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India's domestic raw coking
coal production may touch 140 MT by



Will exchange views on energy, food
security, counter-terrorism



From joy to anger,
faith leaders react to
Roe's reversal

In brief

'Promote consumption of lassi and sattu'

A top educational body in Pakistan has proposed a novel idea to boost employment and reduce the expenditure on tea imports in the cash-strapped country: promote the consumption of local drinks such as lassi and sattu. The Higher Education Commission's acting chairperson Dr Shaista Sohail, in a circular to the vice-chancellors of public sector universities has asked them to take a leadership role and think of innovative ways to provide relief to the lower-income groups and the economy as a whole, the Geo TV reported on Friday. In the circular, Sohail has suggested promoting local tea plantations and traditional drinks like lassi and sattu, which will increase employment and also generate income involved in manufacturing these drinks for the public.

Maha: 23 new cases of sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5 detected

Maharashtra on Saturday reported 23 cases of COVID-19 caused by sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5, taking the tally of such patients to 49, a state health department official said. As per the report of the Mumbai-based Kasturba Hospital Central Laboratory, which has been evaluated by the National Institute of Virology in Pune, the 23 cases comprise 17 infections caused by BA.5 and six by BA.4. It said one patient was below 18 years of age, two are in the 18-25 segment, nine are in between 26 and 50 years and 11 patients are 50-plus. Of the 23 patients, 12 are women and the rest men, the report added.

Coast Guard continues to monitor sunken vessel

Officials of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) continued to monitor the situation around the grounded merchant ship MV Princess Miral off the Ullal shore near here for any probable leakage of oil from the ship. Along with the district administration and other stakeholders, coordination is being done for the shoreline clean-up in case of any oil spill, an ICG release here said on Saturday. Constant surveillance has been undertaken by Coast Guard aircraft and ships in the area around the vessel and onshore for pollution response since June 21 after the vessel ran aground.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Month: Trayodashi: Jun 26 01:10 AM to Jun 27 03:26 AM

Chaturdash: Jun 27 03:26 AM to Jun 28 05:52 AM

Nakshatram: Krittika: Jun 25 10:24 AM to Jun 26 01:06 PM

Rohini: Jun 26 01:06 PM to Jun 27 04:02 PM

Rahukalam: 5:12 PM to 6:50 PM

Yamagandam: 12:19 PM to 1:56 PM

Variyam: 07:03 AM to 08:51 AM

Gulika: 3:34 PM to 5:12 PM

Amritakalam: 10:26 AM to 12:12 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:52 AM to 12:44 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered thunderstorms

Temp: 28°C

Humidity: 83%

Sunrise: 5:44 AM

Sunset: 6:54 PM

Updated: JUNE 25, 2022 5:00 PM

OBTUSE ANGLE



TRS turns ad blocker for BJP

Occupies hoardings across the city Metro pillars

NAVEENA GHANATE
HYDERABAD

Ahead of the BJP National Executive Committee meeting, the Telangana government has blocked all advertisement space on Metro pillars, bus stops and electric poles.

The hoardings have only Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao's photo. Highly placed sources said the TRS president was reportedly keen on ensuring that the city is not painted in saffron by the BJP.

On Saturday at several places in the city advertisements about the welfare schemes of the Telangana government popped up. One com-



mon thing on all the hoardings displayed by the I&PR department is the slogan 'Telangana Implements, Nation Follows.'

The hoardings have only Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao's photo. Highly placed sources said

the TRS president was reportedly keen on ensuring that the city is not painted in saffron by the BJP.

The schemes publicised by the TRS are Rythu Bandhu, Dalit Bandhu, KCR Kit, Aasara Pension, Kalyana Lakshmi, 2BHK housing,

and Rythu Bhima among others.

The BJP which was planning to display hoardings across the city was taken aback by this unexpected move.

'Modi public meeting will turn TS politics'

K VENKATESHWARLU
HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting at the Parade Grounds would become a 'turning point' in Telangana politics as the people would realise that the time has come to say 'bye...bye' to Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao, the BJP's TS affairs in-charge Tarun Chugh said on Saturday.

Chugh said that arrangements are being made for the Prime Minister's public meeting on July 3 at the Parade Grounds and care is being taken to ensure that the arrangements reflected Telangana's culture.

He said that Telangana has become a captive in the hands of a family. KCR and his

family are dictating terms in the state. He said that KCR, his ministers and MLAs have been looting the state like Alibaba and 40 thieves. Addressing the media along with Telangana BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar and other leaders on Saturday, Chugh said that KCR had shown dreams about a Golden Telangana to the people and made his Kalvakuntla family the golden family of TS.

Telangana has become a captive in the hands of KCR's son KT Ramarao, daughter K. Kavitha, nephews J. Santhosh Kumar and T. Harish Rao and other family members. He said that there was concern among Telangana protagonists that KCR has been ruling the State like a dictator making their sacrifices go waste.



Telangana has become a captive in the hands of KCR's son KT Ramarao, daughter K. Kavitha, nephews J. Santhosh Kumar and T. Harish Rao and other family members.

TS to see rains over the next five days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted low to moderate rainfall in parts of Telangana over the next five days.

On Saturday, there was heavy rain at a few places in Komarambheem Asifabad district and at isolated places in Nizamabad and Nirmal districts of Telangana.

Mainly low level westerlies/south westerlies are prevailing over the state.

The IMD has also issued a yellow warning for the state on Sunday. Thunderstorms accompanied with lightning are very likely to occur at isolated places in a few districts of Telangana.

SEC'BAD ARSON CASE

Key accused arrested

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An ex-serviceman, who allegedly masterminded the arson that took place in Secunderabad railway station on June 17 was arrested, the Telangana railway police said on Saturday.

One person died and many others were injured after police allegedly opened fire on protesters at the railway station here on June 17 as agitations against the Centre's Agnipath recruitment scheme escalated into large-scale violence.

Avula Subba Rao, who earlier served in the Army as Nursing Assistant, now runs Sai Defense Academy in Narsaraopeta of Guntur District in Andhra Pradesh, a police release said.

Subba rao and three of his accomplices were arrested on Friday.

The accused allegedly took a

bond for Rs three lakh from those who joined his institute to impart coaching for army recruitment.

After the announcement from the Centre regarding the Agnipath scheme and subsequent cancellation of written exam for the recruitment into Army, the aspirants wanted to take out a rally to ARO (Army Recruitment Office) to give a representation.

However, Subba rao and others created different whatsapp groups and spread the messages that all should reach Secunderabad Railway Station and resort to violence. Subba Rao and other academies feared losing business with the implementation of Agnipath Scheme, the release alleged.

He designed this programme and provoked Army aspirants because the Defence Academies will be at risk of closure due to Agnipath scheme.

13 more TS Govt hospitals bag NQAS certificate

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In yet another achievement for the health sector in Telangana, another 13 government hospitals have received the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) certificate on Saturday.

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has written to the state government regarding this. Health Minister Harish Rao hailed the efforts of the hospital administration and congratulated the health department. Meanwhile, three other hospitals have been re-certified and the Nirmal area hospital has been recognised as the 'Target' for adhering to highest quality standards in the management of the labour room and the Operation Theatre.

Telugu CMs differ in stance over Prez poll

SNCN ACHARYULU
HYDERABAD

The stand of the two Telugu Chief Ministers in the presidential election has proved that their ways are different.

While Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao turned against the BJP, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagannathan Reddy is continuing his ties with the BJP. After Jagannathan became Chief Minister both Telugu Chief Ministers have been cooperating with each other on inter-state issues.

Initially, both the Chief Ministers had good relations with the BJP-led NDA government and with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Both the Chief Ministers supported the NDA government in Parliament on crucial matters.

But suddenly KCR changed his stand and became a bitter enemy of the BJP. KCR has decided to maintain equidistance from the



BJP and the Congress.

The main reason why KCR took a stand against the BJP and the Congress is his national ambitions.

KCR concluded that only a third front without the BJP and the Congress can solve national problems and launched attempts to weld together a Federal Front of regional parties.

Youth force needed to fight human trafficking

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Several women and children become victims of human trafficking and the youth should serve as brand ambassadors to create awareness in combating this menace, Telangana State Commission for Women Chairperson Vakiti Sunita Lakshma Reddy said on Saturday.



Telangana is caused by the BA.5 strain. A recent report which analysed about 1.6 lakh covid deaths in India revealed that 55 per cent of the deaths were of people who were aged above 55. Even though the general public is not at higher risk, as the number of infections increases there is a possibility of further mutation of the virus resulting in a new variant which may not be as mild as the current one.

150 militants ready to infiltrate into J-K, says Army officer

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

There are about 150 militants present at the launchpads across the Line of Control (LoC) ready to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir while 500 to 700 more are undergoing training at eleven terror camps there, a senior Army officer said on Saturday.

He said security forces have successfully thwarted infiltration attempts by the militants along the LoC in the Valley. There are about 500 to 700 people at the 11 training camps at Manshera, Kotli and Muzaffarabad across the LoC, the Army officer, who did not wish to be named, said. As per the intelligence inputs, he said, there are about 150 terrorists at the launchpads in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir ready to infiltrate into J and K. The officer said there has been no successful infiltration

along the LoC in the valley so far this year. Till May end, everything has been taken care of. There was a particular group which had come and you are aware that it got eliminated at Bandipora and Sopore, he said, referring to the killing of foreign militants in encounters with the security forces.

The Army officer said militants are now focusing on other infiltration routes other than those that have been identified.

I am not saying that we have put in place a system that ensures zero infiltration. Yes, there is a possibility of infiltration taking place here, but in recent years, the way we have made the fence stronger, the way the deployment has been made including the surveillance equipment, the success rate of infiltration has gone down.

Telugu book without a single English word sets record

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

This is a new world record in literature, a matter of pride for India and Andhra Pradesh and all the Telugu-speaking people.

Speaking for two minutes without a single English word is a common challenge nowadays. 'Bharatavarsha', is a 1265-page book written using two lakh Telugu words without a single English word, in a short span of eight months.

Most people feel it is difficult to speak a language fluently. Most Telugu people are not good at their mother tongue.

Venkat Poolabala, a polyglot from Vijayawada is fluent in six foreign languages - French, German, Spanish, Italian, and English. He authored 'Notre Ecole and our school' - a bilingual novel, and became the first Telugu author to write a French novel. Though Poolabala has written 60 books in six languages, 'Bharatavarsha' is the

longest one written in Telugu.

Widely in the news, before it was released on February 14 in Vijayawada by Telugu Academy Chairperson Lakshmi Parvati, 'Bharatavarsha' was under the assessment of the Guinness Book of World Records. Poolabala set a world record as the author of the longest novel written in the short time. It took 10 years for world-renowned authors to write a novel of more than a thousand pages (French writer Victor Hugo's 'Les

Miserables', Margaret Mitchel's 'Gone with the wind' and Michael's Jurassic Park). Poolabala used the Google transliteration tool and composed two lakh words on a Microsoft Word document and adjusted the entire script hundreds of times and printed the novel himself. In these days, when people are leaving Telugu by taking up English for jobs despite being a foreign language professional, Poolabala kept his profession aside and remained clung to his novel for months.



Swachh certification protocol revised

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has released a revised cleanliness certification protocol with the aim to sustain open defecation free status across urban India and move towards achieving new sanitation goals, according to a statement on Saturday.

According to the ministry, seven years since the launch of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), lakhs of citizens, especially women, children and divyangs, have been provided dignity and safety.

The need of the hour is to sustain these achievements while steadfastly moving towards new sanitation goals.

The revised protocol, launched at an event on Friday, is aligned with the objectives of SBM-2.0.

It is designed to ensure that no untreated used water or faecal sludge is discharged into the environment and all used water, including sewerage and septage, grey water and black water, is safely contained, transported and treated, along with maximum reuse of treated used water in all cities with less than one lakh population, the statement said.

It is also aimed at sustaining open defecation free status in all statutory towns.

The revamped protocol contains provisions to encourage cities to have robust infrastructure with reliable operation and maintenance (O&M) mechanism to achieve the goal of a clean urban India, the ministry said in the statement.

Key interventions against each certification include ODF category -- robust monitoring mechanism ensured by increasing the number of survey sample size and location types.

It also includes ODF+ -- focus on functionality of community and public toilets and innovative O&M business model for their sustainability in the long run.

Under ODF++ category, it emphasises on mechanised cleaning of septic tanks and sewers, safe collection & treatment of used water as well as safe management of faecal sludge.

Under Water+ category, the focus will be on collection, transportation, treatment and reuse of both used water and faecal sludge to prevent environmental pollution, the statement said

TS Govt withdraws order

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Fearing the wrath of the public and teachers, the Telangana Government has decided to withdraw the order seeking the property details of teachers.

As per the earlier order, Telangana Government teachers should take permission before buying or selling movable and immovable properties.

All employees of the School Education Department have to submit annual property state-

ments regularly.

As per the proceedings of the Director of School Education, P. Madan Mohan, all regional joint directors of school education and the District Educational Officers have been asked to issue instructions to all employees working under their jurisdiction. The order was issued on June 8 and was revealed on Saturday. This order reportedly came after a teacher was found to be involved in real

estate, politics, and Waqf Board settlements after abandoning his duties. The order said, "Certain allegations have come against Md. Javed Ali, headmaster, Govt Primary School, Guntipally village, Chamdampet mandal of Nalgonda district. He was participating in political activities, and real estate deals and not attending to school regularly." After the vigilance report, the department will be initiating major penalty proceedings.

The Telangana Progressive Teachers Federation (TPFF) said that in the name of illegal assets it is not right to hurt the self-esteem of a teacher.

BJP leader Sanjay condemned the move and asked why KCR doesn't declare his assets every year. He said that this is vendetta against teachers. Soon after the news spread like wildfire, the Education Minister asked the authorities to withdraw the order immediately.

Govt plans easy visa norms, boosting medical infra in select cities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has drawn up a plan to augment the medical infrastructures of 17 cities, which see an inflow of a lot of overseas patients for treatment and wellness therapies, in a bid to boost medical travel as part of its 'Heal In India' initiative. Besides, the health ministry is working on easing medical visa norms and other requirements for patients and their companions from 44 countries identified based on the

number of patients visiting India, and the quality and cost of medical treatment there, official sources told PTI. These are predominantly African, Latin American countries and also members of the SAARC and Gulf Cooperation Council groupings, they said. Through 'Heal In India', the government aims at positioning the country as a global hub for medical and wellness tourism, and a destination of choice for quality healthcare services. The Union Health

Ministry is collaborating with Tourism, Ayush, Civil Aviation ministries, hospitals and other stakeholders to build a roadmap to connect overseas patients with healthcare facilities in India to boost medical travel. As part of executing the initiative, a nodal agency -- Medical Value Travel Council -- co-chaired by the health and tourism ministries has been formed to create an institutional framework for streamlined integration of all stakeholders, official sources said.

