

**ANALYSIS 7**  
HIGHER EDUCATION HAS TO  
BECOME MEANINGFUL**MONEY 8**  
PROPER INTERPRETATION OF DATA  
KEY TO INFORMED DECISION-MAKING**SPORTS 12**  
TWO IN TWO FOR  
MEN IN BLUE

HYDERABAD, THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

KRITI SANON,  
PRABHAS TO SHARE  
SIZZLING CHEMISTRY  
IN ADIPURUSH

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**IMRAN KHAN EARNED RS 36 MILLION  
FROM SELLING THREE GIFTED WATCHES**

Pakistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan earned Rs 36 million by illegally selling three watches gifted to him by foreign dignitaries to a local watch dealer, according to a media report on Wednesday. According to the details of an official inquiry shared with Geo News, Khan during his tenure as prime minister earned millions of rupees from these jewel-class watches collectively worth over Rs 154 million. The watches were gifted to him by foreign leaders. The most expensive watch – more than Rs 101 million value – was retained by the then prime minister at 20 per cent of its value after his government amended the Toshakhana rules and settled the gift retention price at 50 per cent of its original value, the report said.

**BRITISH-ERA PATNA DM OFFICE  
BUILDING SHOWN IN 'GANDHI' RAZED**

Historic British-era Patna District Magistrate's office building, part of the centuries-old Collectorate campus, which was featured in key scenes in Oscar-winning film 'Gandhi' has been demolished, sending a wave of grief among heritage lovers and Gandhians. Bulldozers gnawed at the elegant two-storey main Patna Collectorate building, situated on the banks of the river Ganga, a couple of days ago, reducing it to a skeletal state. The building was felled as part of the redevelopment project of the Bihar government.

**SEBI PENALISES NSE, FORMER CHIEF  
CHITRA RAMKRISHNA, 16 OTHERS**

Sebi has imposed a penalty totalling Rs 44 crore on 18 entities, including National Stock Exchange (NSE), its business development Officer Ravi Varanasi, former MD and CEO Chitra Ramkrishna and her adviser Subramanian Anand along with certain stock brokers in the 'dark fibre' case. Apart from NSE and its former officials, others penalised by Sebi are stock brokers –Way2Wealth Brokers and GKN Securities– Sampark Infotainment and their respective employees. The regulator has imposed a penalty of Rs 7 crore on NSE, Rs 5 crore each on Ramkrishna, Varanasi and Subramanian Anand, who was Group Operating Officer and adviser to then MD Ramkrishna.

**IN RAJASTHAN'S PALI, TWO  
COMMUNITIES SHUN LAVISH WEDDINGS**

No DJs, no fireworks and no riding horseback for the groom. These are some of the guidelines that leaders in two communities in Rajasthan's Pali district have issued to make weddings a less expensive affair. And grooms should be clean-shaven—beards don't go with the ceremony—the elders feel. Leaders of both Kumawat and Jat communities have also agreed to put a cap on gifts relatives can give to a couple, which includes jewellery, clothes and cash. The rules discourage customary offering of opium too. The Kumawats, a community of potters, at a meeting of its members from 19 villages on June 16 came up with the rules.

# BJP pins hopes on Modi's magic

## Galvanising party to grab power in Telangana

**K VENKATESHWARLU**  
■ HYDERABAD

Although the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti party is keen on achieving a hat-trick in the coming Assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party, having projected itself as an alternative party in Telangana, is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that the saffron party comes to power in the 2023 elections. So, the BJP's national leadership is extending unstinted support to BJP Telangana unit in this regard. The BJP TS unit, on its part, is banking mainly on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's magic to work this time. The BJP national leadership has tasked the TS unit to host the party's national executive committee (NEC) meeting on July 2nd and 3rd. All national leaders of the party, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, would stay in Hyderabad during those two days.

**WAR OF SLOGANS INTENSIFIES**

Ahead of the Bharatiya Janata Party's national executive meeting here, the political war of slogans between the BJP and the Telangana Rashtra Samiti has intensified. The parties are trying to dominate each other from every angle. After their one-upmanship over banners and flexes, they are now warring with provocative slogans drawn from their ammunition. For instance, when BJP came up with the slogan 'Bye bye, KCR'; the TRS countered it with 'Bye bye, Modi'.

