

ANALYSIS 7
COVID CRISIS LED TO
DISTRESS EMPLOYMENT**MONEY 8**
INDUSTRY HAS ENOUGH CAPACITY AND
TECH KNOW-HOW TO MAKE PAPER STRAWS**SPORTS 12**
INDIA CHOKE SL,
TAKE 1-0 LEAD

HYDERABAD, FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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'NOBODY IS GOING
TO WATCH MY MOVIE
JUST BECAUSE MY
NAME IS MS RAJU'

Page 11

TRUCK DRIVER DIES AFTER WAITING FOR 5 DAYS IN QUEUE AT FUEL STATION IN LANKA

A 63-year-old truck driver has died in Sri Lanka after standing for five days in a queue at a filling station in the country's Western Province, the 10th death reported due to prolonged waiting for fuel procurement in the debt-ridden island nation grappling with the worst economic crisis since its independence, according to a media report on Thursday. The man was found dead inside his vehicle after waiting in the queue at the filling station in Anguruwatota, police said. The death toll in queues now stands at 10 and all the victims have been men aged between 43 and 84 years. Majority of the deaths reported in queues have been due to cardiac arrests, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

MASKS NO LONGER COMPULSORY AS S AFRICA REMOVES COVID RESTRICTIONS

South Africans heaved a sigh of relief as Health Minister Joe Phaahla announced that they will no longer be compelled to wear masks or have limitations on public gatherings as the government has lifted all remaining restrictions imposed more than two years due to the Covid-29 pandemic. Proof of vaccination at all ports of entry will also no longer be required. "Having monitored the positive direction for more than three weeks, we came to the conclusion that the peak infection, which we concluded was a limited 5th wave driven by sub-variants and not a new variant of concern, was dissipating and that there was no more any eminent risk, Phaahla said on Wednesday.

RAPID TRANSITION TO CLEAN ENERGY COULD CREATE 1.5 CRORE JOBS

A swift shift from fossil fuels to clean energy could lead to creation of 1.5 crore new jobs in India by 2025 and increase savings on electricity bills, a new report released ahead of the G-7 leaders' summit said on Thursday. The report, 'Creating Jobs and Cutting Bills: the economic opportunities of a clean energy transition', published by the 'We Mean Business Coalition' and Cambridge Econometrics, said India could witness eight dollars or 10 per cent reduction in per capita energy expenditure by 2025 when compared with business as usual scenario.

WHO CONSIDERS DECLARING MONKEYPOX HEALTH EMERGENCY

As the World Health Organisation convenes its emergency committee Thursday to consider if the spiralling outbreak of monkeypox warrants being declared a global emergency, some experts say WHO's decision to act only after the disease spilled into the West could entrench the grotesque inequities that arose between rich and poor countries during the coronavirus pandemic. Declaring monkeypox to be a global emergency would mean the UN health agency considers the outbreak to be an extraordinary event and that the disease is at risk of spreading across even more borders. It would also give monkeypox the same distinction as the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing effort to eradicate polio.

LAND ALLOTMENT FOR TRS OFFICE
High Court notice to KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Thursday issued notices to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao who is also the TRS President and some top officials regarding a PIL challenging the allotment of land to construct a TRS office in Hyderabad.

Retired government employee Maheshwar Raj filed the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the allotment of 4,935 square yards in Banjara Hills for the TRS' Hyderabad district unit office.

The petitioner said that the costly land was allotted to the TRS for a mere Rs 100 per square yard.

The HC took up the petition for hearing and issued notices to Chief Minister Chandrasekhara Rao, TRS General Secretary Srinivas Reddy, the Chief Secretary, the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, the Revenue Secretary and the Hyderabad district Collector. They have been directed to file counters within four weeks.



The government last month allotted a plot measuring around an acre to TRS on Road No: 12 in Banjara Hills' NBT Nagar for constructing the party's Hyderabad office. This drew sharp criticism from the opposition who said that the land is worth around Rs 100 crore. The Congress had described the land allotment as daylight robbery. Its leaders questioned the allotment when the TRS already has a big office in the same area.

They were referring to the Telangana Bhavan, the state headquarters of the TRS. Inaugurated in 2006, the swanky office has an area of around 40,000 square feet.

2

TRS makes it to national trends twice this week

PNS ■ HYDERABAD


Irrespective of progress on launching a national party, the TRS has managed to make it to national trends on Twitter twice this month.

On Twitter, on June 15, #ModiMustResign was a national trend with more than 80,000 tweets.

On June 23 Thursday, the hashtag #ByeByeModi was a nationwide trend with over 35,000 tweets and mentions, stating that it is time for Prime Minister Modi to go. #ByeByeModi came as a criticism against the BJP government for busying itself with toppling governments in opposition-ruled States instead of focusing on fulfilling its promises.

These trends are a mix of memes, statistics and other unfulfilled promises made by the Prime Minister. Twitterati slammed him for launching Agnipath, demonetisation, GST and imposing the Covid-19 lockdown. TRS legislators joined the trend. Chennai MLA Balka Sumar tweeted with the hashtag and said that "we need a Prime Minister to serve the public and not to work for publicity." With the arrival of the BJP leadership next week for the National Executive meeting, more national trends are in store. TRS social media convenor Krishank Manne said, "We are doing these trends as Prime Minister Modi thinks no one can question him."

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham:
Tithi: Ekadashi: Jun 23 09:41 PM to Jun 24 11:12 PM
Dwadashi: Jun 24 11:12 PM to Jun 26 01:10 AM
Nakshatram:
Ashwini: Jun 23 06:14 AM to Jun 24 08:04 AM
Bharani: Jun 24 08:04 AM to Jun 25 10:24 AM
Rahukalam: 10:40 AM to 12:18 PM
Yamagandam: 3:34 PM to 5:12 PM
Varjyam: 06:36 PM to 08:21 PM
Gulika: 7:25 AM to 9:03 AM
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Scattered thunderstorms
Temp: 31°C
Humidity: 75%
Sunrise: 5:43 AM
Sunset: 6:54 PM
Updated: JUNE 23, 2022 5:00 PM

**Panic grips TRS MLAs**

○ Trying to get PK's number to know their future

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

Political strategist Prashant Kishor has in a way become more important than Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao for panicky TRS legislators now. TRS MLAs are now trying to contact Prashant Kishor (PK) in connection with the 'report' he has prepared regarding their individual performance.

There are rumours that around 40 MLAs have a negative image in their respective constituencies. PK has reportedly advised TRS supremo and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao to change those MLAs and give new faces a chance. But the names of these MLAs have been kept secret by the TRS leadership. So, TRS MLAs are anxious to know whether their name is on that hit list.

Some TRS MLAs say that if their future in the TRS is clear to them (that is, no tickets for the coming Assembly polls), they



There are rumours that around 40 MLAs have a negative image in their respective constituencies. PK has reportedly advised TRS supremo and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao to change those MLAs and give new faces a chance.

would rather find alternatives. Some of the diffident TRS MLAs are trying to get in touch with the Congress and the BJP. The BJP is

more in need of such leaders than the Congress.

2

Strength to Cong

○ Many politicians silently joining the party

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

The Congress has succeeded in facilitating the 'silent joining' of leaders from other political parties.

The silent joining culture was started after Malkajgiri MP Revanth Reddy became the TPCC chief. It started with former Jacharla MLA Erra Shekar. Later, TRS leader Rangineni Abhilash Rao joined and it is continuing.

Later, the TDP leader from Bhupalpally, Gandra Sathyanarayana, joined the Congress in the presence of Revanth Reddy.

Many people have been joining the Congress in Telangana silently without any hoo-ha. Recently, the former TRS MLA of Chennai, Nallal Odelu, joined the Congress

in the presence of AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi in New Delhi along with his wife and Mancherla Zilla Parishad chairperson Nallala Bhagyalaxmi. Another silent entry was that of BJP Vice-President Bandru Shobhbarani. Bandru Shobhbarani joined the Congress in the presence of Revanth in the US under the aegis of the Indian Overseas Congress of

PIR'S DAUGHTER VIJAYA REDDY JOINS CONGRESS

Former minister, the late P. Janardhan Reddy (PIR)'s daughter Khairatabad TRS corporator P. Vijaya Reddy joined the Congress on Thursday in the presence of TPCC Chief Revanth Reddy and TPCC Star Campaigner Komatireddy Venkat Reddy at the Gandhi Bhavan here. Speaking on the occasion, Vijaya said that she didn't take the decision to join the Congress impulsively. She said the confusing condition across the nation and state made her take the decision. She said that rapes have been taking place in Hyderabad indiscriminately even though the government has deployed She teams.

2

**BRICS nations have similar approach to governance**
P5**MBBS aspirants demand NEET postponement**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Thousands of MBBS aspirants have demanded the postponement of medical entrance exam NEET scheduled on July 17, saying it's "too close" to other competitive exams, giving them limited time to prepare.

Hashtag PostponeNEETUG has been trending on microblogging site Twitter and the aspirants have also started an online petition which has been signed by over 24,000 students.



In their petition, they said the counselling of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate)-UG 2021 ended just in March, and the 2022 edition is scheduled on July 17.

2

KIDNAPPING CASE NIA arrests three including advocate

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

National Investigation Agency has conducted searches at 3 locations in Telangana in the districts of Rangareddy, Medak and Secunderabad and arrested three accused. The case pertains to the conspiracy and recruitment of one college student, into the fold of proscribed terrorist organization CPI(Maoist) by the leaders/members of Chaitanya Mahila Sangham (CMS), a frontal organization of CPI(Maoist).

2

'No evidence of mosques built on Hindu sites in TS'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As the political slugfest continues between the TRS and the BJP over digging up mosques in the state, the Archaeological Survey of India has cleared the air saying that there is no evidence of mosques being built on Hindu sites in Telangana.

"None of the monuments/sites under the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India, Hyderabad Circle, in Telangana have any evidence of ancient mosques built on Hindu religious sites," the ASI said in an RTI reply.

TRS Working President KT Rama Rao demanded the suspension of BJP leader Bandi Sanjay

Kumar who had told AIMIM leader Owaisi that mosques across Telangana should be dug up and if "shavams (dead bodies)" were found Muslims can keep the mosque but if "shivam (shiva linga)" was found, it must be handed over to Hindus.

Robin Zacheus, the activist who filed the RTI plea said, "The growing controversies about temples and mosques were leading to tension although it is a known fact that these are politically driven agendas to disrupt peace in Hyderabad before the next Assembly elections. Sanjay had challenged Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi. This challenge



clearly stands debunked through the RTI filed with ASI Hyderabad which stated that none of the

monuments/sites under the jurisdiction of the Archaeology Survey of India, Hyderabad circle, in

Focus on surveillance, WGS for possible mutation: Mandaviya

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday directed officials to continue to focus on surveillance and whole genome sequencing to scan any possible mutations while stressing on adequate testing and effective monitoring to assess the spread of COVID-19 in a timely manner.

Mandaviya, who chaired a meeting with key experts and officials amid an upsurge of COVID-19 cases in some states, stressed the need to focus on districts reporting high case positivity and undertake adequate testing (with higher proportion of RT-PCR) and effective surveillance to

assess and control the spread of the infection in a timely manner, the Union Health ministry said in a statement.

The minister directed officials to continue to focus on surveillance and on whole genome sequencing (WGS) to scan for any possible mutation, it said.

He also directed officials to monitor hospitalizations due to COVID-19, and SARI/ILI cases, the statement stated.

He exhorted them to increase the pace of vaccination, including booster doses, in districts reporting high cases.

"As there is adequate vaccine doses available, let there be no vaccine wastage while focusing on accelerating vaccination



among the eligible and vulnerable groups," he said.

Twelve states and Union Territories -- Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, Gujarat, Goa and Punjab have

been recording an increase in weekly cases and positivity since June 10.

Fifty-one districts in the country, including 12 from Kerala, seven from Mizoram and five each from Maharashtra and Assam, are

reporting a weekly Covid positivity rate of over 10 per cent while in 53 districts, including 11 from Rajasthan and five from Delhi, the weekly positivity is between 5 and 10 per cent, official sources said.

Besides, 355 districts, including 42 from Maharashtra, 33 from Assam and 31 from Rajasthan, have been reporting less than 140 Daily Tests per Million, they said.

The Omicron BA.2 sub-variant has been found in over 83 per cent of the samples which were genome sequenced in May and June, according to an analysis by the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), official sources said on Thursday.

Thackeray govt's fate will be decided in Assembly: Sharad Pawar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

NCP president Sharad Pawar on Thursday said the fate of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra will be decided on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, and the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress coalition will prove its majority in a trust vote.

Addressing a press conference amid the turmoil caused by the rebellion by Sena minister Eknath Shinde and several Sena MLAs, Pawar also asserted that the BJP has played a role in the crisis that has befallen the Uddhav Thackeray-led government.

"The fate of the MVA government will be decided in the Assembly, not in Guwahati (where the rebels are camping). The MVA will prove its majority on the floor of the House," Pawar said.

He was replying to a question whether the MVA has been reduced a minority as the Shinde-led rebel faction has claimed the support of 37 Shiv Sena MLAs and ten Independent legislators. Asked about deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar's statement that he did not see the BJP's role in the rebellion within the Sena, Pawar said he did not agree with his nephew. "Ajit Pawar may have said so because he does not know BJP leaders from outside Maharashtra. I know them. Even Eknath Shinde has said a national party has assured him of all assistance," Pawar said.

As other national parties like BSP, CPM, CPI, Congress and NCP have no role to play in destabilizing the MVA, Shinde was referring only to the BJP, he said.

The rebel MLAs will have to

come back to Mumbai and face the Assembly, he said, adding that BJP leaders "from Gujarat and Assam will not be coming here to guide them." Pawar also refuted allegations by rebel Shiv Sena MLAs that they faced difficulties in getting funds for their constituencies as the finance ministry, which is controlled by NCP's Ajit Pawar, discriminated against them, and the Sena has given up its Hindutva ideology. "All these are excuses, some of these MLAs are facing probe by central agencies," he said.

The NCP chief also said that the rebels will have to face consequences, recalling that when Chhagan Bhujbal defected from the Shiv Sena to join Congress in the 1990s, all his supporters except one lost the Assembly election.

"These rebels will face the same fate," Pawar said.

WB approves \$245 million loan to modernise India's railway

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The World Bank has approved a USD 245 million loan to support India's efforts to modernise rail freight and logistics infrastructure, the international financial institution said in a statement on Wednesday.

The Rail Logistics project will help India shift more traffic from road to rail, making transport -- both freight and passenger -- more efficient and reducing millions of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) each year. The project will also incentivise more private sector investment in the railway sector.

Indian Railways is the fourth-largest rail network in the world having transported 1.2 billion tonnes of freight in the fiscal ending March 2020. Yet, 71 per cent of India's freight is transported by road and only 17 per cent by rail. The statement also said that the capacity constraints of Indian Railways have limited the volumes and reduced the speed and reliability of shipments. As a result, it has been losing market share to trucks over the years; in 2017-18, its market share was 32 per cent, down from 52 per cent a decade earlier. Road freight is the largest contributor to GHG emissions, accounting

for about 95 per cent of emissions in the freight sector. Trucks also accounted for about 12.3 per cent of road accidents and 15.8 per cent of total road transport-related deaths in 2018. Rail emits about one-fifth of trucks' GHG emissions, and with Indian Railways planning to become a net-zero carbon emitter by 2030, it has the potential to eliminate 7.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases each year, it added. "While reducing greenhouse gases, the new project will also benefit millions of rail passengers in India as railway lines get decongested with freight moving to dedicated lines," said Hideki Mori, Operations Manager and Acting Country Director, India, World Bank.

"Integrating railways with the wider logistics ecosystem is also key to reducing India's high logistics costs, which are much higher than in developed nations. This will make Indian firms more competitive." The loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) was approved by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors and has a maturity of 22 years, including a grace period of seven years.

Set long-term export targets: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday appealed to exporters and the industry to fix long-term export targets for themselves and suggest ways to the government to achieve those goals.

Inaugurating the new Vanija Bhawan here, he said that the exports play a critical role in the transition of a country from developing to developed status.

During the last fiscal year, the Prime Minister said despite the historic global disruptions, India's exports stood at a total (goods and services) of USD 670 billion (Rs 50 lakh crore).

He added that India's merchandise exports in 2021-22 crossed USD 418 billion (Rs 31 lakh crore), as against the target of USD 400 billion (Rs 30 lakh crore).

"Encouraged by this success of the past years, we have now increased our export targets and have doubled our efforts to achieve them. Collective effort of everyone is very necessary to achieve these new goals. Industry, exporters and export promotion councils are here. I will urge them to set not only short-term but also long-term export targets for themselves," he said.

He said that the new Bhawan will significantly ben-

efit people associated with trade, commerce and the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

The Prime Minister also launched the NIRYAT (National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade) portal - which is developed as a one-stop platform for stakeholders to get all necessary information related to India's foreign trade.

The government is working to promote ease of doing business and boost exports, Modi said adding new domestic products like handlooms are reaching new markets.

Underlining the role of increasing exports in the transition of a country from developing to developed country, Modi said that in the last eight years, India has been continuously increasing its exports.

Better policies to increase exports, easing of the process, and taking products to new markets, have helped a lot in this direction, he said adding today, every department of the government is giving priority to increasing exports with a 'whole of government' approach.

"Exports from new areas are increasing. Even from many aspirational districts, exports have now increased manifold. The increase in exports of cotton and hand-

loom products by 55 per cent shows how the work is being done at the grassroot level," he said.

Now many of the domestic products are being exported for the first time to new countries, he said citing examples like Sitabhog Mithai being exported to Bahrain, Fresh King Chilli of Nagaland to London, Fresh Burmese grapes of Assam to Dubai, tribal Mahua products from Chattisgarh to France and Khumani of Kargil to Dubai.

He also referred to trade deals signed with the UAE and Australia last year and informed that there has been a lot of progress on talks for similar pacts with other countries as well.

"For business, identifying new markets and manufacturing products after identifying their needs is very important for the progress of the country", he said.

He also requested every department to periodically review the portals and platforms that have been developed in recent times.

Modi added that the country has got the gift of a new and modern commercial building as well as an export portal, one physical and other digital infrastructure, he said.

Referring to the new infrastructure of the ministry, the

Prime Minister said that this is also time to renew the pledge of ease of doing business and ease of living.