Pak objects G20 in JK

PNS ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan said on Saturday that it rejects India's attempt to hold a meeting of G20 countries in Kashmir, hoping that members of the grouping will be fully cognisant of the imperatives of law and justice and would oppose the proposal outright. JK will be hosting the 2023 meetings of G-20, an influential grouping that brings together the world's major economies.

Sanjay asks KCR to disclose his assets

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar has strongly condemned the government's orders making it mandatory for all teachers in the state to declare details of their assets every year.

In a statement, Sanjay said the orders asking teachers to declare their assets every year and to take an NoC from the government before selling or purchasing movable and immovable assets was nothing

but harassing teachers.

"It is a Tuglaqian decision on the part of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao aimed at psychologically harassing teachers. He had earlier tortured employees using GO: 317. Now, he is targeting teachers," he said.

He said it was ridiculous on the part of the KCR government to suspect teachers, who were providing education to students, as if they were amassing ill-gotten wealth.

"The government itself has not been paying the salaries of teachers on time or resolving issues pending for years. Yet, it is suspecting that they are gaining assets every year," he said.

Sanjay wondered why KCR had come up with this crazy GO now. "In fact, he is answerable to the people as to what his assets and that of his family were before he became the Chief Minister and how much wealth they had amassed in the

last eight years. Why are they not disclosing their assets every year?" he asked.

The BJP president demanded that before asking the teachers to disclose their assets every year, KCR and his family should disclose every year the value of their assets, including wealth stashed abroad.

"Similarly, all cabinet colleagues of the Chief Minister and MLAs of the TRS should disclose details of their assets every year," Sanjay said.

Rs 3,809 crore worth works taken up in Telangana urban local bodies

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd has been accorded permission to launch various infrastructure-related works across the state worth Rs 3,809 crore and the government-run body allotted projects worth Rs 3,219 crore in 117 urban local bodies.

Civic bodies of Hyderabad, Warangal, Khammam, Karimnagar, Ramagundam, Nizamabad, Mahabubnagar, Miryalaguda and other cities are implementing various works under TUFIDC for the 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 years, it further said.

"TUFIDC is primarily tak-



ing up works related roads, central lighting system, important canals, ponds, carrying out beautification and development of parks in urban local bodies," a government release said on Saturday. "Out of 2,829 works, 930 works worth Rs 690 crore have been completed. As many as 741 works worth Rs 862 crore are ongoing while 1,257 works worth Rs 998 crore are in the

tender stage," it said.

As much as 90 per cent of Siddipet underground drainage project has been completed with Rs 72.68 crore expenditure and Rs 75.76 crore Sirisilla drinking water supply scheme, Rs 160.05 crore-Nizamabad Sewage supply works and 71 per cent of 71.41 crore-Suryapet Drainage Project has also been completed, the release added.

13 more TS..

Continued from page 1

Harish said, "Under the leadership of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, the quality standards of government medical services have increased significantly. The award given by the Centre is evidence of this. The government is working to provide quality medical services to the people from the Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) level. The state's health sector is becoming an ideal for the country. The government is strengthening the medical sector. With this, the infrastructure in government hospitals has improved rapidly."

The Health Minister was happy that districts, regional, social and primary health centres in Telangana were achieving national level quality standards which were once limited to corporate hospitals.

Police take Teesta into custody

PNS ■ MUMBAI/AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) on Saturday evening took activist Teesta Setalvad in custody from Mumbai in connection with an FIR registered against her at the Ahmedabad city crime branch, sources said.

Setalvad, on her part, lodged a complaint with Santacruz police station in Mumbai claiming that the "arrest" was illegal and she apprehended a threat to her life. She was being taken to Ahmedabad, sources said.

The First Information Report, registered earlier in the day, accused her and former IPS officers R B Sreekumar and Sanjiv Bhatt of forgery and criminal conspiracy to falsely implicate "innocent" people in the 2002 Gujarat riots cases.

A day earlier, the Supreme Court had dismissed a petition challenging the clean chit given by the SIT to then Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi and others in the 2002 post-Godhra riots cases.

Setalvad's NGO had supported Zakia Jafri, who had filed the petition alleging a larger conspiracy behind the riots, throughout her legal battle. Jafri's husband and former Congress MP Ehsan Jafri was killed during the riots.

Govt implementing disaster mitigation project: Shah

PNS ■ KEVADIYA (GUJ)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Modi government is implementing the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP) in eight coastal states with an outlay of over Rs 4,900 crore to reduce the sufferings caused to the coastal community by cyclones and other calamities.

Addressing a meeting here of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs on Disaster Management, Shah said under the 'Aapdamitra' programme for capacity-building of the

community, one lakh community volunteers in 350 disaster-prone districts are being trained for disaster response and preparedness. "In order to reduce the sufferings caused to the coastal community by cyclones and other calamities, the Modi government is implementing the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project in eight coastal states with a total outlay of Rs 4,903 crore," he said. The home minister said an early-warning system has been developed through innovative technologies such as SMS, mobile app and portal so that people can be sent an early warning about an impending natural calamity.

Rebel Maha ministers to lose their posts `in 24 hours': Sanjay

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Saturday claimed that the rebel Maharashtra ministers in the Eknath Shinde camp will lose their posts "in 24 hours." Earlier in the day, the party's national executive authorised Sena president and state chief minister Uddhav Thackeray to take action against the rebel MLAs led by Shinde, a senior cabinet

minister. Talking to a Marathi news channel in the evening, Raut said "the process of their removal is on." "Ministers like Gulabrao Patil, Dada Bhuse, Sandipan Bhumre were considered to be loyal Shiv Sena workers who were made cabinet ministers by Uddhav Thackeray...the party has given them enough. They have taken the wrong path and will lose their posts in 24 hours," he said.

Nupur Sharma again skips Police summons

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma on Saturday again skipped summons issued by Kolkata Police in connection with her inflammatory comments on Prophet Mohammad that triggered widespread violence in parts of West Bengal, an officer said on Saturday. Sharma, in an email to Amherst Street Police Station, cited apprehensions of possible assault on her if she visits Kolkata and sought four weeks' time to appear before the police officers. She had earlier this week skipped the summons issued by Narkeldanga Police Station in the city citing similar reasons.

TRS turns ad...

Continued from page 1

BJP spokesperson NV Subhash said, "We got to know that billboards have been booked long back across the city. This is nothing but the insecurity of the TRS. This is a party meeting, everyone has the right to do anywhere in this country. The insecurity is clear as the City Police Commissioner has said that all pass holders should have undergone mandatory RT-PCR tests. During the TRS plenary no such questions were asked."

He said that when the

BJP top brass are coming, these people are feeling insecure. Subash said, "They want to dilute the event by not giving BJP access. But the people have decided to topple the TRS and these gimmicks won't work. If not hoardings, we will give newspaper and TV ads and will highlight on social media how the petty TRS had blocked everything." He pointed out that when the TRS conducted its plenary or held a dharna in New Delhi or displayed billboards in BJP-ruled states, the BJP didn't oppose it.

Telugu CMs differ in stance...

Continued from page 1

This led to the widening of the gulf between the two Telugu Chief Ministers. In spite of Telangana Chief Minister KCR's stand against the BJP, Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan is continuing his ties with the Centre.

Opposition parties have said that Jagan surrendered to the BJP government due to the ED and CBI cases against him. But Jagan has told his party leaders several times that he is continuing good relations with the Centre in the interests of AP.

KCR undertook a national tour to unite opposition parties

against the BJP in the presidential election. KCR met several Chief Ministers and the leaders of many parties but did not meet the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, Jagan declared unconditional support to the BJP in the presidential elections. Both the Telugu Chief Ministers have different opinions about the BJP retaining power at the Centre after the next Lok Sabha elections.

KCR thinks that the people have turned against the BJP due to the anti-people decisions taken by the Modi government. He thinks that the BJP may not be able to retain

power at the Centre after the next general elections.

But Jagan thinks that in the interests of AP he has to maintain good relations with the Centre. He thinks that a stand can be taken only after the next general elections depending on the political situation.

Initially, the opinion of both the Telugu Chief Ministers was the same towards the Centre. But now their ways are different. While KCR is supporting the opposition parties' common candidate Yashwant Sinha in the presidential election, AP Chief Minister Jagan is supporting BJP candidate Draupadi Marmu.

TS to see...

Continued from page 1

The maximum rainfall recorded on Saturday was 109.3 mm in Jayashankar district, while Hyderabad recorded 11.5 mm rainfall. In Hyderabad, the maximum temperatures are expected to be in the range of 32 to 34 degree Celsius, while the minimum temperatures are expected to be in the range of 22 to 24 degree Celsius.

TRS demands clean chit for Agnipath...

Continued from page 1

"If the Centre wants to cut pension bill it should be done in a gradual manner. PM Modi takes all major decisions suddenly. Examples are demonetization, GST etc. Such decisions taken in a hurry are not good for the country," Sebastian He said that currently there are 14 lakh personnel in the three defence services, that is, the army, the navy

and the air force and their salary bill per year is Rs 2.50 lakh crore. There are another 33 lakh pensioners in the armed forces. Their pension bill is around Rs 1.20 lakh crore. The Total defence budget in 2022-23 is Rs 5.25 lakh crore. Of this, Rs 3.70 lakh crore goes for salaries and pensions. Only Rs 1.55 lakh crore is left for the purchase of arms and modernisation of the defence forces. TRS demanded



Harvard University to conduct 10-day course for BC students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

USA-based Harvard University will conduct a 10-day course for the students of Backward Classes Welfare School and Institutions. This is intended to provide an opportunity to Backward Classes students to study in ivy-league school abroad.

The classes for Backward Classes students will be jointly organised by the Backward Classes Department of Welfare, Osmania University and Harvard University.

The classes will be conducted by Harvard University professors on the Osmania University campus from January next year.

Dominic Mao, Assistant Director of Harvard University, Professor Malleshm of Osmania University, Burra Venkatesam, Chief Secretary of the Backward Classes Welfare Department discussed the proposal on Saturday.

Backward Classes Welfare Principal Secretary Burra Venkatesam explained that Backward Classes Welfare Department would identify hundreds of students in



Backward Classes Welfare Principal Secretary Burra Venkatesham, Harvard University Assistant Director Dominic Mao and Osmania University Professor Malleshm announcing a programme for BC students, in Hyderabad on Saturday

advance based on their talent and conduct classes for them over ten days, and that these classes would be useful to enrol in Harvard University for higher studies.

He said that through these classes, students would be given the training they needed to achieve 100 per cent scholarship in the future to overcome

financial difficulties. The Harvard officials informed the Backward Classes Welfare Department officials that the course would go a long way in helping the students.

Venkatesham said it was commendable that Harvard University had teamed up with Osmania University to organise classes for Backward Classes

students. He said the government's decision in this regard would be communicated to the Harvard University soon. He said the State government was making all efforts to provide higher education to Backward Classes students. He presented Dominic Mao with his book 'Selfie of Success,' an Amazon bestseller.

Swagruha flats allotment from June 27

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The allotment of Swagruha Corporation Limited flats in Bandlaguda and Pocharam by lottery will take place from June 27 to June 29. The HMDA officials said that the State government issued notification in May for sale of Rajiv Swagruha flats at Bandlaguda and Pocharam to interested citizens at a fixed rate. A total of 39,082 applications for 3,716 flats were received online between May 12 and June 14. Of these 33,161 applications for 2,246 flats in Bandlaguda and 5,921 applications for 1,470 flats in Pocharam were received. As per the notification, these flats would be allotted on 'fixed rate' basis by way of draw of lots. Accordingly, necessary arrangements are being made to conduct draw of lots for allotment of flats. The draw of lots will be conducted in an absolutely transparent manner. In order to ensure transparency, the entire proceedings of "draw of lots" process will be streamed live through Facebook and YouTube. The links are given below: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IPRTelangana>.

SALE OF PRASADAM

Statue of Equality management booked for violating rules



The officials said that the District Legal Metrology Office of Rangareddy-Shamshabad had inspected the premises of the Statue of Equality on June 20. The inspection was conducted following a complaint by consumer rights activist Vinay Vangal.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Department of Legal Metrology on Saturday booked the management of the Statue of Equality for violating various sections of the Legal Metrology Act while selling 'prasadam' on the premises of the statue.

It may be recalled that the Statue was inaugurated at Muchintal in Rangareddy district by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February this year.

The officials said that the District Legal Metrology Office of Rangareddy-Shamshabad had inspected the premises of the Statue of Equality on June 20. The inspection was conducted following a complaint

by consumer rights activist Vinay Vangal. He pointed out that the weight, date of manufacture and expiry date, besides quantity, were not mentioned on the 'prasadam' packets.

Vinay Vangala, a resident of Hyderabad, who visited the Equality Statue in Muchintal, found that the officials of the Statue of Equality did not specify the weight, manufacture and expiration dates and size on the prasadam packets. He immediately complained to the Legal Metrology authorities about the flouting rules.

"When I visited the Statue of Equality recently, I was surprised to see that they did not mention the weight, manufac-

ture and expiration dates and size on the Prasadam packets. I then complained to the Legal Metrology Department about this. Citizens are requested to submit complaints regarding unfair practices in this email 'clm-ts@nic.in' for Telangana State to avoid problems," said Vinay Chand Vangala.

Jagan Mohan Reddy, Assistant Controller, Legal Metrology, inspected the trading premises, Statue of Equality (Temple/ Establishment), Muchintal, on June 20 and conducted inspections.

During the course of inspections, a case has been registered for violation of Sec. 10, 11, 12 and Sec8/25 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

Sabita lays stone for central lighting facility in Tukkuguda, Maheshwaram

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Minister for Education Sabita Indra Reddy on Saturday laid the foundation stones for central lighting facility at several places in Tukkuguda and Maheshwaram municipalities at a total cost of Rs 5.30 crore.

She laid the foundation stone for lighting works from Srisailem Highway to Sardar Nagar and from ravyryala Gandhi Chowk to Suryagiri Yellamma temple in Tukkuguda municipality.

Similarly, she laid the foundation stones for lighting works from Mankhal Kaman to ORR service road. She also laid the foundation stone for central lighting works from ORR on Srisailem highway to Maheshwaram gate and again Maheshwaram gate to Maheshwaram village.

Telangana under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has set an example for other states by providing all amenities in villages and towns, she said. Nowadays,

all States are looking towards Telangana. Out of 20 model villages, 19 are located in Telangana. There is planned development in towns too. The CM released Rs 1200 crore for providing drinking water to the neighbouring towns and villages of the GHMC under Mission Bhagiradha phase-2.

