of India's crude oil needs (Saudi Arabia 18 per cent; UAE nine per cent and Kuwait five per cent) are supplied by the Gulf countries. However, since the Russia-Ukraine crisis, the equation is fast changing. Crude oil supplies from Russia have dramatically shot up reaching 3.36 million metric tonnes in May 2022 — a nine-fold monthly increase compared to 2021. India's dependence on oil from Gulf countries is significant but can be balanced by increasing welcomes the Indian supplies from Russia.

intries are overwhelm- uinely secular nation ingly dependent on India for their food needs. Specifically, India accounts for 84 per cent, 91 per cent and 80 per cent of Qatar's, Kuwait's and Iran's rice

requirements. So, vulnerability due to trade disruption extends to both sides.

What is most concerning is that this outrage has emboldened terrorists to threaten India with attacks and encouraged anti-social elements amongst India's Muslims? It has led to calls for beheading on national television, rioting through the streets and obscene calls for Hindu genocide from mosque tops. The Government of India has done the right thing to defuse the crisis by reiterating its respect for all religions and by suspending the errant office bearers.

The Gulf countries too must step up to the plate. After having vented their disapproval publicly, they must now show maturity if they do not want the narrative to be hijacked by radical fundamentalists. To put an end to the matter, they need to release another statement that Government's actions and On the flip side, the Gulf acknowledges India as a gen-

> (The author, a US-based academic and political commentator, frequently writes on current affairs in India. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

START AGNIPATH ON TRIAL BASIS

Sir — While working out the financial benefits of the Agnipath scheme, national security concerns and administrative feasibility cannot be brushed aside. The moot question is whether after completing four years in uniform, they will be able to withstand the pressures of unemployment. These well-trained youths can easily be lured, recruited and exploited by anti-social elements, creating newer challenges after completing their tenure. There is no gain saying that the new recruitment scheme for jawans is being pushed in a hurry to counter the rising discontentment among the unemployed youth and ever-growing

resentment against the Government. Another rational way of revisiting the Agnipath scheme is to downsize the Army, as China did in 2015 by giving 2.3 lakh soldiers VRS as part of its modernisation drive. The poor execution of SPARSH is a case in point. The new pension system for the armed forces veterans, which was launched with much fanfare in 2021 for post-2015 retirees, also ended in a fiasco as on May 1, almost 60,000 ex-servicemen were kept deprived of their pension. Taking lessons from its poor execution, it is essential to run Agnipath on a trial basis first

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

RADICAL REFORMS AFTER CONSULTATIONS Sir — This refers to 'Some reforms may look unfair at first, but help nation in long run: Modi' (June 21). The PM's statement is relevant because it comes against the backdrop of widespread protests against the Agnipath scheme. Irrespective of the merits and demerits of the scheme, it has turned into a burning issue. Also, it is difficult to ignore the fact that this is the third big reform by the Modi-led Government to face such serious opposition. The land reform Bill in its first term and the farm reforms Bill in its second term were withdrawn to avert likely electoral losses despite there being enough reasons to persist with these.

Comments malign Cong's image



he way in which the leaders of the Opposition Congress and its former Ministers were seen losing their cool in pub-

lic meetings in the recent past, is sad. Their frustration was evident in their statements. The kind of abusive language used by Shaikh Hussain about the Prime Minister of the country in the Congress' protest public meeting in Nagpur and after that at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, by former reforms set out to address remain, and are

likely to have a detrimental impact on the Indian economy. While it is possible the opposition to such reforms was inevitable, it is also possible that their intensity might have been diminished through a consultative process involving all stakeholders, an elaborate detailing of the contours of the reforms. However, when it comes to the adoption of radical reforms, good intentions and a majority in Parliament may not necessarily translate into instant and universal acceptance.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

Sir — With great admiration and belief in the columns of your newspaper, I seek to bring to your attention the fast-growing menace of tech addiction and the resultant health scares among the youth of our country. Today, we are able to enjoy some of the most convenient gadgets to have ever existed, which offer far more information and

Union Minister of Congress, Subodh Kant Sahai. It's a sad state of affairs. The Congress has been an old national party. It has had a golden history. But today, the language the senior Congress leaders are using in public meetings is not in any way in the interest of the party.

What derogatory remarks are being made by the leaders about certain constitutional posts, they don't even care about it. The Congress has ruled the country for more than 60 years and all that has been possible only because of the nation's people. It has also been the tradition of Congress to respect the sentiments of the same people. The Prime Minister is not only a leader of a political party, his is a constitutional post, leading the country in the world. Insulting any constitutional post does not suit the leaders of a national party like the Congress. Such statements will only hurt the image of the

Rajender Kumar Sharma I Haryana

The issues that these two aborted

NEED TO HARMONISE WITH TECH

sources of entertainment than any other. As a result, the upcoming generation has been becoming increasingly informationheavy. The number of hours an average person spends in gaining information, whether wanted or unwanted, is fast increasing, with a screen in front of our eyes showing us new wonders every

And on top of that, the wonders are as per choice and preferences. All this temptation often leads young children to spend much more time on these gadgets than what's healthy. And even though we may not realise it instantly, it levies a huge load of tiredness on our brains and eyes, often leading to inexplicable stress and irritability. Hence, through the pages of your esteemed newspaper, I would like to appeal to the youth worldwide to maintain a balance of all spheres of life to fully enjoy it.

> Divyansha Sharma | Ujjain Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Many reforms in the present may seem unpleasant. but over time there are benefits



This attack was



iust on a Gurudwara (in Kabul) but on the entire civilised population

Afghan ambassador –Farid Mamundzay

Music is also a form of yoga, which I have been practising since childhood



—Sukhwinder Singh



concerning. India chief coach —Rahul Dravid

am happy to inform you that the Indian farmers are completely protected



Commerce Minister -Piyush Goyal

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UNIFORM CIVIL CODE TO STRENGTHEN UNITY

India already has a fairly uniform set of laws



RAJENDRA PRASAD GUPTA

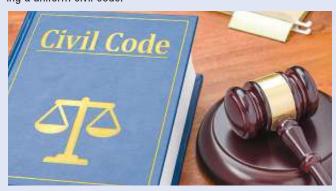
n a country as diverse as India, a lot has changed during the 75 years of Independence. India is continuously climbing the ladder of success. The country is asserting itself as a major economic and military power. In such a milieu, there is an urgent need that India, like other nations, strengthens the initiative of national integration by passing a uniform civil code.

The criminal code, civil procedure code, the Special Marriage Act, etc., apply uniformly to all citizens. Barring a few exceptions, India has a fairly uniform set of laws.

The British government had entrusted the responsibility of initiating a uniform civil code to Warren Hasting in 1772 when he was conferred the civil, judicial and administrative responsibility. Later, the British government emphasised the need to compile the codification of Indian laws on various subjects in 1835, with a few exceptions.

Article 25 of the Indian Constitution gives us freedom of conscience and freedom to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion, including the protection of our cultural diversity. At the same time, there is Article 44, which upholds a "uniform civil code" for citizens. It is part of the Directive Principles of State Policy of the Indian Constitution.

In order to bring uniformity in law, various courts have often said in their judgments that the government should strive towards ensuring a uniform civil code.



With the passage of time, many laws have been changed in India. The demand for a uniform civil code has also been going on since the time of Independence. In fact, even the framers of the Constitution had deliberated on it, but it was put on hold due to opposition by the Muslim representatives.

India will not be the first nation to implement a uniform civil code. The US, Canada, and European nations as well as many Islamic countries like Turkey, Indonesia, and Sudan have uniform civil codes.

By promoting the politics of appearement in India, a select few fundamentalist organisations, which are protected by political parties, are engaged in dividing the country. If one looks at the developments in history, one will find that since Independence these organisations have been involved in anti-national activities. Many conspiracies have been hatched for the purpose of precluding a uniform civil code. Owing to vote bank politics, top leaders of many major political parties started fear-mongering, telling the Muslim community that a uniform civil code would violate their rights as enshrined in the Constitution.

These politicians forget that the same Constitution has also talked about implementing a uniform civil code. They should also be aware that a uniform civil code has been in force in Goa for years, which has proved to be effective in maintaining harmony and a peaceful environment, and accelerating development there.

Therefore, it would be better if today we make meaningful efforts to solve the problem and not leave it to the future. This step will also be commendable and in tune with the motto of 'One Nation and One Legislation.'

For this it is necessary that the Centre, Parliament and state governments agree on this issue to develop a national consensus. While preserving cultural diversity, it is necessary that no person should be discriminated against. As far as possible, there should be the same

law in India and a uniform civil code. Several pending issues like triple talaq, Article 370, and Ram Mandir have been addressed in the last few years. This has raised hope that uniform civil code will also become a reality.

(The author, a professor, is the vice-president of BJP in Bihar and a member of Bihar Legislative Council)

BJP's foreign outreach serves national interest



The outreach is an exercise to realise democratic ideals and reach out to those uninitiated and curious about our country

ndia is the world's largest democracy and the Bharatiya Janata Party is the world's largest political party. Despite many challenges it faces, Indian democracy remains vibrant and inclusive.