'Ease of access' is the link between the two, he said adding more than 32,000 unnecessary compliances have been removed.

He said that there should not be any hindrances in communicating with the government and making the government accessible with ease is a major priority of the government.

On manufacturing, he said mobile manufacturing units in India have crossed 200 and today India has 2,300 registered Fin-tech startups, up from 500, four years ago.

India used to recognize 8,000 startups every year, today, this number is more than 15,000.

On NIRYAT portal, he said it will help provide real time data to all stakeholders.

"From this portal, important information related to more than 30 commodity groups exported to more than 200 countries of the world will be available. In the coming time, information related to district-wise exports will also be available on this. This will also strengthen the efforts to develop the districts as important centers of exports", the Prime Minister said.

US Supreme Court expands gun rights

PNS ■ ANNAPOLIS

In a major expansion of gun rights, the Supreme Court said on Thursday that Americans have a right to carry firearms in public for self-defense.

The decision follows recent mass shootings and is expected to ultimately allow more people to legally carry guns on the streets of the nation's largest cities including New York, Los Angeles and Boston and elsewhere.

About a quarter of the US population live in states expected to be affected by the ruling, which struck down a New York gun law.

The decision, the high court's first major gun decision in more than a decade, was 6-3 with the court's conservatives in the majority and liberals in dissent.

The ruling comes as Congress is working toward passage of gun legislation following mass shootings in Texas, New York and California.

On Thursday, senators were expected to clear the way for that measure, modest in scope but still the most far-reaching in decades.

President Joe Biden said in a statement he was deeply disappointed by the Supreme Court ruling, which he said "contradicts both common sense and the Constitution, and should deeply trouble us all."

He urged states to pass new laws and said, "I call on Americans across the country to make their voices heard on gun safety. Lives are on the line."

In the opinion itself, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote for the majority that the Constitution protects "an individual's right to carry a handgun for self-defence outside the home."

The decision struck down a New York law requiring people to demonstrate a particular need for carrying a gun in order to get a license to carry one in public.

The justices said that requirement violates the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

California, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island all have similar laws. The Biden administration had urged the justices to uphold New York's law.

NIA arrests..

Continued from page 1

The case was initially registered as FIR.No.01/2022 dated 03.01.2022 at Peddabayalu PS, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. A missing case for Radha had been registered by her mother three years back in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. In the complaint, the mother said that Radha had been taken away from home on the pretext of medical treatment by an individual named Devendra. In the same complaint, she mentions that Shilpa and Swapna who are both members of the CMS which is a known Maoist Party sympathiser organisation used to visit Radha often NIA had re-registered the case on 3/June/2022 and taken over the investigation. During the searches conducted on Thursday, incriminating materials including digital devices have been seized. Based on the searches conducted on Thursday, NIA has arrested the three accused for their involvement in motivating and recruiting youth for the proscribed organization CPI(Maoist).

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹308
Without Skin	₹328
Broiler at Farm	₹162

EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	385
VIJAYAWADA	385
VISAKHAPATNAM	410
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹3.85

GST meeting to be stormy

Continued from page 1

After the 45th GST Council meeting in Lucknow, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said the regime of paying compensation to states for the revenue shortfall, resulting from subsuming their taxes, such as VAT in the uniform national tax GST will end in June next year. However, the compensation cess levied on luxury and demerit goods, will continue to be collected till March 2026 to repay the borrowings that were

done in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to compensate states for GST revenue loss. Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced in the country with effect on July 1, 2017, and states were assured of compensation for the loss of any revenue arising on account of the implementation of GST for five years. Though states' protected revenue has been growing at 14 per cent compounded growth, the cess collection did not increase in the same proportion. The COVID-19 pandemic further increased the

gap between projected revenue and the actual revenue receipt, including a reduction in cess collection.

To meet the resource gap of the states due to the short release of compensation, the Centre has borrowed and released Rs 1.1 lakh crore in 2020-21 and Rs 1.59 lakh crore in 2021-22 as back-to-back loans to meet a part of the shortfall in cess collection. The Centre has released the entire amount of GST compensation payable to states up to May 31, 2022.

PJR's daughter..

Continued from page 1

People have been waiting for pensions and ration cards for a long time. The KCR government has ignored public welfare, she said and added that only a Congress government can do justice to the people. She said that she didn't change parties for the sake of positions and made it clear that she will not leave Congress till her last breath.

Revanth said that PJR had worked for the poor and his absence was visible in Telangana.

Panic grips TRS..

Continued from page 1

Some TRS MLAs are trying to get the contact phone number of PK to know their future. They are enquiring about that at the TRS office and the Chief Minister's Office too.

Those trying to contact Prashant Kishor directly or over phone belong to two categories. Some MLAs want to tell positively about KCR to get the party ticket again in the next Assembly elections. Some others are trying to meet PK to

know about their score in the report and if that is bad to try for a ticket from the BJP or the Congress. There are strong speculations in TRS circles that PK will select TRS candidates in the next Assembly elections. Some TRS leaders are also trying to contact Prashant Kishor to get an Assembly ticket.

Amid the talk of PK's report on the individual performance of TRS MLAs, the leadership is worried over MLAs whose performance leaves much to be

desired and who may switch loyalty to the BJP or the Congress. At the same time, the BJP is also anxious to know about such MLAs to get them into their fold. Sources said that whenever PK comes to Hyderabad, he stays at Pragathi Bhavan -- the official residence of KCR. TRS MLAs are of the view that if PK stays in a hotel, they would have a chance to meet him. It is not possible for them to meet PK at Pragathi Bhavan as entry there is restricted.

Nine real estate firms..

Continued from page 1

The outstanding amount towards Creatoz Builders is Rs 1,192 crore, towards Township Developers Rs 6,002 crore, towards Shishir Realty Rs 1,233 crore and towards Sunlink Real Estate Private Limited Rs 2,185 crore, the officials said.

A portion of the money was diverted to companies controlled by former promoters Kapil Wadhawan, Dheeraj Wadhawan and the Sahana Group, where they also had prima facie financial interest,

the officials said.

The funds were part of Rs 42,871 crore of public money raised from banks in the form of loans and subscriptions in non-convertible debentures, which were allegedly "misappropriated" by DHFL, they said.

The funds were then diverted to DHFL group entities and the Sahana Group through fraudulent loans issued without due diligence, in the absence of adequate securities and falsification of account books, the officials alleged.

MBBS aspirants demand NEET..

Continued from page 1

"How are we to revise such a vast syllabus in just 3 months? Moreover, other important exams like the Board Exams, CUET, JEE Mains are also scheduled around the same time. Imagine the trauma and pressure we students are having to go through with all these significant exams scheduled one after the other. Is this a fair decision?" the petition demanded.

The last year's exam was initially scheduled for August 1 but was postponed to September 12 due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"So much stress in the last days of exams. I'm losing my hope. No one wants to hear, no one wants to help us, no one wants to understand us. We, the aspirants, are in great trouble. Please postpone the NEET-UG," said Sanjana Gupta, an aspirant.

According to Anubha

Srivastava, a lawyer and the president of the India Wide Parents' Association, NEET and Common University Entrance Test (CUET), are happening at the same time causing inconvenience to students.

"NEET must be held after JEE MAINS so that students can prepare well. Already the session is not going to start before Feb 2023 for NEET Aspirants as the counselling will take time," she said.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) announced Wednesday that the debut edition of CUET-UG will be conducted from July 15 to August 10.

"Dear @DG_NTA and @EduMinOfIndia please hear the plea of the students, and their small demand, it's not a unjustified wants there are many reasons also NTA announced the CUET which directly clash with NEET exam," a Twitter user said.

The number of registrations

for medical entrance exam NEET has crossed 18.72 lakh this year -- 10.64 lakh women, 8.07 lakh men -- recording a significant jump of over 2.5 lakh since 2021.

Among the candidates registered this year, 771 are foreigners, 910 Non-Resident Indians and 647 Overseas Citizen of India card holders.

The highest number of candidates have opted English as the medium of exam, followed by Hindi and Tamil.

The NEET-UG is the qualifying entrance exam for admission to Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS), Bachelor of Ayurveda, Medicine and Surgery (BAMS), Bachelor of Siddha Medicine and Surgery (BSMS), Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS), and Bachelor of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS) and BSc (H) Nursing courses.

Twins 'die of neglect' at Rainbow Hospital bills Rs 60 lakh! Babies were extremely premature: Doctors

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a tragic incident, twins died within a few days after their birth at Rainbow Hospital in Banjara Hills in city. The parents of twins Raghunath Reddy and Suvarna are residents of Hyderabad. Suvaran gave birth to twins 12 days after being admitted to hospital.

The parents alleged that one of the newborn babies died because of negligence of doctors. One of the twins died on the third day of its birth. The hospital charged Rs 19 lakh. The parent tried to save the second baby. The hospital billed them Rs 33 lakh for the treatment of the baby. The parents said the hospital had billed Rs 60 lakh for treatment of twins.

Meanwhile, on Thursday,

doctors of the Rainbow Hospital clarified that twins were born at 25 weeks of gestation, extremely premature and very small with birth weights of 580 grams and 610 grams. These babies were very sick, had very immature lungs and from the very beginning needing high level ventilator support, including oscillation and multiple medication to maintain the blood pressure and a gas called nitric oxide to maintain oxygen levels. Babies were provided round the clock highest level of intensive care to give them a chance of survival from the beginning. Doctors added that parents had been counselled and updated regularly about the critical condition of the babies and parents have also explained the risk of death any time from the beginning.





Minister for Industries K T Rama Rao with chairman of Foxconn Young Liu and others company officials in Hyderabad on Thursday

KTR meets Foxconn chief, hard sells TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao met Young Liu, the Chairman of Foxconn on Thursday in New Delhi.

The Taiwan-based Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn) is one of the leading electronics manufacturing services (EMS) company globally and is one of the largest suppliers to many top-notch international customers.

Foxconn has manufacturing units in Tamil Nadu and

Andhra Pradesh. In 2021, Hon Hai's annual revenue touched USD 206 billion worldwide. The company ranked 22 on Fortune Global 500 in 2021.

During the interaction, KTR and Young Liu discussed Foxconn's plans to expand in India. KTR also took the opportunity to present Telangana to Foxconn corporation staff who were also present during the meeting.

KTR briefed Young Liu on the initiatives launched by the TS government for creating an

enabling environment for electronics manufacturing in Telangana. Young Liu was pleased to note the progress made by the State in the last eight years.

Chairman Liu discussed the company's plans and said, "India is an attractive manufacturing destination and we would like to see how we can expand our operations. Our India experience has been exciting, and we look forward to exploring the opportunities that Telangana offers."

KTR said, "Foxconn is one of the biggest employers globally in electronics manufacturing. We are excited about their decision to venture into EV manufacturing too. I assure the company of all support from Telangana and invite it to explore Telangana."

Telangana has emerged as the preferred investment destination for investments in the electronics sector and boasts of a vibrant R&D and innovation ecosystem. The State is equipped with a robust indus-

trial infrastructure and is well-positioned to meet the requirements of global majors.

Later, KTR tweeted, "Had a promising meeting with the Chairman of Foxconn, Young Liu and his team. Discussed subjects like EVs, digital health, electronics and robotics. I welcomed him to invest in Telangana."

Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan and Director of Electronics Sujai Karampuri were also present at the meeting.

Harish opens NIMS' paediatric heart surgery unit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Health Minister T Harish Rao inaugurated the Paediatric Heart Surgery Unit at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) on Thursday.

This unit was set up by the Rotary Club of Jubilee Hills and SUVEN Life Sciences at a cost of Rs 4 crore provided under CSR by Suven Pharma Chairman and Managing Director Venkat Jasti to address the congenital heart diseases prevalent in the under-nourished people of villages. The facility is expected to benefit 750 kids annually. The paediatric heart surgeries will be done free of cost.

Harish Rao inaugurated the fully furnished modular six-bed Cardiothoracic ICU, including a Class-I air-conditioned isolation clean room suitable for heart transplants.

Speaking on the occasion, Harish said, "This unit will be a great help to children with congenital heart disease and poor patients. Our government has increased Aarogyasri coverage from Rs



Telangana Health Minister T. Harish Rao inaugurating the Paediatric Heart Surgery Unit at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences on Thursday. Liaison Officer, NIMS, Dr Martha Ramesh was also present

2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. NIMS is performing more heart, kidney and liver transplant surgeries. Under Chief Minister KCR we are working hard to develop NIMS."

'Around Rs 200 crore is sanctioned every year. Rs 186 crore has been given to buy equipment in the last six months. While the ICU had 166 beds, their number has increased now to 200.

Another 74 will be available soon. A total of 440 are in the ICU. If there were 68 in the past, now we have sanctioned another 125 ventilators. It has 25 advanced life ventilators. Currently, there are 1,480 beds in NIMS. Soon we will build a 2,000-bed building on 32 acres in Erramanzil Colony. Administrative clearances will be granted soon," he added.

GHMC workers stage protest, demand job regularisation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A large number of workers belonging to sanitation entomology, veterinary wings, park section workers and transport section workers staged a protest in front of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation's headquarters on Thursday, demanding regularisation of the services of sanitation workers. They also demanded that outsourced employees be paid pending salaries. The agitating employees also demanded that the GHMC scrap the biometric attendance system.

As the peaceful protest threatened to turn violent, GHMC Commissioner D S Lokesh Kumar assured the agitating workers that their problems would be addressed



GHMC workers staging a protest at the GHMC office in Hyderabad on Thursday

within 10 days. A large number of workers participated in the strike in support of their demands. They demanded regularisation of the services of outsourcing workers and an increase of their salaries up to Rs 25,000. The Commissioner

held talks with union president Udari Gopal. The Commissioner responded positively to the demands and said he would ensure that the money deducted from the salaries of a section of employees is refunded.

Telangana records 494 new COVID-19 cases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State on Thursday reported 494 Covid-19 positive cases. As many as 315 were reported from areas under GHMC, 102 were from Rangareddy and 31 from Medchal-Malkajgiri districts.

With no fatalities getting reported, the total number of deaths due to Covid-19 has remained at 4,111 while the number of active Covid-19 cases on Thursday reached 3,048. A total of 126 individuals recovered on Thursday, taking the overall recoveries to 7,90,473, the Covid health bulletin said. The Health Department conducted 28,865 Covid-19 rapid tests out of which results of 517 samples are awaited. Overall, so far 3,54,24,340 Covid-19 tests were conducted.

Stinking Jawahar Nagar dumpyard irks residents

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A large number of families living in the vicinity of the Jawahar Nagar dumpyard are at risk of contracting serious health problems.

Many people suffer from serious health problems, such as fever, headaches and weight loss as the contaminated overflowing sewage water from the dumpyard flows into residential areas.

In addition, as rains are lashing Hyderabad, the overflowing drains set the alarm bells ringing among people. Some families have left the area to avoid being exposed to pollution. Hundreds of families are spending sleepless nights, especially due to drainage and the stench coming from the dumping yard. A section of residents in the area cannot migrate from the area as they are working in dumping yard. Only a few families continue to



Sewage water stagnate at Jawahar Nagar dumping yard in Hyderabad

complain to the authorities about their serious problems as they find it difficult to cope with difficulties.

Local doctors said people with health problems are pouring into the hospitals every day.

Meanwhile, local doctors said there were a lot of cases, with residents visiting their

hospital for health problems of fever, headaches and dengue during the rainy seasons.

A resident, Srinu, expressed serious concerns over the health hazards the dumping yard is posing to the people.

Families who are unable to take the problems to the attention of the authorities said,

"This is not a new problem for us. We have been facing the same problem for years. During the rainy season all our houses are flooded with sewage water coming from inside the dumpyard. Although our people have requested them many times, we have not found a permanent solution."

Residents in several parts face drinking water scarcity

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Residents in several parts of Hyderabad are facing drinking water scarcity. Despite repeated complaints to Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board officials, no further action has been taken.

AIMIM president and MP Asaduddin Owaisi also highlighted the issue. "The water allocation made to the areas under my Lok Sabha constituency and Assembly constituencies represented by

AIMIM MLAs has not been made in proportion to the population. He wrote a letter to HMWSSB Managing Director.

He further added that in the outer municipalities, the supplies to the areas are being done directly through online supplies which are unregulated., systems are online water supply system is not an ideal and hence all online supplies shall be immediately converted to reservoir inlets and further distribution be made.

'Encourage failing biz units to remove fear of failure'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Commissioner of Industries Krishna Bhaskar said that there is a need to encourage failing industrial units to remove the fear of failure. He was speaking at an FTCCI organised orientation programme on the 'MSME Eco-System Development in the State - SIDBI PMU' in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Citing a paper by Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, Bhaskar said, "A lot of American growth can be traced to financing corporations which gave a lot of financing to small scale businesses. We need to set our expectations very low.

We need to encourage failing units. At the government level, we need to reorient ourselves as to what we can do differently. For example, in the Industries department, in our T-Pride units, the overwhelming majority go for vehicles. We cannot blame the beneficiaries. If everybody takes vehicles the whole point of creating an eco-system for MSMEs goes for a toss. At some level, out of fear of failure they are going for a safe bet. We should encourage diversity in such schemes."

He said that Telangana has a proud legacy of helping small investors and start-ups. The government is giving a lot of

support and there is a need to encourage as much diversity as possible in MSMEs, he added. "SIDBI will play a more engaging role to strengthen MSMEs," said Pramod Kumar Vijayvargia, the General Manager of SIDBI in Hyderabad. The SIDBI has set up Project Management Units (PMU) in 20 states to help MSMEs and the Telangana PMU was started 2.5 months back. Srinivas Garimella, Chair, IDC committee of FTCCI said, "Lack of awareness about schemes is hindering the progress of MSMEs in our country, and if the country has to become a USD 5 trillion

economy the MSME must register double-digit growth and must raise its share in the GDP to 50 per cent. The MSME sector suffered a lot due to the disruptions caused by demonetisation in 2016, followed by the hasty implementation of GST in 2017. There were a series of debt defaults that triggered a liquidity crunch for MSMEs from banks. We are all aware of the contribution of MSMEs to the GDP, employment, and exports and how important the development of the MSMEs is for growth. But unfortunately, MSMEs are receiving a raw deal from both the state and the Union Government."

Congress asks NHRC to probe Secunderabad firing

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

AICC Member Bakka Judson has urged the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to order a judicial inquiry into the police firing at the Secunderabad Railway Station as the State Police and the Railway Police have given different versions about the firing.