Out of the Rs 210 crore released for each constituency under the second phase of Mission Bhagiradha, Tukkuguda municipality was sanctioned Rs 32 crore, she said.



Minister K.T. Rama Rao watched the movie 'Virata Parvam' along with the hero Rana Daggubati, TRS MLAs Balka Suman, Jeevan Reddy and movie crew

Rally conducted against drug abuse in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner C.V. Anand along with officers from the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) took part in a rally on Saturday on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. On the occasion, Anand said that stringent measures were taken by the Telangana Government to root out the drug menace. The city police took measures to make the city drug free. In the initial stage, awareness cam-



paigns were conducted in colleges and neighborhoods to sensitise vulnerable age groups in the dangers of drug abuse. 'Drug abuse affects an individual's development, health, and disrupts social harmony. We need to spread awareness in this regard,' Anand added.



Minister for Education Sabita Indra Reddy laying foundation stone for developmental works Tukkuguda and Maheshwaram Municipalities in Rangareddy district on Saturday

TS records 496 new COVID-19 cases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana continued to see a rise in new COVID-19 cases on Saturday with 496 fresh infections being reported, pushing the tally to 7,98,621. Hyderabad district accounted for the highest number of cases with 341, while its neighbouring Medchal Malkajigiri and Ranga Reddy reported 40 and 68, respectively. A health department bulletin said 205 people



recuperated from the infection and the cumulative number of recoveries till date was 7,90,897. The recovery rate declined to 99.03 per cent. No fresh fatality occurred due to the infection and the death toll continued to be 4,111. The bulletin said 28,808 samples were tested on Saturday. The number of active cases was 3,613, it said. The state has been witnessing a rise in daily cases since early June.

SBI holds 33rd general body meeting in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

State Bank of India Officers' Association (Hyderabad Circle), popularly known as SBIOA (HC), conducted its 33rd general body meeting on Saturday at Shilpakala Vedika, Hi-Tech City here.

The SBIOA (HC) was formed on June 26, 1965 and has now entered 58th year of its saga of success, struggles and sacrifices with a strong and vibrant membership of over 6,000 officers. The venue was jam-packed with more than 3,000 officers who assembled at the venue from nook and corner of Telangana.

The programme started with a huge procession inside the Shilpakala Vedika with the display of multicultural dances of Telangana and slogan shouting followed by flag hoisting by leaders. The Inaugural session started at 10 am followed by business session in the afternoon.

S Appaswamy, president of the Officers' Association, Hyderabad Circle, presided over the meeting. Sekar L, general manager CAO



Hyderabad, was the chief guest for the occasion. Manju Sharma, general manager NW-I LHO Hyderabad, Sri Debashish Mitra, General manager NW - II LHO Hyderabad and K Phanendranath, general manager CCGRO Hyderabad attended the meeting as distinguished guests. Rupam Roy, chairman of All India State Bank Officers' Federation and Deepak Kumar Sharma, president of All India State Bank Officers' Federation, K L Chavan, secretary general, National Federation of SBI SC/ST employees addressed

the participants. Soumya Datta, general secretary, All India State Bank Officers' Federation and All India Bank Officers' Confederation, delivered the keynote address and stressed upon 'Bank Bachao Desh Bachao.'

A Sai Prasad, general secretary of the Officers' Association, Hyderabad Circle, who is the force behind every member, delivered speech in his opening remarks. Several crucial resolutions were passed in the meeting for the benefit of the members of the Association.

Telugu authors flay book return policy of e-commerce sites

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Just a few days after the book was purchased and returned by customers under e-commerce companies' Kindle return policy, the return policy is disturbing authors and they are highlighting how Amazon's Kindle return policy would cost them.

Telugu authors say that people are using e-commerce sites as a library and returning books after reading. This is leading to authors having to pay e-commerce sites. Most people read the book and return it while others cleverly

pack and send different books. When authors sell books at e-commerce companies like Amazon, readers read a book and replace it within two to three days or 10 days under the Kindle return policy on products. With this the customers get back their money under the refund policy but on the other hand, authors will be charged by e-commerce sites to restore the book. Apart from that, Telugu authors claim that they are also getting damaged books and will be charged a fee to have the book restocked.

Authors are concerned that

most customers return books after damaging it within 10 days or return other books. Although customers benefit from these policies it financially impacts the authors.

One Telugu author, Mallikarjun said, "If a book is delivered to a customer it will be read and returned within three days. We are getting a lot of books from customers on a 10-day return policy. If the book is not damaged we will sell it again but if the damaged item arrives we can do nothing with that book and give it away free. We always provide only good, undamaged books

to our readers." He added that many writers, not just in Telangana, have been facing the same problem for years. Gradually it has become a concern among authors.

"Amazon is getting back at least six books each week. Most people read the book and return it while others cleverly pack and send different books," said Mallikarjun.

There are many instances of returning other books or damaged books. Recently one customer returned other books with detergent surf-excel. We are struggling financially with the products to return the

damaged books and pay e-commerce companies, say authors.

"We receive at least 5 to 6 returned books each week. We have informed the executives of e-commerce companies like Amazon to order the delivery boys to inspect the product before returning it. But in most cases this is being neglected as the company has a large number of delivery boys as well as orders."

"Authors like me are getting many problems every day and are being affected due to the return policy," added Mallikarjun.

Flipkart to sell produce of Telangana farmers, SHGs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Flipkart, India's prominent e-commerce operator signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Saturday with the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) of the Telangana Department of Rural Development to provide market access to Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) based in Telangana.

The MoU was signed by Sandeep Kumar Sultania, IAS, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development and Smriti Ravichandran, the Vice President and Head of Grocery, Flipkart, at the Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute in Hyderabad. The guest of honour at the event was Errabelli Dayakar Rao, the Minister of



Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Rural Water Supply. Rajitha Nardella, the COO of SERP in Telangana was also present.

Flipkart aims to empower local farming communities and SHGs of Telangana through

this partnership by providing pan-India market access to the 400 million customers on its platform. Flipkart will now directly source premium quality pulses, millets, staples and spices from TS farmers resulting in better incomes and busi-

ness growth for farmers. Speaking on the occasion Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao said, "This is the first of its kind MoU signed in the country with an e-commerce giant like Flipkart and is a milestone contributing to Telangana's

progress." The SHGs and women of Telangana will now be able to sell their products to consumers all over India. There are 4,36,000 SHGs in TS with 46 lakh members.

"We hope to support all of them, especially women, for whom we have a target to provide loans of Rs 500 crore this year. We believe that SHGs will use this initiative to expand their businesses," Errabelli said.

Sandeep Kumar Sultania said that the partnership between Flipkart and SERP will improve the incomes of farmers and their fresh produce will get pan-India market access.

The training, skill development and focus on product standardisation will ensure that products are not limited to B2B partners but will reach pan-India customers directly. This partnership will give recognition to state FPOs, women and SHGs

in a big way in the years to come, Sandeep said.

"Flipkart is dedicated to creating new avenues for all its stakeholders. The MoU signed with SERP is another step towards our commitment to helping farming communities and SHGs to ensure better income and business opportunities with adequate knowledge, training, and market access. This promotes inclusivity with FPOs, SHGs, and entrepreneurs all over India and Telangana. Our customers get direct access to quality farm produce and fresh groceries from these FPOs," said Smriti Ravichandran, the Vice President of Grocery at Flipkart.

Flipkart has trained around 10,000 farmers across the country on product quality and food safety standards to enable market access and to empower Indian farmers.

Hyd Police gear up for Bakrid, Anand warns animal welfare groups

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In view of the upcoming Bakrid festival which is celebrated on July 10, Hyderabad City Police Commissioner CV Anand held a coordination meeting at the police headquarters on Saturday.

The meeting was attended by Rachakonda Police Commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat, Cyberabad Police Commissioner Stephen Raveendra, senior GHMC, transport and animal husbandry department officials.

During the meeting, Anand issued a stern warning to self-styled groups and individuals who take the law into their hands in the name of protecting animals.

"If anyone has information about the illegal transportation of cattle it should be brought to

the notice of officials. The police will put up check posts across the city to check the entry of cattle illegally into the city. The check posts will be manned round the clock by a team comprising officials of the Animal Husbandry department, police and GHMC officials," he said.

In view of the recent confrontations between different groups at several places in the city and bordering districts, the police department has sensitised government officials about the network of cattle suppliers, transporters, receivers and slaughterhouses to make them aware of the situation and its repercussions on the law and order situation.

Police chiefs of all the three commissionerates asked the GHMC to set up more animal shelters to accommodate the seized cattle.

Congress leaders sore over newcomers brought by Revanth

K. VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

Although the joining of leaders from other political parties may be a good sign for the Congress, party leaders are not happy with the way TPCC Chief Revanth Reddy has been inducting the leaders.

It is learnt that the party leadership had not informed the leaders of concerned districts about the inductions of leaders from other political parties.

It is learnt that the party didn't inform the leaders of the erstwhile Khammam district about the induction of former TRS MLA from Aswaraopet, Thati Venkateshwarlu, into the Congress a couple of days ago.

The party leadership had not informed Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Bhadrachalam MLA Podem Veeraiah and TPCC Senior Vice-President Sambhani Chandrasekhar who hails from erstwhile Khammam district.

It is learnt that these leaders were shocked as they were not informed by the leadership about the joining of Thati Venkateshwarlu.

In the same manner, the party didn't inform AICC official spokesperson Dasoju



The party leadership had not informed Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Bhadrachalam MLA Podem Veeraiah and TPCC Senior Vice-President Sambhani Chandrasekhar who hails from erstwhile Khammam district.

Pravara, who is the party's defeated candidate in Khairathabad, about the joining of Khairatabad corporator P. Vijaya Reddy.

It is also learnt that Dasoju Pravar was not happy with the development. Dasoju expressed his unhappiness to fellow party leaders. Some senior leaders were also not happy with the way the TPCC Chief was inducting leaders

from other parties. Speaking to "The Pioneer" on condition of anonymity one of the leaders expressed anger at the TPCC Chief. He said that the leadership should behave in a mature way. The TPCC Chief, who criticizes the government when the government doesn't follow protocol is not following party protocol, he said.

IRCS mobile testing lab launched in Hanamkonda

PNS ■ HANAMKONDA

Government Chief Whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar on Saturday inaugurated a mobile testing lab along with District Collector Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanth. The vehicle is equipped with testing machines to test blood samples, including the Covid-19 test.

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), New Delhi, has allotted the vehicle exclusively for the IRCS, Hanamkonda. The vehicle is worth around Rs 50 lakh, according to officials. Speaking on the occasion, Vinay Bhaskar said that the mobile testing lab would help conduct tests during the outbreak of seasonal diseases, like dengue, malaria and other vector-borne disease during the rainy season. He said that they would soon prepare the schedule for conducting the tests in

the West constituency, and appealed to the poor to avail themselves of the free service. He also appreciated the managing committee of the IRCS, Hanamkonda, for their successful efforts to help the needy by arranging the blood and also providing nursing and tailoring to the women. The IRCS, Hanamkonda, also received an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance worth Rs 35 lakhs from Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) under Corporate Social Responsibility recently. IRCS, Hanamkonda chapter, managing committee chairman Dr Pesaru Vijayachander Reddy, State Managing Committee member E V Srinivas Rao, members Pottapally Srinivas Rao, B Papi Reddy, Chennamaneni Jayasri, IRCS Patron member Ponnala Rammohan and others were present during the launch of the vehicle.



15,000 oil palm saplings planted in 313 acres

PNS ■ WANAPARTHY

Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy has called upon farmers to adopt modern methods of farming in tune with the changing times. He underlined the need for farmers to switch over to modern methods of cultivation.

He was taking part in mass plantation of oil palm at Chityal village of Wanaparthi mandal here on Saturday.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion, he said the farmers can grow all crops as an intercrop in oil palm garden with the exception of paddy.

The farmers will get sizeable amount of revenue with the cultivation of oil palm as it is the only crop that enjoys buyback arrangement in the country.

The government proposed to raise oil palm in 20 lakh acres, he said, adding that on Saturday 15,000 saplings are planted in 313 acres.

To overcome import of edible oils from other countries, the farmers are required to focus attention on oil palm cultivation.



Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy planting oil palm sapling at Chityal village in Wanaparthi district on Saturday

Gangula launches Dalit Bandhu units in Karimnagar district

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Minister for Backward Classes Welfare Gangula Kamalakar has said that the Telangana government fulfilled the dreams of B R Ambedkar, Jagjivan Ram and Jyotiba Phule. Launching various units at Kisanagar and in Rekurti sanctioned under the Dalit Bandhu on Saturday, he said the fate of Dalits did not changing in spite of successive regimes in the united AP claimed to have helped them. These governments regarded Dalits as mere vote banks. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao launched the Dalit Bandhu to bring sheen into the lives of the Dalits and praised the government of Telangana for implementing various schemes for Dalits without putting any conditions. The Telangana government has introduced unprece-



Minister for Backward Classes Gangula Kamalakar at the steering wheel of a tractor sanctioned under the Dalit Bandhu scheme, in Karimnagar on Saturday

ented schemes, he said.

In Huzurabad constituency, out of 13,559 beneficiaries, 11,500 benefited under the Dalit Bandhu.

In Karimnagar, Choppadandi, Manakondur constituencies, out of 300 beneficiaries identified, 250 were sanctioned units, he said, adding that he is constantly

monitoring the units sanctioned under Dalit Bandhu.

He said that 100 units sanctioned in Karimnagar constituency would be distributed among the beneficiaries soon. With directions from CM KCR, at least 1500 beneficiaries for each Assembly constituency are being identified under Dalit Bandhu.

Give govt jobs to the kin of dead farmers, demands Gudur

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Senior BJP leader Gudur Narayana Reddy asked Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to provide government jobs to eligible candidates from the families of farmers who have died or have committed suicide if he has any consideration for farmers.

In a media statement released here on Saturday, he said the Chief Secretary had asked the Warangal Collector to give a government job to the brother of Rakesh, who was killed in the police firing at the Secunderabad Railway Station recently.

"In the same way the Chief Minister should provide government jobs to all those eligible from the families of farmers who have died due to heart failure or had committed suicide if he has any regard for them," Gudur said. He said farmers are dying every day due to the apathy of

the state government and added that according to information provided by the government itself, around 67,699 farmers have died due to various reasons including suicide in the last three years.

He said that after the formation of Telangana nearly 7,409 farmers have committed suicide in the state. He said that of them only 1,500 have been recognised and were provided aid.