The BJP being one of the representatives of democratic ideals of India, outreach with foreign and domestic constituents has been a constant for the party over several decades. Technology has recently emerged as a force multiplier. The world has for long been watching democratic evolution in India. Foreign commentators have interpreted the noise of democracy in India in different ways. Some sections have even fallen prey to the biases which coloured their writing on India. Some, however, have been genuinely unaware of the various facets of Indian democracy for many reasons, including distance and lack of communication.

Biases, prejudices, and preconceived notions are the key challenges that the BJP has sought to address in its outreach to diverse audiences. 'Know BJP' is an initiative of the ruling party to give insights into party's functioning to foreign diplomats.

BJP president Jagat Pratap Nadda and

senior party functionaries have held three interactions with foreign diplomats. Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar has also been present in such interactions.

In the third meeting, the BJP president gave a detailed view of BJP's policies and programmes to the envoys of six countries, including those from Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, and Laos. The second part of 'Know BJP' exercise took place close on the heels of Raisina Dialogue, which was attended by foreign ministers of 14 countries, diplomats, foreign affairs commenta-tors and other stakeholders, including those from the US, Australia and Israel.

The two events were independent of each other but complemented each other in furthering the national interest.

The latest phase of direct communication was held with the diplomatic community from the Central Asian countries with whom India has age-old ties, dating back to the first global outreach by the emperor Ashoka, whose pillars were installed in these countries. The Raisina Dialogue saw Jaishankar in his element while reiterating India's worldview and confronting the narrow perspectives of some of the key foreign commentators to the immediate flashpoint in the Russia-Ukraine war.

Indian perseverance to make the world take note of the wrongs perpetrated on the South Asian subcontinent has begun bearing fruit with the emergence of greater understanding about the pitfalls of an expansionist China. For decades, it has been causing problems on the Line of Actual Control on the eastern front of India, while Pakistan exports terrorism as its state policy on the western front.

This global understanding has come on the back of discreet but uninterrupted dialogue by the leaders of India with their foreign interlocutors. This was first set in



BIASES PREJUDICES motion by former PM Atal Bihari AND **PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS ARE** THE KEY **CHALLENGES** THAT THE BJP HAS SOUGHT TO ADDRESS IN ITS **OUTREACH TO DIVERSE** AUDIENCES.

'KNOW BJP' IS

AN INITIATIVE

PARTY

OF THE RULING

(The author is Director,

the Public Policy

Research Centre, the

BJP's principal think

tank; twitter at

@sumeetbhasin)

Vajpayee. The Jaswant Singh-Strobe Talbott dialogue, which went on for several years, had laid the foundation for the Indian pivot in Asia for the US, which also augmented the global outreach of India. Notably, former BJP chief and deputy PM LK Advani had set in

motion the party's foreign out-reach by creating a foreign cell and the overseas friends of the BJP, which are playing important roles in the outreach, who in turn have become vocal advocates of Indian national interest. Deployment of technology for outreach by the BJP in the last one decade by tapping the full potential of social media platforms has given a boost unseen in the past.

Vajpayee, being a true democrat, had the idea to connect with the Indian diaspora to tap their growing influence to work for the Indian national interest. Needless to say, increase in the Indian outreach with foreign capitals corresponds with the rise in the politico-economic clout of the Indian diaspora.

In PM Modi, the Indian diaspora got the perfect voice for Indian national interest. Predictably, the interactions with the diaspora are a regular feature during his foreign visits. So, while Vajpayee laid the foundation for the connect with the world, Modi has upgraded it by building a grand edifice of an India that's connected with every corner of the world-from developed countries to island nations, from the African continent to the developing nations and the immediate neighbourhood. He has deployed full resources to build relationships of dent on India.

a reliable and dependable friend. For many, the BJP is a relative-

BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY

HEAD OF MISSIONS

ly new political party, for they have been used to seeing Congress in power for decades. The BJP gained full majority in the Lok Sabha only in 2014 under the leadership of Modi. This happened again in the 2019 general election. While Vajpayee led the government within the coalition limitations, PM Modi has the unprecedented popular mandate to unlock India's fullest potential. The Modi-led government at the Centre has carried out a legislative agenda which was earlier seen as impossible.

Revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave a special status to Jammu and Kashmir. Then the archaic practice of triple talaq among the Muslims was discarded; this caught the attention of many in the world. Such political will to carry out hard reforms is tough to find even among many world leaders. This fuels curiosity of foreign commentators in the BJP and its leadership; this has necessitated a creative outreach strategy so that we could keep pace with the

fast-changing global narrative. The outbreak of Covid-19 tested the characters of national leaders of several countries. India with over one billion population was seen by many as too vulnerable to the deadly pandemic. But the incumbent Indian leadership proved equal to the task; in fact, it excelled in its response with two made in India vaccines that shielded not just Indians but millions in several countries. The neighbouring countries remained solely depen-

PM led the outreach at the policy front, holding consultations with the scientific community to find answers to the looming challenges in the form of Covid-19. India showcased why the country is the pharma capital of the world, with the Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro expressing gratitude for the medicines and vaccines by equating the efforts with Hanuman carrying the 'Sanjeevani Booti' for injured Lakshman.

The BJP's outreach with the poor during such trying times shaped the party's deep social drive in the form of distribution of dry ration kits to millions of people during lockdowns and thereafter. BJP workers ran community kitchens across the country. Blending of the social and political work further helped the endeavour.

Dialogue and dissemination are in the DNA of the BJP and its parent organization, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Foreign commentators have their misgivings about the RSS and the BJP because of the long-term narratives fed to them by the political rivals and the well-entrenched 'Left-liberal ecosystem.'

RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat held extensive interactions with the representatives of the foreign media at Vigyan Bhavan a few years ago where he responded to all the questions. He explained to them the worldview and function-

ing of the organisation.
The BJP leaders have their ears to the ground; outreach helps them know the pulse of the people. They are not the prisoners of history; they are willing to walk the tough road.

WE HAVE OPENED UP THE SPACE AND THE DEFENCE SECTORS WHICH, FOR DECADES, WERE UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL. —PRIME MINISTER **NARENDRA MODI**



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 75 YEARS, SERVICE CHIEFS ARE BEING FRONTED TO DEFEND A **GOVERNMENT'S POLICY DECISION.** —LEADER OF OPPN IN THE RAJYA SABHA MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

South Africa: Anti-graft Prez faces scam charges

A politically-linked former spy hurled some not-very-convincing charges at President Ramaphosa, ruining latter's name

nce upon a time (about four years ago) Cyril Ramaphosa was seen as South Africa's last, best hope. Since the end of Apartheid in 1994, the leadership of the country's ruling African National Congress (ANC) had passed from the wise and heroic Nelson Mandela to the intellectual but ineffectual Thabo Mbeki and then to the corrupt and ignorant

Iacob Zuma. But in 2018 the fractured and demoralised ANC pulled itself together, remembered its purpose, and replaced Zuma as president with Cyril Ramaphosa. Hope soared: Ramaphosa had a long record of activism in the struggle against Apartheid; he was a former trade union leader; and he was so rich that he didn't need to be corrupt. He was the ideal candidate.



(The author's new

book is The Shortest

The economy didn't grow stayed very high, but Zuma's chief cronies fled abroad, others were charged with various crimes, and even Zuma wound up in jail. Ramaphosa was at least trying to clean up the mess—but then, two years ago, there was a burglary at his wildlife game farm in Limpopo province.

For a while it went well.

Nobody heard about it at the time, because Ramaphosa didn't mention it publicly. That's understandable, because the burglars allegedly found \$4 million in cash hidden in cushions on his sofa. That's not a good look for a president whose USP is fighting corruption, so no report was made to the police. Ramaphosa just swallowed the loss.

That's not as crazy as it sounds: Ramaphosa is one of much and unemployment the richest men in South Africa, and \$4 million is less than one per cent of his wealth. He could just be trying not to draw attention to it. But then, early this month, Arthur Fraser, former head of South Africa's intelligence agency, lodged a criminal complaint with the police about the affair. Fraser said

Ramaphosa's 'presidential protection unit' (bodyguards) had tracked down the burglars, kidnapped, and interrogated them, and then bribed them to keep quiet about the cash. Maybe Ramaphosa was just trying to protect his reputation as a man of the people, but even so he would have been breaking the law. And then Fraser outed him.



The news is now out all over town, and by this week Ramaphosa was under attack from all sides. "Criminals do not report crimes when the proceeds of their crimes are stolen," as Julius Malema, leader of the opposition Economic Freedom Fighters party, put it, and a great many other people in Parliament and in the street lows? Tax avoidance?

took the same view. This comes at just the

wrong time for Ramaphosa, who faces a leadership challenge in the ANC in December. His anti-corruption campaign within the party has not prospered, and Zuma's supporters staged riots that killed hundreds when he was jailed. Now Zuma's out of jail, and Ramaphosa is tarred with the same corruption brush himself.

There's a lot that's wrong with this story. Arthur Fraser, the former spy chief who brought the complaint against Ramaphosa, is a close ally of Zuma's. The South African President does hold regular cash auctions of his prize Ankole cattle and various game animals at his farm, but why would he hide the cash in pilon literally dozens of boards and is allegedly worth \$450 million. If he wants to avoid taxes, he has lawyers aplenty; he doesn't need sofa cushions. The whole 'burglary' operation, and especially the source and the timing of the 'complaint', smells like a political sting. Nevertheless, Ramaphosa is in deep trouble.