Judson filed a petition on Thursday regarding this. In his petition, Judson said that there was a protest on June 17 by youths who had gathered

at the Secunderabad Railway Station demanding withdrawal of the Agnipath scheme.

"When the crowd was protesting peacefully on railway tracks why did the RPF charge them? It was then the protest turned violent. They had no option but to defend themselves. Now, there are protests nationwide. Who gave the order to open fire? One of the protesters, Damera Rakesh, of Warangal district is dead. Who will take responsibility for that?"

Strict adherence to the SPGs Blue Book for PM visit to Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ahead of Prime Minister's visit to Hyderabad city to attend the BJP's national executive Committee meeting in HICC Novotel and also to address a public meeting on July 2nd-3rd at Parade Grounds, Hyderabad City police commissioner CV Anand held a coordination meeting with senior police officers, GHMC, TSSPDCL, R&B, Fire services, army officials and the political party representatives to review security arrangements.

The meeting discussed details of the PM's visit, his arrival, stay, attendance and departure and contingency plans in case of emergencies. The city police will make ample deployment of forces and quick response teams will be pressed into service and additional reinforcements have also been put on standby. "Anti-sabotage precautions along with access control constitute the cornerstone of any security arrangement for the protection of VVIPs. Law and order, traffic officials were instructed to make all securi-



Hyderabad City police commissioner CV Anand hold a meeting with officials ahead of PM visit

ty plans in strict adherence to the SPGs Blue Book," said CP Anand.

CP Anand appealed to the representatives of the political party to set up coordination committees to liaison with the officials of all departments and asked them not to make any last minute changes in the program. The traffic branch pointed out the need for the Cantonment officials to allot adequate parking grounds for the vehicles carrying public from various districts of

Telangana, the TSSPDCL asked the BJP leadership to organise sufficient generators.

Deployment of snipers, anti-sabotage checks, roof-top watch, multi parties, route map, trial runs and multi-layer security arrangements are being made in the city limits. Only valid pass holders will be allowed to participate in the public meeting and all the attendees will be frisked. There will be elaborate measures in place to deal with any sponta-

neous protests, he added.

The Medical and Health Department has also been asked to position specialist medical teams, ambulances along with equipment at the venues. To ensure Covid-19 protocols, all the pass holders will undergo RT-PCR tests before the scheduled program. It has been decided to nominate one senior official from each department to quickly address any issue from the control center that would be setup at the venue.

Next Education to provide access to quality education for over 12,00,000 students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The pandemic has crumbled the education sector as not all students had access to quality education. To streamline the learning process and ensure that students are not overburdened, the parents and school administration needed to come together to ensure that the necessary steps were taken and that learning was not at bay due to other impending logistical and technological challenges. This was where Next Education came in.

The company has solutions in place to stay a level above the current environment compared to other Edtech. The company has an in-house talent of more than 1,800 people and caters to more than 12,00,000 students across 18,000+ schools. Some of these schools are Christ International School, Shri Ram Global School, Green Park International School, and many more.

It operates on a B2B2C model and offers innovative turnkey solutions, all of which are ideated, conceptualised and developed in-house. These solutions span across the ICSE, CBSE and over 29 Indian state boards in 8 languages, and include cutting-edge digital content, an integrated and interactive curriculum, and a cloud-based platform that handles all the academic, administrative and assessment needs of schools. It is focusing on utilizing technology and producing unique learning solutions, such as AR and VR-enabled learning tools, STEM curricula, and block-based coding systems. At Next Education, we develop products and solutions keeping in mind all the stakeholders of the K-12 sector.

TELANGANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD REGIONAL OFFICE - 1, RANGA REDDY DISTRICT H.No.6-3-1219, Block C, Ward No. 91, 2nd Floor, Backside of Country Club, Kundambagh, Umanagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500 016.	
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION	
In accordance with the Notification No. S.O. 1533 (E), Dated 14-09-2006 of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, it is hereby notified that the Mining activity above 5.0 Ha is required Public Hearing. 10.076 Ha Stone & Metal Quarry of M/s Sri Lakshminarasimha Metal Industries, Sy.No. 268 Chinnarayavali (V), Abdulapurmet (M), Rangareddy District, Telangana State has proposed Stone & Metal Quarry in an area over an extent of 10.076 Ha. It is hereby notified to conduct Environmental Public Hearing in Rangareddy District for the proposed project. The details of the project activities given by the project authorities are as follows:	
1. Name of the Project with the Phone number and Address	10.076 Ha. Stone & Metal Quarry of M/s Sri Lakshminarasimha Metal Industries Sy.No. 268, Chinnarayavali (V), Abdulapurmet (M), Rangareddy District, Telangana State.
2. Location of the Project	Sy.No.268,Chinnarayavali (V), Abdulapurmet (M), Rangareddy District, Telangana State
3. Name of the Authorized person to be Contracted with address and Phone no	Sri G.C. Malakondiah, Proprietor C/o M/s Sri Lakshminarasimha Metal Industries, Plot No. : 267/A, Road No. 78, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad 500 096 Ph. No. 9866010545. E-mail: inarayana18@yahoo.com
4. Capital Cost of the Project	Total Cost of the Project is Rs. 45 Lakhs
5. Name of the Project Consultant / Environmental Consultant	TEAM Labs Consultants B-115-117 & 509, Annapurna Block, Aditya Enclave, Ameerpet, Hyderabad - 500030. E-mail: teamlabs@gmail.com. Phone 040-23748555/23748516
6. Line of Activity/Capacity	Stone & Metal Quarry
7. Date /Time/Venue of Public Hearing	25.07.2022/ 10.00 A.M. Venue: At Project Site i.e., Sy.No. 268, Chinnarayavali (V), Abdulapurmet (M) Rangareddy District, Telangana State.
8. Place of the availability of Executive Summary (Telugu & English) & Draft EIA Report of the proposed project along with CD	1. C/o. District Collector, Rangareddy District. 2. C/o. The CEO, Zilla Parishad, Rangareddy District. 3. C/o. The District Industries Centre, Rangareddy District. 4. Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, 3rd Floor, Aranya Bhavan, Saifabad, Hyderabad, Telangana 5. TS Pollution Control Board, Regional Office-I, Rangareddy District, H.No.6-3-1219, Block C, Ward No. 91, 2nd Floor, Backside of Country Club, Kundambagh, Umanagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad- 500 016. 6. C/o TS. Pollution Control Board, Rangayavara Bhavan, A-3, Industrial Estate, Sarathnagar, Hyderabad - 500 018. 7. C/o T.S. Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office H.No.6-3-1219, Block C, Ward No. 91, 1st Floor, Backside of Country Club, Kundambagh, Umanagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500 016. 8. Revenue Divisional Office, Ibrahimpatnam, Rangareddy District. 9. Tahasildar Office, Abdulapurmet Mandal, Rangareddy District. 10. The Executive Summary of the project both in Telugu & English are available at Gram Panchayat Office of chinnarayavali Village.
Suggestions, views, comments and objections of the public, if any, are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. All interested persons can also make written suggestions to the undersigned Officer of the T.S. Pollution Control Board and can also participate in the proceedings of the Public Hearing on the date, time and venue specified above.	
Place : Rangareddy District Date : 23-06-2022 DPR No. : 312-PRCL-AG/Adv/110202-23	
Sd/- Environmental Engineer, TS. Pollution Control Board, Regional Office-I, Rangareddy District	



Nadda coming to Hyd on June 30

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP president JP Nadda is coming to Hyderabad on June 30 in connection with the BJP National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting in Hyderabad on July 2 and 3. Nadda will meet BJP Secretaries on July 1 at the HICC Novotel Hotel. He will also finalise the agenda for the NEC meeting on July 1. It may be recalled that Prime Minister Modi, Union Ministers, the BJP Chief Ministers of 18 states, and BJP state presidents will participate in the meetings along with other leaders. The Prime Minister will also attend the public meeting being held on July 3 at Parade Grounds.

TS asks Centre to provide quality norms for Hyd PRTS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government, which is planning to develop a Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) corridor of 10 km in Hyderabad, urged the Centre on Thursday to provide quality specifications and a legal framework for commencing execution of the project.

The issue was discussed by Telangana Urban Development and IT Minister KT Rama Rao at a meeting with the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri.

The PRT is a public transport system that provides last-mile connectivity to users with a high level of reliability and comfort.

During the meeting, KTR said the state government is exploring options for smart urban mobility solutions like PRT and ropeway systems to act as feeder services to the metro rail and the Multi-Modal Transport System (MMTS).



There is a proposal to develop a PRT corridor extending 10 km from the State Assembly to the Paradise Metro Station with a spur to Khairatabad Metro Station and the MMTS station at James Street Station and the Khairatabad Station, he said.

The Indian Port Rail and Ropeway Corporation Ltd is the consultant for preparing the feasibility study and detailed project report, he said.

KTR said the Union Ministry of Road Transport

and Highways (MoRTH) is understood to have set up a high-powered committee to recommend standards and specifications for the PRTs in the country.

"As the Telangana government is keen to execute the PRT corridor kindly use your good offices with MoRTH to provide standards, specifications and the legal framework so that the project can move forward," KTR said in a representation made to the Union Minister.

The PRT is a public transport system that provides last-mile connectivity to users with a high level of reliability and comfort.

KTR also demanded that the Centre should bear one-third of the cost of Rs 8,684.54 crore for executing a sewerage project in Hyderabad and adjoining areas up to Outer Ring Road.

KTR said the Centre should provide Rs 2,850 crore under AMRUT-2, and the balance will be put in by the state.

"I requested the Union Minister to extend help Telangana to construct STPs, drains and SWDs in the GHMC area," KTR said.



Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy carrying the Olympic torch on the occasion of Olympic Day, in Wanaparthy on Thursday

Minister calls upon teachers to create interest in sports among children

PNS ■ WANAPARTHI

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao expressed the wish that the Telangana education system set an example for the entire country, said Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy here on Thursday.

The Minister was participating in Olympic Day celebrations by lighting the Olympic flame on the campus of the junior college here.

Speaking on the occasion,

the TRS government was committed to extending all help to the sportspersons. He appealed to the sports enthusiasts to come forward to help sportspersons to excel at the state, centre and international levels. He urged the teachers to create an interest in sports among children. Sports participation would improve academic performance. Sports would improve physical fitness too, he pointed out. The Mana Ooru Mana Badi is a revolutionary programme and it is changing

the face of the schools in the State, he said, and added that the programme is intended to provide basic amenities and also digital classrooms in the schools. The Minister presented Rs 1 lakh to Shantakumar who played volleyball on behalf of the country. She hailed from Chityal village. A double bedroom too was allotted to her, he said.

Zilla Parishad Chairman Loknath Reddy, Municipal Vice-Chairman Vakati Sridhar and others were present.

MANA OORU MANA BADI

Officials told to complete works in 2 schools in each mandal by month-end

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

District Collector S Venkata Rao on Thursday directed the officials concerned to ensure that at least two schools in each mandal in the district get a facelift by June 30 under the Mana Ooru Mana Badi programme.

Addressing the officials concerned and the engineers via video conference from the District Collectorate, Venkata Rao said that the officials can now buy cement required for developmental works in schools. He directed the engineers to focus on developmental activities on school. The officials of the Education Department, engineers,



schools committees and headteachers participated in the conference.

A total of 68 schools were selected under the Mana Ooru Mana Badi programme in the district. Developmental works were also launched in these

schools. He directed the officials to upload to the official website the photos showing the extent of work carried out in the school by Thursday evening. The headteachers should take the responsibility of uploading the photos to the official website.

The Collector instructed the engineers to take precautions in building water sumps in the schools. He asked the officials to cover the sumps to ensure that children would not fall into them accidentally.

District Education Officer Usharani, engineers of all departments, Mandal Education Officers, school complex headteachers and others were present.

Collector directs AOs to ensure availability of seeds, fertilisers

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

District Collector A Sharath has said that it is the duty of agriculture officers to ensure that the hard work of farmers do not go waste.

He reviewed the area under various crops, the Vanakalam cultivation plan, and the availability of seeds and fertilisers with the officials of the Agriculture Department at the Collectorate here on Thursday.

He asked officers and Agriculture Extension Officers to discharge their duties with commitment. He wanted them to encourage farmers to cultivate high-yielding varieties of crops with low input cost and suggest soil-specific crops. The objective of appointing AEOs should be fulfilled, he said.

He suggested to the AEOs that they mingle with farmers and sensitise them on suitable crops for specific soil and also



Sangareddy Collector A Sharath at a review meeting in Sangareddy on Thursday

on seeds and fertilisers.

He wanted them to be accessible to the farmers round the clock and educate them on Vanakalam crops. Care should be taken to ensure the availability of suitable quantities of seeds and fertilisers. At the same time, they should check spurious seeds and adulterated pesticides. Further, he asked them to conduct raids on seed shops and send seed samples to

fertilizers to the farmers in their mandal. AEOs should prepare clusterwise seed and crop plans, he said. The AOs should check supply of outside cotton seeds by keeping a strict vigil on such people, he said.

He asked the agriculture officials to take steps to ensure that the farmers receive benefit under Rythu Bandhu scheme at any cost and asked them to update the farmers bank accounts, if not updated so far.

He warned of taking stern action against AEOs if there is any complaint lodged by farmers, he said. AEOs should undertake cluster-wise drive once again to assess the qualified farmers under Rythu Bandhu. AOs and the AEOs should complete the process in two or three days to ensure that bereaved family members of farmers get insurance benefits, if denied due to any reason, under Rythu Bima.

Congress plans protests against Agnipath on June 27

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC President Revanth Reddy announced on Thursday that the Congress would stage protests across the state on June 27 against Agnipath. He called upon party leaders and cadres to participate in the protests. He also said that he will meet those arrested by the police in connection with the Secunderabad Railway Station violence in Chanchalguda jail on June 24. He said that he will also hire advocates for them as he knew their problems.



BJP focusing on TNGO to attract union leaders

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP is continuing its attempts to expand its footprint in Telangana in all possible manners.

As part of it, the BJP is eyeing the unions of Telangana government employees and has assigned the job of attracting them to former Legislative Council chairman Swamy Goud and former TSPSC member Vittal Swamy Goud, a Telangana Non-Gazetted Officers (TNGO) Association leader, who was also the president of TNGO for several years and had played a key role in the Telangana movement as convener of a Telangana Joint Action Committee, has held talks with TNGO leaders, it is learnt.

Swamy Goud participated in the recently held condolence meeting of former TNGO president Swaminathan held a few days ago. Swamy Goud didn't speak anything other than Swaminathan's life history on

that day. But it is learnt that Swamy Goud is in touch with some leaders.

BJP leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar had said that many employee union leaders were functioning as sycophants of the TRS government at the cost of employees' rights. He also asked the employee leaders to work for the rights of employees. One of the employee leaders, who had played an important role during the Telangana movement, told 'The Pioneer' that there are employee union leaders who are ready to join the BJP if the BJP approaches them in a proper manner. There were union leaders expecting MLAs tickets looking at political parties, particularly the BJP, as it is a national party and can provide more opportunities, he said.

It may be recalled that TNGO is under the control of the TRS particularly former employee union leader and current Tourism Minister V Srinivas Goud.

Bidding for Rajiv Swagruha houses, plots to be held

PNS ■ NALGONDA

District Collector Rahul Sarma has said that the public auction of open plots and houses in Rajiv Swagruha Srivalli Township in Yellareddyguda under Narketpalli mandal would be held for three more days i.e. up to June 26.

The second phase of the auction was held at Collectorate for the fourth day here on Thursday. He said that the Srivalli township is very close to the Nalgonda municipality. The auction is being carried out to ensure that the middle classes get houses and open plots at affordable prices, he said asking the interested to take part in the auction, which will end on June 26. During the four days of the auction, so far the government earned Rs 4.01 crore, he said asking people to contact the project manager Shafuddin on his mobile 9154339209 for further details.



NIA searches house Naxalite leader's son

PNS ■ MEDAK

The officials of National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted a search at the house of Devender, son of a Maoist leader, Dubashi Shankar, at Chegunta on Thursday. Devender is living at Chegunta with his wife Swapna and children.

It may be recalled that

Shankar was arrested by Odisha police in September last year. The NIA also raided the same house in November last year.

The NIA officials did not share any information with the local police. The officials evaded answers to questions by the local media persons. Shankar hailed from Narasampally village in Siddipet district.

CPI organises road blockade demanding land for landless

PNS ■ WARANGAL

The Communist Party of India (CPI) on Thursday organised road blockade agitation at Kakatiya University Pegadapelly Dabballu junction in support of its demand for distribution of land for the landless. CPI State secretariat member Takkapalli Srinivas organised the agitation.

Speaking on the occasion,

Srinivas demanded that the police arrest those who attacked poor people. He criticised Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao for failing to fulfil his promise of giving double bedroom houses to the poor in Warangal district. It was surprising that the officials had turned a deaf ear to the instructions given by the Chief Minister. He said the land grabbers in Warangal

and Hanamkonda districts were orchestrating attacks on the poor people who pitched huts on the government lands. He stressed the need to curb the rowdy elements.

CPI district secretary Karre Bhikshapathi, party state secretariat member Nedunur Jyothi, party district unit assistant secretary Tota Bhikshapathi and others were present.



CPI leaders and activists staging road blockade at Kakatiya University in Warangal on Thursday

MRPS targets BJP's NEC meets, PM's meeting over quotas

K. VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

The BJP has to face the music from the Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi (MRPS) on July 2 and 3 as the MRPS has targeted the BJP's National Executive Committee (NEC) meetings and Prime Minister Modi's public meeting being held on July 2 and July 3 respectively demanding that the BJP government should categorise SC reservations immediately.

The MRPS has decided to observe Telangana 'Sadak Bandh' on July 2, the day the BJP National Executive Committee meeting starts at the HICC Novotel Hotel. The MRPS is also planning to organise a 'Chalo Hyderabad'

programme on July 3, the day the BJP is organising Modi's public meeting at the Parade Grounds with 10 lakh people.