He said that although the Telangana government has introduced Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima schemes to help farmers there is no reduction in the number of deaths due to suicide and heart failures triggered by losses incurred in farming.

He said that many farmers were ending their lives by consuming poison or hanging themselves due to losses. Many families have lost their fathers, sons and husbands and they are now in distress, Gudur added.



But the government does not show any sympathy towards these families and has abandoned them to their fate. He said that most families of farmers who committed suicide did not get the compensation of Rs 6 lakh. He said that the families were finding it difficult to survive and should be helped. He said the only solution to save the families is to give government jobs to those eligible.

Gudur said the government has turned a blind eye towards these families. "I request the Chief Minister to open his eyes and see the problems of those families," he said.

He said that the government has been trying to dupe the public by providing compensation here and there. The Chief Minister has been trying to become a hero through tokenism. In fact, he is a big zero in ruling the state, Gudur Narayana Reddy added. He asked the Chief Minister to get the list of all the farmers who have died after the formation of Telangana and to provide jobs to their kin on compassionate grounds.

He said that if Collectors were unable to provide information about dead farmers, the BJP would provide the list. Gudur asked the government to view the deaths of the farmers from a humanitarian perspective.

Fake currency racket busted: Three arrested

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR
BHUPALA PALLY

Three persons, who allegedly circulated counterfeit currency in a bid to make easy money, landed behind bars at Mahadevpur in the district on Saturday. The Mahavepur police apprehended the alleged culprits and seized from them fake currency with a face value of Rs 2,98,300 from them. District Superintendent of Police J Surender Reddy told the media persons that the suspects had started the racket of circulating fake currency in a bid to make easy money.

The arrested are Polu Satish and Elukoochi Suresh, residents of Mahadevpur and Jayanth of Sironcha who hailed from Maharashtra.

Cong asks farmers to 'gherao' TRS leaders

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir has urged farmers to 'gherao' TRS leaders and their residences if Rythu Bandhu payments do not get deposited in their bank accounts by June 28.

Shabbir was addressing Congress Raithu Rachabanda programmes in Bhagirathapalli, Inapalli and Ragyatapalli in the Bhiknora Mandal of Kamareddy district on Saturday.

Shabbir slammed the government for the delay in releasing the Rythu Bandhu money despite the Kharif season beginning. He said that farmers have already started Kharif operations after monsoon rains.

He said that the delay in the release of the Rythu Bandhu money was forcing farmers to take loans at high interest rates from money lenders.

He warned that the Congress would 'gherao' TRS leaders and stage protests at their residences if the government fails to deposit the Rythu Bandhu money by June 28.

He said Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had no time to hold a meeting on Rythu Bandhu payments as he was spending his entire time launching his national party.

Shabbir also condemned the BJP government at the Centre for using the Enforcement Directorate against opposition parties. He said the BJP was attacking democratically elected gov-

ernments by purchasing MLAs.

He said the BJP is responsible for the political crisis in Maharashtra and that the BJP has no respect either for the opposition or democracy.

The Congress leader said that the people would teach the BJP a lesson in the next elections. He said that Prime Minister Modi's government is trying to survive by inflaming religious feelings and promoting communal hatred.

He also condemned the Agnipath scheme and said that the move would harm the armed forces. He said short service was not in the interests of the nation as India needs regular, well-trained soldiers to counter China and Pakistan. He demanded that the

Central and State Governments should withdraw all the cases registered in connection with the protest against the Agnipath scheme.

Shabbir said the Congress would ensure the welfare of farmers by implementing all the promises made in the Warangal Declaration unveiled by Rahul Gandhi on May 6.

He said that farmers' loans up to Rs 2 lakh would be waived at one go and they will be given input assistance of Rs 15,000 per acre per annum if the Congress is voted in power.

He said tenant farmers would also be eligible to get input subsidies. He said Rs 12,000 would be given per annum to landless farm labourers who are registered with NREGS.

Masked assailant wounds girl, escapes

PNS ■ YADAGIRI-BHONGIR

In a horrific incident, an unidentified assailant on Friday evening slashed the throat of a 17-year-old girl at Dattappagudem under Mothkur mandal in the district. The girl, who suffered a deep wound on her throat, was shifted to Area Hospital at Bhongir and she was declared out of danger.

The assailant who pounced on the girl and inflicted a deep wound on her throat, fled when the villagers went the rescue of the girl when she raised the alarm. The villagers said there were two assailants and one of them attacked the girl. The police said the girl was alone in the house at the time of the attack. The assailant knocked on the door when she opened the door, as she thought that her parents had returned home from agriculture field. The culprit attacked the girl with a sharp weapon and fled when the villagers gathered and tried to catch him.

District collector calls on HC judge, Siddipet district judge

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

District Collector Prasant Jeevan Patil and Additional Collector Muzammil Khan on Saturday called on the Telangana High Court judge Justice Surepalli Nanda and Siddipet district judge Dr K Raghuram as a matter of courtesy at Ranganayaka Sagar Guest house and presented them with bouquets and thanked them for visiting Siddipet district.

They related the legal problems being faced by the district administration to the judge. They spoke with the judicial officers of the district and visiting dignitaries about several legal and judicial aspects.

Anti-drugs rally taken out in Suryapet

PNS ■ SURYAPET

District Superintendent of Police S Rajendra Prasad on Saturday flagged off anti-drugs rally in the town in connection with The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 26.

The rally was taken out from new bus stand in town to Sankara Vilas. The police personnel, youth, students and others took part in the rally.

He asked the youth to keep away from cocaine, drugs and ganja as it would weaken them.

As part of the State government's determination to weed out the evils of drug smuggling and peddling, the police had seized huge quantities of ganja acting under directions from the DGP, he said. He appealed to one and all to come forward to drive away narcotics from society. People should stay away from con-



Suryapet District Superintendent of Police S Rajendra Prasad flagging off anti-drug rally in Suryapet on Saturday

sumption of drugs and their smuggling. Moreover, the people should pass on information about drugs to the police, he said.

The police kept a tight vigil on peddling and smuggling of drugs even in remote villages. The youth

are spoiling their future getting addicted to narcotics.

The initial symptoms of people addicted to drugs would be behavioural changes, not interested in taking part in day to day activities, diminishing talents, preferring to

stay alone, not having appetite, anger, not interested to cultivate new friendships.

DSP Nagabushanam, CIs Anjaneyulu and Praveen Kumar, Ss Srinivas, Saidulu, Kranti and Suresh and others took part in the event.

Stitching classes for transgenders launched

PNS ■ WARANGAL

In association with SMM Sanghika Seva, SHE teams of the city police Commissionerate have arranged free stitching classes for transgenders.

The Officer on Special Duty (crimes and operations) Additional DCP inaugurated the classes on Saturday. The classes are the brainchild of city Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi. The DCP enlight-

ened the transgenders on their rights and the role being played by the police to assist them in enforcing their rights. The DCP wanted them to achieve self-sufficiency and advised them to stop begging.

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, Kundambagh, 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. 12.95 Ha. Quartz & Feldspar Mine of M/s. Srimex Mines & Minerals, Sy.No.22, Cheepunurthala (V), Talakondapally, Rangareddy District, Telangana State has proposed Quartz & Feldspar Mine in an area over an extent of 12.95 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	12.95 Ha. Quartz & Feldspar Mine of M/s. Srimex Mines & Minerals, Sy.No.22, Cheepunurthala (V), Talakondapally, Rangareddy District, Telangana State
2) Location of the project	Sy.No.22, Cheepunurthala (V), Talakondapally, Rangareddy District, Telangana State
3) Name of the authorized person to be contacted with address and phone No.	Sri B. Janga Bhavan, Proprietor, M/s. Srimex Mines & Minerals, H.No.9-7-199, Street No.2, Maruthinagar, Champapet, Hyderabad-500 059 PH.No. 788066614 Email: srimex.jangareddy@gmail.com
4) Capital cost of the project	Total cost of the project is Rs. 120 Lakhs
5) Name of the project consultant/ environmental consultant	M/s. Global Enviro Labs, 2-2-1075/14/A/1, Tikalagar "X" Roads, Bagh Amberpet, Hyderabad-500 013. Mobile: 9849039741 Email: globallabst@gmail.com
6) Line of Activity / Capacity	Quartz & Feldspar Mine
7) Date, Time & Venue of Public Hearing	29.07.2022 / 11.00 A.M. Venue: At Project Site i.e., Sy.No.22, Cheepunurthala (V), Talakondapally, 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. O/o. The District Collector, Rangareddy District 2. O/o. The CEO, Zilla Parishad, Rangareddy District 3. O/o. The District Industries Centre, Rangareddy District 4. Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, 3rd Floor, Aranya Bhavan, Safilabad, Hyderabad, Telangana. 5. T.S. Pollution Control Board, Regional Office-I, Rangareddy District, H.No.6-3-1219,Block C, Backside of Country Club, Kundambagh, Umanagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016. 6. O/o. T.S. Pollution Control Board, Parvayavara Bhavan, A3, Industrial Estate, Sonathnagar, Hyderabad-500018 7. O/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 - 500016. 8. Revenue Divisional Office, Kandukur, Rangareddy District 9. Tahasildar Office, Talakondapally Mandal, Rangareddy District 10.The Executive summary of the project both in Telugu & English are available at Gram Panchayat office of Cheepunurthala Village	
Suggestions, Views, Comments and objections of the Public, if any, are invited within 30 days from the date of Publication of the 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 : 26.06.2022	
DIPR No. : 335-PPVCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23	
Environmental Engineer T.S. Pollution Control Board, Regional Office-I, Rangareddy	

INDIA CORNER

Narayana Murthy, Padukone selected for 'Kempegowda International Award'

Former Karnataka chief minister S M Krishna, Infosys founder and IT industry veteran N R Narayana Murthy, and former badminton player Prakash Padukone, have been selected for the 'Kempegowda International Award', which has been instituted beginning this year. Karnataka Higher Education Minister C N Ashwath Narayan, who is also the Vice-President of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Heritage Area Development Authority, made an announcement to this effect on Saturday. He said Chief Minister Basavaraja Bommai will present the awards to recipients during the grand celebration on the 513th birth anniversary of Kempegowda, the architect of Bengaluru city, on June 27 at Vidhana Soudha. The minister said all the three achievers have contributed in their own unique way for the development of Bengaluru and the fame it has garnered. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh along with a plaque.



Massive searches carried out along IB ahead of Amarnath Yatra

Security forces on Saturday carried out a massive search operation along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir to detect cross-border tunnels and prevent any infiltration attempts by terrorists during the Amarnath Yatra, officials said. The search operation was jointly carried out by Police, CRPF, and BSF in the forward villages in Samba, Kathua, and Jammu districts, the officials said. The 43-day-long Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to start on June 30 from two routes -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan in south Kashmir's Pahalgam and a 14-km shorter route from Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal -- after a two-year break forced by the COVID pandemic. Various intelligence inputs suggest that terrorists are planning to infiltrate from across the border to disrupt the yatra, Deputy Superintendent of Police (operations), Samba, G R Bhardwaj said.



Punjab in economic morass, debt trap: White Paper

Punjab is in an economic morass and debt trap, said the White Paper on state finances presented in the state Assembly here on Saturday. The document presented by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema blamed previous governments for the fiscal mess. According to the document tabled two days ahead of the presentation of the state budget in the House, "Today, Punjab is in an economic morass and debt trap." "The previous governments, instead of applying necessary correctives, continued to slip into fiscal profligacy, as evident from unchecked increase in unproductive revenue expenditure, freebies and unmerited subsidies, virtual collapse in the capital and social sector investments vital for future growth and non-realisation of its potential tax and non-tax revenues," it said.



PM MODI AHEAD OF G7 SUMMIT

Will exchange views on energy, food security, counter-terrorism

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of his visit to Germany for the G7 summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said he will exchange views with the leaders of the bloc and its partners on issues such as energy, food security, counter-terrorism, environment and democracy. Modi is visiting Schloss Elmau in southern Germany on June 26 and 27 for the summit of the G7, a grouping of the world's seven richest nations. The G7 leaders are expected to focus on the Ukraine crisis that has triggered geopolitical turmoil besides fuelling a global food and energy crisis. Modi is attending the G7 summit following an invitation by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.



The summit is being hosted by Germany in its capacity as the chair of G7. "In an effort to strengthen international collaboration on important global issues impacting humanity, Germany has also invited other democracies such as Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa to the G7 Summit," Modi said in a statement ahead of his visit. "During the sessions of the Summit, I will be exchanging views with the G7 countries, G7 partner countries and guest

International Organisations on topical issues such as environment, energy, climate, food security, health, counter-terrorism, gender equality and democracy," he added. Modi said he was looking forward to meeting leaders of some of the participating G7 and guest countries on the sidelines of the summit. The prime minister said he was also looking forward to meeting Chancellor Scholz again after the "productive" India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) last month. "While in Germany, I also look forward to meeting members of the Indian Diaspora from across Europe who are contributing immensely to their local economies as also enriching our relations with

European countries," the prime minister said. Modi leaves for Germany on Saturday night. From Germany, Modi will travel to the United Arab Emirates on June 28 to pay his condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former president of the Gulf nation. "On my way back to India, I will make a brief stopover in Abu Dhabi, UAE for a meeting with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, on June 28 to convey my personal condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi," Modi said. Zayed Al Nahyan passed away on May 13 after battling illness for the last several years.

'India emerged successfully in management of Covid-19'

PNS ■ PUDUCHERRY

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday said the country has successfully spearheaded the fight against covid-19 pandemic under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The country also developed a "robust and strong mechanism to counter the public health issues," he said. "The country has emerged successfully in the management of the pandemic," the Health and Family Welfare minister said. Declaring open the Jipmer International School of Public Health here, Mandaviya said the dedication of the institution to the nation marks an important event. The school will help India as well as the world in efficiently tackling various global public health issues and challenges. "It will also provide the highest level of education in public health, generate sustainable value-based



solutions and strengthen the capacity for services and research in the health sector," he said. He said the Central government had allotted Rs 66 crore for the construction of the infrastructure to house the school. "The school would meet the health care requirements of people of not only our country but also would serve the entire world. This is in tandem with the Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (whole world is one family)," the Minister said, calling upon students and health administrators to be ambassadors of health care and provide services with compassion. Lt Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan presided over the event and said the Ayushman Bharath scheme was a very effective health initiative and that the Prime Minister had introduced the scheme to enable the poor to get medical care for various ailments.