The real object of the sting would have been to highlight Ramaphosa's great and unexplained wealth. He probably didn't break the law to get it, like Zuma did, but he didn't inherit it and he didn't earn it by hard work. He just got paid huge sums to sit on boards, and invested the proceeds wisely.

Ramaphosa got on those boards as part of the ANCsponsored 'Black Economic out of the box next.

This is a man who has sat Empowerment' programme, one of whose purposes was to provide a reliable, low-profile income stream for its political work. Most of its supporters were very poor, but the chosen 'BEE' appointees were expected to donate much of their large incomes to the ANC.

It's less lurid than Zuma's route to great wealth via partnership with Indian 'entrepreneurs' in a project of 'state capture, but both men's riches come from their ties to the ANC. To the average voter in Alexandra township, the two men will look exactly the same.

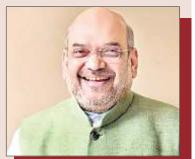
That is why the ANC will probably lose its majority in Parliament in the 2024 election, after 30 years in power. High time, really, even though nobody knows what's coming



Amit Shah to address national conclave on urban cooperative banks today

nion Cooperation Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to address a national conclave that will deliberate on the future role of the urban cooperative credit sector in the country. The conclave will discuss various issues related to Scheduled and Multi-State Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies and will also felicitate Urban Cooperative Banks that have completed 100 years of service to society, an official statement said. The

Minister of State for Cooperation B L Verma, Chairman Emeritus of the National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies (NAFCUB) H K Patil and senior ministry officials will be present at the event. Among other issues, the Conclave will discuss recommendations of the Reserve Bank of India's expert committee, the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020, and its impact and developments, the role of credit societies in the financial sector scenario with special reference to multi-state societies and the issue of regulation and taxation of cooperative credit societies



GAIL to enter distributed LNG production business

AIL (India) Ltd, the nation's largest gas transportation and marketing firm, on Wednesday said it plans to enter into distributed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Wednesday said it plans to enter into distributed Eliquened induction to take the fuel to users.GAIL will liquefy or turn natural gas into liquid at sub-zero temperature and transport it in trucks to users."In a first-of-its-kind endeavour in the country, GAIL plans to enter into distributed LNG production with the vision to cater to

the demand from off-grid locations and the transport sector," it said in a statement.GAIL has placed an order for two small-scale liquefaction skids capable of producing LNG on a pilot basis. Liquefaction will be achieved through proprietary technology-based mobile liquefaction kids."These plants will help in the distribution of natural gas through liquefaction in new cities areas. liquefaction of gas at isolated fields and will support setting up of LNG fueling stations



Sebi sends Rs 5 lakh notice to Future Enterprises in disclosure lapses case

apital markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday sent a notice to Future Enterprises asking it to pay over Rs 5 lakh in a matter pertaining to disclosure lapses about initiation of arbitration proceedings against Future Group by Amazon.

The regulator also warned the company of attachment of assets and bank accounts if it fails to make the payment within 15 days.

The notice came after the company failed to pay the fine imposed on it by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).In an order passed in March, the capital markets regulator had slapped a fine of Rs 5 lakh on Future Enterprises for disclosure lapses in the case related to arbitration proceedings against Future Group by Amazon.com NV Investments Holdings LLC.Future Enterprises failed to disclose to the exchanges the information regarding the initiation of arbitration proceedings and also the passing of an order dated October 25,

2020 in favour of Amazon.



RBI Guv flags continued high inflation as 'a major concern'

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has cautioned that continued high inflation is a major concern for the economy, even as economic activities are gaining traction while voting for a 50 basis points hike in key interest rate to check price rise ear-lier this month, as per minutes of the meeting released by the central bank on Wednesday.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by Das, had announced its decision on June 8. It was the second consecutive hike in repo rate.

As per the minutes of the three-day meeting, the Governor said while high inflation continues to be the major concern, revival of economic activity remains steady and is



"The time is appropriate to go for a further increase in the olicy rate to effectively deal with inflation and inflation

Accordingly, I vote for a 50 bps increase in the repo rate which would be in line with the evolving inflation-growth dynamics and will help in mitigating the second round effects of adverse supply shocks," he said.

The rate hike, he said, will reinforce RBI's commitment to price stability -- its primary

The six-member **Monetary Policy** Committee (MPC), headed by Das. had announced its decision on June 8. It was the consecutive hike in repo rate.

mandate and a pre-requisite for sustainable growth over the medium term.

All the six members had voted to increase the policy repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) to 4.9 per cent.

ITC FMCG business' annual consumer spend over Rs 24,000 cr in FY22

PNS NEW DELHI

ITC recorded an annual consumer spend of over Rs 24,000 crore in FY22 in the FMCG business, wherein the company operates with over 25 mother brands in segments including food, personal care, education and stationery, as per its latest annual report. The FMCG business of ITC has grown at an "impressive pace" over the past several years and achieved impressive market standing in a relatively short span of time, said the company which still gets around half of its revenue from tobacco business.ITC portfolio of "over 25 world-class Indian brands, largely built through an organic growth strategy in a relatively short period of time, represents an annual consumer spend of over Rs 24,000 crore and reach over 200 million households in India," the annual report said.

India needs \$223 bn to meet 2030 renewable capacity goals

India will need USD 223 billion of investment to meet its goal of wind and solar capacity installations by 2030, according to a new report by research company company BloombergNEF (BNEF).

The government has set a target of increasing non-fossil power capacity to 500 GW by 2030. It wants non-fossil fuel power sources to provide half of its electricity supply by

"To achieve this target, India needs to massively scale up funding for renewables," the report said, adding that USD 223 billion is required over the next eight years just to meet the solar and wind capacity targets.

At COP26 in November 2021, Prime Minister



Narendra Modi announced that India plans to reduce emission intensity by more than 45 per cent by 2030 to below 2005 levels. He also announced a net-zero by 2070

The report 'Financing India's 2030 Renewables Ambition', published in association with the Power Foundation of India, found

that corporate commitments from Indian companies could help India achieve 86 per cent of its 2030 goals of building 500GW of cumulative non-fossil power generation capacity, a statement issued by BNEF said.

By 2021, 165 GW of zerocarbon generation had already been installed in the

Domestic air passenger traffic grows nearly five-fold in May

PNS MUMBAI

saw a strong recovery in demand as Indian carriers flew 1.20 crore passengers on the local routes in May, logging nearly five-fold year-onyear volume growth, DGCA data showed on Wednesday.

Domestic air passenger traffic in May 2021 stood at a meager 21-lakh, as per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) data.

Of the total 1.20 crore passengers flown by the domes- month.

tic carriers in May 2022, mar-Domestic air passenger traffic ed around 70 lakh with 57.9 per cent market share, followed by Mumbai-based carrier Go First with 12.76 lakh passengers, accounting for 10.8 per cent of the total

> The two full-service carriers -- Air India and Vistara, which are part of the Tata Group along with no-frills AirAsia India -- carried 8.23 lakh and 9.83 lakh passengers, respectively, in the previous

domestic traffic.

AirAsia India flew 6.86 ket leader IndiGo transport- lakh passengers across the domestic routes in May 2022, the DGCA said.

During the reporting month, budget carrier SpiceJet delivered the highest load factor at 89.1 per cent followed by Go First at 86.5 per cent, as

per the monthly data. In aviation parlance, passenger Load Factor or Seat Factor is a measure of how much of an airline's passenger carrying capacity is used or average percentage of seats filled in an aircraft.

GMR Power and Urban Infra acquires 100 pc stake in GMR Green Energy

PNS NEW DELHI

GMR Power and Urban Infra on Wednesday said it has acquired 100 per cent stake in GMR Green Energy Private Ltd from GMR Solar Energy Private Ltd.

GMR Green Energy was incorporated in 2022 with opportunities in the green energy business.

It is yet to commence commercial operations.

"GMR Power and Urban Infra Ltd has acquired 100 per cent stake in GMR Green Energy Private Ltd (GGEPL) from GMR Solar Energy Private Ltd (GSEPL) a fellow subsidiary," it said in a BSE filing. The company has acquired the entire 50,000 equity shares of GGEPL at face value of Rs 10 each for an aggregate cash consideration of Rs 5 lakh on June 21, 2022, it

DHFL scam: 'Bandra Books' under CBI lens in Rs 34,615 crore bank fraud

PNS NEW DELHI

The Dewan Housing Finance Limited allegedly maintained 1,81,664 ghost retail loan accounts having liability of over Rs 14,000 crore which were kept in a parallel set of accounts database known as Bandra Books', officials said. The Union Bank of India

(UBI) had approached the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) with its complaint that the non-banking finance company DHFL Rs 14,000 crore as Project Finance' which were shown as retail loans in their books to project an inflated retail loan portfolio for the compa-

Based on this complaint, the probe agency booked then DHFL chairman-cummanaging director Kapil Wadhawan and others in one of the biggest bank frauds in India amounting to over Rs 34,615 crore.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), in its report, had also expressed apprehension that approvals and fund disbursal



in respect of Bandra Books were done with nod from Kapil Wadhawan. According to the com-

plaint, now part of the new FIR, the records of these non-existent retail loans with an outstanding aggregating to Rs 14,095 crore known as Bandra Books' were maintained in parallel book of accounts by creating a logical partition in the Enterprise Resource Planning software used for book keeping and loan management, officials

The parallel database of non-genuine retail loans was

maintained by Senior Vice President (Special Projects) of DHFL Jayesh Khona, who was assisted by Sangeeta Amin and Priya Naik pertained to Bandra branch of the company -- a virtual

branch, they said. The aforesaid retail loans, referred to as Bandra Books', were maintained in a separate database in Foxpro Software, against which loans were shown as disbursed by Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL) and were subsequently merged with OLPL (Other Large Project) Loans, the bank has alleged.