MRPS Founder President Manda Krishna Madiga has issued a circular regarding this to MRPS allied organisations like the MSP, the VHPs, the MSF, the MLF, the MEF, the MMS, the MYS, the MKM, and the MJF to make the Sadak Bandh and Chalo Hyderabad programmes a big success. In a statement, Manda Krishna Madiga said that the BJP had been saying that it supports the demand to categorise f SC reservations since the movement was launched in the year 1994 but the BJP leaders had adopted delaying tactics instead of solving the issue. He said that the MRPS

organised Chalo Delhi programmes several times to air the hopes of Madigas to the BJP government in vain. The BJP leaders told the MRPS leaders every time that they will solve the matter but failed to do so. The Centre too didn't take the issue seriously.

In this context, the MRPS decided to show the intensity of the demand by SCs regarding categorisation of SC reservations to the BJP in Telangana, Manda Krishna said. The MRPS would demonstrate its strength by organising a Sadak Bandh on June 2 and Chalo Hyderabad on July 3, he said. He called upon MRPS activists to participate in the Chalo Hyderabad programme to air their grievances to Prime Minister Modi.

Minister advises farmers to cultivate commercial crops

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy on Thursday advised farmers to switch to cultivation of commercial crops to improve their income.

Interacting with the farmers at Marpakunta of Penpahad mandal, Jagadish Reddy said that cultivation of paddy was not profitable to farmers.

Crop change would also improve the fertility of the soil. The farmers should take up the cultivation of commercial crops in place of traditional crops like paddy, he pointed out.

He recalled that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao was working with the goal of creating income of Rs



Minister for Energy G Jagadish interacting with farmers at Marpakunta village in Suryapet district on Thursday

one lakh per acre for the farmers in the State. The state government has built irrigation projects, such as the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, to provide irrigation

facilities for the farmers. The farmers should also cooperate and take up cultivation of commercial crops to turn the dream of the Chief Minister into a reality, he said.

Officials asked to make society tobacco-free

PNS ■ MEDAK

Additional Collector Pratima Singh on Thursday urged District Coordination Committee to strive for making society free from tobacco habit and check smoking.

Addressing members of the committee at the Praja Vaani conference hall here on Thursday, she wanted officials to prepare plans at the PHC

level to regulate use of tobacco by people.

She expressed concern over the harm being done to youth by the tobacco and wanted the committee to save the youth from the cancer risk. DMHO Dr Venkateswar Rao suggested counseling the youth against smoking tobacco and wanted the police to fine those who smoke in public places.



Medak Additional Collector Pratima Singh and officials displaying posters in support of the campaign against use of tobacco, in Medak on Thursday

INDIA CORNER

Docs stage protest against proposed move to pool J-K PG medical seats

Doctors on Thursday staged a protest against the Jammu and Kashmir administration's proposed move to pool 50 per cent post-graduate seats from Government Medical College (GMC) and all seats of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences for all-India quota this year. Accompanied by medical students, the doctors staged a protest in front of the GMC office here in support of their demand for shelving the idea until more post-graduate seats are allotted to new medical colleges in the Union Territory. "The idea, if implemented, will harm the interests of the aspiring PG candidates of Jammu and Kashmir as we have a meagre number of seats which would be further reduced," Dr Shushant Kharke, one of the protesters, told PTI. The National Conference, Congress and Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party have come forward in support of the protesting doctors and urged the administration to reconsider the proposed move in the larger interest of the people of the Union Territory.



Merchant vessel that ran aground faces threat of sinking completely

The merchant vessel Princess Miral, which ran aground off Ullal near here is now submerged by 70 percent and is facing the threat of sinking completely as the sea is rough with high waves, official sources said. The ship agency owning the vessel is exploring ways to prevent the ship from sinking. The ship's owner is holding talks with the representative of Marcan shipping agency based here. The experts have to arrive from the Smith Salvage company of Mumbai to rescue the ship. It is learnt that the owner of the ship may try to salvage the cargo of steel coils, which is worth crores of rupees, sources said. The ship was carrying the steel coils from Malaysia to Lebanon. Due to a technical fault, a hole developed in the front part of the ship. Though the agents of the vessel tried to bring it to New Mangalore Port (NMP) or the Old Port here for repair, permission was not granted.



Govt-appointed panel on EV fire cases to submit report this month

An expert committee set up by the road transport ministry to investigate cases of electric two-wheelers catching fire and suggest remedial measures is likely to submit its report this month, a senior government official said on Friday. Recently, there have been multiple incidents of electric vehicles (EVs) catching fire and resulting in death and causing severe injuries to people. "The expert committee (formed on battery standards and certification) is likely to submit its report this month," the official told PTI. Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari had recently said companies found negligent will be penalised and a recall of all defective vehicles will be ordered after the expert panel submits its report. The government had ordered a probe in April after an e-scooter launched by ride-hailing operator Ola's electric mobility arm engulfed in fire in Pune.





BRICS members have similar approach to governance: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BRICS member nations have a similar approach to the governance of the global economy and mutual cooperation can make a useful contribution to the post-Covid economic recovery, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday.

The Prime Minister said this in his opening remarks at the virtual BRICS annual summit in presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and top leaders of Brazil and South Africa. The summit is being hosted by China as the Chair for this year.

The BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) brings together five of the largest developing countries of the world, representing 41 per cent of the global population, 24 per cent of the global GDP and 16 per cent of the global trade. "Our mutual cooperation can make a useful contribution to the global post-Covid recovery," Modi said.

He said the structural changes undertaken in the BRICS in the last few years increased the influence of the grouping. It is a matter of happiness that membership of the New Development Bank (NDB) has increased, Modi said adding cooperation among the member countries has benefitted their citizens.

"I am confident that our deliberations today will produce suggestions to further strengthen our ties," he said.

First Bharat Gaurav train arrives in Nepal

PNS ■ KATHMANDU

The inaugural Bharat Gaurav train, connecting destinations associated with Ramayana Circuit in India and Nepal, arrived in Nepal's Janakpur on Thursday with 500 tourists from India. The 14-coach train, which arrived at Janakpur Dham station, was flagged off from Delhi's Safdarjung railway station on Tuesday.

The Indian government had launched this initiative to join all the major places related to Lord Ram and Sita and develop the Ramayana Circuit.

The train operating on the Ramayana Circuit will also cover the religious destination of Janakpur (Nepal) for the first time in addition to other popular destinations such as Ayodhya, Nandigram, Sitamarhi, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, Panchvati, Hampi, Rameshwaram and Bhadrachalam.

The tourists will visit Janaki temple for darshan, witness a cultural programme in the premises of Janaki Temple and participate in Ganga Aarti, according to a press release from the Indian Embassy.

India, China discuss return of stranded students

PNS ■ BEIJING

India and China have discussed the return of thousands of Indian students stranded at home for two years due to Beijing's COVID-19 bans and resumption of direct flights disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic, the Indian embassy here said on Thursday.

The vexed issue of the return of the Indian students figured in the talks between Indian Ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Wednesday.

Wang recalled his meeting with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar during his visit to New Delhi in March this year and mentioned that the Chinese side attached importance to the Indian side's concerns regarding the return of Indian students and that he hoped to see early progress on this, a press release from the Indian Embassy quoted Wang as saying.

Foreign Minister Wang also referred to discussions on the resumption of direct flight connectivity between the two sides, it said.

Ambassador Rawat conveyed that the relevant agencies in India are seized of the matter and we may see progress in the matter soon, it said.

China, in recent months, began permitting some foreign students to return to the country.

On June 20, the first batch of 90 Pakistani students, stuck back home for about two years due to China's strict visa restrictions, arrived in the Chinese city of Xian.

They are part of 250 Pakistani students China has agreed to permit to return based on their requirements while thousands more are awaiting Beijing's nod, according to the media reports from Pakistan.

Similarly, some of the stranded students from other countries including Russia and Sri Lanka are being gradually allowed to return.

In April, after repeated representations from India, China agreed to permit the return of some Indian students and asked the Indian Embassy here to collect the details of those seeking to return.

As per China's official reports, over 23,000 Indian students are studying in Chinese colleges, mostly medical courses. Over 12,000 Indian students have expressed their wish to return and their details have been forwarded to the Chinese government for processing.

China is yet to come up with a criterion to permit the return of the students as Beijing is reluctant to allow their return at once in large numbers in view of the recent COVID-19 spike in the country.

AGNIPATH

BJP has 'broken' dream of lakhs of youth: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Attacking the BJP over the 'Agnipath' scheme, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said the ruling party has "broken the dream" of lakhs of youth to serve the country and asserted that a storm will rise from their tears that will break Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "arrogance of power".

Taking to Twitter, Gandhi posted a video of a young man in tears expressing anguish over having lost the chance to join the armed forces.

"There has not been any recruitment in the armed forces for the last two years. 2018-19: 53,431; 2019-20: 80,572; 2020-21: 0; 2021-22: 0," the former Congress chief said.

"By bringing 'Agniveers' on a four-year contract, the BJP has broken the dream of lakhs of youth to serve the nation. Such a storm will rise from these tears that will destroy the arrogance of power of the prime minister," Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

Addressing Congress parliamentarians and legislators from across the country who converged at the party headquarters here on Wednesday to express solidarity with him after he was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate, Gandhi had alleged that the BJP government "which calls itself nationalist" was "weakening" the armed forces through the 'Agnipath' scheme.

He had also said Modi will have to withdraw the military recruitment initiative just like he rolled back the farm laws.

Several parts of the country witnessed protests after the announcement of the scheme that seeks to recruit youths between the age bracket of 17-and-half years to 21 for only four years with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years.

NATIONAL HERALD CASE

ED asks Sonia Gandhi to depose late July

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has asked Congress president Sonia Gandhi to record her statement with the agency sometime in late July after it accepted her plea to postpone her deposition in a money-laundering case linked to the National Herald newspaper, officials said on Thursday.

She was issued a second summons for June 23 by the agency but the 75-year-old Congress leader could not keep the date as she "has been strictly advised to rest at home following her hospitalisation on account of Covid and lung infection".

Sources said the federal agency has postponed her questioning in the case for about four weeks and she has now been asked to depose sometime in the last week of July.

Gandhi was first issued the notice for an appearance on June 8 but after she reported positive for COVID-19, the summons for June 23 was issued.

The Congress president was on Monday discharged from a private Delhi hospital where she was admitted for coronavirus-related complications. She was admitted to the hospital on June 12, days after she tested positive for COVID-19 on June 2.

Her son and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has been questioned by the agency in the same case for about 54 hours over five days.

The probe relates to alleged financial irregularities in the Congress-promoted Young Indian Private Limited, which owns the National Herald newspaper.

The move to question the Gandhis was initiated after the ED recently registered a fresh case under the criminal provisions of the PMLA after a trial court here took cognisance of an Income Tax department probe against Young Indian based on a private criminal complaint filed by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy in 2013.

Sonia and Rahul Gandhi are among the promoters and majority shareholders of Young Indian. Like her son, the Congress president too has 38 per cent shareholding.

Swamy had accused the Gandhis and others of conspiring to cheat and misappropriate funds, with Young Indian paying only Rs 50 lakh to obtain the right to recover Rs 90.25 crore that Associated Journals Limited (AJL) owed to the Congress.

DELHI BANS ENTRY OF MEDIUM GOODS VEHICLES

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has issued an order banning the entry of medium and heavy goods vehicles in the national capital from November to February in an effort to curb vehicular pollution, officials said on Thursday. According to an official, entry of such vehicles will be banned from November 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023. Vehicular pollution leads to deterioration of air quality during the winter months, he added.

Prashant Kishor taunts Nitish Kumar on Bihar

PNS ■ PATNA

Jan Suraj campaign convenor Prashant Kishor on Thursday sought to puncture his former mentor Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's claims of having given a face-lift to the state's roads.

Kishor, who is touring the state as a spade-work for a full-time launch into politics, shared on his Twitter handle an image of a national highway passing through Madhuri district which reminded him of the "jungle raj of the 1990s".

Will protest if central agencies harass Abhishek: TMC

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The TMC on Thursday accused the BJP-led Centre of engaging in "political witch-hunt" as Enforcement Directorate (ED) interrogated party MP Abhishek Banerjee's wife Rujira Narula Banerjee in connection with a coal pilferage scam.

"The party warned of protests if 'harassment by central agencies' doesn't stop.

ED on Thursday quizzed Narula Banerjee at its city office in connection with its probe into the multi-crore rupees worth of coal scam, an official said.

She visited the agency's CGO complex office around 11 am, with her child in arms.

"The CBI and ED have been acting as agents of the BJP and harassing political opponents. The way Abhishek Banerjee and his wife are being harassed without any reason is unacceptable. This has to stop, or we won't sit idle. We will protest against it," TMC MP Santanu Sen said. "This political witch-hunt by the Centre is shameful," he said.

TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh claimed that "cheap tactics" are being employed by the BJP to intimidate the TMC, which is one of the prime contenders in the elections.

Polling to four Tripura Assembly seats -- Agartala, Town, Bardowali, Surma and Jubarajinagar -- is underway in 221 booths since 7 am, and it will continue till 5 pm.

The state BJP leadership, however, denied the allegations as baseless and said ED is an independent agency devoid of any political influence.



GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT
NOTIFICATION :: FORM - C
(Under Section-11 of the Act where 10 A Exemption is given)
(See rule 6/12)

Gazette No: GHMC-42
No. A/60/SRDP/2022

Dated: 15.06.2022
Dated: 10.05.2022

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector that a total of 13.00 Sq.Yds of land is required in the Bahadurpura Village, Bahadurpura Mandal, Hyderabad District for proposed road widening for Strategic Road Development project/ purpose of Multi Level Fly Over at Bahadurpura Junction. Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the Bahadurpura Village, Bahadurpura Mandal, Hyderabad District land measuring more or less 13.00 Sq.Yds of Standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition:

S. No.	Premises No.	Type of Title	Type of Land	Area under acquisition as per regulation in Sq. Yds	Name of person interested	Boundaries										Trees	Structure
						North	South	East	West	Width	No.	Type	Finish				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
1	19-1-874(2/1)	Owner	Patna	13.00	Habeeb Latib Bin Mohammed & other	As per sketch										-	-
				Total	13.00												

This Notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No.30/2013), as amended by the Right to Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern.


A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector & District Magistrate on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana/Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Officer i.e., Spl. Dy. Collector, Land Acquisition, GHMC, Hyderabad and his Survey staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section -12 of the said Act.

Under Section 11 (4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale / purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of notification without prior approval of the Collector. Objections to the acquisition if any, and claims from all the persons interested / affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this Notification as provided under Section 15 of the Act before District Collector / Authorized officer.

Sd/- Special Deputy Collector (FAC)
LA, GHMC, Hyderabad.

Sd/- Special Collector (LA) & Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad.

DIPR No. 293/LA/PP-Pub/2022-23



TELANGANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL OFFICE - I, RANGAREDDY DISTRICT
H.No.6-3-1219, Block C, Ward No.91, 2nd Floor, Backside of Country Club, Kundanbagh, Umanagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION
In accordance with the Notification No. S.O. 1533 (E), Dated 14-09-2006 of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, it is hereby notified that the mining activity above 5.0 Ha is required Public Hearing. 5.038 Ha (12.45 Acres) [6.0 Acres in A-Zone, Block No.32A, 4.0 Acres in B-Zone, Block No.32B and 2.45 Acres in Common Area] Stone & Metal and Gravel / Monum quarry of M/s. Sri Tirumala Stone Sand Metal Industry, Sy.No.268, Chinnarayana (V), Abdulapurmet (M), Rangareddy District, Telangana State has proposed to conduct Environmental Public Hearing in Rangareddy District for the proposed project. The details of the project activities given by the project authorities are as follows:

1/Name of the Project with Phone Number / Address	5.038 Ha (12.45 Acres) [6.0 Acres in A-Zone, Block No.32A, 4.0 Acres in B-Zone, Block No.32B and Ac2.45gts in Common Area] Stone & Metal and Gravel / Monum quarry of M/s. Sri Tirumala Stone Sand Metal Industry, Sy.No.268, Chinnarayana (V), Abdulapurmet (M), Rangareddy District, Telangana State
2. Location of the Project	Sy.No.268, Chinnarayana (V), Abdulapurmet (M), Rangareddy District, Telangana State
3. Name of the Authorized person to be Contacted with address and Phone No.	Smt. B.Prabhavathi, Proprietor, M/s. Sri Tirumala Stone Sand Metal Industry, H.No.17-1-385/88, SN Reddy Nagar Colony, Champapet, Hyderabad - 500079 Ph. No 99595 83369 Email: srithirumala@yahoo.com
4/Capital Cost of the Project	Total cost of the project is Rs. 40 Lakhs.
5/Name of the project consultant/ environmental consultant	TEAM Labs Consultants B-115-117 & 509, Annappuram Block, Aditya Enclave, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500038. Email:teamlabs@gmail.com Phone: 040-23748555/23748616
6. Line of activity & Capacity	Stone & Metal and Gravel / Monum Quarry
7/Date/Time/Venue of Public Hearing	26.07.2022 02.00 P.M. Venue: At Project Site i.e., Sy.No.268, Chinnarayana (V), Abdulapurmet (M), Rangareddy District, Telangana State
8. Place of the availability of Executive Summary (Telugu & English) & Draft EIA Report of the proposed project along with C.D. 1. C/o. The District Collector, Rangareddy District. 2. C/o. The CEO, Zilla Parishad, Rangareddy District. 3. C/o. The District Industries Centre, Rangareddy District. 4. Regional Office, Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, 3rd Floor, Anna Bhavan, Salt Lake, Hyderabad, Telangana. 5. T.S. Pollution Control Board, Regional Office-I, Rangareddy District, H.No.6-3-1219 Block C, Ward No.91, 2nd Floor, Backside of Country Club, Kundanbagh, Umanagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016. 6. C/o. T.S. Pollution Control Board, Payyanwara Bhawan, A-3, Industrial Estate, Sarathnagar, Hyderabad-500016. 7. C/o. T.S. Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office, H.No.6-3-1219, Block C, Ward No.91, 1st Floor, Backside of Country Club, Kundanbagh, Umanagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016. 8. Revenue Divisional Office, Ibrahimpatnam, Rangareddy District. 9. Tahsiladar Office, Abdulapurmet Mandal, Rangareddy District. 10. The Executive summary of the project both in Telugu & English are available at Gram Panchayat office of Chinnarayana Village.	

Suggestions, Views, Comments and objections of the Public, if any, are invited within 30 days from the date of Publication of this Notification. All the interested persons can also make written suggestions to the undersigned Officer of the T.S. Pollution Control Board and can also participate in the proceedings of the Public Hearing on the date, time and venue specified above.