10 women held for clashing with liquor shop staff

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ten people, all women, were arrested after a clash broke out between a group of women protesting the opening of a liquor shop in south Delhi's Tigr area and the shop's staff, police said on Saturday. The incident happened Thursday around 8.30 am before the shop was opened. The quarrel started with a protest staged by a group of local women, who were apparently against the opening of the liquor shop in the area, police said. Officials said that the police was already brought in at the spot, as they had got to know about the protest, besides the female staff, who were deployed by the owner of

the shop. As their demonstration got heated, the protesters got into a fight with the women staff of the shop, roughing up a male police too. Head Constable Ranjeet, the beat officer of the area, got caught in the fight and his uniform was also torn by those in the crowd, the officer said. The situation in the area was brought under control and medical of the injured staff was conducted at AIIMS Trauma Centre, the officer added. According to police, a case under several sections, including 146 for rioting, was filed against the 10 offenders booked. "Ten accused have been arrested in this case.

Historians, scholars oppose move to demolish Sultan Palace in Patna

PNS ■ PATNA

The Bihar government's proposal to demolish the historic Sultan Palace in the heart of the city has shocked historians, conservationists and ordinary citizens who have vehemently opposed the decision and appealed for preserving and restoring the "architectural icon" instead of razing it. The Nitish Kumar government recently announced that the state cabinet had given its nod to build three five-star hotels in Patna, including one at the site of the 100-year-old Sultan Palace on Beer Chand Patel Road. As the decision was made public, protests erupted on



social media, with many citizens calling it 'absolutely shocking' and "a hare-brained decision" even as some of them cited the Bihar government's earlier decision, taken a few years ago, to convert the palace into a "heritage hotel" and asked why has it discarded the widely-reported old plan. Ordinary citizens, scholars and activists from different parts of the country have appealed to the government to not demolish the Sultan Palace, one of the last surviving palaces

in Patna, and instead convert it into a heritage five-star hotel, which would only enhance its value and attract more tourists. The palace, located on the historic Gardiner Road (now Beer Chand Patel Road), was built in 1922 by the legendary barrister of Patna, Sir Sultan Ahmad, who also briefly served as a judge in the Patna High Court and as the first Indian vice-chancellor of the Patna University from 1923-30. He later became a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council for law and information and broadcasting, and was part of the delegation of India for the historic Round Table Conferences in 1930s in London, along with Mahatma Gandhi.

Mehbooba urges Kashmiri youth to shun militancy

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday appealed to the youth of Kashmir to shun militancy and save their lives, claiming security forces were getting incentives for killing them. Mehbooba said Jammu and Kashmir was going through a tumultuous phase and in the times to come, it will need its youth. "I hear every day that three or four youths have been killed, which means the local recruitment here has increased," she told reporters here. "It is my request to the parents and the children to save their lives because killing you is an incentive for them



(security forces). They get money and promotions for that, she alleged. So, do not pick up arms. They kill four-five (militants) every day... I appeal to you this is not right and you should leave it, the PDP president said.

Sadhus upbeat over Amarnath Yatra, say terror threat 'non-issue' for them

PNS ■ JAMMU

Scheduled to start next week after a break of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Amarnath Yatra is expected to witness large participation of devotees including sadhus and sadhvis who have started arriving here from different parts of the country. Hundreds of the holy men and women are camping at the base camp Ram Mandir in the old city's Purani Mandi area and are upbeat over the resumption of the pilgrimage to finally have

darshan' of Barfani Baba', pointing to the naturally formed ice-shivlingam at the 3,880-metre holy cave of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas. The 43-day-long yatra is scheduled to start on June 30 from the twin routes -- traditional 48-km Nunwan in south Kashmir's Pahalgam and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal. The first batch of pilgrims including sadhus will leave for the twin base camps of Kashmir from Bhagwati Nagar and Ram Mandir in Jammu, a day ahead

of the start of the yatra. Unprecedented security arrangements have been put in place at the base camps and all along the route from Lakanpur -- the gateway to J-K -- to the cave shrine to thwart any terror attack and ensure peaceful yatra. Staying in small groups inside a large hall at the temple complex and chanting praises of the Lord Shiva like Bham Bham Bhole' and Har Har Mahadev', the sadhus who have renounced the worldly life are least bothered about the terror threat and said it is a non-issue for us.

19 SFI activists held in Rahul Gandhi office vandalism case

PNS ■ Wayanad

Nineteen activists of the Students' Federation of India (SFI), the students wing of the ruling CPI(M), have been arrested and remanded so far in connection with the attack on Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's office here, even as opposition Congress-led UDF targeted Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over the incident saying the attack was held with his knowledge. The Marxist party's students' cadre attacked the Wayanad MP's office as part of a Sangh Parivar agenda with the knowl-



edge of Vijayan to please the Narendra Modi government at the Centre, the Congress alleged. Sharpening their attack, the opposition also charged

that a personal staff of Health Minister Veena George, identified as Avishith, was among the assaulters involved in the office vandalism but the minister quickly rejected the allegation claiming that he was no longer her staffer. He had relieved himself from the duty earlier this month citing personal reasons, the minister claimed. Though the SFI activists held a protest march to Gandhi's office and allegedly vandalised his office on Friday alleging his inaction in the issue of buffer zones around forests, the Chief Minister's office on Saturday clarified that the Wayanad MP sent a letter to Vijayan seeking his government's urgent intervention in the matter. The CMO also said Vijayan, in his

reply, had requested Gandhi to raise the issue in the upcoming Parliament session. Police, meanwhile, said all the arrested persons were identified as local SFI activists and they were remanded for two weeks by a local court. "The arrest of 19 people have been recorded so far. Some more persons were taken into custody and more arrests are expected to take place today. At present, the case is investigated by the Mananthavady Deputy Superintendent of Police and it will be handed over to the ADGP-led special investigation team soon," he told PTI.

VHP will reclaim original sites of Kashi, Mathura temples

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) will strive to reclaim the original sites of Kashi Vishwanath temple and the birth place of Sri Krishna in Mathura within the framework of law and constitution through peaceful means, its working president Alok Kumar said on Saturday. However, since the matters are in the courts, it would be appropriate if both sides await the court verdict, he said. Speaking to reporters at the venue of the VHP central governing council meeting being held at Kanchipuram near here, Kumar said the VHP condemned the recent violence unleashed by "religious fanatics" across India and damaging



properties, government institutions and attacking police while reacting to the comments made by Nupur Sharma and

Naveen Jindal, against whom the police have filed FIRs. "They issued threats to cut their heads and gouge their eyes

and damaged properties of the Hindus and unleashed violence on the streets instigated by the enemy country propa-

ganda and certain anti national groups," the VHP working president claimed. "Vishwa Hindu Parishad condemns such heinous acts and expects the State governments to handle these perpetrators with iron hand and bring justice to the Hindus who were impacted by this fanaticism," he said. Also, he called upon the Hindu society to stand up for their rights and resist the violence. "India is run by its constitution and not by Sharia Laws. No crowd has right to declare anybody guilty much less to pronounce punishments," he asserted. The VHP would intensify its agitation to liberate the temples from the clutches of the State governments and hand over the administration to the larger Hindu society.

UPA govt neglected agriculture

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Friday blamed the UPA government for not giving adequate priority to the farm sector and said the Centre in the last eight years has taken steps to empower farmers. Tomar said this at the India Sustainability Conclave. The minister stressed on all round development that should bring about positive change in the lives of the most vulnerable sections of the society. Tomar said that India being an agricultural country, the role of farming is important. "If we move away from the agriculture sector, even if we have money, agricultural products will not be available." At the



time of India's independence, the contribution of agriculture sector in GDP was 50 per cent, which gradually decreased. He pointed out that an eighty-six per cent are small farmers, for whom it is necessary to adopt technology into farming, increase production quality at par with global standards and also make it a remu-

nerative avenue. Tomar said agriculture sector is being upgraded through technology like drones, digital agri mission and promoting private investment etc. During the previous governments, agriculture did not get the required priority and the attitude towards agricultural development remained subdued, due to which the income of the farmers did not increase and adequate resources were not available to them, but now under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, farmers are being empowered, he said. Tomar highlighted that Rs 6,000 is credited every year into the bank accounts of 11.5 crore farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme.

India's domestic raw coking coal production may touch 140 MT by

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Saturday said the country's domestic raw coking coal output may touch 140 million tonnes (MT) by 2030 from the present 51.7 MT.

Coking coal is an essential raw material for the production of iron and steel.

"With...transformative measures taken by Ministry of Coal under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative of PM, domestic raw coking coal production is likely to reach 140 MT by 2030," the coal ministry said in a statement.

To further increase the output of raw coking coal, the Centre has auctioned 10 coking coal blocks to the private sector, with a peak rated capacity (PRC) of 22.5 MT during the last two years. Most of these blocks are expected to start production by 2025.

The ministry has also identified four coking coal blocks and the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) will also finalise geological reserves (GR) for 4 to 6 new coking coal blocks in the next two months, the statement said.

These blocks may be offered in subsequent rounds of sale for the private sector to further



step up domestic raw coking coal supply in the country.

Coal India Ltd (CIL), which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, has planned to increase raw coking coal production from existing mines up to 26 MT and identified nine new mines with peak rated capacity of about 20 MT by FY25.

Also, CIL has offered six discontinued coking coal mines, out of the total 20 such mines, on an innovative model of revenue sharing to the private sector with an expected PRC of about 2 MT, according to the statement. The country pro-

duced 51.7 MT of raw coking coal during 2021-22, which is 15 per cent more compared to 44.8 MT during FY21.

Domestic raw coking coal production continues to witness an increasing trend in the current fiscal as well with the production of 8.3 MT, as per the figures up to last month, which is 20 per cent more compared to 6.9 MT during the same period of the previous year. At present, the domestic raw coking coal washing capacity is about 23 MT per annum.

CIL plans to set up and operationalise nine more new

washeries with a capacity of 30 million tonnes per annum (MTPA).

With the setting up of new washeries, it is estimated that CIL will be able to supply about 15 MT of washed coking coal to the steel sector, thereby reducing the import of coking coal. There is a need to set up more washeries to enhance capacity to meet the fast-increasing demand for coking coal in the country. During FY22, CIL supplied 1.7 MT of washed coking coal to the steel sector and has set a target of 3.45 MT for FY23, as per the statement.

Hindustan Copper board to consider proposal to raise Rs 500 cr via debentures next week

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Hindustan Copper Ltd's board will meet next week to consider a proposal to raise up to Rs 500 crore by issuing debentures.

"A meeting of the board of directors of Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) will be held on 30th June 2022 to inter alia, consider and recommend resolutions seeking approval of the shareholders of the company to authorise the board of directors...to offer, issue and allot secured or unsecured non-convertible debentures or bonds on a private placement basis up to Rs 500 crore," the PSU said in a BSE filing. The board will also consider raising funds through a qualified institutional placement method, it added.

NBFCs should diversify risks across sectors: ex-SBI chief

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Non-banking financial companies need to diversify risks across sectors and geographies, as well as maintain capital adequacy norms and introduce core banking solutions going ahead, former State Bank of India chairman Rajnish Kumar said.

Kumar also said the risk-taking abilities of NBFCs are higher than banks, and that the regulatory stance will become tougher, with the regulation arbitrage between lenders and non-banking entities ceasing to exist.

"Regarding asset quality review (AQR) of lenders, as pointed out by former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan, the NPA problem started



with the NBFCs. The whole issue boils down to risk management and governance.

There is a need for NBFCs to take a diversified approach across sectors and geographies and also be mindful about the risk matrix, he said during an event organised by micro-finance institution VFS Capital here on

Friday evening.

Kumar said the NBFCs will have to maintain capital adequacy norms, introduce core banking solutions and make adequate disclosures by 2025.

Nearly 23 per cent of lending in the financial sector happens through the NBFCs, he said.

OIL completes beta demo of hydrogen-powered SNEH bus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) on Saturday said it has completed a beta demonstration of the hydrogen-powered bus developed by Ohm Cleantech under the 'Startup Nurturing, Enabling and Handholding (SNEH)' programme of the company.

The 9-meter bus built on a 60kW PEM fuel cell engine will power the electric drive and provide for a minimum range of 450 km while emitting water in the exhaust, the company said in a statement.

"The demonstration adds another feather to the green hydrogen hat of OIL as the company has already commis-

sioned a 99.999 per cent pure green hydrogen plant in Jorhat, Assam in April 2022," it said.

On the occasion, SC Mishra, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of OIL, said this is a major step towards zero-emission mobility within OIL and also in northeast India. "With technology partners like Ohm Cleantech and

h2e Power, who can set up manufacturing plants for electrolyzers and fuel cells in the North East, OIL will play an important role in fulfilling India's energy targets. We intend to deploy this bus for Green Kaziranga Tourism by the end of this year to welcome tourists to this zero-emission travel experience," he said.

GST compensation cess levy extended till March 2026

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has extended the time for levy of GST compensation cess by nearly 4 years till March 31, 2026.

As per the Goods and Services Tax (Period of Levy and Collection of Cess) Rules, 2022, notified by the finance ministry, the compensation cess will continue to be levied from July 1, 2022 to March 31, 2026.

The levy of cess was to end on June 30 but the GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state FMs, decided to extend it till March 2026 to repay the loans taken in the last two fiscal years to make up for the shortfall in their revenue collection.

After the 45th GST Council meeting in Lucknow in September last year,



Sitharaman had said the regime of paying compensation to states for revenue shortfall resulting from subsuming their taxes such as VAT in the uniform national tax GST, will end in June 2022.

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.

In order to meet the

resource gap of states due to 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 loan to meet a part of the shortfall in cess collection.

The Centre has repaid Rs 7,500 crore as interest cost for the borrowing in 2021-22 and Rs 14,000 crore is to be paid this fiscal year. From 2023-24, the repayment of principal amount will start which will continue till March 2026.

Infosys gives capital return of over Rs 24,100 cr in FY22

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IT services firm Infosys gave capital return of over Rs 24,100 crore (about USD 3.1 billion) in 2021-22 with a total dividend of Rs 31 per share along with share buyback of over Rs 11,000 crore, company's co-founder and chairman Nandan Nilekani said on Saturday.

While speaking at the 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the company, Nilekani announced that the 2021-22 fiscal has been a year of exceptional growth 19.7 per cent in constant currency bringing in USD 16.3 billion, which is the fastest growth that Infosys has recorded in 11 years.

He said that the company's board has recommended a final dividend of Rs 16 per share which along with the interim dividend of Rs 15 per

share leads to a total dividend of Rs 31 per share in FY2022.

"With this, the company has announced a total dividend of approx. Rs 13,000 crore for FY22. Along with the share buyback of over Rs 11,000 crore completed in September, the total capital return in FY22 is over Rs 24,100 crore," Nilekani said.

He said that the board of directors has recommended the reappointment of Salil Parekh as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys, for a second term of five years, from July 1, 2022, to March 31, 2027. "Salil has delivered industry-leading performance for the company, and it is in the interest of Infosys and its stakeholders to secure the continuity and stability of the current leadership."