73 pc of sellers in India rely on sales technology at least once a week: Report

PNS MUMBAI

With the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting the sales process, around 73 per cent of sellers surveyed are using technology at least once a week to get access to real-time data to drive sales, says a report.

Companies are increasing their appetite for databased insights to better gauge buyer intent and ly amidst the ongoing 'great reshuffle' when buyers and sellers are constantly considering shifting roles, the LinkedIn sixth edition of the 'APAC State of Sales 2022' report stated.

In fact, more than eight in 10 (84 per cent) sales professionals in India have lost at least one deal to an important decision maker changing roles in the past year alone.

Therefore, access to the right intel has become mission-critical for sales functions across the board, the report opined.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

CTN No.12/T1/TS/SEHQC/Housekeeping/EnC off/2022-23

As part of the cadastral corrections, the Survey Number 26 of Chintapallyguda (V) Ibrahimpatnem (M), Ranga Reddy District falling in the Metropolitan Development Pla (MDP) 2031 for Hyderabad Metropolitan Region (HMR) approved by the Gost, vide G.O.Ms No. 33 dt.: 24/1/2013 are corrected / incorporated as per the revenue village map. As per the Government Letter No. 3225/Plg.I (1)/2021, Dated: 04-05-2021, the above cadast rections are for information of public

DIPR No.: 287-PPICL-Agency(Advt.H/2022-23) Sd/- Metropolitian Commissioner, HMDA

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA STATE LIMITED

Chief General Manager I Metre Zonelür. Hyderabad Tender Specification No. MZ-07-09/23-33, 071-3/23-23 & 07-3/22-23 Open Tender Rotice No. 02-04-4-2/02/23 & 07-3/22-23 Open Tender Rotice No. 02-04-4-2/02/23 has displayed by the sighba agancies for [1] Expension of ERO/Seasthrager in the E-serie p dry sheet sheet in front of the E-serie in Seasthrager tel-City, premises in Displayed his principle to Seasthrager Sub-Dis. After premises and providing application to ERO affice at Seasthrager and Bestelenthin Chiefe. ID: Providing of accommendation in ASSC Association starts and Seasthrager.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ntending Engineer (R&B), Headquarters Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-00-

Toiles, Saintation and Maintenance of Cartier & Security services in the Clot the Engineer-inChief (1988), at Enumann. Hyderback for a period 2002-2003. ECV: Ro. 55.09.894. Last deand time of Receipt of Tenders: 09-07-2022 upts 2 SPM, Date of opening of tenders: Technical
Bid: 108-07-2022 at 3.0 PIM. Price No. 104-2932329.

Bid: 108-07-2022 at 3.0 PIM. Price No. 104-2932329.

Bid: 108-07-2022 at 3.0 PIM. Price No. 104-2932329.

Bid: 108-07-2022 at 3.0 PIM or marks.

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GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 'e' PROCUREMENT SHORT TENDER NOTICE NIT No.s: 33 & 34/EE/EV&DM/JGHMC/2022-23 DI:

Name of the Works / Products: (1) Procurement of certain tools for Disaster Rescu Force (DRF) activities under the Directorate of EV&DM, GHMC as a part of on scon preparedness for FY 2022-23. (2) Procurement & Installation of 2 no's of Toshiba MFD Photo Copier E Studio 2510AC MFP / its equivalent along with 3 years Annual Maintenance contract and necessary consumables for CEC of Directorate of EV&DM, GHMC.

Start Date for Receipts of Bids: 22-06-2022, from 02.00 PM, Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 25-05-2022, 02:00 PM. Name & Address Officer Phone No.: Office of the Executive Engineer (EVDM) GHMC, 6th Floor, Buddha Bhavan, Hyderabad Ph. No. 040-29880769.

R.O.No: 3687-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2022-23, Dt. 22.06.2822

Airtel Africa issues tender offer to clear US \$ 300 mn debt

PNS NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel International (Netherlands) BV, which manages Airtel's Africa business, has issued a tender offer to buy back up to USD 300 million (about Rs 2,348 crore) of senior notes, the country's second largest telecom company said on Wednesday. The company's tender offer

to purchase USD 300 million worth of its 5.35 per cent guaranteed senior notes of USD 1 billion due 2024 has commenced from June 21 and will expire on July 19, 2022, Bharti Airtel said in a regulatory filing."The purpose of the Tender Offer is for the Company to optimize its balance sheet and reduce debt," the filing said.

Markets resume downward spiral after 2-day pause

Equity indices resumed their slide on Wednesday after a two-day breather, pressured by profit-taking at higher levels and a sell-off in global mar-

The rupee slumped to record lows amid unrelenting foreign fund outflows, which further weighed on sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 709.54 points or

1.35 per cent to close at 51,822.53. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty fell 225.50 points or 1.44 per cent to 15,413.30. Tata Steel was the biggest

laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 5.24 per cent, followed by Wipro, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank, HCL Technologies, Bajaj Finserv, Titan and Bajaj Finance.Only four counters managed to close in the green -- TCS, HUL, PowerGrid and

yesterday. The important question is -- will this continue? There is no economic news, reason for FIIs to change their selling strategy since the dollar continues to be strong and US bond yields are attractive and expected to rise further," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief

Maruti Suzuki, rising up to 0.31 per cent."Pull back rallies can be sharp and it was sharp broader market, the BSE mid-Financial Services.In the cap gauge lost 1.53 per cent and the smallcap index declined by 1.11 per cent.All the BSE secexcept the softness in crude, to toral indices ended lower, with sustain the rally."There is no metal tumbling 4.96 per cent, followed by basic materials (2.67 per cent), realty (2.24 per cent), consumer discretionary goods & services (1.11 per cent), power (2.11 per cent) and utilities (2.08 per cent).

64 pc of firms in India expect impact of labour code change

PNS MUMBAI

Around 64 per cent of companies in India expect the anticipated changes in the labour code to have a significant impact on their profit and loss and many organisations are even considering reviewing their long-term benefits,

according to a report. Over 64 per cent of organisations expect a significant impact on their P&L (profit and loss), while 34 per cent are unsure of making changes to their compensation structure, 46 per cent are planning to continue Provident Fund contributions on Basic Salary,

according to 'the State of vices, health care, profession-Retirement Benefits Study in al and business services among India' by global advisory firm

WTW (Willis Towers Watson). It also found that in light of the regulatory changes, labour reforms and increasing cost of providing retirement benefits, 53 per cent of organisations in India are considering or have planned to review their retirement or long-term benefits design in the next two years. The 'State of Retirement

Benefits Study' in India by

WTW is based on a survey of

The study further revealed that 71 per cent of companies have taken some action to assess implications considering the anticipated Labour Code related changes.On the other hand, 34 per cent are unsure of making changes to their compensation structure in response to the new definition of wages, while 23 per cent are planning to include variable pay in the wage definition.

74 organisations in India with In addition, 46 per cent of over 500 employees across seccompanies plan to continue to tors including manufacturing, contribute 12 per cent of basic IT and telecom, financial sersalary towards provident fund

as prevailing regulations while almost one-third (32 per cent) are unsure of their response.

According to the report, approximately 7 in 10 Employees Provident Funds are being managed by a regulator and an equal number of respondents believe that the EPFO services have significantly improved with increased administration efficiency and digital enablement.

A large number (73 per cent) also feels that market volatility and the current bond defaults or downgrades have been a cause of increasing concern for their self-managed provident fund.



Hyderabad the pioneer load ethe pioneer load eth

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Thursday June 23, 2022

eep these in mind

the travel cost as well.

The price may even dif-

fer based on what time

choosing to do the retreat. Once you have

an idea of your budget,

you will be searching

retreats with some fil-

When selecting a

retreat, you must pay

attention to what the

are your intentions

from this experience

and what are you seek-

ing? Do you want an

relaxing one? A combi-

intensive yoga asana

practice or a more

nation of yoga and

nature activities? A

reflective and restora-

tive retreat? Choose a

retreat that speaks to

you, that is suitable to

preference and health

conditions to get the most out of your expe-

rience.

your needs, experience,

retreat offers you. What

The offerings

to select.

ters and it will be easier

of the year you are

INTRODUCING GIRLS IN THE GAFFER DEPARTMENT

SHIKHA DUGGAL

t was a day when Actress Richa Chadha realized that there are no women working in the gaffer circle when in the crew. So her associate, Tanya Negi came up with the idea for a one-of-a-kind workshop. This made Richa launch Undercurrent Lab

Richa launch
Undercurrent Lab
along with the director of her maiden
production. It's all
about representation
and the Gangs of
Wasseypur actress
wants to bring a
socio-cultural change
in her own industry.