Place : Rangareddy District
Date : 23.06.2022

Sd/- Environmental Engineer
TSPCB, Regional Office -I, Ranga Reddy dt.

R.O. No. : 305-PP/COL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23 Date: 23-06-2022



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Down, but not out

Uddhav's precarious position in Maharashtra may be a setback but doesn't mean the end of the road

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's departure from his official residence 'Varsha' on Wednesday night to his family home 'Matoshree' may seem to be a decline, if not the end, of his family's hold over the party that his father, Bal Thackeray, built. It was quite emotional, with a large number of Shiv Sainiks showing solidarity with him. As emotional as his (farewell?) speech: "Will quit as Chief Minister and leave official residence if even one of the disgruntled MLAs says he doesn't want me as Chief Minister." His speech was on Facebook, as he has been infected with the Coronavirus. He made three main points that need to be highlighted. One, he presented himself as an atypical politician; he is not among those for whom power is to be grabbed at any cost: "I have kept letter of my resignation as Chief Minister ready, willing to resign this very moment." Two, his party is still with him: "Getting calls from MLAs who have gone with Eknath Shinde; they are claiming that they were forcibly taken away." And, finally, he has reiterated his adherence to Hindu nationalism: "Shiv Sena can't be separated from Hindutva." His followers and sympathisers will agree with him, but others may like to raise a few questions. The Shiv Sena fought and won the 2019 Assembly election in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party,



with the BJP's Devendra Fadnis as the chief ministerial candidate. Then why did Shiv Sena ditch the BJP, the only other Hindutva force in the country, for the parties that are inherently anti-Hindutva?

Further, are Shiv Sena legislators calves and cubs that could be forcibly taken away to a State hundreds of miles away? And if that is the case, Thackeray cannot be absolved of the blame of having given tickets to so many weaklings, for he also happens to be the supreme leader of the party. One can still sympathise with a leader who has been abandoned by his followers, but his competence in running the party and Government leaves a lot to be desired. He obviously failed to gauge the intensity of resentment in his own party, as is evident from the fact that two out of three of his MLAs were with Shinde. The exodus continues. On Thursday morning, three more Sena MLAs — Deepak Keskar, Mangesh Kudalkar and Sada Sarvankar — flew to Assam where the rebels are camping. So, is the party over for Uddhav, indeed for the Thackeray family? If that is the case, it may imply that a political party has been able to shrug off the shackles of the family that birthed it. It would, however, be premature to reach the conclusion that the Thackeray family's political career has ended; it is down but it may not be out. Like Chirag Paswan, who lost control over the LJP but claims to be the inheritor of Ram Vilas Paswan's legacy. Let's wait and watch.

PICTALK



A man rides a bicycle as monsoon clouds hover in the sky in Nadia district, West Bengal

PTI

Vendetta?

The UP Govt's action of bulldozing illegal houses in the State has raised a lot of heat and dust

The Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh Government has been brazening out the allegations of 'bulldozer politics', which is basically a euphemism for targeting those people who have been speaking out against the ruling BJP Government. The issue snowballed into a major controversy after the properties of certain people accused of participating in violent protests against remarks by two former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders on Prophet Muhammad were demolished to allegedly punish them for raising their voice against the establishment. In fact, the issue has reached even the Supreme Court, where the State Government submitted that "no property in the State was demolished to punish" people. Though the State has clarified that bulldozers were pressed into service to raze illegal constructions in accordance with municipal laws and after providing due opportunity to the violators, it is too much of a coincidence that the action came about soon after protests broke out in Kanpur and Prayagraj in the first fortnight of June against now-suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and expelled party leader Naveen Jindal for their remarks against Prophet Muhammad. Subsequently, the UP Government demolished three properties in these cities.



The Government took the stand that these demolitions "had no relation to the riots", and that the actions were taken as part of the ongoing demolition drive against encroachment and illegal construction. Though it sounds like the first plausible excuse that the State Government took the stringent steps in accordance with statutes, the two applications filed by Muslim body Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind asked for restrictions on the State Government on further action. However, the Government's contention was that the organisation "deliberately obfuscated the true facts to paint a nefarious picture of alleged mala fide on the part of the administration". Referring to the two properties partly demolished in Kanpur, the Government claimed that proceedings were initiated under municipal law long before the riots in June — in one case, in August 2020 and, in another, in February 2020. The violators are said to have even admitted to the illegality of the buildings and moved applications for compounding the acts by payment of appropriate charges. But we, the people, don't really know which side the truth stands on. Suffice to say, it's the public's duty to respect the maintenance of law and order and the Government's to not take revengeful action against its own citizens.

Freedom of speech & expression is alive

Contrary to claims that the situation in present-day India is worse than in the days of Emergency, press at the time was throttled and dissenters jailed



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

In Latin, 'Ut est rerum omnium magister usus' means "Experience is the best teacher". The term was popularised by management gurus with sufficient evidence and proof. This is a phrase attributed to the great Roman General Julius Caesar and finds mention in *De Bello Civili*, his war memoirs.

A major reason for opposition to war, which is common among the Europeans, could be their shocking experiences from the two World Wars in which millions perished and many more were maimed. There are accounts by authors like Winston Churchill (the former British Prime Minister who had covered the First World War for *The Pioneer*) about the post-WWII Europe totally devastated. The sights were unbearable and the generation that grew up experiencing the economic hardship and poverty became strong critics of any kind of war. Late MKK Nair, a former bureaucrat, had given first-hand information about England in the aftermath of WWII. Nair, who was undergoing professional training in Plymouth, has written in his autobiography 'With No Ill-Feeling Against Anybody' that only kids were eligible for sugar and chocolates: "Since there was severe shortage of power, only limited quantity of water could be heated for bathing as the winter was at its peak."

When maverick musician TM Krishna (born in 1976) declared in a public function sometime back that there was no freedom of expression or right to speak one's mind, the media highlighted his speech as if he was disclosing something new. What the musician forgot was that his statement reminded one of the term 'oxymoron' as his disclosure was poles apart from the reality. If there is no freedom of speech or right to dissent, would the media highlight the claim as a major report?

The comedy lies in the truth that Krishna and his generation, born in the post-internal Emergency phase, do not know the seriousness of freedom of expression. There was a time



when the Indian subcontinent was under the spell of dictatorship as well as despotism. The generation that grew up in that period stood silently when human rights, civil rights and freedom of speech and expression were crushed to powder by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, her younger son Sanjay and a cartel of persons who were members of their court. That was the era when the Prime Minister had the audacity to defend corruption in high places by describing it as "a global phenomenon".

What led to the declaration of Emergency and suspension of Constitution was a verdict by the Allahabad Bench of the Lucknow High Court on a petition filed by Raj Narain, the socialist leader who had challenged Indira's election from Rae Bareilly in the 1971 general election. Raj Narain, an unusual politician, had alleged that Indira had utilised the services of Yashpal Kapoor, her personal secretary, for campaign-related works. Being a Government servant, Kapoor was not supposed to do Indira's political bidding. It was gross violation of the Representation of People's

“THE GENERATION THAT GREW UP IN THAT PERIOD STOOD SILENTLY WHEN HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION WERE CRUSHED TO POWDER BY THEN PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI, HER YOUNGER SON SANJAY GANDHI AND THEIR COTERIE

Act, argued lawyer Shanti Bhushan who appeared for Raj Narain.

On June 12, 1975, Justice Jagmohan Lal Sinha set aside Indira's election and disqualified her from contesting any election for six years. Justice Sinha was kind enough to stay his own judgment to enable Indira to appeal in the Supreme Court. By the time of the verdict, there had been widespread resentment against Indira. Members of her 'kitchen cabinet' advised her to proclaim Emergency, arrest the Opposition leaders and throw them behind bars. Thankfully, there were no satellite TV channels while All India Radio and Doordarshan had the monopoly over public broadcast. Gandhi declared press censorship which made the newspapers to seek permission from censor officers for publishing news. All India Radio was labelled 'All India Radio' globally as the world's largest radio network started airing only the speeches and songs eulogising 'Madam Indira'. People who now allege that there is no freedom of expression and speech in India should take out some time and read the archived newspaper copies!

There are some political

greenhorns who allege that the situation in present-day India is worse than in the days of Emergency. They should not forget that thousands across the country were jailed, assaulted and tortured by the police for criticising Indira. Musicians should focus on *raagas* and *thaalas* instead of commenting about freedom of expression. And the fact that such allegations hogged the limelight makes it oxymoronic! It is good to see in newspapers and news channels criticism levelled against the Narendra Modi Government for its omissions and commissions. If there is no freedom of expression, how come these reports and news get published? The sad thing is that while Indira and her men and women bulldozed the media, the Modi regime is ignoring it. The bosses may be under the impression that the best way to insult the critics is to ignore them (it is also true that many of them deserve to be ignored!) But freedom of expression is sacred and it is a sin to spread falsehoods about it.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TRAGEDY IN AFGHANISTAN

Sir — It's heartbreaking! A powerful earthquake (5.9 magnitude) struck a remote border region of Afghanistan killing at least 1,000 people and injured more than 1,500, reminiscent of 1998 when a 6.1 magnitude quake in the north-east of Afghanistan killed at least 4,500 people and injured more than 10,000. The scenario is so tragic that every street one goes to, he/she hears people mourning the deaths of their beloved ones. It's a pity that the isolated Afghanistan regime may face struggle for aid after the earthquake, because humanitarian appeals for Taliban-ruled countries have had poor responses and there are sanctions.

The Taliban's supreme leader, Haibatullah Akhundzadah, pleaded with the international community to help the Afghan people affected by this tragedy and to spare no effort. Reacting to the request made by the Taliban leaders, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India stands by the people of Afghanistan in their difficult times and is ready to provide all possible disaster relief material at the earliest. But with such a huge disaster, the said relief material is peanuts. Due to the Taliban Government's rigidity in the name of Islam, many peoples are not ready to help the poor Afghans.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterje | Faridabad

COVID SCARE BACK TO HAUNT INDIA

Sir — Under pressure, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya chaired the high-level review meeting with the core team of experts over alarming increasing cases of COVID-19 in the country. India has been witnessing an increase in Coronavirus infections over the last couple of weeks. As per reports, Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal and Gujarat have over 1,000 active cases. India saw a single-day rise of 13,313 new Coronavirus infections, tak-

Murmu set to create history



By fielding Droupadi Murmu, a tribal leader from Odisha as the NDA's presidential candidate, the BJP has revealed its trump card. If she wins the July 18 poll, Murmu will become the first person from the tribal (Adivasi) community, the first native of Odisha and the second woman ever after Pratibha Patil to occupy the top post. She is set to follow in the footsteps of KR Narayanan and Ram Nath Kovind, who

both rose from the poor and downtrodden stratum to become the President. At the same time, the Opposition pick, Yashwant Sinha, would do well not to act wiser than Sharad Pawar or Farooq Abdullah or Gopal Krishna Gandhi, who refused to contest in the losing game.

As far the post of President is concerned, political parties should not have missed the opportunity to strike a cordial note and work out a national consensus when the outcome of the presidential election is a foregone conclusion. As the NDA headed by the BJP has the required numbers to go it alone, the Opposition should have fallen in line to support a non-controversial lesser known tribal woman who has risen from the ranks to a creditable political career. In a bid to put up a show of notional fight, the Opposition has only ended up showing fissures. The NDA, too, can't escape the blame for its disdain for consensus.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

ing the infection tally to 4,33,44,958, while the active cases have increased to 83,990, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday June 23.

The death toll has climbed to 5,24,941. In a review meeting of INSACOG, States/UTs were asked to submit "larger number" of samples for whole genome sequencing from districts and areas which have seen a surge in COVID-19 cases over a period of seven days. According to the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) experts, Omicron and its sub-lineages, primarily BA.2 and BA.2.38, as of now, seem to be behind the current rise in COVID cases. With this, the matter related to COVID in India is very serious and dangerous.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

GUIDELINES FOR LOWER JUDICIARY

Sir — The Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has set a good precedent by issuing a circular according to which no judicial officer shall receive, see off and

visit the visiting Chief Justice or judges during court hours. The significance of this circular is better understood by the clients. If the judicial officers visit the visiting Chief Justice or other judges of High Court, the cases listed for that day stand adjourned for one or two months. If at least the Chief Justice and other judges visit once in a year, and in all it will be at least three or four times a year.

In each case, if the case listed for that day is not heard for one or two months, the case stands prolonged for about a year. This is one of the reasons for delayed delivery of justice. This may not be the case in any other department. If a judge leaves his seat, no one else can discharge his duties. Hence the importance of this circular is high. Another point is that if the visiting Chief Justice or other judges want to hold a meeting, it will be done before or after court hours.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

This year, we are expecting 7.5 per cent growth, which makes us the fastest growing major economy.



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi



Sri Lanka PM —Ranil Wickremesinghe

It (favourite co-star) has to be Sidharth Malhotra. He is very handsome.



Actor —Kiara Advani



India batter —Cheteshwar Pujara

From one rank, one pension, this Government has gone to no rank, no pension.



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

FIRST COLUMN

INDIA AT BRICS AND G7:
TOUGH BALANCING ACT

Navigating through China's assertiveness, Putin's Ukraine war



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

India's diplomatic and foreign policy calendar has been swinging between a diverse bunch of power blocks. India had a tough challenge to attend the 14th BRICS summit held virtually under the chairmanship of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

It was a tough call, given India's frosty relationship with China over the border tensions and sharing a platform (virtually) with Russian President Vladimir Putin, now considered a global outlaw. The BRICS summit was themed on Global Development; it's actually a message China wants to send across, placing itself at the centre of economic prosperity for the globe. This position has traditionally been claimed by the US and its Western allies.

It is interesting to note how the Chinese communist party's foreign policy propaganda newspaper, the Global Times, reported on the significance of the BRICS summit. In one of its recent reports, it mentioned the most novel proposition of this summit, BRICS expansion. The presence of Putin and several new invitees is also open to various interpretations. The Ukraine crisis has seen fissures emerge in the G20; and adding new members to BRICS could make it an alternative minus US and its allies.



This could also mean an expanded BRICS overtaking G7 earlier than imagined. In some of the other paragraphs the report lays emphasis on the "Global South cooperation," the presence of India in both the US-led Quad framework and BRICS, India's exit from the China-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), while accepting to be a founding member of US-led Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

While China's foreign policy department officially stuck to "high-quality partnership amongst BRICS, usher in new era for global development," as the core agenda, its allied arms such as the newspaper report mentioned above was setting the real agenda for the summit.

India moves away from the BRICs summit to another important multilateral, the Commonwealth Summit which is taking place in Rwanda's capital Kigali over the weekend. Leaders of 54 countries from Asia, Africa, South America, and Europe participate in the commonwealth summit which most often has been described as a club of erstwhile UK colonies, discussing their internal affairs, rather than coming out with a significant outcome-driven agenda for world affairs.

However, this diverse group of nations also represents the confluence of developing and the developed world, the former rulers meeting the former colonies, to indulge in some creative solutions for existing and emerging problems. It is a different matter that much of the commonwealth nations except the larger and more prosperous ones have been denied access to vaccines and therapeutic remedies to counter the Covid pandemic by the powerful nations. India will be represented at the summit by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

However, one of the most eyeball-grabbing meetings will be the G7 in Schloss Elmau, against the backdrop of the Bavarian Alps in Germany next week. India has been invited for this meeting as a guest and will be represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in person. This is the fourth consecutive time India has been invited for this prestigious global policy leaders meeting.

The G7, which is a group of most prosperous nations of the world which are some of the largest donors to international bodies, together make the most influential voice for global policy directions. This year, the G7 presidency has been taken over by Germany, which will push for some coordinated policy actions on the ongoing war in Ukraine, its impact on food inflation, particularly in the developing nations, the climate crisis, the Covid pandemic, and its impact.

India has some tough balancing acts to do on multilateral platforms. *(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)*

COVID crisis led to distress employment

There is an urgent need to generate more decent and productive employment for the increasing labour force in the country



BALWANT SINGH MEHTA

The National Statistical Office (NSO) released the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2020-21 report on June 14. At a first glance, the annual survey report shows an improvement in the employment situation with rise in employment and decline in the unemployment rate during the pandemic years compared to the previous years (PLFS survey years correspond to the agriculture year July to June).

This is quite unexpected, keeping in mind the severe economic disruption after the Covid-19 pandemic. The survey results differ from several other reports, which suggest that the employment situation in the country has worsened after the pandemic. This survey report has evoked heightened interest in the findings. It calls for further investigation as to whether these results are survey anomalies or indicate the changing employment situation in the country.

This article attempts to interpret the findings from the last three annual PLFS (2018-19, 2020-21 and 2020-21) reports, and try to understand the impact of Covid-19 pandemic by analysing some key labour market indicators.

The labour force participation rate as per usual status (reference period of last 365 days preceding the survey), which is the sum of those working and those available for work or unemployed, reported highest in the four years at 41.6 per cent in 2020-21. The worker population ratio (WPR) has increased from 35.3 per cent in 2018-19 to 39.8 per cent in 2020-21, which is the percentage of employed persons in the population.

On the other hand, the unemployment rate which is the percentage of unemployed in the labour force has eased from 5.8 per cent in 2018-19 to 4.2 per cent in 2020-21. The rural-urban division shows that the rise in WPR is in rural areas, which is almost 2.5 times higher than urban areas. It is well documented that the impact of Covid-19 in the rural economy was far less than urban, which is also reflected from the survey results.

A lot of people, particularly migrants engaged in the informal sector, lost their employment during the pandemic at the urban destinations. With no means of employment in urban areas, a large number of them have returned to their native places in rural areas, where they, along with their family members especially women, are engaged in locally available activities such as agriculture and related work for survival.

The survey results further reveal that the rise in WPR is largely credited to female than male, where WPR of the former has increased by 2.54 times more than the latter. This phenomenon is more pronounced in rural areas, where the female WPR has increased almost 3.2 times more (19.0 per cent to 27.1 per cent) than their urban counterparts (15 per cent to 17 per cent) during the pandemic years.

So, the rise in employment during the



WITH NO MEANS OF EMPLOYMENT IN URBAN AREAS, A LARGE NUMBER OF MIGRANTS RETURNED TO THEIR NATIVE PLACES IN RURAL AREAS WHERE THEY, ALONG WITH THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS, ARE ENGAGED IN LOCALLY AVAILABLE ACTIVITIES

The author is Senior Fellow, Institute for Human Development, Delhi



pandemic years is overwhelmingly of females in rural areas.