**DECISION ON PM'S STAY IN  
HYDERABAD YET TO BE TAKEN**

The decision on where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be residing during his visit to Hyderabad is still being contemplated by the Special Protection Group (SPG), say senior officials while they wait for a green signal from the SPG. Meanwhile, it is being reportedly said that the Prime Minister will be staying at Novotel hotel on day one and at Raj Bhavan on day two. Moreover, Hyderabad Police are also on high alert after the recent incident of an alleged beheading in Udaipur. Additional forces have been deployed in sensitive areas of the city and also the police are closely monitoring the locations where the Prime Minister will be present. Senior police officials say that more than 5000 police personnel will be deployed in the city as a part of the security arrangement for the PM.

**BJP NEC to  
reflect TS culture****PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

The BJP's TS unit, which is hosting the party's National Executive Committee here on July 2 and 3, is making arrangements that reflect Telangana culture and traditions, both at the venue of NEC and at Parade Grounds, where a public meeting would be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Pure vegetarian food would be served at the venues. Telangana BJP leaders brought Yadamma from Karimnagar to cook Telangana food—Mamaidikaya thokku, mudappappu, Dosakaya Thokku and other items. The BJP leaders had a meeting with Yadamma at Novotel hotel. Telangana traditional food items like Sarva Pindi, Bhakshyalu, Pachipulusu, roti panchallu, Sakinalu, murkulu and the like would be served to delegates at NEC meeting. The party has allotted Novotel and Westin hotels to BJP national leaders and Radisson hotel for media persons coming from other states. The BJP Telangana unit has also booked rooms in nearby hotels.

# Uddhav quits as Maha CM ahead of floor test

**PNS ■ MUMBAI**

Stating that he was not interested "in playing the numbers' game," Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday said he was resigning from his post. "I am also quitting as member of Legislative Council," Thackeray said in a webcast, while appealing the workers of his party not to take to the streets in protest.

Thackeray's announcement came minutes after the Supreme Court refused to stay Maharashtra Governor's direction to the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress Maha Vikas Aghadi government to take a floor test in the Assembly on Thursday. He had no regret leaving his post, Thackeray, who was facing a rebellion by majority of Shiv Sena MLAs led by Eknath Shinde, said.

Thackeray, who heads the Shiv Sena, appealed to Sena workers to allow the rebel legislators to return and not take to the streets in protest.



The rebels, earlier in the evening, left Guwahati where they were camping for over a week, and landed in Goa. "Let the rebels who grew politically because of Shiv Sena and Balasaheb Thackeray get joy and satisfaction of pulling down his son from the post of chief minister," Uddhav Thackeray said. "I don't want to get into the numbers' game. It would be shameful for me to see if even one of my own party colleagues stands against me," he said.

# 12 states demand extension of GST compensation

**PNS ■ CHANDIGARH**

About a dozen states on Wednesday pitched for extending by a few years the compensation paid to states for revenue lost from the implementation of the goods and services tax (GST) regime.

The GST Council, the highest decision-making body of the indirect tax regime, however, did not take any decision at its meeting here. A final decision is likely to be taken in the next GST council meeting in the first week of August, Finance Minister Nirmala



Sitharaman said while talking to the media after the 47th GST Council meeting here. "As many as 16 states spoke on GST compensation in today's meeting. Of this there were 3-4 states that said that they have to stand on their own and not depend on compensation," Sitharaman said. When a nationwide GST subsumed 17 central and state levies from July 1, 2017, it was decided that states will be compensated for any loss of revenue from the new tax for five years.

**UDAIPUR TAILOR'S MURDER**

# NIA investigates 'Pak link'

**PNS ■ JAIPUR/NEW DELHI**

Investigators on Wednesday were looking into a possible link between one of the men who killed an Udaipur tailor and an Islamist outfit in Pakistan, as Rajasthan Police remained on vigil a day after the hate crime now being probed by the National Investigation Agency.

A policeman was slashed with a sword during a protest march in Rajsamand district's Bhim town, where police used tear gas to stop a stone-pelting mob from advancing towards a mosque.

In Udaipur, hundreds took part

in a funeral procession for Kanhaiya Lal - the tailor who was attacked Tuesday afternoon by two men who posted a video of the brutal attack with a cleaver on social media and claimed that they had avenged an insult to Islam.

Stones were hurled at a burial ground and some people tried to vandalise its gate as the procession passed by. Elsewhere in Rajasthan, markets were closed in Sojat (Pali), Bhinmal and Sanchole (Jalore) and Reodar (Sikar) in protest over the Udaipur murder. Apart from the arrests of Riaz Akhtari, the man

who hacked at the tailor's neck, and Ghouse Mohammad, who filmed the crime, police have detained three others allegedly involved in the attack.