The programme is a joint partnership between the Women in Film and Television Association, India and one of the largest lighting and grip equipment providers in Bollywood Light N Light. In an exclusive conversation with us. Richa spilt the beans on this incubation lab and said, "Last year, for my maiden production I was crewing up. I noticed, there are no women in the light industry. We just need enough options to choose from, why aren't their women who want to apply for this job? In its first vear, Suchi and I will

focus on training ten

women in lighting for

kind, hands-on work-

trainees will learn

cinema. It will start

with a first-of-its-

the art from gaffers and cinematographers

from the industry."
Richa Chadha can see how sexism continues to be the default behaviour is not only in the film industry but also the society at large.

society at large.
She continued,
"Sexist behaviour is
the default setting of
our society. It's very
common behaviour.
We hope to change
that a bit by slowly and slowly by
including
women in the
workplace.
That's how
change literally begins.
That's what I
want to do."

After the week-long crash course, the girls will be sent out on the field, to work on film sets as trainees. Two of the ten girls will be placed on the nearly all-women crew on Richa and Ali's maiden production which shoots from October this year.

"The experience is great. This is basically a field where there were few women to no women. That's why we started this, and now because the girls are really learning, we are really feeling happy. We hope to continue this, not just for lighting, but maybe for some other department next," she added.

Director Shuchi Talati applied for a grant at Berlinale Talent Footprints in February this year to set up this lab, and won. The 'Undercurrent lab' will give the

oppor

week for Community-Pioneer brings to you Pioneer brings to you ress Richa Chadda is coission to bring a sociocultural change in her

tunity
of making a
solid career in the
lighting department
in the film industry,
to their ten candidates
who were selected
after a careful series
of interviews. She is
thankful to folks at
Arri, Berlinale, Light
and Light and
Gratitude House for
coming on board to



The world is embracing the idea of travelling with a purpose and wellness holiday, that is the yoga retreats are high in demand.

Attending a yoga retreat gives you the opportunity to take time off for yourself and do deeper into your practice. It's like pressing the pause button and giving ourselves the time to reset our mind. body and soul. But with so many options available, the real question is how do you decide which yoga retreat is best for you? It can be quite daunting and confusing to zero down upon something if you don't know what you

are looking for.

Jenil Dholakia, a yoga and wellness expert shares with us five things to consider while choosing a yoga retreat:

Location

This is probably the most important factor to consider when looking for a yoga retreat. Some basics to check are, where is your retreat happening? Does that location appeal to you? Do you wish to explore that destination? How near or far is it & how will you get there? Check the surroundings and weather. Make sure the climate is suitable for vou. Is it a beach or a mountain location? The correct location will be the game changer for your experience.

The teacher

Find out who is going to be your teacher or facilitator for the retreat. If it's a teacher you know or have practised with before, then you surely will have some idea of the teaching style and overall personality. But if it's a teacher that you don't know, then definitely take a look at their website to get some understanding of the teaching styles and offerings. You want to make sure that vour teacher is experienced, educate informed and capable of leading a group. Don't hesitate to get in touch with the teacher to clarify any doubts about the teaching.

The budget

additional

expense?

What is

the

Duration A wide range of yoga retreats are available Yes, you want to go to the retreat, but how and they can vary quite a bit in the price range. So, it's important to fix your budget and ask much time you can actually take out of your schedule and everyday questions like life is an important thing to consider what all is included in the before you start package? What looking out for all is not and retreats. You can will be your

choose anywhere from a short weekend getaway to a longer 7-10 days immersion.

Providing digital solutions



PNS HYDERABAD

aving witnessed a gap in utilizing the data while working in various IT projects, Damodar Gummadapu and his brother Raj Gummadapu came up with the idea of Techwave IT consulting services and solutions.

Techwave provides entrepreneurs

proper IT and software infrastructure. Telling us more about the same, Raj says, "We enable companies that are doing business and needs to have its presence in the ITR or the web. We help them with the process, to display their products on a website and how they can have seamless interaction and view of it, and ability to buy those products online and same time for their internal operations also. They need systems and IT infrastructures for people to log on and check their details. We provide them with the infrastructure and support them."

infrastructure and support them."

The founders believe that the main key components for a business to survive is culture, people and values.

When we mix the culture and people, we get to see innovations and that is what defines a company.

As the decision maker how do you

As the decision maker how do you ensure that the culture is maintained, To this, he shares, "As the decision maker or the promoter, a culture is so important because the way we have grown is basically having a very flat structure in the company and then very integrity and diversity and inclusion is a part of our bigger values. As a management, we ensure these are valued and communicated to new employees and associates tell them this is how we live and breath on a daily basis."

Explaining us more about the inspiration, Raj shares, "Before this I was managing large IT projects or engagements and that's where I spent considerable amount. While doing this I always found a gap. We were implementing systems, lot of data being captured by those systems. But those enterprises having a problem of utilizing the data in a meaningful way. That's when we thought of helping the offices of CFO to read the data and make many full decisions of that."

Like any other company, Techwave had also faced its own challenges. He says, "I started it in an apartment and I was the only employee, I invested and started working, building relationships, slowly attracted employees and people who believed in us and started joining us and that's a journey. Convincing clients that we would help them was the bigger challenge. Slowly we started gaining the trust and one thing that made us truly successful was our ability to deliver what we had promised to. It took us roughly 14+ years."

The two main goals that the organisation is looking forward in the upcoming years, is to be a 250 dollar million company with around 10,000 people by 2025.

He further adds, "That's more financially and quantitative kind of a goal but the other underline goal is that we want to be recognized as one of the key digital solutions providers as a go to solution provider in the market. We want to be known as a company that provides values. The other goal is how we actually give back to the communities, where we live and work in."

Meanwhile, as we wanted to know how is the IT sector going to be in the upcoming years, he shares us about how the IT sector is going to grow with a lot of developments. So, what are they? He says, "There is a lot of growth in the IT sector. We will grow in a minimum of 6 to 7 percent. In India, one of the biggest advantages that we have is the knowledgeable workforce and our ability with the communications and the scale that we can provide. Innovation here is happening at a rapid pace and we as a country are quickly able to adapt the innovations. The reasons why we see companies in particular states is because of the infrastructure. IT companies needs infrastructure with respect to facilities, internet connectivity, transportation and skilled resources. Now, we see IT companies going to even tier 2 and tier 3 cities. Now availability, resources, and infrastructures are increasing rapidly and in 5 years other states will also have IT sectors."

"If we look at where we are as a company, we are very small but we are considered to be a semi-medium company and we have a lot of growth to come in. I come from a very rural background. What we started and what we are able to generate this kind of employment ability to a lot of other people to grow is actually what excites me every day and let the community also grow along with us," the founder signs off.





what's brewing?





s part of the CSR initiative, to support the education of the underprivileged children of the society, Gemini Edible & Fats India Pvt Ltd donated an amount As part of the CSR initiative, to support the education of the underprivileged criminen of the construction of new classrooms and upgrading the infrastructure of Zilla Parishad High School, Habsiguda. The new building was inaugurated by Education Minister of Telangana, Sabitha Indra Reddy, along with the presence of Chamakura Malla Reddy, Minister of Labour and Employment in Telangana, and Bethi Subhas Reddy, MLA Uppal, among the rest.



Anvayaa organised a Chai PeCharcha forum to discuss issues faced by elders and to bring solutions for the same. Realising the need to further reach out to the elderly community dealing with isolation and loneliness, the team launched Anvayaa Club, a virtual or physical interaction platform for elders to meet, bond with each other, share anecdotes, learn and pursue hobbies and enjoy with each other to fight

Dance looks out for ult Aha

less mudras, or highoctane performances, what makes you the most incredible dancer? Great dancers are not great because of their technique; they become great because of their passion. Launching a hunt for the ultimate their homes.

Icon, aha, is back in search of talent. Aha through Dance Ikon will look out for dancers from different cultural backgrounds and lifestyles through digital auditions

The perfect pirouette, the flaw- the flaw- the states and continues ing states and continues until July 10. Participants between the age of 5-50 years can send a 60-second video of them dancing and email it to danceikon@oakentertainments.com from the safety and comfort of



Barbeque Nation launches the Mango Mania food festival

arbeque Nation Bannounced the launch of its muchawaited Mango Mania food festival, to celebrate the king of fruits this summer. The food festival will go on till June 30, where Barbeque Nation will welcome guests to its restaurants across the country

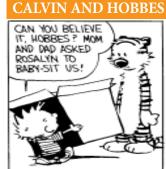
with a wide spread of delectable dishes inspired by the mangoes, ranging from beverages and starters to the main course and desserts- all with a mesmerising twist of man-goes. The eat-all-you-can buffet offers over 13 dishes in vegetarian and nonvegetarian spreads.