The industrial structure provides broad employment trends, where the employment in agriculture in developing countries like India is considered as subsistence and less productive, while employment in non-farm industrial and services is regarded as more productive. It is well documented that as the country progresses, the people move away from the less productive agriculture sector in rural areas to more productive non-farm industrial and services sectors in urban areas.

However, the industrial distribution of employment in India shows a reversal of the decades-long decline in agriculture share in recent years with more and more people moving into the farm sector in rural areas. The share of employment in agriculture has increased by 3 percentage points from 57.8 per cent in 2018-19 to 60.8 per cent in 2020-21.

This trend indicates that people are finding it difficult to get employment in non-farm sectors, and they are compelled to engage in subsistence farm activities due to the lack of other employment avenues. In rural areas, almost three-fourth (75.4 per cent) of the females are engaged in farm activities compared to around half of the male (53.8 per cent).

Thus, the rise in employment in rural areas has a huge implication on women's work, which is also reflected from increasing female's WPR. This reveals that the rise in share of employment in agriculture reflected the impact of economic slowdown and the pandemic.

The reverse migration from cities to rural areas would have only

increased the pressure on the farm sector to absorb the workers, especially females, leading to the distress employment.

The status of employment broadly indicates the quality of employment, where a regular salary is considered better quality of work than self-employed and casual labour. Regularity of work and social security benefits are associated with regular salaries, while social security provisions are generally not available for self-employed and casual labourer.

The PLFS survey reports show that the share self-employed has increased from 52.1 per cent in 2018-19 to 55.6 per cent in 2019-20, while the share of regular salaried (23.8 per cent to 21.1 per cent) and casual labour (24.1 per cent to 23.3 per cent) has declined during the last three years. This phenomenon is more pronounced in rural areas, where the share of the self-employed has increased relatively more (3.3 percentage points) than urban areas (1.7 percentage points).

However, the increase in share of the self-employed in rural areas is largely attributed to the rise in unpaid helpers in household enterprises (4.6 percentage points), while the share of own account workers and employer category has declined (-1.4 percentage points).

This indicates that the jump in female WPR in rural areas is contributed most by the increase in employment of helpers or unpaid family workers in household enterprises. A recent Niti Aayog report highlighted that the rise in 'disguised employment' or unpaid family workers is a more serious issue than unemployment in India. The decline in the share of regular salaried workers is another serious

concern, reflecting the worsening employment conditions with rise in low quality employment in recent pandemic years.

The above analysis reveals that the increase in employment in pandemic years is distress-driven and not necessarily any improvement in the overall employment in the country. This is shown in the report as an increase in terms of labour force participation rate, the worker-population ratio, and decline in the unemployment rate. It is also important to note that the share of employment in agriculture and allied activities, and especially employment of rural women, has gone up in recent years, which is mostly of distress type not productive or decent employment.

Further, the report also reveals that employment in the informal sector has increased during the pandemic years from 68.4 per cent to 71.4 per cent in 2020-21. Workers in the informal sector are for the most part not covered by any social security benefits and also not covered by the national labour laws and regulations. Such workers are most affected by any economic shocks such as the economic downturn after Covid-19.

In sum, the PLFS survey report (2020-21) indicates generation of new employment in the country during the pandemic years, but most of the new jobs are of distress or informal type, especially for females in rural areas.

In this context, there is an urgent need to generate or provide more decent and productive employment for the increasing labour force in the country, which is must to meet the SDG goal 8 targets of 'decent or productive employment for all' by 2030.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IF ANY OF THE REBEL MLAS SAYS THEY DON'T WANT ME AS CM, I'M READY TO RESIGN. I'M PREPARING MY RESIGNATION LETTER.
—MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER
UDDHAV THACKERAY



FORTY SENA MLAS ARE PRESENT WITH ME IN GUWAHATI. WE WILL TAKE BALASAHEB'S HINDUTVA AND LEGACY FORWARD.
—SHIV SENA REBEL FACTION LEADER
EKNATH SHINDE

India emerges as leader at WTO ministerial meet

India defended its right to extend subsidies to Indian fishermen, with contentious clauses removed



PK VASUDEVA

For the first time in a decade, members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), a 164-nation body, have finalised a historic deal at the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12). The four-day MC12 was extended by two days as trade ministers negotiated through the night at WTO headquarters, next to Lake Geneva, and negotiations continued till June 18 morning. India was at the centre of WTO negotiations at the MC12.

India has agreed to the proposal of no export restrictions on the World Food Programme. But internal food security concerns will take precedence. There is no work programme on agriculture, which could be considered as a good outcome for India as our agri-subsidy will not face any further scrutiny.

(The writer is former Senior Professor, International Trade and Member, Vivekananda International Foundation. The views expressed are personal.)

On the trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPS) waiver, an agreement could be reached only on vaccines. The official said negotiations for diagnostics and therapeutics would start in six months as demanded by developed countries.

This means India's demand to include diagnostics and therapeutics in the agreement did not find favour with developed countries. In October 2020, India, South Africa, and 63 co-sponsors had made the TRIPS waiver proposal to help middle- and low-income nations get access to Covid-19 vaccines and drugs. However, the discussions reached a deadlock in the TRIPS Council, the body responsible for monitoring the operation of the agreement. The draft agreement fell short of the original

proposal and includes only vaccines.

India had called for a TRIPS waiver for vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics to fight Covid-19 and future pandemics. India had held it was too late in the day if only vaccines were included because the pandemic had run its initial course. On a moratorium on customs duty on e-commerce transactions, countries agreed to extend it by another two years.

India put forth aggressive draft texts in all pillars of WTO negotiations rather than being reactive, as in the past. India brought the members together to a unanimous agreement on fisheries, health, and the future of WTO reforms, digital technology, food, and environment. India's principled stand at the WTO strengthened the voice of

the poor and the vulnerable globally.

An agreement at Geneva makes it the first trade deal since the 2013 Bali Ministerial, where members signed the WTO's first trade deal on a peace clause on public stockholding for food security purposes and a trade facilitation agreement. The consensus-driven, rule-making process at the multilateral trade organisation means even one member could thwart a deal at the last moment. After negotiations spilled over to the sixth day, 164 countries of the World Trade Organisation finally sealed a package deal in the wee hours on 18 June in Geneva with India leading the course.

In a first major agreement in nine years, the deal includes six major issues of importance for developing countries including

food security, balanced outcome fisheries subsidies, response to pandemic, and patents waiver on Covid-19 vaccines.

The deal that tested Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's negotiation skills saw several trade-offs between developed and developing countries during the two nights of marathon talks, going well past the June 16 afternoon deadline. "There is a good outcome on the issues that were long pending," Goyal said, adding that India completely protected the interests of fishermen and farmers. "All in all, it is a good package. Today there is no issue on which we have to be concerned, whether it is related to agriculture such as MSP [minimum support price], reinforcing the relevance of the public stock-

holding programme towards fulfilling the national food safety programme or PM Garib Kalyan Scheme, TRIPS waiver, e-commerce moratorium, response to Covid and fisheries," Goyal said after the deal.

India defended its right to extend subsidies to Indian fishermen, with contentious clauses removed from the text at the last minute. In turn, India agreed to an 18-month extension of the moratorium on customs duty on electronic imports that it argues favours rich nations. However, subsidies on overfishing, deep-sea fishing, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing has been addressed through the proposed pact.

"On India's insistence, sovereign rights on EEZ [exclusive economic zones] have been firmly established. It is really a

big achievement," said Goyal, adding that principal stakeholders who have benefited from these "historic decisions" taken by the 12th Ministerial Conference of the WTO are fishermen, farmers, food security, multilateralism, and trade and business, particularly digital economy and MSMEs.

Through the joint efforts of all WTO members, the MC12 has made breakthroughs on a number of key issues, demonstrating that the multilateral trading system can play a key role in addressing global challenges, she said.

Goyal said India today battled on the front foot rather than being fearful on various issues, be it environment, startups, MSMEs or gender equality. This was a result of the confidence of 'New India.'

Industry has enough capacity and tech know-how to make paper straws

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian paper industry has enough capacity and technological know-how to manufacture paper for making paper straws and other similar products in the country, said IPMA in a statement on Thursday.

The industry's reaction came after the concerns raised by several FMCG companies recently that the paper required for making straws is not available in India, necessitating imports, and that it will take time to have enough domestic capacity to meet the demand.

The government's ban on single-use plastics, including plastic straw, is going to be effective from July 1, 2022.

The FMCG companies operating in small packaged fruit juices and dairy products have sought an extension in the deadline till proper infrastructure for producing paper straws locally is developed, saying importing such straws is not economically viable.

Terming it as "factually incorrect", the Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) President A S Mehta said a "wrong impression" is being created that presently there is no Indian paper mill that can manufacture the



required paper for making paper straws and opposed any extension of the deadline on this pretext.

"Actually, there are several paper mills in India that are already manufacturing the base paper, meeting all the requisite technical parameters, for making paper straws. Any additional paper requirement for making paper straws can also easily be met by Indian paper mills," he said.

FMCG companies require about six billion paper straw sticks per year.

"With an average weight of 2-3 gram per such straw, the total requirement of paper will be around 12,000-18,000 metric tonnes per year, that is about 1,000-1,500 metric tonnes per month. This can very well be catered to by Indian paper mills without any difficulty," said IPMA.

In fact, to meet the growing domestic demand, many domestic converters have put up units to manufacture paper straws and are procuring the base paper from Indian paper mills, with a few even export-

ing the paper straws to other countries as the demand for paper straws has exponentially increased globally, Mehta added. Additionally, some large corporates and many MSME units for manufacturing paper straws are expected to be operational shortly to cater to the increased demand in the country.

Any demand for extension of the deadline should not be done on the pretext of inadequate domestic availability of paper, which is factually incorrect," said IPMA.

Titan's women ethnic wear brand Taneira eyes Rs 300 cr revenue in FY23

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Titan Company's women ethnic wear brand Taneira eyes about multi-fold growth in revenue at Rs 300 crore in current fiscal year, and Rs 1,000 crore by FY27. Launched in 2017, Taneira is the latest in-house brand from Titan. It aims to tap the huge ethnic apparel segment. The brand will predominantly focus on the saree business which is a Rs 50,000 crore market growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6-8 per cent, a top company official said.

"We are small right now and are recovering from the Covid impact. We have great expansion plans going forward. In the current fiscal we expect revenue of about Rs 250-300 crore but our ambition is to make Taneira a Rs 1,000 crore brand by FY27," Taneira Chief Executive Officer Ambuj Narayan told PTL. The company has 25 stores across Delhi, Noida, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Jamshedpur, Vadodara, Lucknow and Kolkata. "We are in process to increase the number to 50-60 stores by this year and over the next 3-4 years it will be further ramped up to 125 Taneira retail stores chain that will cover the majority of tier-I and tier-II cities.

'Indian economy to grow by 7-7.8 pc in FY23 despite global headwinds'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian economy can grow by 7-7.8 per cent this fiscal on the back of better agriculture production and a revitalised rural economy amid global headwinds mainly due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, eminent economists said.

Eminent economist and BR Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE) Vice-Chancellor NR Bhanumurthy said at present Indian economy is facing multiple headwinds largely from external sources.

Noting that global inflationary pressures and the Russia-Ukraine war have brought in risks to the economy, which is otherwise strong with all the domestic macro fundamentals being well managed, he said unlike advanced economies, India's Covid stimulus measures, especially the fiscal policy interventions, are less inflationary and rather growth-enhancing.

"With better agricultural production and revitalised rural economy India should touch 7 per cent growth in the current year despite global headwinds," Bhanumurthy said. Echoing similar views,



eminent economist and Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID) director Nagesh Kumar said the high-frequency indicators point to a robust growth momentum carrying through 2022-23 with a real GDP growth somewhere between 7-7.8 per cent.

French economist Guy Sorman said India could be severely impacted by the high cost of energy and fertiliser imports.

"However, because India is still, largely an agricultural economy, the social impact of slower growth will be tempered by city workers going back to their village.

"This could increase agri-

cultural production and grain exports," Sorman added.

The World Bank has cut India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.5 per cent as rising inflation, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical tensions taper recovery. India's economy grew 8.7 per cent in the last fiscal (2021-22) against a 6.6 per cent contraction in the previous year.

In its third monetary policy of 2022-23, the Reserve Bank retained its GDP growth forecast at 7.2 per cent for the current fiscal, but cautioned against negative spillovers of geopolitical tensions and a slowdown in the global economy.

MONEY MATTERS

IIFL Finance gets board's approval to raise Rs 5,000 cr



IIFL Finance is planning to raise debt capital worth Rs 5,000 crore by issuing bonds on a private placement basis, the company said on Thursday. The bonds will be offered through public issue, subject to regulatory and statutory approvals, IIFL Finance said in a regulatory

filing. "The board of directors of the company at their meeting held today, June 23, 2022, approved the raising of funds by way of issuance of secured redeemable non-convertible debentures with the shelf limit of Rs 50,000 million, in one or more tranches," it added. IIFL Finance is a non-banking finance company (NBFC), offering products such as home loans, gold loans, and business loans, including loans against property and medium & small enterprise financing, microfinance, developer and construction finance. It also offers capital market finance, catering to both retail and corporate clients. Its subsidiaries IIFL Home Finance Ltd and Samasta Microfinance Ltd -- are engaged in providing a diverse range of loans and mortgages. The NBFC has a nationwide presence, having 3,119 branches across over 500 cities. Shares of IIFL Finance were trading at Rs 319.05 apiece on BSE, up by 1.46 per cent from the previous close.

Volvo group launches green casting developed in India

Swedish automotive major Volvo Group on Thursday announced the launch of its first 'green casting' developed and sourced from India that will be used for its engines globally. The green castings from India will include bearing caps and bearing housing for select Volvo engines, and this is the first step, the group said in a statement. It further said these castings will be produced by Brakes India, utilising scrap, alloys, and raw materials that are 100 per cent radioactive elements free. It involves recycling 100 per cent metallic scrap generated by other industries to manufacture a usable product. The plant will operate on 100 per cent green power from solar and wind energy, it added. In line with the group's global sustainability targets and ambitions, he said, "Our aim is to create an environment that is safe and sustainable for future generations while being immersed in advanced technology that goes into making world-leading commercial vehicles. Green Casting has the potential to kick-start a revolution in the casting manufacturing process for a sustainable future".

Statiq raises US\$ 25.7 mn in funding round led by Shell Ventures

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Electric vehicle charging network startup Statiq on Thursday said it has raised USD 25.7 million (over Rs 200 crore) in a funding round led by Shell Ventures.

The company will use the Series A funding to primarily invest in product engineering and network infrastructure, Statiq said in a statement.

The Series A investment will aid in accelerating efforts to scale and realise value from contract portfolio, by investing in product engineering and network infrastructure as well as reinforcing the core team, it added.

"Securing the first closing of our Series A ensures delivering on value-enhancing growth options already secured by Statiq, as we set out to build India's leading EV charging services company," Statiq Co-Founder and



CEO Akshit Bansal said. He further said, "Shell and Statiq share a vision of actively driving the transformation towards sustainable modes of transport. Gaining Shell Ventures as an investor is a major milestone for Statiq." With an aim to provide an end-to-end ecosystem for EV chargers, Statiq said it has recently teamed up with Hero Electric and also collaborated with EV maker Ather, to enhance the combined EV charging network in the

northern states of India.

Closing this important round of funding is the next step to consolidate the company's own processes, the statement said.

"Statiq will be able to tap into a wealth of operational excellence, as well as accelerate working towards quality, safety and environmental standards that are second to none by closely cooperating with Shell group experts as we grow," Statiq Co-Founder and CTO Raghav Arora said.

Rupee settles at all-time low of 78.32 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Thursday closed at its all-time low of 78.32 (provisional) against the US dollar as strong American currency and persistent foreign fund outflows weighed on investor sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 78.26 and finally settled at its all-time low 78.32, unchanged from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee declined by 19 paise to settle at an all-time low level of 78.32 against the US dollar. The Indian rupee erased early morning gains as safe-haven demand drove the greenback ahead of quarter-end adjustments, said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Sensex, Nifty rebound nearly 1 pc on gains in auto, IT stocks

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty bounced back on Thursday to close higher by nearly 1 per cent on gains in banking, IT and auto shares amid mixed global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 443.19 points or 0.86 per cent to settle at 52,265.72. During the day, it rallied 694.26 points or 1.33 per cent to 52,516.79.

The NSE Nifty advanced 143.35 points or 0.93 per cent to 15,556.65.

From the Sensex pack, Maruti, M&M, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel, TCS, Sun Pharma, Wipro, ICICI Bank and Hindustan Unilever were the major gainers.

On the other hand, Reliance Industries, NTPC, Power Grid

and UltraTech Cement were the laggards.

Elsewhere in Asia, stock markets in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tokyo ended with gains while Seoul settled lower. European markets were trading in the red in mid-session deals.

The US markets ended marginally lower on Wednesday. "The Indian markets opened on a positive note following Asian market peers which were trading mostly in the green led by China.

During the afternoon session markets trimmed some of their gains as European markets struggled to shrug-off recession fears but managed to trade in the green," said Narendra Solanki, Head-Equity Research (Fundamental), Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers.

Urban cooperative banks need to focus on modern banking methods: Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that urban cooperative banks (UCBs) need to focus on symmetric development, Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday asked UCBs to undertake key reforms including hiring young talent and adopting modern banking methods in order to remain competitive.

Structural changes, strengthening of human resources, computerising accounting process, hiring experts to handle surplus funds are the other reforms that UCBs need to undertake in order to compete with nationalised and private banks, he said.

By implementing these reforms, the UCBs should make themselves more irrelevant in the current times, the



minister said and assured that cooperative banks will not be treated like a "second grade citizen".

"There are 1,534 urban cooperative banks, 54 scheduled urban cooperative banks, 35 multi-state cooperative banks, 580 multi-state cooperative credit societies, 22 state cooperatives. We have a wide presence but it is uneven.

... We need to properly work on symmetric development of urban cooperative banks," Shah said addressing an event here.

Since cooperative banks are the only banks that lend to the lower strata of the society, there is a need to set up at least one UCB in every town in the country, he said and directed the National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies (NAFUCS) to focus on symmetric development of UCBs across India.