RBI approves Axis Bank Deputy MD's reappointment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Axis Bank on Friday said the Reserve Bank has approved the reappointment of Rajiv Anand as the Deputy MD for a period of three years until August 2025.

In January this year, the private sector lender had reappointed Anand as the Deputy Managing Director for a further period of three years, from August 4, 2022, to August 3, 2025 (both days inclusive). It was subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). "In this regard, we wish to inform you that the RBI vide its letter dated June 24, 2022, has approved the above re-appointment," Axis Bank said in a regulatory filing. Earlier in late December 2021, RBI had approved re-designation of Anand as the Deputy Managing Director of the bank till August 3, 2022 (both days inclusive).

NTC Group unveils two new businesses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Diversified business conglomerate NTC Group under its flagship company NTC Logistics has unveiled two new verticals -- Boxory Logistics Pvt Ltd and Cargonix Xpress Pvt Ltd -- as part of consolidating its operations in the country, an official said on Saturday. Boxory Logistics would focus on freight services like air freight, multi-city transportation, warehousing, while Cargonix Xpress would be focused on same day delivery, milk run among others. At an event here, the company unveiled a 70 metre truck trailer for the first time in the country which would be used for transporting windmill blades.

NTC Group company MAHA Auto Components has manufactured the truck trailer



er to serve the renewable energy logistics space, a company statement said here.

Equipped with advanced features like load sensing valves, anti-lock braking systems among many others, the trailer ensures safety and reliability by providing more

thrust to logistics of windmill blades, company chairman K Chandramohan said in a company statement. Tamil Nadu Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu formally unveiled the truck at an event held here in the presence of Chandramohan among senior

officials. According to Chandramohan, the company has been taking up projects in the renewable energy sector under its entity -- Evergreen Energy -- which offers logistics to site construction activities for wind and solar projects.

WallMantra targets to reach Rs 100 crore turnover by 2025

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Home decor products manufacturer and retailer WallMantra on Saturday said it aims to reach the Rs 100-crore turnover mark by 2025 on the back of offline capacity expansion and e-commerce.

Innovative home decor startup WallMantra has seen its turnover going up from Rs 2 crore to Rs 20 crore since lockdown. It now aims to reach the Rs 100-crore mark by 2025.

"When we started in 2017, our goal was to give a trendy decor option - wall decal - at an affordable cost. Last year, our revenue touched Rs 18 crore, which is 10-times more than what we normally make. This has encouraged us to aim higher and reset our goals, we are now aiming to become a

100-crore brand in the next three years," WallMantra CEO Jitesh Agarwal said in a statement.

The plan also includes opening two stores in the National Capital Region (NCR) and increasing the number of online sellers on the website, it added.

"We are currently looking for funding and we require around USD 2 million, which is around Rs 15 crore. Early this year, we had raised Rs 1.95 crore from Fluid Ventures, which we will use for marketing, publicity and hiring people," Agarwal stated.

The new plans also include upgrading the numbers of their online sellers and expanding their manufacturing unit. "We already have 50-plus sellers who are live on our website."

Tata Power arm launches India's largest floating solar project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power Solar Systems on Saturday said it has commissioned India's largest floating solar power project of 101.6 Megawatt Peak (MWp) in Kerala backwaters.

The project is installed on a 350-acre water body in Kayamkulam, Kerala, a company statement said.

The installation was completed within the stipulated period, despite the arduous challenges of variable water depths, high sea tides, and severe water salinity concerns, it stated.

Tata Power Solar is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power.

This project is the first in the Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) through power purchase agreement category, the



company said.

"The commissioning of India's first and largest floating solar project is an innovative and incremental step toward meeting India's sustainable energy goals," said Praveer

Sinha, CEO, and MD, Tata Power.

A power purchase agreement has been signed with a PSU client, wherein the entire power generated from this plant will be used by Kerala

State Electricity Board (KSEB). Interestingly, all the solar modules used in this plant were safely transported, unloaded, and stored on a limited parcel of land for about 35 days by Tata Power Solar, it

The project is installed on a 350-acre water body in Kayamkulam, Kerala, a company statement said.

said. Ashish Khanna, President Renewables, Tata Power, said the project reinforces Tata Power Solar's commitment to leading India's transition towards a greener future and achieving the collective vision of realizing 500 GW of energy through solar power by 2030.

VFS Capital plans to expand portfolio to Rs 1,500 crore, expand branch network

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

VFS Capital (formerly Village Financial Services Limited) plans to increase its assets under management from Rs 803 crore to Rs 1,500 crore within a few years and also plans to expand the number of branches across the country, an official said.

MD & CEO of VFS Capital Kuldip Maity said at an event here on Friday night that the NBFC-MFI has 247 branches at present, and added that plans are there to add 35 more this fiscal and also to enter the state of Rajasthan.

MONEY MATTERS

Net profits of manufacturing cos surged by 50.2 pc in FY'22



The data on the performance of the private corporate sector during 2021-22 drawn from abridged financial results of 3,166 listed non-government non-financial (NGNF) companies. Operating profit margins remained healthy for all the three sectors. Net profit margins remained stable for manufacturing and IT companies, whereas it remained in the negative terrain for non-IT services companies. The data further showed that private corporate sales and profitability recorded healthy growth in during 2021-22 as the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic subsided and economic activities recovered, especially in the second half of the year. "Sales of 1,865 listed private manufacturing companies witnessed broad based recovery and expanded by 36.7 per cent during 2021-22 as compared with a contraction of 2.8 per cent in the preceding year; both volume and price components contributed to the higher growth and it was also aided by favourable base effects," it said. IT companies also improved their performance and their sales growth accelerated to 19.8 per cent from 4.4 per cent in the previous year.

Future Enterprises defaults on Rs 4.10 crore interest payment

Debt-ridden Future Enterprises Ltd (FEL) has defaulted on interest payment of Rs 4.10 crore for its non-convertible debentures. The due date for payment was June 24, 2022, FEL said in a regulatory filing. The Company is unable to service its obligations in respect of the interest on Non-Convertible Debentures was due on June 24, 2022," it said. This is the fourth default in June by the Kishore Biyani-led Future group firm. Earlier this week, FEL defaulted twice on interest payments of Rs 85.71 lakh and Rs 6.07 crore for its non-convertible debentures. FEL had made another default on the payment of interest of Rs 1.41 crore, earlier this month. The latest default is on the interest of securities issued for a sum of Rs 40 crore. FEL has defaulted on interest payment for the period between June 24, 2021, to June 23, 2022, it said. The debentures are secured and have a coupon rate of 10.25 per cent per annum. In April, FEL had informed the exchanges about a default of Rs 2,835.65 crore towards its consortium of banks. Its due date was March 31, 2022. FEL was a part of the 19 group companies operating in retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing segments, which were supposed to be transferred to Reliance Retail as part of a Rs 24,713 crore deal announced in August 2020.

Dish TV EGM: 79 pc voters reject proposal to reappoint Jawahar

A total of 78.94 per cent of the votes polled in the Dish TV extraordinary meeting (EGM) were against the resolution to reappoint Jawahar Goel as the Managing Director. Goel, who represents the promoter group in Dish TV, could get only 21.05 per cent in favour of his reappointment for three more years, said a regulatory filing by the DTH operator, updating disclosure of voting results of EGM. A total of 128.54 crore votes were polled in the EGM, which was held on Friday through video conferencing and other audio-visual means. This is a major victory for Dish TV's largest shareholder and private sector lender Yes Bank Ltd (YBL), which holds over 24 per cent share in the company.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
'e' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 7/EE/SR/NR/GHMC/2022-23. Dated: 24.06.2022
Name of Work: For (1) No. of Civil Works, Estimate amount: Rs. 23.00 Lakhs.
Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 28.06.2022 @ 03.01 PM. Name & Address: office Cell No.: Sri L. Nagender, Executive Engineer, Sarcomagar Circle-5, GHMC, (M): 9989930401. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in/ Sd/- Executive Engineer R.O.No: 3816-PP/CJ/ADVT/1/2022-23, Dt. 25.06.2022 Sarcomagar Circle-5, GHMC

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION
COMPANY OF TELANGANA STATE LIMITED
SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO. 03/2022-23
Sealed tenders are invited for various works in Huzurnagar Division.
Note: The detailed information of tender can be obtained on Web site of TSSPDCL www.tssouthernpower.com. Last Date: 04.07.2022.
Phone No: 9491065785. Sd/- Divisional Engineer, R.O.No: 3791-PP/CJ/ADVT/1/2022-23, Dt. 25.06.2022 Operation Division, Huzurnagar.

Failure is a great teacher and, if you are open to it, every mistake has a lesson to offer
—Oprah Winfrey



Thousand Pillar Temple, Warangal

RELIGIOUS INTERACTIONS — A REAPPRAISAL

As Indians, we must take pride in being a Secular nation and as citizens promote an environment devoid of religious antagonism for the greater good of humanity, writes SUSAN MISHRA

As we stand in the 21st century and witness bitter inter-religion intolerance, a peek into the past is imperative to understand the present. There are numerous instances from the medieval to the modern era in the south, north, and eastern India where Hindu and Muslim communities lived side by side without a feeling of animosity and antagonism. In Malabar, Islam probably arrived in the 7th century CE along with the Arab traders, and by the 12th century CE, a strong Muslim community existed here. The Zamorins were Hindu rulers of the Kingdom of Calicut (now Kozhikode). They maintained elaborate trade relations with the Muslim Middle-Eastern sailors in the Indian Ocean as Calicut was then an important trading entrepôt on the western seaboard of India. Under the Zamorins, the Muslims enjoyed many commercial, political and religious privileges. The very fact that Zamorin rejected Vasco da Gama's request to banish all Muslims from his kingdom clearly speaks of the significance accorded to Muslims in a Hindu kingdom. In fact, it is the Portuguese who became the common enemy of the Muslims and the Zamorin. The latter received full support from their Muslim populace in terms of mobilization of manpower, resources, and funding of wars against the Portuguese. The Muchundi and Mishkal mosques in Kozhikode are living examples of assistance provided by the Hindu Zamorin rulers to their Muslim community. The 13th century CE inscription in Muchundi mosque in Kuttichira, Kozhikode records the establishment of the mosque by certain Shahab al-din Raihan, and the Zamorin ruler granted some land to it for certain daily expenses incurred at the mosque. The Mishkal mosque is also located in Kuttichira, Kozhikode, and was built by a merchant ship owner in the 14th century CE. This mosque was attacked, destroyed and burnt in 1510 by the Portuguese. The Zamorin was furious at seeing the devastation of the city and the destruction of the mosque. The combined efforts and firm determination by the Nairs and Muslims shattered the dreams of the early colonizers in Malabar. Post the victory of the Zamorin in the battle of Chaliyam, the ruler supported the restoration and reconstruction of the Mishkal mosque. It is believed that the stones and the wood from the Chaliyam fort were carried and placed in the yard at Mishkal to be used in the reconstruction of the mosque. The Khasi Foundation of Kuttichira commemorated 500 years of the grand gesture of the religious harmony of the times by honoring the Zamorin. In remembrance of the great harmony between the two communities and for thanking the 'Zamorin King' for his solidarity with the Muslims, the representatives of the Khasi Foundation visited the residence of the current descendants of the erstwhile Zamorin kings and presented him a painting of the Mishkal Mosque. Turning the focus on 21st century Kerala, at Ponnani a 16th century CE mosque, known as

Misri Palli preserves its original structure due to the efforts of a non-Muslim speaker and legislator. When the work of its demolition began for the purposes of constructing a new mosque, some people contacted P. Sreeramakrishnan, who rushed to the site and stopped the work. He called a meeting of the mosque committee and convinced its members not to dismantle it so that it is preserved under the Muziris- Ponnani heritage conservation project. Erumeli/ Erumeli in the Kottayam district of Kerala is a living example of how myths and legends can bind two religious communities and assimilate a mosque within an important Hindu religious pilgrimage. The Mosque here is dedicated to Vavar who is considered a companion of Lord Ayyappa. Every year multitudes of Hindu pilgrims worship at this mosque before they embark on the arduous trek to the holy shrine of Sabarimala Ayyappa Swami. There are many legends about Vavar and according to one, Vavar was an Arab commander who was defeated by Lord Ayyappa. Impressed by Vavar's valor, he became Ayyappa's close associate and aided him in the wars in the mountainous region. According to belief, Vavar protects devotees who make the difficult trek through the forests to the main temple at the top of the hill that houses the Sabarimala Temple. The Hindu Vijayanagara Empire's 14th century CE capital of Hampi and its monuments is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Legends and inscriptions speak of Hindu support to the Muslim populace of the kingdom. At Sindhaghatta in Mandya district of Karnataka, the Muslim community did not have a mosque and Babu setti, a local merchant, built a mosque to which the local officer Rangayya Nayaka gifted a village. What is of interest is that the mosque was not built at a site away from a Hindu settlement, but was located amidst villages granted as gifts to learned Brahmins. Legend has it that Babbaya, a Muslim Fakir, established himself at Penukonda and had a strong following. After the death of the fakir, a dargah was erected, and the grant of Venkata II records the restoration of certain villages originally granted by Vira Narasingha Raya, Sadashiva, and Venkata I, to the dargah of Babayya in Penukonda. Mangammal, a Hindu Nayaka queen made a gift of some villages in 1701-02 CE in Tiruchirappalli to the dargah of Babanatta. The other contemporaneous dynasty ruling at Deccan was the Muslim Adil Shahis of Bijapur (1489 to 1686). A Farman of Muhammad Adil Shah dated to 1653 CE records a grant made by the ruler to Namdev Vitthal, a Brahmin from Mubarakabad. Namdev was the head of Joshis and had approached the ruler for royal favours and the Sultan obliged by granting land at various localities. He also received a tanka (gold coin) from highway and food grains and was also exempt from payment of taxes. Ibrahim Adil Shah II (1580 CE to 1627 CE) was a great patron of music and is credited with the composition of the book Kitab i Nauras a book of couplets and verses dedicated to Hindu

IBRAHIM ADIL SHAH II (1580 CE TO 1627 CE) WAS A GREAT PATRON OF MUSIC AND IS CREDITED WITH THE COMPOSITION OF KITAB I NAURAS, A BOOK OF COUPLETS AND VERSES DEDICATED TO HINDU DEITIES AND MUSLIM SAINTS. WHAT IS OF INTEREST IS THAT MOST ARE DEDICATED TO SARASWATI, GANESH, AND OTHER HINDU DEITIES. THE TEXT BEGINS WITH AN INVOCATION TO GODDESS SARASWATI FOR HER BLESSINGS AND FAVOURS. DESCRIPTIONS OF LORD GANESH AND LORD SHIVA HAVE BEEN BEAUTIFULLY DESCRIBED BY THE SULTAN IN HIS COMPOSITIONS