ARCHIE















GARFIELD









CLUB WOULD LOOK LIKE: EVERY NOPE! WAIT! THEORIES

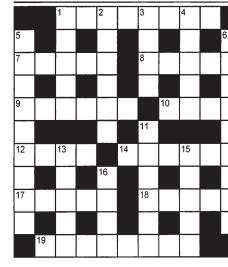
♥ESTERDAY'S COMIC ABOUT A CONSPIRACY CLUB FOR DOGS WAS A FAKE! HERE IS WHAT A REAL DOG CONSPIRACY THEORY

REALITY CHECK





CROSSWORD



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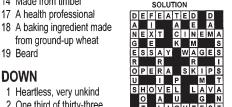
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- 5 Trembling with cold 7 Residence 6 People in cells
- 8 See-through 11 A kind of drink 9 An area of low land 13 A month between hills
- 15 Swinging things in walls 10 Tiny busy insects 16 Tame animals 12 Italy's capital city 14 Made from timber

17 A health professional

19 Beard **DOWN**

from ground-up wheat

1 Heartless, very unkind 2 One third of thirty-three



GINGER MEGGS







contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.

Hyderabad | Thursday June 23, 2022



Panja Vaisshnav Tej's next is full of action

eading pro-duction ⊿houses Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas are coming together to produce an action spectacle, head-lined by Panja Vaisshnav Tej. The film's muhurat ceremony was held at Ramanaidu Studio on Wednesday, Actress Sreeleela has been roped in as the female lead for the

project. First-time filmmaker N Srikanth Reddy, who has written the story, will direct the film, tentatively titled #PVT04. Filmmaker Trivikram, Haarika and Hassine Creations founder S Radha Krishna, actor Sai Dharam Tej, director Sudheer Varma, Anaganaga Oka Raju director Kalyan,, producer S Naga Vamsi graced

the pooja ceremony. While Trivikram directed the muhurat

shot, Sai Dharam Tej

clapped for it and filmmaker Sudheer

Varma switched on

the camera. S Naga

Vamsi honorarily

handed over the script to director Srikanth Reddy. A special promo, offering a glimpse into the film's theme, was released commemorating its launch. Vaisshnav Tej and the antagonist are in a war of words in the glimpse, where there are several mythological references to Rama, Ravana, Lanka, Ayodhya, and Shiva. When the antagonist says, "You may have heard about Rama vanquishing Lanka but can you guess the plight of Ayodhya if a ten-headed man attacks it?" and Vaisshnav Tej retorts firmly, "This Ayodhya isn't ruled by Rama, but the

I'll rip you apart."
The intense background enhances the impact of the glimpse immensely and action junkies can expect nothing short of a feast from #PVT04. A launch poster where . Vaisshnav holds a trisoolam in front of a bull catches your interest too. "This is an out-and-out mass vehicle for Vaisshnav Tej. It's a full-on action entertainer," say the makers. The untitled film will go on floors shortly. Other details about the cast and crew will be out soon. Presented by PDV Prasad, the film is produced by S. NagaVamsi and Sai Soujanya. The film is Lord he worships, slatéd for a Sankranthi 2023 Rudra Kaleswara

'I want to play a cool, bubbly character'

Irra Mor takes us on her journey from getting the role of politician Konda Surekha, to her being praised by Konda Sushmita, daughter of Surekha-Murali and also the producer of the film

ctress Irra Mor is kicked about the theatrical release *Kondaa* on June 23, wherein she has played politician Konda Surekha from Warangal.

In this interview, Irra Mor talks about her background, how she bagged Kondaa, play-

ing Surekha, and more.

Beginning with, she takes us through, "I came to Mumbai in 2017. I joined theatre and was associated with theatre for 1.5 years or so. I auditioned for a lot of roles in feature films while in Mumbai. This is when I got in touch with Ram Gopal Varma sir, who asked me to audition for *Bhairava* Geetha. That's when my film career took

In the past two years, she has tried to understand the industry more and learn things. She has also brushed up her acting skills. In 2021, she shot for two web series. And then, "Kondaa came to me last year when the lockdown was still on. I loved Surekha and the character arc offered to me. There is a lot of variety in the character. I thank sir for offering me this versatile role. I watched Surekha's videos to understand her demeanour. I did a look test wearing a saree. I had to look strong on-screen because Surekha is a politician."

It seems RGV had a certain image in

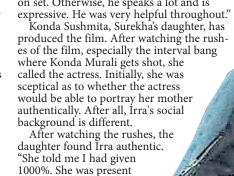
mind. It was very important what not to wear, and what not to show on the screen. Listening to Surekha's interviews helped the actress understand her personality and make her own notes. She didn't want to copy her, though. She is a simple lady.

RGV wanted Irra to add colour to her persona. He wanted Irra to be gracious as well.

Moreover, "RGV sir has shot every frame of *Kondaa* himself. He is a clear-minded filmmaker whose clarity of thought gives his artists the space to showcase talent. When you are playing a real-life character, you have to portray the person as realistically as possible. You can't take too many liberties. The actor has to get into the person's mind space and imagine how the person you are playing might have looked when he or she was 20, 30 and so on."

Surekha is a strong-headed woman who has done a lot in life. But, Irra had just started in life. So, the actress couldn't have com-

ed in life. So, the actress couldn't have comed in life. So, the actress couldn't have compared herself with her. What is similar between them is that they both are strong-willed. She says, "My parents have always taught me to be fearless. Commitment to yourself is something I relate to Surekha. In fact, my co-star, Thrigun is very good. He is very serious and quite focused on the set. He is in his own zone. He is a quiet personality on set. Otherwise, he speaks a lot and is expressive. He was very helpful throughout"



when her father was shot at. The execution of the interval scene convinced her that we were doing it right. So, life is full of ups and downs. You can't stop because the cir-

Revathy, Nithya Menen, Suhasini to

star in Modern Love Hyderabad



shoot. Postproduction works are cur-

Samarao

unique action thriller Ramarao On Duty directed by debutant Sarath Mandava and produced grandly by Sudhakar Cherukuri under SLV Cinemas LLP and RT Teamworks is done with its

rently under-

release world wide on July

way for the Meanwhile, makers announced the release date of the movie. Ramarao On Duty will have a grand

(Shiva). Bring it on.

power-packed 29. It's nearly role. one month left The film based on real for the film's theatrical incidents fearelease. The tures two team will up heroinesthe game with Divvansha a massive pro-Kaushik and motional cam-Raiisha paign in the Vijayan. Venu Thottempudi coming days. in his comeback will be seen in a vital role in the

> movie. Sam CS rendered soundtracks and the first two songs of the movie enthused melody song lovers. While cinematography of the film was done by Sathyan Sooryan ISC, Praveen KL is the editor.

seen giving a serious gaze in The film will

Ravi Teja is

ment poster.

be high on

action and

ments and

appear in a

thrilling ele-

Ravi Teja will

ctors Revathy, Nithya Menen and director Nagesh Kukunoor are some names who will be seen as part of the upcoming anthology *Modern Love Hyderabad*. The Hyderabad edition of the acclaimed international Original anthology *Modern Love*, show-cases six diverse stories explor-ing different facets and forms of love rooted in the city's many unique milieus.

The anthology includes My Unlikely Pandemic Dream Partner directed by Nagesh Kukunoor and it features Revathy, Nithya Menen.

Kukunoor's Fuzzy, Purple And Full Of Thorns stars Aadhi Pinisetty and Ritu Varma. Uday Gurrala directed What Clown Wrote This Script will have Abijeet Duddala and Malavika Nair share screen space.

Then there is Why Did She Leave Me There ... ? again by Kukunoor starring Suhasini Maniratnam and Naresh

Agastya. Devika Bahudhanam's directorial About That Rustle In The Bushes has Ulka Gupta and Naresh.



Venkatesh Maha helmed Finding Your Penguin stars Komalee Prasad.

Aparna Purohit, head of India Originals, Amazon Prime Video said, "Modern Love Hyderabad explores the joys, complications, tribulations and the healing power of love. Working with ElaheHiptoola and Nagesh Kukunoor to tell these emotionally charged but rooted stories have been an incredible creative journey of ideation and collabo-



Set in the city of Hyderabad, these stories explore the culture, history and the confluence of culture through its lanes like never before. We are certain that these stories will make you smile, laugh, pine, cry and restore your faith in the power

of love? Kukunoor added that unlike the New York and Mumbai editions, which are megapolises, the charm of Modern Love Hyderabad lies in the fact that it is a city which has witnessed

rapid modernisation in the last decade or so while keeping in touch with its multi-cultural roots.

'This made for an excellent study in how the true cultural essence and social fabric of the city could feature in these stories of modern love," said the showrunner and one of the directors.

Produced under the banner of SIC Productions, the new Telugu Amazon Original Series will be available to stream on Prime Video starting 8 July.

A SIC Productions, the new Telugu Amazon Original series is produced by well-acclaimed creator Elahe Hiptoola with Nagesh Kukunoor as the

showrunner. "Audiences are in for an entertainment treat as the anthology features some of the finest actors from the region who are masters of their craft and directed by filmmakers of repute. We have on board some brilliant musicians who have created original tracks for the episodes elevating the uniquely Hyderabadi flavour of all our stories," added produc-er Elahe Hiptoola.

had twins through a sur-

Chinmayi Sripada sang

a bhajan while giving

birth to her twins

inger Chinmay) i Sripada and her husband Rahul Ravindran are blessed with twin children.