"Symmetric expansion will help us remain in the competition. Successful banks should also come forward and contribute to this," he said. Presently, the role of urban cooperative banks is negligible in the total banking sector in terms of deposit and advance payment, he added.

Indian media, entertainment industry to grow at 8.8%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian media and entertainment industry is expected to grow at a CAGR of 8.8 per cent and reach Rs 4.30 lakh crore by 2026, according to a report by global consultancy firm PwC.

The growth would be paced by digital media and advertising through deeper penetration of the internet and mobile devices in the domestic market, along with traditional media, which will hold their steady growth, the report said. TV advertising is expected to reach over Rs 43,000 crore by 2026. It will make India the fifth-largest TV advertising market globally, after the US, Japan, China and the UK.

The Indian media and entertainment industry is

expected to be around Rs 3.14 crore in 2022, registering an overall growth of 11.4 per cent, as per the PwC's Global Entertainment & Media Outlook 2022-2026.

India's OTT Video services are expected to become a Rs 21,031 crore industry in the next four years by 2026, in which Rs 19,973 crore would come from subscription-based services and Rs 1,058 crore from Transactional VOD (video on demand).

"It is subscription services that are driving this rapid growth, accounting for 90.5 per cent of revenue in 2021 and set to account for 95 per cent in 2026," it said.

The population size and widespread use of mobile-led Internet video will underpin rapid growth in the OTT mar-



ket over the forecast period. In particular, uptake of 5G will permit low-latency services such as OTT video streams, greatly boosting the sector.

"As infrastructure improves in the long term, the scale and diversity of the population will lend itself to a wide range

of platforms," the report added.

TV advertising would grow up to Rs 43,568 crore in 2026 from Rs 35,270 crore in 2022, registering a growth of 23.52 per cent.

"After several years of rapid expansion, India's TV adver-

tising market was hit by the COVID-19 recession in 2020, causing a 10.8 per cent decline over the 2019 levels. This proved to be a temporary setback. With the country's return to economic growth in 2021, this segment grew by 16.9 per cent to Rs 32,374

crore," it said. India's internet advertising market is set to increase at a 12.1 per cent CAGR to reach Rs 28,234 crore by 2026.

"Given India's mobile-first Internet access market, the mobile sector dominates the country's Internet advertising market, accounting for 60.1 per cent of total revenue in 2021, rising to 69.3 per cent by 2026," the report said, adding that "display advertising dominates the mobile sector, accounting for 90.7 per cent of revenue in 2021 though its share will fall to 88.9 per cent of the total in 2026".

The 'Music, Radio & Podcast' segment grew by 18 per cent in 2021 to Rs 7,216 crore and is set to rise 9.8 per cent CAGR to reach Rs 11,536 crore by 2026.

Time to worry about personal hygiene

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Our Hyderabad city is a hub for multi-door outdoor events. But have we ever thought about the cleanliness of the outdoor bathrooms? How important it's and what about the event's reputation?

Fear not, we live in an ultra-modern society these days and there are unique hygiene-cum-wellness offerings around the corner. To give an example, Svish on the go is the first made-in-India range of sanitizing products in the hygiene category. No one wants to use a dirty restroom, and despite their reputation, there are several proactive actions that can be taken to improve the experience of hygiene at public events.

We spoke to the co-founder Ishaan Grover, "Hygiene should be the priority in our country. Its easy to convince the youth because you'll see them giggling at various outdoor events. We think how the millennials think. If you're going partying, carry intimate hygiene products. To take precautions at outdoor events is to a limit."

Dodging the virus with various sanitizers and disinfectants, they realized that if one had to apply something to one's skin 10 to 12 times a day, it needed to be more personalised and eco-friendly to satisfy one's taste for aesthetics. Sanitization was a choice in the pre-COVID-19 era, but in the post-COVID, it's a must. Sadly, the market was flooded with sanitizers that were either too oily or too sticky or too smelly. There was a clear need for something that not just kills germs but also takes care of your skin and uplifts your mood.

He continued, "Sunburn concerts are one of those biggies where the crowd comes in uncountable numbers and the event management don't realise the importance of sanitation hygiene, especially for girls. Once my wife and I went partying, and we had to leave early just because my wife and

We enjoy outings and have fun. But do we think of our personal hygiene while having fun at these events? *The Pioneer* connects with the founder of Svish on the go who explains to us more about the same

a few of my friends wanted to pee and the toilet hygiene wasn't up-to-the-mark. It was an eye-opener for me then."

Svish is not just a name, it's an act too. It is derived from the word swish which means the sound of water and going forward, and ours will replace the word sanitize or the act of spraying to sanitize. In the last years, consumers shift their consumer behavior toward eco-friendly alternatives, leading to a highly dynamic market.

The founder added, "We all are aware that lack of intimate hygiene can trigger various infections. It is crucial that you take appropriate measures to keep infections at bay. Lack of awareness and timely clinical

help has contributed to such infections. We are opposing that. We can do this with the help of influencers. Both the genders should be aware, that intimate hygiene isn't just about simply cleaning but comprehensive wellbeing. It is important for us to overcome the cultural, religious, and social barriers which prevent us from open discussions and seeking optimal intimate care."

-TANISHA SAXENA

Earlier this month, two advertisements of a perfume company sparked outrage over their depiction of women and promoting rape mentality leading to an FIR against the company by Delhi Commission for Women. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting also directed YouTube and Twitter to remove the ads.

Both the ads have raised eyebrows for the mentality that it seems to promote. Chills run down the spine by the sheer thought of the such advertisements broadcasted. But what supercedes all other feelings is the fact that how normalised are these?

Advertisers often make light of sexual violence towards women, mostly in the garb of innuendo, humor, or artistic expression. It is expected that the shock factor will work promotional magic for their product. Several studies have tried to look into rape myth acceptance and its equation to demographics. A piv-

otal research in 1997 closely examined the topic through advertising.

According to the studies, advertisements have exposed multiple images of women, beginning from a homemaker to sensitive being. There are ads that show ambitious women, young and independent girls who no longer depend on their opposite sex, who tease boys for having all the fun but at the same time fairness creams are also introduced to make them empowered. In the recent past fairness cream ads were found inappropriate and Adverting Standard Council of India took initiative by imposing guidelines for fairness creams.

It is disheartening to see that despite years of struggle, women are still projected as a sex-object.

Lifestyle influencer Ravathy. P opens up about the issue, and says, "My first and foremost issue with those ads were how did the campaign get multiple levels of approval until being taken live for such a distasteful approach. Were there not one

woman or even a man who found any issue with this whole angle of making sly sexual remarks? What got my blood boiling literally was how the women characters were portrayed. They showcased that the women looked doubtful, looking clueless and even scared in their ads. Casual sexism needs to be reprimanded and not even for the sake of fun, a woman needs to be made feel like that. I also wonder how the women in the ad agreed to play the part. This casual and 'chalta hai attitude' of the country requires immediate overhaul. Taking indirect sexual potshots at women, chiding sly remarks needs to be stopped. As a woman, all I ask for is respect. The society cannot upgrade or level up with 50% of its population, being made fun of, harassed, inundated with sexual remarks and treated with disrespect."

Delhi Commission for Women chairperson Swati Maliwal told *The*

Pioneer, "The advertise-

ment is disgusting. It angers me a lot. How can they get away with promoting toxic masculinity and rape

Advertisements by a perfume brand has led to a huge outrage all over, especially on social media. *The Pioneer* connects with an influencer, chairperson of DCW, founder of a NGO and a feminist who explains to us how these ads have defamed women

culture? I hope Delhi Police will take urgent and strict action so that an example is set. I think most people strongly objected to the misogynistic advertisement. It's just that proper systems are not there and that's why people are able to get away with creating and promoting filthy content. We had to raise the issue, and only then action was taken. So, systems should be built to create deterrence against such advertisements."

Meanwhile, Dr. Parameshwari founder, SHINE NGO from Hyderabad believes that there are several factors that lead to such mentality. She says, "These are not just advertisements but jokes that pops up every now and then on our social media that triggers a certain kind of behaviour. Incidents like these hints of the lack of sex education that is crucial to be implemented in our system. The way we deal with gender sensitive issues is definitely points out the loopholes in the system. Who is monitoring? Why these things reach at such a level? It is high time."

Many said the timing of the advert made it particularly insensitive, as it was broadcast just a week after a case in which a 17-year-old was allegedly raped by five men in the southern city of Hyderabad, the latest in a series of high-profile crimes against women and minority groups across the country.

"What disturbs me the most is that the advertisers felt confident and comfortable that a certain demographics of the population will actually enjoy a commercial that perpetuates rape culture. The idea that advertisers believe sexual innuendos targeting women make a product more memorable and appealing is cringeworthy in itself. Sexist and smutty advertising has clearly become a cog in the machine of patriarchy," tells Aparna Bhatt, a feminist.



Where is DECENCY?



Painful waxing? But not anymore

It's challenging to get rid of body hair. Removal of hair using the traditional method like waxing is painful, time-taking, and frequently results in redness and irritation on the skin, pain, temporary bumps, ingrown hairs, allergic reaction, bleeding, or a hefty bill.

While some women are proud of their body hair, others desire to be hairless. We go over everything from waxing to shaving to laser for smooth, flawless, hair-free skin.

Moreover, if you've tried everything and want to try something more natural, skin-friendly, and budget-friendly, then go for these home cures.

Shahnaz Husain, founder of the Shahnaz Husain Group in India shares some simple homemade hair removal masks for painless natural hair removal.

Turmeric and Raw Papaya

Papaya includes papain, that inhibits hair growth, whereas turmeric contains antibacterial antioxidants, making it ideal for sensitive skin. Add two tablespoons of turmeric powder to a small amount of raw papaya to make a luscious pulp. Make a paste out of it and apply it all over your face

and body. Allow 15-20 minutes for it to dry before washing it. Apply this once or twice a week for a period of two to three months.

Potato and Lentils

Potatoes have high starch content and act as a bleaching agent. This aids in the whitening of your hair and the slowing of hair growth. When combined with lentils, this mask aids in the removal of unwanted hair with no negative side effects. In a cup of water, soak a cup of lentils or moong dal overnight. Grind it to a paste the next morning. Pick a whole potato, grate it, and then squeeze the liquid out using a spoon or a piece of clean nylon cloth. Combine the juice with the lentils, along with a spoonful of honey and lemon squeeze. Allow 20 minutes for this combination to sit on your body and face.

Corn-flour and Milk

When you apply corn-flour with milk to your skin, it instantly adheres to the hair follicles and holds them in place. When you remove the mask, all of the soft hair is pulled away. Keep in mind that this mixture may not be suitable for persons with coarse hair. To make a paste, combine half a cup of corn-flour with one small cup of

milk. Apply the paste to the entire area where you want to get rid of the hair. Allow for 20 minutes of drying time or until it is entirely dry. Remove it and pat it dry.

Gram flour

Gram flour is one of the most effective natural cleansers for removing pollutants and unwanted hair from the face and body. Combine half a cup of gram flour with any carrier oil, such as sesame seed or olive oil, to make a paste. Mix in the curd and apply to the region where you want to get rid of the hair. Leave it for 15-20 minutes, or until it is completely dry. Now, gently massage your skin with water before washing it off.

Alum Powder and Rosewater

Alum eliminates unwanted hair, moisturises, tones, and gives your skin a natural glow, while rose water hydrates, tones, and gives your skin a natural glow. This potent combination proves to be the ideal way to remove unwanted body hair. Use half a spoon of powdered alum and three teaspoons of rose water paste and apply on your skin. Leave it on for 45-60 minutes before rinsing it off with cool water. Don't forget to use a moisturiser or coconut oil.

Banana and Oatmeal

Banana softens your skin while oatmeal acts as a gentle body scrubber. This not only removes all undesirable hair but also inhibits future development. Combine two teaspoons of oats with one mashed banana. Apply the mixture to the affected areas and massage gently in the opposite direction of your hair growth. Leave it for a 20-minute recovery period. After rinsing with cold water, pat the dry residue

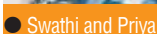
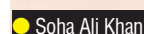
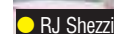
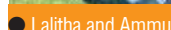
Oil Massage

Castor oil, coconut oil, mustard oil, tea tree oil, sesame oil, or olive oil massages can truly help reduce hair growth. When you get a hot oil massage on a frequent basis, the friction on your skin causes your hair to thin and lighten. Over time, regular massage can actually assist in sealing off the hair roots. As a result, you get a calming and rejuvenating experience in addition to reduced hair growth.

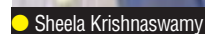
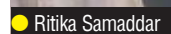
Natural home treatments don't give instant results. It will take a few months before you notice a difference. Before applying the paste to your entire arm or leg, do a patch test on a small section of your hand. After you've finished, make sure to thoroughly cleanse your skin and apply a moisturisers.



what's brewing?



Socialite Kavita Jain and Kishore Jain's daughter Nivedita Jain, tied the knot with Rishab Soni, son of Rajesh and Smita Soni, at the Imperial Garden in Secunderabad. Several socialites from the city had attended the wedding and blessed the newlyweds.



FUN

A cartoon illustration showing a man with glasses and a woman hugging. The man says, "I THINK YOU'VE SPOILED ME VERY WELL!" and the woman replies, "HENRY SPOILED! GOOD! SO, DAD!"

Illustration by Andrew Mathew Stratton

SHE WAS NAMED AFTER HER SIX AUNTS AND ONE UNCLE

ONE WEIRD FAMILY

YEAR BOOK

I THINK I'M
WEEKDAY
INTOLERANT.

GINGERMEGGS.COM

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

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

- 1 Marked with the fingernails
- 6 In front
- 7 A keyboard instrument
- 9 Painful to touch
- 10 Something that is not to be told to anyone else
- 12 A baby's toy
- 14 A hired car
- 17 Have a quarrel
- 18 Incorrect
- 19 Played make-believe

- 2 A shout of approval
- 3 Counts up
- 4 Shut

	C	H	E	A	P	E	S	T	
S	R	L	I	T	P				
H	O	U	S	E	C	L	E	A	R
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'Nobody is going to watch my movie just because my name is MS Raju'

PNS | HYDERABAD

7 Days 6 Nights is slated to hit the cinema today. The rom-com stars Sumanth Ashwin, Meher Chahal, Rohan and Krithika Shetty in lead roles. In this interview, MS Raju talks about the nature of the film, why he thinks its collections are going to skyrocket gradually, what is to be expected from him, and more.

"I watch not only new films but also old ones, which tend to have strong characters. While great films are being made even in this day and age, old films had a certain uniqueness. After *Dirty Hari*, I happened to catch Raj Kapoor's Hindi film *Barsaat*. In that film, Raj Kapoor is in a state of low-key depression. Even a psychiatrist can't figure him out. He is sort of whimsical. His friend is fun-loving. I was inspired by that film to write *7 Days 6 Nights*," he told.

According to the expert, any film should have a conflict plot point or the protagonist needs to be determined to do something. His experience over the years and thinking drew him to writing a story like this. He is expecting the film to grow from strength to strength at the box office as days pass.

Adding to that, "While writing the movie, I headed to Goa all alone in my four-wheeler. I kept on wandering for 4-5 days although it was strenuous and my age didn't permit the physical stress. It was fun traveling with people of different social backgrounds and age groups. Passion is what drew me to do that."

For the audience to want to see his movies, they have to be convinced that the content is strong. "Nobody is going to watch my movie just because my name is associated with it. My previous directorial would have been a sure-shot hit had it been released in theatres. I had read so many books while writing that film. I had to keep myself updated. I get along with my son's friends. I like to notice how today's youngsters behave and talk," he added.

The nature of the story of changes at the interval point. A good twist can make wonders to a film. We have seen larger-than-life heroes and villains in countless numbers of movies. The upcoming movie is a natural, believable movie and it is

going to attract the family audience, too, after a positive word of mouth emerges.

He says, "I am confident but not over-confident. To begin with, youngsters will head to theatres. Based on their feedback, the footfalls will grow from Saturday.

Going by the buzz in trade circles, my movie surely has got some craze.

Exhibitors are showing interest. I have worked with newcomers like Rohan and Meher. I have always afforded all artists, right from Mahesh Babu and Prabhas down to newcomers, the same amount of respect. Rohan has done strong situational comedy in the film. The emotional drive of the film is going to involve the audience fully. When I made *Okkadu* and *Varsham*, *Manasantha Nuvve* and *Nuvvostanante Nenoddantana*, I knew what I was doing."

He is mindful of the film's budget.

While the visual quality has to be maintained, he couldn't have gone overboard. He shot the movie in exotic locations and with aesthetic backdrops. The background score, too, is special.

His son was also present on the sets and, "My relationship with my son is professional when we are on set. He grew up

observing my work. *Tuneega Tuneega*, his first film, was a wrong move. Giants like Raj Kapoor and Rakesh Roshan have worked with their sons in Bollywood. They too must have been very professional."

Talking about his last directorial, he continued, "*Dirty Hari* had to be an adult film. After all, there was an element of an extra-marital affair in it. It was a bold move from me. But this one is youthful. There is a thin line of difference between vulgarity and peppy entertainment. Even in *Dirty Hari*, I didn't inject any element without a reason. There is no extra kissing scene. I am mindful that I have to make films for the changed audience's tastes. I can't be following the filmmaking sensibilities of the Subhash Ghai era.

These days, youngsters want to be independent and take their own decisions. The nature of the conversations between women and women has

undergone some change."

His next film is *Sathi*, which stars Sumanth Ashwin and Meher in the lead roles. It is a mystery thriller that tells the story of a husband and a wife. They come from a lower-middle-class family who live in a small town in Andhra Pradesh.

When an incident takes place while they are on a pilgrimage, they make a strong decision. After *Sathi*, he will be doing a series of big films. He is planning a sequel to one of the movies he produced. It will be made on a huge scale and will be released in 14 languages.

MS Raju's directorial 7 Days 6 Nights will be released today in theatres. The Pioneer catches up with the director who shares with us some details while making the film



Kamal Haasan's new gesture wins hearts

While his latest release *Vikram* continues to rule the box office, Kamal Haasan's recent gesture will win your hearts all over again. The Universal Hero, as he is fondly addressed by his fans, recently came across a video on social media that had a differently abled man singing *Pathala pathala* from *Vikram*.