Rajasthan Director General of Police (DGP) M L Lather said Ghouse has links with Karachi-based Dawat-e-Islami and had visited the Pakistani city in 2014.

When asked whether the other accused too had connections with the Islamist organisation, Lather said that cannot be ruled out.

In Delhi, an official said



Akhtari's links have been traced to Dawat-e-Islami, which has its branches in India as well. A National Investigation Agency (NIA) team that had been rushed to Jaipur on Tuesday registered an FIR under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Rajasthan Police will assist the NIA, the state police chief said.

**NO IMPUNITY FOR THOSE  
RESPONSIBLE FOR HATE CRIMES****AMNESTY CONDEMNS MURDER**

Condemning the brutal killing of a tailor in Rajasthan's Udaipur, Amnesty International said India must ensure that there is no impunity for those responsible for hate crimes and take urgent steps to protect people against any attacks.

Two men, identified as Riaz Akhtari and Ghouse Mohammad, allegedly hacked tailor Kanhaiya Lal to death with a cleaver at his shop in Udaipur on Tuesday and posted videos online saying they are avenging an insult to Islam.

# Election for Vice President on Aug 6: EC

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The election for the post of vice president will be held on August 6, the Election Commission said on Wednesday. The notification for the election to decide the successor of M Venkaiah Naidu will be issued on July 5 and the last date for filing of nomination papers will be July 19. The scrutiny of nomination papers will be done on July 20 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is July 22.

# People unhappy, dejected with KCR govt: Thakur

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Ahead of a key BJP meeting in Hyderabad, Union minister Anurag Thakur said on Wednesday that people of Telangana are unhappy and dejected with the TRS government there and expressed confidence that his party will win the upcoming assembly polls in the southern state. The BJP is drawing a lot of support in the state, with many people joining it and many others set to join the party in coming months, Thakur told reporters. The central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started many development projects in Telangana but their execution is in the hands of the state dispensation, the senior BJP leader noted. The Modi government has made a lot of contribution to every state's development, he said.



"People of the state are unhappy and dejected with the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) government led by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao," he said. The BJP national executive, a key organisational body of the party, will be meeting for

two days in Hyderabad on July 2 and 3. Its members include PM Modi and other senior leaders of the party drawn from across the country. Modi will also be speaking at a public meeting on July 3 soon after the party's conclave ends, highlighting the BJP's efforts to expand its footprint in a state where it has gained strength since 2019.

**KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY TO JOIN BJP**

Former Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy is set to join the Bharatiya Janata Party in a day or two. On Wednesday, BJP Telangana unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar and state party affairs in-charge Tarun Chugh held discussions with Konda Vishweshwar Reddy in this regard for nearly one hour at the latter's residence. It is learnt that they made BJP national president JP Nadda clarify some of the doubts that Konda Vishweshwar Reddy had. Sources said Konda Vishweshwar Reddy was satisfied with Nadda's assurances and expressed his willingness to join the BJP.



# Rs 2,516 cr scheme for PACS computerisation

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Centre on Wednesday decided to computerise all functional 63,000 Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) over the next five years with a budget outlay of Rs 2,516 crore in order to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability in their operations.

The scheme, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will also facilitate PACS to diversify their business and undertake multiple activities and services.

Majority of the PACS are not computerised and are still function-

ing manually, resulting in inefficiency and trust deficit in these societies.

Hailing the CCEA decision, Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said the government is committed to bring reforms in the cooperative sector.

Shah said the computerisation of PACS will prove to be a "boon" for the sector and thanked the prime minister for this visionary decision.

Announcing the Cabinet decision, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said the scheme proposes computerisation of about 63,000 functional PACS over a period of five years with a total budget outlay of Rs



2,516 crore, with the Centre's share of Rs 1,528 crore.

This is a landmark decision and

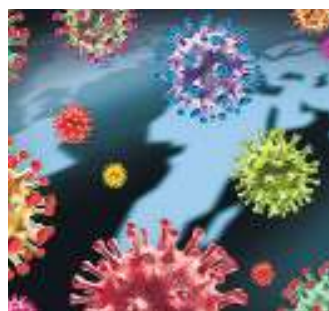
# DRIVEN BY 2 OMICRON SUB-VARIANTS COVID cases on rise in 110 countries: WHO

**PNS ■ UNITED NATIONS/GENEVA**

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing but it is not over, head of the World Health Organization said on Wednesday, cautioning that the cases are on the rise in 110 countries and are being driven mainly by two fast-spreading Omicron sub-variants.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said this week that the fast-spreading Omicron sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5 together are estimated to make up half of the coronavirus cases in the United States.