The celebrity couple took to their social media profiles to announce the names of their twins- a girl and a boy.

"Driptah and Sharvas. The new and forever centre of our Universe," Chinmavi wrote on Instagram.

She said, "And if you need to know, I actually *sang* a bhajan during the cesarean as our twins entered the world. Get a grip on that. More on this later. But, for now, this is

In one of her recent posts, Chinmayi Sripada wrote, "I'm absolutely loving these people who are DM-ing me asking if I

enough."

post photos of me being pregnant." "I didn't post photos of me being pregnant. Only those who were in my innermosť circle knew because I was

protecting myself," she

stated.

rogate just

because I didn't

Chinmayi further stated, 'I was and will always be extremely guarded about my personal life, my family. My friends' cir-cle." Chinmayi also announced that she and her husband Rahul Ravindran would not be posting any of their twins' photos on social media, for at least a

"Photos of our kids won't be on our socials either for a long while," she said.

while.

Vijay made me what I am today: Producer Jagadish

reeting actor Vijay Talapathi on his birthday, producer Jagadish on Wednesday showered praises on the actor saying that it was literally Vijay who had made him into what he was today. Jagadish, who was a manager of Vijay before turning producer with the actor's film, Master, took to Instagram to post his birthday wishes for the actor. He wrote, "(This is) the day that I get more excited than my birthday. Yes, my Thalapathy's birthday. A person

who has literally made me who

I am today. Instrumental in building a life that I cherish every moment of. Not just me but the way you always care and bring up the people around you

is astonishing.

Have always felt blessed
being around you and the love
and respect I have for you is something beyond words na. Wishing you a very happy and healthy birthday." Not just Jagadish, scores of film celebrities and fans have been sending their birthday wishes to the actor, the second look of whose 66th film, Varisu, is to be released today.



ollywood actor Ram is all set to show his power with ĥis highoctane mass action entertainer The Warriorr. The film is directed by Lingusamy and will release on July 14. The makers are in full swing in promoting the film and the makers on Wednesday released the Whistle song. The makers are

Suriya released
Whistle Song from The Warriorr

> pro-moting the song as the Mass dance number of the year. Sharing the details, the makers posted "Keep Those Woofers Ready! Because the

Number on the Way #WhistleSong digital launch by @Suriya_offl Launch Event Today from 7:12 PM at AMB Cinemas." Kollywood actor Suriya released the song on Wednesday.

Mass Dance

Ram is set to make his entry into Kollywood with this film. Ram is romancing Kriti Shetty while taking on Adi Pinisetty as the antagonist.



Brahmaji are playing important roles and the music is scored by Devi Sri Prasad

SERENA MAKES WINNING RETURN Mane joins Bayern

erena Williams made a winning Scomeback after a year on the sidelines as the American legend teamed with Ons Jabeur to beat Sara Sorribes Tormo and Marie Bouzkova 2-6, 6-3, 13-11 in the Eastbourne International doubles on

Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, was back in action for the first time since she made a tearful exit from Wimbledon last year.

The 40-year-old suffered a leg injury during her Wimbledon first round match against Aliaksandra Sasnovich and had not been seen on court since.

Before Williams made the surprise announcement of her return last week, rumours of retirement had swirled around her for several months.

But, with Wimbledon starting on June 27, Williams finally resumed her career, playing with Jabeur at the Wimbledon warm-up event by the Sussex seaside. Williams and Tunisia's Jabeur,

who is third in the WTA singles rankings, saw off Spain's Sorribes Tormo and Bouzkova of the Czech Republic in the last-16 tie. Although Williams was far

encouraged by her first outing for 12 She and Jabeur will face Japan's Shuko Aoyama and Taiwan's Chan

from her vintage best, she will be

Shuko Aoyama and Taiwan's Chan Hao-ching in the quarter-finals.

"It was so fun to play with Ons. We had a lot of fun and our opponents played amazing. We were happy to stay in there," Williams said.

"I called Ons, she has been playing so wall and I knew I needed to playing so wall and I knew I needed to play

ing so well and I knew I needed to play some matches and she has always been

so nice to me on tour.

"Yeah, I caught some fire behind me, it was good.

Serena has been given a wildcard to play in the singles at Wimbledon as



she restarts her history bid.

Williams is one Grand Slam crown away from equalling Australian Margaret Court's record of 24 singles titles at the majors.

The last of Williams' 23 Grand

Slam singles titles came at the Australian Open in 2017.

Since then she has lost four Grand Slam finals, including at Wimbledon in 2018 and 2019.

Williams won the seventh and of action.

most recent of her seven Wimbledon singles titles in 2016.

Serena, who became a mother in 2017, has plummeted to 1,204th in the WTA rankings due to her period out

Wimbledon is widely considered Williams' best chance of winning another Grand Slam and this was her first step towards that goal.

After so long away, Serena soaked up the applause during a raucous reception from the crowd when she walked onto court in the early evening

Williams' husband Alexis Ohanian was watching from the stands as his wife made an understandably rusty

With Williams' groundstrokes initially lacking their usual precision, the first set quickly slipped away.

Serena was appearing in doubles competition on grass for the first time since 2016, when she won Wimbledon with her sister Venus.

The 14-time Grand Slam doubles champion was well short of peak form and Bouzkova and Sorribes Tormo twice led by a break at the start of the

But Williams showed the tenacious spirit that has defined her career, striking the ball cleaner and crisper as she and Jabeur hit back to level the match at one-set all.

In the match-deciding tie-break, Serena squandered a match point on her serve with a wayward forehand at 9-8 and Jabeur wasted another at 10-

But the pair saved a match point from Bouzkova and Sorribes Tormo at 10-11, reeling off the last three points to clinch a dramatic victory in the dusk.

In the Eastbourne women's singles, last year's Wimbledon runner-up Karolina Pliskova lost 6-1, 4-6, 4-6 against Britain's Katie Boulter.

Spanish top seed Paula Badosa was beaten 6-4, 6-3 by British wildcard Jodie Burrage.

In the men's singles, Ryan Peniston also enjoyed an impressive victory on home turf, beating French Open quarter-finalist Holger Rune 4-6, 7-6, (7/5)

Bayern Munich confirmed the signing of Sadio Mane from Liverpool on Wednesday, as the Senegal forward signed a three-year deal with the Bundesliga champions.

Bayern have reportedly paid a fee which could rise to 41 million euros (\$43 million) for Mane.

The 30-year-old won the Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup and Club World Cup titles during six years on Merseyside.

"My agent told me that there were also enquiries from other clubs, but for me, the feeling was right from the start when Bayern presented their olan with me," Mane told German daily Bild.

"It was the right club at the right time.

"It is one of the biggest clubs in the world and the team are always fighting for all the

Mane added he wants to

win titles with my teammates".

Bayern won a 10th straight Bundesliga title last season.

Mane, voted African footballer of the year in 2019, is a versatile attacker who has spent the majority of his career on the wing but can also play through the middle.

His arrival will ease the pain for Bayern if wantaway striker Robert Lewandowski leaves the club, while Serge Gnabry is also stalling over a contract extension.

"Sadio Mane is a global star, who underlines the appeal of Bayern and will increase the attractiveness of the Bundesliga as a whole," said Bayern president Herbert Hainer.

"Fans come to the stadiums to see unique players like this.' The signing of Mane takes

some pressure off Bayern sportdirector Salihamidzic after Lewandowski made it clear he would not extend his contract which expires next year.



Boehly named new Chelsea chairman, Granovskaia departs denies Zidane talks

AP LONDON

Todd Boehly on Wednesday was named as Chelsea's new chairman to replace Bruce Buck and will act as interim sporting director after the club confirmed the departure of Marina Granovskaia.

Granovskaia is stepping down from her role as director as part of a shake-up at Stamford Bridge, leaving co-controlling owner Boehly to spearhead Chelsea's negotiations in the trans-All the top Boehly-Clearlake Capital con-

sortium figureheads have been added to Chelsea's new board following the purchase of the club from Roman Abramovich. custodians of Chelsea FC

executing our long-term vision and plan for the club, creating an outstanding experience for its passionate, loyal fans, and continuing to challenge for top honours in line with Chelsea FC's dedicated history," said Boehly.

"Working together, side by side, we are firmly committed to winning, both on and off the pitch. For us, that effort has begun.'

Clearlake chiefs and Chelsea co-controlling owners Behdad Eghbali and Jose Feliciano have also been added to the Blues' new board.

Los Angeles Dodgers co-owner Mark Walter, Swiss magnate Hansjoerg Wyss and British tycoon Jonathan Goldstein have all been officially named on the Chelsea board. Chelsea will now start the search for a per-

manent sporting director, with Granovskaia leaving the club after almost 20 years at Stamford Granovskaia rose to prominence as one of

the toughest negotiators in football in Abramovich's Chelsea reign. Boehly will operate as interim sporting

director until the club names a full-time replacement, continuing the club's work towards its targets during the current transfer window,"

said Chelsea's statement.

Granovskaia will remain available during the current transfer window to help the club's tran-

Chelsea face a hectic summer transfer market of transfer dealings.