The video, which is now viral, impressed the actor so much that he invited the man over to meet him. During the meeting, he expressed how much he loved his rendition of the track and his sense of music. The actor also

enrolled the man at AR Rahman's music school KM Music Conservatory to further enhance his skills.

A source further elaborates, "Kamal Haasan has a humongous fan following across the globe not just because he is a phenomenal actor but because he has built a bond with his fans over the years with gestures like these.

When he met the man he got to know that he wanted to become a music composer and that's when he immediately got him enrolled at the KM Music Conservatory. He promised to take care of the entire course fees as well."

Pawan Kalyan launches Vishwak's next film



Ashoka Vanamloo Arjuna Kalyanam actor Vishwak Sen's next movie, which is yet to be titled, was formally launched on Thursday in

Hyderabad's Ramanaidu studios.

Movie's director Arjun Sarja, Vishwak Sen, among others from the film fraternity, were present at the

muhurat ceremony but the main guest there was *Bheemla Nayak* actor Pawan Kalyan who launched the film.

After a four-year hiatus, Arjun Sarja, who is also veteran actor, last seen in Ravi Teja's *Khiladi*, is making his directorial debut in Telugu with this film.

Arjun Sarja's daughter Aishwarya Arjun is making her Tollywood debut with this film. Actor Jagapathi Babu will also have a lead role in the film.

The movie will be produced by Sree Raam Films International, while the music will be crooned by *KGF* fame Ravi Basrur.

Actor-choreographer-filmmaker Raghava Lawrence is presently starring in an action thriller under the direction of Kathiresan. Five Star Creations LLP is producing the movie, while Kathiresan is the presenter.

Rudhrudu is the title and the film's first look is out now. Raghava Lawrence appears



intense in the poster from a stunt sequence. As the poster suggests, the movie is going to be high on action.

Evil is not born, it is created is the tagline of the movie and Lawrence looks like an evil in the first look poster. Sarath Kumar is playing a vital role and Priya Bhavani Shankar is the leading lady opposite Lawrence.

GV Prakash Kumar provides music and cinematography is by RD Rajasekar ISC. Editing is by Anthiny, wherein stunts are by Siva - Vicky. The film is set to be released, this Christmas.

Raghava Lawrence's action thriller releasing this Christmas

Tharun Bhascker, VG Sainma's film titled *Keedaa Cola*

The highly talented Tharun Bhascker Dhaassayam directed two films so far and both *PelliChooopulu*, *Ee Nagarani Emaindi* were big hits. The director who is a specialist in making hilarious and youthful movies is coming up with a crime comedy this time.

It's very first feature



length production of VG Sainma. The makers in addition to announce the project have also unleashed its title. The movie has been titled intriguingly and peculiarly as *Keedaa Cola*.

Keedaa means a creature with six legs and

Cola is the name of a popular soft-drink brand. The poster sees cap of a soft drink bottle with title written on it. Indicating crime part, we can spot the blood. In the down part, we can also observe a creature. "Experience crime comedy like never before..." assures the makers.

Following the sentiment, the poster is painted yellow. It may be mentioned here that, *Pelli Chooopulu* and *Ee Nagarani* Posters were also designed in yellow colour.

Produced by Bharath Kumar, Sripad Nandiraj, Upendra Varma, Srinivas Kaushik, Saikrishna Gadwal,

Vijay Kumar, the film will release in 2023.

Ilaiyaraaja, Yuvan Shankar Raja join hands for Chay's next



intriguing pieces of information about the film on social media on Thursday.

According to the team's most recent release, music maestro Ilaiyaraaja and his son Yuvan Shankar Raja are on board for *NC22* (working title). The duo will compose music for the upcoming movie, as per the announcement.

On Thursday morning, Naga Chaitanya, Rana Daggubati, and Siva

After the suc-

cess of *Love Story* and *Bangarraju*, Naga Chaitanya has signed on to star in an intriguing film that will be directed by Venkat Prabhu. The film-makers shared a few

in the brand world, endorsing the top ones. With this, the actress has turned entrepreneur.

Apart from being a lucky mascot at the box office and one of the leading female stars of her generation,

Rashmika is fast emerging as a savvy businesswoman too.

On the work front, Rashmika currently boasts of one of the strongest line-ups. She will be next seen in *Pushpa 2* alongside Allu Arjun, *Goodbye* opposite Amitabh Bachchan, *Animal* opposite Ranbir Kapoor, *Varisu* alongside Vijay Thalapaty and *Mission Majnu* with Sidharth Malhotra.

Rashmika Mandanna turns vegan entrepreneur



Rashmika Mandanna, who became a national sensation after starring in *Pushpa: The Rise*, has begun her entrepreneurial journey the vegan way.

Vegan beauty and personal care brand Plum on Thursday said that actor Rashmika Mandanna has come on board as an investor and brand ambassador. This comes at a time when the brand aims to double its annual recurring revenue (ARR) over the next 12 months, with Rashmika's pan-India presence and fan base.

In just a short span of 6 years, Rashmika has not only emerged as one of the most bankable actresses in the Indian film industry, but also an influential name

INDIA CHOKE SL, TAKE 1-0 LEAD

PTI ■ DAMBULLA

The Indian bowlers choked the Sri Lankan women's team after Jemimah Rodrigues's vital knock on return to secure a convincing 34-run victory in the first T20 International here on Thursday.

Defending a modest 139, left-arm spinner Radha Yadav (2/22) made her presence felt right after the powerplay by dismissing the dangerous-looking Sri Lankan captain Chamari Athapaththu (16) and Harshitha Madavi (10) in three balls.

Reduced to 27 for three inside seven overs, Sri Lanka never managed to get going in the run chase, which was further derailed by some tight bowling by seamer Deepti Pooja Vastrakar in the middle overs en route to a tidy spell of 4-1-13-1.

Deepti Sharma gave India a flying start, dismissing opener Vishmi Gunaratne (0) in the second over. The senior off-spinner was at her miserly best in the powerplay and returned with figures of 3-1-9-1 to stymie the Sri Lanka's progress early on.

Deepti also took a stunning catch running in from deep square leg to give Radha her second wicket of the day.

Kavisha Dilhari waged a lone battle for the hosts with a fighting 49-ball 47 (6x4), but the Indians' top-class bowling and fielding ensured their team emerged easy winners for a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The hosts needed 78 runs in the last five overs and Kavisha got going with a flurry of boundaries against Harmanpreet Kaur and Radha.

But it proved insufficient as the Indians choked the home team's run rate while denying the Islanders any six in their innings.

Shafali Varma compounded Sri Lanka's misery by dismissing Ama Kanchana (11) in the death overs to leave them tottering at 104 for five.



The second match of the series is slated for Saturday.

Opting to bat, India lost opener Smriti Mandhana (1) in the third over of the game, the 25-year-old becoming the victim of veteran spinner Oshadi Ranasinghe while looking to free her arms. She hit a tossed-up delivery straight to Chamari Athapaththu at mid-on.

Sabbhineni Meghana was out for a golden duck, sent back to the dressing room by old warhorse Ranasinghe.

Losing two wickets early and under pres-

sure in the hot and humid Dambulla, it was left to the duo of Harmanpreet and Shafali Verma to take control of the situation.

A well-settled Verma was the next to go, dismissed by Athapaththu on 31 while trying to go for a maximum.

Smart bowling by the Lankans ensured that they soon got their biggest breakthrough when Harmanpreet (22) was trapped in front of the wicket by spinner Inoka Ranaweera in the 11th over.

Ranaweera picked two more wickets to send back wicketkeeper batter Richa Ghosh

(11) and Pooja Vastrakar (14) to reduce the visitors to 106 for six in 17 overs and leave Jemimah with the task of giving the Indian total a semblance of respectability.

Coming in at five, Rodrigues, who made her comeback to the side after a while, did not succumb to the pressure and scored some crucial runs, hitting three fours and a six, with Deepti Sharma playing the second fiddle with a 17 off 8 balls.

Blessed to have spoken to Rohit & Pant after being dropped: Jemimah

PTI ■ DAMBULLA

Words of encouragement from Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant lifted Jemimah Rodrigues' spirit while she tackled a difficult phase and worked on her comeback, which began right after being dropped from the Indian women's team.

The chirpy cricketer feels she is blessed to have spoken to the likes of Rohit and Pant.

Jemimah, who was not part of India's World Cup squad in New Zealand, marked her return to international cricket with a vital 27-ball 36 not out to give India enough runs to defend in the first T20 International here on Thursday.

"My journey since the last Sri Lanka tour has not been smooth, it had its ups and downs. I have spoken to Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant, they told me these moments will define your career, they told me not to take it (being dropped from the squad before the World Cup) in a negative way," Jemimah said at the post-match press conference.

"They told me I should take up the challenge and move ahead. I am blessed to have spoken to them."

Coming in at number five, Rodrigues did not succumb to the pressure created by the Sri Lankan bowlers and scored some crucial runs, hitting three fours and a six. India posted 138 for 6 and the visiting bowlers choked the Sri Lankans to secure a convincing 34-run victory.



"I have understood my game better in the four-five months, I have become calmer, I have changed though my height remains the same," said Jemimah. "I started preparing right after I was dropped."

Coming into the middle at a crucial juncture of the innings, Jemimah said she was nervous to start with.

"This innings means a lot, I was nervous initially but the late cut boundary helped me a lot in easing things up. I am back in the side after 4-5 months or maybe more than that. I was pumped up."

Asked about the pitch, she said, "I don't know, it is more like the pitch where I stay in Mumbai. The pitches are similar, so I am used to playing in these conditions. I love this country, it is a very beautiful country. It is a privilege to come here and the love we are getting from the board is great."

Bharat impresses, top-order fails in warm-up match against Leicestershire

PTI ■ LEICESTER

Wicketkeeper Srikar Bharat impressed with an unbeaten 70, even as India's top-order failed to get batting practice on the first day of their warm-up match against Leicestershire here on Thursday.

Opting to bat after winning the toss, India's top guns failed to fire as the visitors slipped to 81 for five, before reaching 246 for eight at the close of play.

Bharat shone during his 158-minute stay in the middle before rain brought an early end to the day's proceedings at Grace Road.

In all, the 28-year-old batter from Andhra hit eight fours and a six while facing 111 balls. At stumps, Mohammed Shami was giving Bharat company on 18.

Skipper Rohit Sharma (25) and Shubman Gill (21) got out after getting starts. The opening duo, which is set to begin India's innings in the one-off 'fifth Test', added 35 runs for the first wicket before the latter was dismissed by fast-medium bowler Will Davis.



India's first-choice wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, who was representing the English county side alongside Cheteshwar Pujara, Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna, held on to the catch of Gill, who found the fence four times while lasting 38 minutes.

For the addition of another 15 runs, India lost the wicket of Rohit, who hit three fours during his 64-minute stay in the middle.

Rohit's departure paved the way for Virat Kohli's arrival, and the former India captain looked to take the onus upon himself to prop up India.

In between, Hanuma Vihari (3) came on to bat at number three but departed cheaply off the bowling of Roman Walker.

Shreyas Iyer failed to open his account and walked back to the dressing room after facing 11 balls, having nicked Prasad to the waiting hands of Pant.

All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja too failed to make an impact as he was adjudged lbw off the bowling of Roman Walker, who finished the day with impressive figures of 5/24.

is playing a warm-up match.

The Indian team had left for the UK on June 16.

"Yes, Ashwin has joined the team but he is still recovering. He is not fit to play the warm-up game," a source said.

The team management is hopeful that he will recover in time for the Test against England, which starts on July 1.

After the IPL, Ashwin had played a Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) league red-ball match where he had bowled 20 overs to get some long-form game time.

Ashwin joins team in Leicester

PTI ■ LEICESTER

Senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who did not travel to the United Kingdom along with his India team-mates for the one-off 'fifth Test' after testing positive for COVID-19, has joined the side in Leicester, according to sources.

Ashwin, who is in quarantine, joined his team-mates at Leicester where India



Sarfaraz's 134 propels Mumbai to 374, MP finish day 2 at 123/1

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Sarfaraz Khan completed his transformation from Mumbai cricket's resident 'enfant terrible' to 'Man Friday' with a superb hundred that kept his side ahead against Madhya Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy final, here on Thursday.

Courtesy Sarfaraz's fourth hundred of the season - 134 off 243 balls - the 41-time champions managed a fighting 374 in their first innings after beginning the day at 248 for five.

But Madhya Pradesh won't be too unhappy as they finished the second day at 123 for one with Yash Dubey (44 batting) and Shubham Sharma (41 batting) adding 76 runs for the unbroken second wicket.

The day belonged to none other than Sarfaraz, who has now scored an astounding 937 runs in Ranji Trophy in just six games and could make it 1000 for the season if Mumbai bat again in this match.

His innings had 13 boundaries and two huge sixes - one over square leg off left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya and one down the ground off off-spinner Saransh Jain.



But what stood out was how he managed the innings after Shams Mulani was trapped leg before by Gourav Yadav (4/106) in the opening over of the second day.

His batting with the tail showed his new-found maturity, which is proving to be a boon for Mumbai cricket. He chose loose deliveries for boundary, forcing MP captain Aditya Shrivastava to open the field.

The manner in which Sarfaraz has turned a corner since the 2019-20 season (928 runs back then) is phenomenal as he had disciplinary issues early in his career, which also forced him to leave Mumbai for a season.

With father Naushad Khan, who also doubles up as his coach, making him play 400 balls (nearly 67 overs including nets and knocking) a day at practice, Sarfaraz 2.0 is a battle-hardened man, the 'khadoos street fighter' that any captain would want to go to a war with.

Once he reached his fifty, he touched the lion's crest on his jersey, gesturing 'Don't worry, I am going nowhere'.

His batting isn't as pleasing to the eye as Prithvi Shaw's but highly effective. His batting is assuring. He knows how to score those runs on a track that is large-

ly two-paced and in overcast conditions with the ball doing a fair bit.

When MP skipper spread the field to stop boundaries, he still found his way to play the controlled square cut off seamer Anubhav Agarwal, which bisected the two fielders stationed at deep extra cover and deep point to the fence.

The Indian Test team's middle-order is still jam-packed but the manner in which Sarfaraz is batting, to put it in head coach Rahul Dravid's words, he is not just knocking but banging the selection door down.

Sarfaraz was involved in four small, but very effective, partnerships which could prove to be decisive if the match turns out to be an affair of one innings.

He added 40 for seventh wicket with Tanush Kotian (15), 26 for the eighth wicket with Dhawal Kulkarni (1), 39 for the ninth with Tushar Deshpande (6) and another 21 priceless runs for the final wicket with Mohit Avasthi (7).

By the time, he became Mumbai's last batter to be dismissed, he had ensured that the total is good enough for his bowlers to defend.

AP ■ LEEDS

England's Stuart Broad was closing in on 550 Test wickets after striking in the first over of the match and then removing New Zealand captain Kane Williamson on the opening day of the series finale at Headingley on Thursday.

New Zealand, already 2-0 down in a three-match series, were 65 for three at lunch after winning the toss under blue skies and on a seemingly good pitch for batting in Leeds.

England were looking to make it three wins out of three under their new leadership duo of captain Ben Stokes and red-ball coach Brendon McCullum, a former New Zealand skipper.

They were without James Anderson, their all-time leading Test wicket-taker, because of an ankle injury.

But any disappointment at Anderson's absence was soon eased when his longtime new-ball partner Broad removed Tom Latham for a sixth-ball duck after he edged a delivery straight to Joe Root at first slip.

New Zealand were none for one at that stage, but Will Young and Williamson, back in action after missing the second Test in Nottingham with a bout of coronavirus, repaired some of the early damage.

Williamson, on a ground where he had played for Yorkshire, smashed Broad for four and Young cut a boundary off Test debutant Jamie



Overton, with the Surrey quick preferred to twin brother Craig as the replacement for Anderson.

Spin, however, ended a promising partnership, when left-armed Jack Leach struck with his first ball, turning and straightened a delivery past Young's bat to have the opener lbw for 20.

Young reviewed, more in hope than expectation, with replays indicating the ball would have hit the middle of middle stump and New Zealand were 35 for two inside 13 overs.

Broad then captured the key wicket of Williamson, whose fluent 31 had included five fours, when the star batsman edged a fine leg-cutter to wicketkeeper Ben Foakes as the seamer took his 548th Test wicket.

Williamson, in a rare show of emotion, ripped off his glove in disgust.

New Zealand almost lost a fourth wicket before lunch when left-hander Devon Conway, on 11, inside-edged Broad, only for Foakes to drop a difficult one-handed chance as he dived to his right.

Ton for dad & celebration for late Sidhu Moosewala: Sarfaraz

PTI ■ BENGALURU

"This hundred is because of my abbu (father), his sacrifices and holding my hand when I could have been down and out," a teary-eyed Sarfaraz Khan choked in front of scribes while dedicating his best century to father and coach Naushad Khan.

Those who follow Mumbai cricket closely know how tough Naushad is on his sons Sarfaraz and Mushir (also in Mumbai squad), who don't have a life beyond cricket.

So is the dream India call-up on the cards now? His eyes welled up while answering the question after his century lifted Mumbai to 374 against Madhya Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy final here.

"In our lives, it's about all those little dreams that we harbour. The dreams that we (he and his dad) have dreamt together. The nearly 2000 runs that I have scored in two seasons since my 'abbu' came back is because of my 'abbu'," he said.

When there aren't any matches, the brothers train for good six to seven hours per day under their father's supervision.

He has had disciplinary issues, has not been the establishment's favourite child, and had to migrate to UP for a

season before coming back and serving a cooling-off period before being picked for Mumbai again.

"Aap sab toh jaante ho mere saath kya kya huwa. Abbu na rahte toh main khatm ho jataa (You all know what I have gone through and had my father not been there, I would have been finished by now)."

"There has been so much of struggle and when I think how my dad dealt with all of it, I get emotional. He didn't leave my hand even once. My brother put up a status on his cell phone and I could see Abbu so happy. It made my day," he could finally manage a smile.

A FAN OF MOOSEWALA

Asked if his thigh thump celebration was imitation of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, who was recently gunned down by a gang, he said that was the idea.

"This was for Sidhu Moosewala. I love his songs and mostly me and Hardik Tamore (keeper) listen to his songs. I did a similar kind of celebration during an earlier match also (in his memory), but then, Hotstar didn't show it. I had decided once I score another hundred, I would repeat the celebration," the burly Mumbaikar said.