Hanumangarhi Temple, Ayodhya

deities and Muslim saints. What is of interest is that most are dedicated to Saraswati, Ganesh and other Hindu deities. The text begins with an invocation to Goddess Saraswati for her blessings and favors. Descriptions of Lord Ganesh and Lord Shiva have been beautifully described by the Sultan in his compositions. In the modern epoch of South India, the seventh Nizam of Hyderabad- Mir Osman Ali Khan (ruled from 1911-1948) deserves special mention. He had a liberal outlook toward religion and provided financial assistance and donations to temples and Brahmins in his kingdom. Mir Osman Ali Khan tended to the repair, and maintenance of the conservation of the Thousand Pillar Temple at Warangal. The Nizam also donated liberally donated to various temples in his dominions. Turning towards the region of eastern India, in Orissa Salabega occupies a permanent position among the devotional poets of Odisha. He lived in the first half of the 17th century and was the son of the Mughal Subedar. According to folklore, he was held up on his way while returning from Vrindavan to Jagannatha and he prayed earnestly to the Lord to wait for him on the Nandighosha chariot so that he could see his Lord. The Lord waited there and gave darshan to Salabega, his dear devotee on the Bada Danda, near Balagandi. An ardent devotee of Shri Krishna and Jagannath, Salabega devoted his life to composing bhajans, hymns, and devotional songs in praise of the Shri Jagannath and Radha Krishna. In Ahom kingdom, the Muslim populace was well assimilated into the Assamese society and the army included many Muslim soldiers and officers who fought against the Mughals. Ismail Siddique, popularly known as Bagh

Hazarika played a significant role in the Battle of Saraighat in 1671. An inscription of Ahom king Lakshmi Singha issued around 1780 CE records a grant in favour of Hazi Anwar Fakir. Ahom king Kamaleswar Singha reconfirmed all earlier grants made by the Mughal and Ahom rulers in favour of Khadim of Hajo Dargah. In the context of north India, in the erstwhile region of Awadh, in 1855 at the Hanumangarhi temple at Ayodhya conflict arose between the Hindus and the Muslims. Wajid Ali Shah is said to have appointed a Committee to investigate the matter, and the decision went in favour of the Hindus. On learning about an imminent attack on the temple, Wajid Ali Shah ordered a regiment to guard the temple. Other instances include the 250-year-old Hanuman temple of Lucknow which is believed to have been constructed by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula's mother Alia Begum. The mosque, popularly called as Padain Masjid in Aminabad was built by Rani Jai Kunwar Pandey, a Brahmin as a gift to her close friend - the Begum of Nawab Saadat Ali Khan. When we try to look at the past from a 21st-century lens, we will inevitably see Hindus and Muslims as polar opposites. While there are challenges in Hindu-Muslim relations, it would be naive to dismiss the relative social harmony in which the two communities have coexisted in India. As Indians, we must take pride in being a Secular nation and as citizens promote an environment devoid of religious antagonism for the greater good of humanity. (The writer is a research scholar and recipient of the Devangana Desai senior Fellowship CSMVS Mumbai. She is also the author of two books

A SEARCH FOR SELF-FULFILLMENT

Review by
NAVIN UPADHYAY

Kashmir has been a favourite destination for moviemakers, writers, and poets. Before the militancy set in and Kashmir became a graveyard of artistic aspirations and dreams, the pristine valley with its sentinels of age-old chinar and fragrant saffron-inspired celluloid fantasy and small screens blockbusters. Its landscaped charms also wooed poets and writers from far and wide.

After the place turned into a theatre of prey and predators, where guns and grenades, death and decay, grief and torture dominated every aspect of living, the valley provided different types of ingredients to fuel artistic aspirations. The stories that came out of Kashmir were now laced with grief, sadness, nostalgia, and longings. Tarannum Riyaz's BIRDS OF THE SNOW is a similar yarn.

Originally published in Urdu as Barf Aashna Parindey, the book explores the transformative aspect of Kashmir, the rapid urbanization of the valley, and its impact on the people who have grown up hearing: ar Firdaus bar-rue zamin ast, hami asto, hamin asto, hamin astnot (If there is a heaven on earth, it's here, it's here.)

The book deals with the struggle of a sensitive college student Sheba to strike a compromise between her inner yearnings for freedom and the values and norms her family and society expected her to embrace. It's the story of a girl's poignant struggle to overcome the burden of conditioning and traditionality. The story explores our deepest emotions—love, fear, insecurity, and longing in a way that is both evocative and original.

Sheba wishes to be free, just like the birds that she likes observing, but understands the need to live within social conventions and accept life's responsibilities.

When Sheba returns to the valley after years spent studying outside, she is struck by a pang of sadness. Tarannum has captured Sheba's feeling in a poignant passage:



The journey to the village has been her favourite journey but today, waves of sadness washed over her mind time and again. She occasionally looked at the reflection of Amki, Baaji, and Parkhanda in the rear-

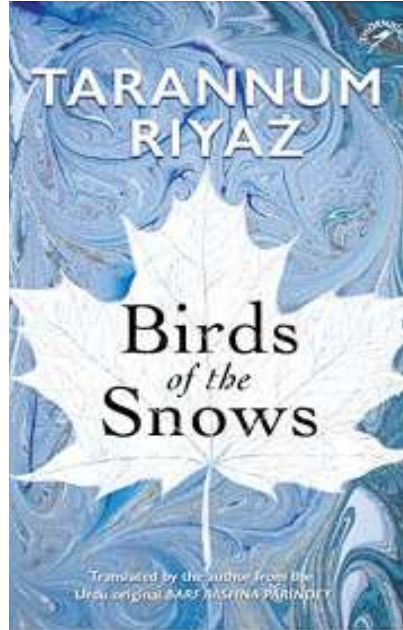
view mirror. Baaji's husband was driving and no one to talk to anyone."

Passages like this dominate the book, in which the author makes a genuine effort to bring alive the life and time of the

Kashmir valley in her own inimitable style. After reading the book, it'll be easy to understand that Tarannum wrote this story not just to fulfill some personal dreams, but to give voice to tens of thousands of

Shebas who are struggling to discover the meaning of their lives in a fast-changing society.

In the word of the publisher the Niyogi Books, This deftly translated novel



depicts the changing times in Kashmir, from a rural to more urban life, the impact of modern thinking, and through its portrayal of female characters explore their compassion and resolves, as well as their search for self-fulfillment."

The editing part of the book is fine as far as grammar is concerned. But errors on the craft side disrupt the smooth flow of the story. The writing is full of unwanted adverbs, (She walked quickly... Abbu smiled pleasantly), avoidable exclamations marks, and stilted dialogues. Paragraphs after paragraphs are littered with "hads" and "ing", the two nemeses of literary writings.

These flaws apart, which are the bane of most English books published in India, BIRDS OF THE SNOW is a poignant story that delves into the human relationship and social and moral values of a strife-torn landscape.

The Reviewer is the Executive Editor of The Pioneer

The Trail of Buddha is like a fascinating train journey

Review by
RAJ KANWAR

A senior officer in the Indian Revenue Service, Deepankar Aron was posted in Hong Kong as a Consul way back in 2012. It was just a happenstance that he noticed a 35-meter high Tian Tan Buddha statue standing right next to the Hong Kong Airport that put him "On the Trail of Buddha: A Journey to the East". However, his initial inspiration had come three years before when he was on a Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in Tibet in 2009.

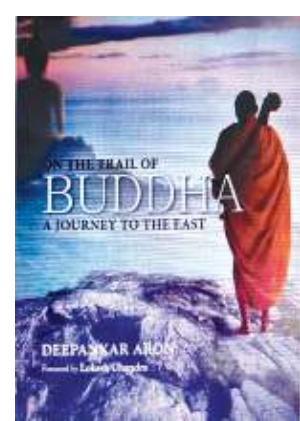
Deepankar writes about two octogenarian Japanese pilgrims who had stood with folded hands before an old and dilapidated structure that seemed to be 'sanctum sanctorum of a temple'. It was somewhat surprising that they should have travelled thousands of miles as pilgrims to a non-descript corner of China called Karakhoja. Even more surprising was the fact that one was a Buddhist priest and the other a worshipper of Lord Krishna - the Hindu Lord whose sacred message forms the essence of Bhagavad Gita.

"It is the story of these two unlikely Japanese pilgrims that epitomizes the theme of this Book - exploring the richness, depth and breadth of the spiritual, philosophical and cultural linkages that bind India to the East Asian civilizations of China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia," writes Deepankar.

The Book straddles between the various regions of East Asia, from Kashgar in Xinjiang in the West to Koyasan in Japan in the East; from Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia in the North and to Kaohsiung in Taiwan in the South. It is as much about the discovery of a tremendous unity in diversity, as it is about hopping between different time zones separated by 2000 years of history.

SIX CHAPTERS IN THE BOOK

THE BOOK is divided into six chapters for ease of navigation. The first covers the ancient cities along the Silk Road in China that were significantly responsible for the spread of Buddhism from India not only into China but also in much of the East Asia. The second covers the North-South trade axis that connects China with Mongolia. The third one moves from Sichuan in South-Western China to the primordial Kailash Parvat or Kang Rinpoche and the lake, Mansarovar or Mapham Yumtso in Tibet. The fourth moves to the South-Eastern coastal China and Taiwan from Hong Kong to



Title: On the Trail of BUDDHA: A Journey to the East
Author: Deepankar Aron
Pages: 308
Publisher: NIYOGI BOOKS
Cover Price: ₹1995/-

Shanghai touching Hangzhou, Suzhou and Nanjing. It then moves from Taipei to Kaohsiung passing through the city of Tainan, dotted with temples. It is possibly one of the most prosperous regions of China with many modern cities. It is thus not a surprise that most of the grandest and tallest statues of Buddha have come up there in the recent past. The fifth one meanders inside the calmness of Korea, and last but not the least comes the land

of the Rising Sun - a place where history, tradition, religion and culture are seen most beautifully preserved. The author also highlights five to 10 representative cities in each of these regions.

Writing a book of such magnitude was not an easy task. Initially the author did not undertake all those journeys with the object of writing a book. However, "a propitious chain of circumstances, made the way from one place to another starting with the longest pilgrimage in the world - KAILASH." He faced numerous challenges such as language, distances, permissions, paucity of time, and resources of course, but luckily all those were sorted out. Interestingly, these journeys were undertaken in all modes of transportation - both animal and mechanized - riding camels, mules and horses; walking and trekking, especially in Tibet. The most exciting of the travelling modes for Deepankar was the high speed trains in Japan, China and Taiwan.

JOURNEY ON SLOW MOVING TRAIN RATHER A BULLET TRAIN

EMINENT Indian Vedic scholar Prof. Lokesh Chandra is all ecstatic about Deepankar Aron's book "On the Trail of BUDDHA: A Journey to the East". "The Book is fascinating in its flowing diction and minimum of technical details. It celebrates the last two millennia when

the Asian Nations together made the journey of the Mind, serene depths of thought, art, piety confluence in the rapture of the roots," Chandra writes in his Foreword. "The living monasteries in East Asia and the desolation of the ruins in Central Asia due to theistic violence become the fascination of eyes in the evocative narrative of Deepankar. He opens up the immensity of our lost heritage, like the grandeur of Colossi in the Yun-Kang caves that are visive symbols of the majesty of the Avatamsaka tradition, reminiscent of the Bamiyan Buddhas," Prof. Chandra adds.

On the Trail of BUDDHA: A Journey to the East takes the reader on a slow-moving train journey rather a Bullet train. The author has chronicled the spread of Buddhism, as preserved in the traditions of these countries, binding them with India. Though somewhat smaller in size than the standard Coffee Table Book, On the Trail of BUDDHA with its 308 pages illustrated with bountiful photographs indicative of Deepankar's expertise with camera and printed on art paper provides an easy read.

The reviewer is the Commissioner, Goods & Services Tax in Uttarakhand. He is an intrepid traveller, ace photographer and a prolific writer. He has also received the Presidential Award for his distinguished contributions as an Indian Revenue Service officer.



The art of job-hunting

"JOB SEARCH SECRETS – Master the art of getting the job" co-authored by SUBIR VERMA and SAGARIKA SAHU VERMA has come at the right time as the issue of unemployment has begun to make headlines in the country. Subir works as Chief Human Resource at Tata Power DDL, and Sagarika Sahu Verma is a CEO of an edutech company.

Review by
DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

This book is an effort to bring all aspects of job search to one place with various supporting tools to provide complete theory and practice to master the art of searching for a job. Free tools shared in the book can give results in the shortest possible time.

Starting from how to choose the right career, the book covers how to find a hidden job, how to find people who can help in finding job and build long-time relationships with them, what to do to crack campus, virtual and other interviews, salary negotiation, and using social media for the job hunt.

Each chapter has practical tips with examples of real students and job aspirants for each one to relate to and use. For each of the areas, free tools exercise has been recommended which anyone can use without any cost seating at home. There is a general perception that you need to relocate to bigger cities to get a job. What about those who cannot relocate themselves? The book has the answer to many such issues faced by candidates and offers solutions.

"Use of social media and job portal to find a job and also use them in such way that one can easily get a job of his/her choice has been lucidly explained in the book," says Dr Sagarika.

"Not only what one needs to do, but how to do it, sample script, how to practice and implement are



Title: Job Search Secrets – Master the art of getting the job
Authors: Subir Verma and Sagarika Sahu Verma
Publisher: PENGUIN INDIA
Price: ₹250/-

what has been shared in details in very simple and easy to understand language", adds Dr Sagarika.

Job seekers have qualifications, skill but they are not effectively use them during their job search and interview, she said.

The book talks about the problem of largescale unemployment. India has over five crores of educated unemployed youth. Every year more than 50 lacs of educated youth gets added into the list. Educated youth is frustrated, dejected, and is losing hope. Even professionally qualified youth who have engineering, management, and graduate

degrees are not getting job. The situation is so grim that highly educated people are taking up odd jobs.

On the other hand, companies always complain that they are not getting the "right talent". They have vacancies but are not able to hire. When there are crores of educated youth are available, why companies are not able to hire them? Where is the gap? Companies have the resources to hire talent. But crores of youth need help to find employment. The biggest gap is that job seekers search jobs based on what they need rather than what companies want.

"I feel sad when I read in the newspaper that for one vacancy for the post of peon, thousands of people, including highly educated with MBA and Ph.D. degrees as well as engineers, apply. We thought to find a way to help such youth to make them know how they can find a job. This book is an effort to help these educated unemployed youth", Subir told the Pioneer.