The club, who finished third in the Premier

League last season, have been linked with Sevilla's Jules Kounde, Manchester City's Raheem Sterling and Barcelona forward Ousmane Dembele



PSG president



AP PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi insisted he "never spoke" with Zinedine Zidane about becoming coach in an interview published by French daily Le Parisien on Tuesday, saying the club had "chosen another option".

"We never spoke with him, neither directly, nor indirectly," said Al-Khelaifi, without ruling out that others in Qatar had approached the former France

"When I say 'we', it's PSG. Me, I am the president of PSG and I never spoke with him."

The Qatari official said the club was keen to head in a different direction.

DE RIVIERE – PAUL MORPHY

"We chose a coach who will

be the best for what we want to put in place," said Al-Khelaifi as he confirmed talks with Nice boss Christophe Galtier.

"I hope we'll quickly find an agreement but I respect Nice and the president (Jean-Pierre) Rivere, everyone stands up for their own interests."

EXTOR COMPLETES LYON TAKEOVER

Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas said on Tuesday a deal had been struck for US businessman John Textor to complete a takeover of the seven-time French champions.

Eagle Football Holdings, a sports investment vehicle controlled by Crystal Palace shareholder Textor, is set to acquire a majority stake in the Ligue 1



AP TOKYO

The final price tag for last year's Tokyo Olympics was more than double the city's original 2013 estimate after a one-year coronavirus postponement added to the already hefty bill.

The organising committee said Tuesday the Games had cost 1.42 trillion yen, the equivalent of \$13 billion at the time. At today's rates, with the ven at a 24-year low against the dollar, the figure would be \$10.4 billion.

Tokyo 2020 was held a year later than planned because of the pandemic — the first Olympics postponed in peacetime — and spectators were banned from nearly all events, which were held under strict

Covid-19 countermeasures. The Games cost twice the

734 billion yen that the Tokyo Games organisers had predicted in their bid to the Olympic International Committee in 2013, but less than the final pre-Games budget unveiled in December 2020.

Despite losing out on ticket sales, organisers saved some cash by simplifying events and avoiding the cost of hosting millions of fans.

The organising committee, which disbands at the end of June, said the event's final cost was 200 billion ven less than projected in its pre-Games budget in 2020 and 29 billion yen less than the final slimmeddown costs prediction in December 2021.

"It's up to everyone involved in this event to pass on the legacy of the Tokyo Olympics to the next generation," said Tokyo 2020 chief Seiko Hashimoto.

Tokyo experienced a Covid-19 surge last year as the Olympics approached, fuelling fears the event could worsen outbreaks in Japan and possibly the world.

The northern Japanese city of Sapporo is bidding to host the Winter Olympics in 2030.

A March survey of Sapporo and the surrounding region showed that a majority of the public are in favour of holding the event.

Officials have ruled out holding a public referendum on the 2030 bid.

PRAVIN THIPSAY

In my column 'Champion born this I month', today I have the pleasure of presenting a beautiful game by a champion who can be called William Shakespeare of Chess. Let us see what some 'all time greats' have said about him. — "He was the most accurate Chess Player" and "He was probably the greatest genius in Chess" -Bobby Fischer. Or "He mostly played with zero inaccuracy" and "He is the only player who never made a blunder" — Garry Kasparov. Or "Finest Chess player ever existed" — Adolf Anderssen.

Though nothing much has been said about Morphy by the Soviets, most of the Soviet Chess Trainers give a lot of emphasis on teaching his way of play. In the famous book 'Miniatures by World Champions', Anatoly Karpov has dedicated more than one third of the book to the games of this all time great player.

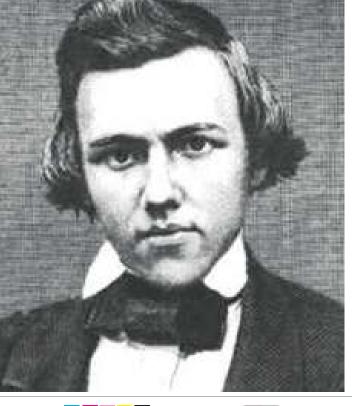
Yes, I am talking of the undisputed Champion, Paul Morphy! Paul Charles Morphy (22nd June 1837 — 10th July 1884) was born at New Orleans in a wealthy distinguished family. According to his uncle Ernest Morphy (a strong and imaginative player himself), no one formally taught Chess to Paul. However, at the age of 13, Paul

United States. In 1850s Paul Morphy visited Europe and defeated the

strongest players in the world with such an ease that he was acknowledged as the Best Chess Player in the World. (The official World Champion titles, however, started much later, in 1886). Morphy's victory over Count Carl Isouard and Duke of Brunswick of France is probably the most famous Chess game. His stunning Rook and Queen sacrifice against the then British Champion Henry Bird finds place in every book on Chess combinations.

Morphy didn't talk or write much about Chess but his simple quote "Help your pieces so they can help you" is the best advice a Chess Trainers could give to their pupils. Paul Morphy demonstrated that the safety of King and activity of pieces invariably decided outcome of a Chess game. Even today, the times of Paul Morphy are known as "The Golden Era of Chess".

Today we will see a comparatively unknown but extremely creative game by Morphy. I was lucky to see as a child, that too, annotated by master of King side attack, Grandmaster Leonid Shamkovic. I became famous as the best player in was indeed greatly impressed by the



originality of Morphy's play then but I must confess that today I stand even more impressed by the game, the planning as well as the execution. 1. e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6

4.Ng5
This double attack on Black's fpawn is a standard procedure of attacking 'f7'. 4...d5 5.exd5 Na5! The classical system of counterattack for Black. Instead of recaptur-

ing the pawn at d5, Black goes after the enemy bishop. This move allows Black to take the initiative but it was a popular

choice at that time. Better is 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Be2 h6 9.Nf3 e4 10.Ne5 Bd6 though Black's lead in development compensates for the sacrificed Pawn.

6...h6 Black drives back the White knight. 8.Nd4 ...Bc5! 9.Nb3? allows Bg4! with a powerful initiative to Black.

8.Nfd2 is bad due to 8...Bg4!

8...Nxc4 9.dxc4 Bc5! 10.h3! 10...0-0 11.Nh2 Nh7?! Black shows a very deep understanding of the position since he realizes that piece play alone will not break through White's position. He

prepares a 'Pawn Storm' by pushing the f-pawn till it is stopped by White pieces. However, more accurate would have been 11...e3! 12.Bxe3 Bxe3 13.fxe3 Ne4 14.Nf1 Qh4+ 15.g3 Qf6! 16.c3 Bf5! 17.Nbd2 Nc5!;

11...c6! was a strong alternative as well. 12.Be3! was called for.

12...f5 13.Nb3 Bd6! 14.0-0 Trying to castle on the Queen side would have led to catastrophe. For example, 14.Bd2? e3!! 15.fxe3 Bg3+ 16.Kd1 Nf6! 17.Be1 Bxh2! 18.Rxh2 b5! 19.Nd4 bxc4 20.Qxc4 Nxd5 21.Nc6 Ba6 22.Nxd8 Bxc4 23.Nc6 Nxe3+ 24.Kc1 Rae8! 25.Bb4 Rf6 26.Na5 Bd5 27.g3 Nf1 etc.

14...Bxh2+! 15.Kxh2 f4! Black has the advantage due to his active pieces and White's vulner-

able king.

The knight enters the game with a gain of tempo on the White queen. 17.Qg6!? was an interesting option. For example, 17...Bf5 18.Qh5 Bxc2 19.Nd4 Bd3 etc.

17.Qd3! would have led to a complex and unclear position. The move played -- 17.Qd4? --

allows a stunning combination followed by an unexpected finale.

Morphy clinched the issue with 17...Nf3+!! A beautiful sacrifice which cre-

ates decisive light square weakness on White's King side. 17...Bxh3? allows White to Checkmate!

defend with 18.Bxf4! Bd7 19.Kg1 etc.

18.gxf3 Qh4 19.Rh1! White seems to have guarded his King side well. The obvious capture 19....Qxh3 check gives White a clear

upper hand after 20. Kg1 whereas an

attempt to bring the King Rook in

play with 19....Rf6 allows White to

move the King to safety after 20.Kg2! However, Morphy had already planned his final assault after the Rook move as well.

The point! Now the White King has been caught in a cage with no possible escape. 20.Nc5 leaves the White Queen

unguarded and is punished with 20...Rf6! 21.Bxf4 Bf5+! 22.Kg1 Rg6+ 23.Bg3 Oxd4 etc. 20.Bxf4 Rxf4 21.Qxf4 Qxf4+

22.Kxh3 Qxf3+ 23.Kh2 Qxf2+ 24.Kh3 Rf8 is hopeless. 20.Rg1? allows 20....Bf1 check-mate! 20. Kg1 allows 20....Qg5 ch, 21.

Kh2, Qg2 Checkmate. 20...Rf6 21.Qxf6 21.Raf1 leads to an immediate

mate after 21...Bf5+ 22.Kg2 Rg6. 21.Nc5 trying to bring the Knight for defence is too slow. Black plays ...Rg6! followed by a deadly

discovered check by the Queen. 21.Qd3 (to stop Rg6) allows a similar finish as in the game. ..Qxf2+! 22.Kxh3 Qg3#

21...Qxf2+! 22.Kxh3 Qg3