Not all jobs are advertised. In fact, more than 50% of jobs are not advertised by companies and they recruit through other channels. Now, students or job seekers are missing half of the available job if they do not know how to reach them.

The book has received excellent responses from not only students, job seekers, and working professionals but also industry senior professionals.

The Reviewer is Special Correspondent of The Pioneer

Indo-Pacific Eco Framework: Concept to strategy

The genesis of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework can be traced to October 2021, during the East Asia Summit held virtually. At the East Asia Summit, the US President enunciated his plans to unveil a US-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

Following the initial announcement, the Biden administration released an Indo-Pacific Strategy in February 2022, which saw a formal iteration of the IPEF. As such, it bears no surprise to see US President Joe Biden officially launched the IPEF on May 23, 2022, in Tokyo before the QUAD leaders' Summit.

In addition to the four Quad members, leaders from 9 other nations namely Brunei, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam participated virtually. These countries became the founding members of the IPEF initiative making a "baker's dozen". Out of the thirteen participating countries in the IPEF, seven are also part of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). However, three ASEAN countries — Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar — have refrained from participating in the IPEF.

The partial overlap of the IPEF with ASEAN reflects that the economic strategy has factored in China. The seven countries in IPEF which have overlapping membership with the ASEAN will help the US and its Quad partners to further consolidate the "ASEAN centrality" principle of the Indo-Pacific strategy.

Both Laos and Cambodia have perhaps been left out due to their proximity to Beijing, while Myanmar has paid the price for a non-democratic political functioning that continues in the country since the military junta grabbed power. That creating competitive structures against China lies at the heart of the IPEF has become clearer with the engagement of Taiwan in a similar bilateral engagement, albeit outside the IPEF.

In many ways, the IPEF is an offshoot of the re-invigorated America's "Pivot to Asia"



strategy launched in 2011 during the Obama administration. The strategy aimed to relocate the strategic focus of the US from West Asia to the Pacific theatre, primarily because of the competition and threats it faces from China. Besides, it also sought to advance the US' economic and geopolitical interests through wider engagements with the Asia-Pacific region.

The two important constituents of this strategy were the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor. However, the US' withdrawal from the

TPP during the presidency of Donald Trump in 2017 deteriorated the progress made in terms of coalition-building and intensification of geopolitical and geo-economic ties with allies in the Indo-Pacific region.

The "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" strategy released in 2019 during the Trump administration gathered inimical reactions from the allies and partners in the region. It was perceived as a confrontational narrative rather than a regional strategy.

Therefore, the return of a new collective strategy by the US to collectively compete

with China, at a time when the US dominance on the trade and investment is facing intense competition from Beijing in the region, may be a timely and well-calibrated step to instil fair and principled regional competition which is consistent with climate goals and predictable supply chains. China is the leading trade partner of almost all the IPEF member countries. As such, the IPEF initiative outlines the underlying thrust in building partner coalitions, developing a collective response and preventing the growing Chinese influence in the region.

Broadly, the evolving predicament within the IPEF countries is China using its economic heavyweight for achieving its security and diplomatic goals. The IPEF could present an opportunity for like-minded countries of the Quad to find new and reliable alternatives to their current dependencies on China, especially in trade related infrastructure and supply chains. In particular, for India, which is not part of the China-led Regional Comprehensive Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement, the IPEF might emerge as a more reliable and

credible alternative in creating alternate mechanisms in the Indo-Pacific. India's own FTA being negotiated with ASEAN could be consistent with some of the objectives of the IPEF.

Much of how the IPEF will unravel remains to be seen. The IPEF countries that are already part of some sort of Free Trade Agreements such as CPTPP and RCEP would require "substantial incentives" from the US to diversify their ties from any such already existing arrangements in the region.

Also, the four focus areas of the IPEF: trade, supply chains, clean energy, decar-

bonisation and infrastructure; tax and anti-corruption need to be implemented and assessed. While executing these focus areas, climate, labour and data localisation standards in the IPEF countries (which are not as per the US standards) might turn out to be prominent irritants.

(Vivek Mishra is fellow, Strategic Studies Program, ORF, New Delhi. Mrityunjaya Dubey is a researcher and Senior Assistant member with The Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers affiliated with the Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs)

For India, which is not part of the China-led Regional Comprehensive Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement, the IPEF might emerge as a more reliable and credible alternative in creating alternate mechanisms in the Indo-Pacific



VIVEK MISHRA



MRITYUNJAYA DUBEY

PERSPECTIVE

Hate speeches malign the idea of India

It is high time the Government cracked down on all fringe elements and renewed its focus on 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'

The contemptuous and abominable remarks of the BJP leaders on Prophet Muhammad unleashed strong reactions not only in India but also in the Islamic countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Iran, etc, resulting in calls to ban Indian products.

Though the BJP has strongly denounced the remarks and said that insult to any religious personalities is not permissible, and immediately suspended its leaders from the party's membership for not toeing the official line on sensitive matters, it has become an international issue in no time. However, for consolation, the action taken by the BJP has been welcomed by many Muslim countries.

Provocative speeches are not a new phenomenon in India, irrespective of whether it is Congress regimes or the BJP's. However, the intensity of such communal sledging from both sides has increased during the BJP's regime.

Why did it happen?

The role of the mainstream and social media has been questionable over the last few years as they have often been found adding fuel to the fire. India's splendid past is full of glory and wonders. History develops the ability to avoid mistakes and create better paths for societies. Nevertheless, some of the media houses delve into the history and spoil all its might to prove that rottenness is actually producing high quality of fragrance. The uproar on TV channels on religious lines has mostly been provocative and derogatory. Allowing fringe elements to dis-

respect religions and make controversial statements on TV shows with impunity put the anchor's role in question.

The 200 million Indian Muslims who have been living here have opted to live in India in the hope that this country will give them more respect and freedom than the neighbouring Muslim countries. Then the moot point is what purpose the provocative speeches serve.

Although there are some differences between the Muslim aspira-

tions and the BJP's ideology, but these are ideological which is permissible in a healthy democracy. The nation is already facing numerous problems, people themselves are fighting against poverty, environmental degradation, joblessness and various health problems, but some media houses for their vested interest, instead of raising the genuine issues, have deliberately been dividing and creating gulf in society in the name of religion, and this is the greatest obstacle in the way of development.

Possible trade threats

India's overall economy during Mughals was several times more than many European countries which attracted many Europeans to India. It is believed that the only reason of this richness and prosperity was peace and tranquility. However, economic destruction began during the British rule. They divided people along religious lines in order to loot India's resources. People were dying in starvation but the British were busy draining the wealth of India.



An artisan prepares eco-friendly idols of god Ganesha for Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Hyderabad on Saturday

History is evident that peace, brotherhood and justice bring prosperity and development, and on the contrary hatred ruins and destroys nations. Therefore, it is required that the Government crack down on fringe elements and renew its focus on 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'.

The recent reactions from Muslim countries will further damage the Indian economy if no quick remedial action is taken. As per media reports, the Gulf countries account for almost one fifth of India's total trade. For instance, in the year 2020-21 the total value of the goods imported from the GCC countries was worth \$110.73 billion. India imports 40 per cent of crude oil, 18 per cent of petroleum gas and 8 per cent of diamond from the Gulf countries, while it exports 14 per cent of refined petroleum, 8 per cent of jewellery and 7 per cent of rice. In other words, India imports 72 per cent worth \$111 billion and exports 28 per cent worth \$44 billion.

It is noteworthy that the UAE and Saudi Arabia are the third and fourth biggest trade partners of India. The UAE alone is accounted for 6.6 per cent of India's total export, and 7.3 per cent of imports last year touched about \$73 billion. Saudi Arabia on the other hand is accounted for almost 80 per cent of import worth \$34.1 billion and 20 per cent of export worth \$8.75 billion. Other GCC countries trade volumes are: Iraq 34.3 per cent, Qatar 15 per cent, Kuwait 12.2 per cent, Oman 10 per cent and Bahrain 1.7 per cent.

Gulf countries are well known to

be the second home of almost 10 million Indians making it the largest Indian diaspora across the globe and contributing immensely in the foreign reserves of India.

As a matter of fact, India is the largest recipient of the foreign remittances. As per last year's World Bank report, India received \$87 billion foreign remittances in 2021, half of these foreign remittances was sent from just five Gulf countries i.e., UAE 26.9 per cent, Saudi 11.6 per cent, Qatar 6.5 per cent, Kuwait 5.5 per cent and Oman 3 per cent. In view of the emerging trade and cultural ties between India and the Arab world, it shall be disastrous if the differences aggravate further and no remedial and timely actions taken.

It's a well-known fact that India and Arab world have very strong trade and cultural relations for centuries. They believe in coexistence and mutual cooperation. It is the responsibility of the Government of the day to be accountable for both the successes and failures. Hence it is high time for India to work on the immediate corrective measures both internally and externally to fight the true evil of the society i.e hatred, poverty, unemployment, etc, and have proper control on the fringe elements and the media houses that are trying to divide and damage the true spirit of India.

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ASIF RAMEEZ DAUDI



Throwback to a golden period

"A picture speaks a thousand words," goes a maxim. Although mobile phones have made photography a click away on one's palm and that too in true-to-life colours, there is nothing to match a black-and-white photograph in terms of its fidelity to detail. Yesteryear photographers who had struggled for hours in dark rooms to get the right shade of light on the photographic paper will vouch for this. Delhi-based PHOTOINK recently organised an exhibition that threw the spotlight on time-honoured tradition of street photography. A collection of 23 photographs, the black and white streetscapes were shot by Ketaki Sheth, Pablo Bartholomew, Raghu Rai and Sooni Taraporevala, among the country's most celebrated photographers. The stunning photographs, spanning between 1970 and 2000, reflect the golden period of street photography in India. The Pioneer presents the choicest ones among them.



Two men, old Delhi, 1970



Women of Kamathipura red light district, Bombay (now Mumbai), 1987



Cart pusher, Delhi, 1979, Raghu Rai



Siesta for taxi drivers, Kolkata, 1990



Family on a scooter, Bombay, 1976

Mother and child at Mt Mary Fair, Bandra, Mumbai, 2002.

To some defenders, gun ruling could right a racial wrong



envision more arguments turning into deadly confrontations at a time when the nation is already beset by gun violence.

Some civil rights leaders agree. The Rev. Al Sharpton called the Supreme Court ruling devastating, and the National Urban League and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund said it was particularly so for Black people.

In a friend-of-the-court brief, the two groups pointed to statistics showing that Black Americans, particularly Black male teens and young men, die from gunfire at a higher rate than do whites or the general population.

If the Supreme Court actively were seeking out a way to make the nation more volatile and dangerous, it could not have devised a more damaging scenario, league President Marc Morial said after the ruling.

But attorneys from nearly a dozen New York public defender agencies and organizations cited other statistics.

Black people faced 78% of felony gun possession charges in the state last year, while making up 18% of its population compared to 7% of prosecutions and 70% of the population for non-Hispanic whites, the defenders said in their own friend-of-the-court brief. Over 90% of people arrested in New York City on charges of possessing a loaded firearm are Black and/or Latino, according to the filing, although non-Hispanic whites comprise nearly 1/3 of the city population.

The defenders argue that the numbers are rooted in a history of racist anxieties about racial and ethnic minorities having firearms and are furthered by an expensive and onerous discretionary licensing process.

According to New York Police Department statistics, about 3,500 civilians in the city of 8.5 million have business carry licenses, and another 2,000 guards have permits to carry guns while working. About 15,000 retired law enforcement officers have a type of license that's specific to them. The department didn't provide a breakdown of licensees by race.

While white people throughout the nation amass firearm arsenals even as hobbies, Black and Latinx New Yorkers are arrested, prosecuted and imprisoned for simply possessing a single pistol for self-defense, several of the brief's authors wrote in an October article on Scotusblog, a legal news site. One defendant was a working father and college student who carried a gun to a neighborhood where he'd been slashed in the face; he ended up serving eight months in jail and dropping out of college, according to the defenders. Another man contracted COVID-19 and died last fall while jailed on 100,000 bail in a case alleging he had a gun in his car, which he denied.

Religious Americans are deeply divided in their views on abortion, and reactions from faith leaders ranged from elation to anger after the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade, the landmark 1973 decision that made abortion legal nationwide.

The ruling issued Friday was hailed by leading Catholic bishops, even though a majority of US Catholics support abortion rights. I recognise there are people on both sides of the question in the Catholic Church, said Baltimore Archbishop William Lori, who chairs the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. What we are finding though is that when people become more aware of what the church is doing to assist women in difficult pregnancies hearts and minds begin to change.

The ruling also was welcomed by many evangelical Christian leaders, including Bart Barber, newly elected president of the the Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest Protestant denomination. Southern Baptists rejoice at the ruling, he said.



From joy to anger, faith leaders react to Roe's reversal

However, the decision expected to lead to sweeping abortion bans in more than 20 states was decried by some mainline Protestant leaders, including Michael Curry, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church. I am deeply grieved, he said. Several Jewish organisations said the decision infringes on Jewish traditions that accept the need for abortion. Nadiah Mohajir, co-founder of Heart Women and Girls, a Chicago nonprofit that works with Muslim communities on reproductive rights, expressed dismay: More than half of American Muslims support safe access to abortion. What we're seeing here is a very small minority of privileged people who are trying to impose a narrow Christian understanding of when life begins. Here are some more reactions from faith leaders:

The release of the Dobbs decision marks a true turning point in the pro-life movement, a moment that Christians, advocates and many others have worked toward tirelessly for 50 years. ... As this chapter comes to a close, we must understand this is not the end of our important work.

The issue of abortion has now been turned over to the states, many of which have either implemented or are considering some of the most abhorrently permissive pro-abortion proposals ever.

Brent Leatherwood, acting president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, in a statement.

Today's Supreme Court decision ... discarding nearly 50 years of precedent, will endanger the lives and well-being of birthing people who do not choose to continue pregnancy. God loves and cares for people who have abortions, and so does the United Church of Christ. General ministers of the United Church of Christ, in a joint statement.

Abortion bans place greater value on the life of the fetus than on the pregnant person, a violation of both Jewish law and tradition and of American religious liberty. Now, it seems only certain people are entitled to religious liberty, which renders the entire concept meaningless. Sheila Katz, CEO of the National Council of Jewish Women, in a statement.

This is a historic day in the life of our country, one that stirs our thoughts, emotions and prayers. For nearly fifty years, America has enforced an unjust law that has permitted some to decide whether others can live or die; this policy has resulted in the deaths of tens of millions of preborn children.