As of June 25, BA.5 made up 36.6 per cent of the total coron-



avirus cases in the US while BA.4 accounted for 15.7 per cent, together accounting for about 52 per cent of new cases in the US.

and marginal.

Under the scheme, a cloud-based common software with cyber security and data storage will be put in place for PACS. It will also provide hardware support to the PACS and help in digitisation of existing records. This software will be in vernacular languages having flexibility of customisation as per the needs of states.

According to an official statement, PACS constitute the lowest tier of the three-tier Short Term Cooperative Credit (STCC) structure in the country comprising about 13 crore farmers as its members, which is crucial for the development of the rural economy.

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

**Month & Paksham:**  
Tithi: Pratipada : Jun 29 08:22 AM  
to Jun 30 10:49 AM  
Dwitya : Jun 30 10:49 AM  
to Jul 01 01:09 PM

**Nakshatram:**  
Punarvasu: Jun 29 10:08 PM  
to Jul 01 01:07 AM  
Pushya: Jul 01 01:07 AM  
to Jul 02 03:56 AM

**Rahukalam:** 1:57 PM to 3:35 PM

**Yamagandam:** 5:48 AM to 7:26 AM

**Varjyam:** 10:03 AM to 11:51 AM

**Gulika:** 9:04 AM to 10:42 AM

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

**Forecast:** Mostly cloudy  
**Temp:** 30°C  
**Humidity:** 81%  
**Sunrise:** 5:45 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:54 PM

**Updated:** JUNE 29, 2022 5:00 PM



## JD(S) indicates support to Murmu

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Indicating his party's support to BJP-led NDA's candidate for presidential polls Droupadi Murmu, JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy on Wednesday said a final decision on this will be arrived at soon after going through the background of the two candidates in the fray.

The former Karnataka chief minister said Murmu has spoken to JD(S) patriarch and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda seeking support and has also sought appointment to meet him personally.

"Already she (Murmu) has discussed with our national president (Gowda) over phone twice and has requested for support. Also, she had sought time to come and meet. I requested our national President that there is no need for her to come personally in the current situation," Kumaraswamy said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said Murmu already has the majority on her side and she has expressed her desire to seek Gowda's support out of goodwill and generosity. "She has already won...she

need not come so far...we will decide in the party...You (media) may have understood by now what our decision might be. Before taking a final decision, we will look into the background of both candidates. There is no question of Congress or BJP or any B-team here," he said, adding that he has gone through Murmu's background and her struggle.

Recently calling Murmu, as a "suitable" and "non-controversial" candidate, Gowda had noted that he doesn't want to refer her as merely a tribal candidate, but wants to say that she is "competent" for the post of President.

Battle lines have been drawn for the July 18 presidential election with the BJP-led NDA naming Murmu, a tribal leader from Odisha, as its candidate, while former Union minister Yashwant Sinha has filed nomination as a joint nominee by major opposition parties, including the Congress, the NCP and the TMC.

Murmu, 64, had been the Jharkhand governor and also served as minister in the Odisha government earlier in her career.

## Actress Meena's husband passes away due to heart-lung failure

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Noted actress Meena's husband Vidyasagar passed away following failure of the lung and heart, and the state government's best efforts to facilitate organ transplant did not fructify, Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian said here on Wednesday.

Vidyasagar (48) passed away on Tuesday night and the cremation was held at the Besant Nagar crematorium here on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, celebrities, including actors Rajinikanth, Sarath Kumar, Mansoor Ali Khan and top state government official Radhakrishnan, placed wreaths and conveyed their condolences and sympathies to Meena. Several others condoled the death on social media, including actress Khushbu Sundaar.

Speaking to reporters,



Minister Subramanian said Vidyasagar had lung infection last December and at the time was at his home on oxygen support. Later, he was hospitalised and was in a hospital for about six months for treatment. Then, he encountered heart and lung failure, the minister said. "For about 95 days, Vidyasagar was on Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) life support. In February (2022), he contracted COVID-19,"

## BJP leaders to reach out to cadre in Telangana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ahead of BJP's national executive meetings scheduled to be held here on July 2 and 3, the party is deploying its leaders coming from other states to reach out to local cadres and the people across various assembly constituencies in Telangana. The process would begin on Thursday and the visiting leaders would interact with local cadre and people,

and invite them for the massive public meeting scheduled to be held in the city on July 3, BJP sources here said on Wednesday. The visiting leaders are also likely to take inputs from local party activists on relevant issues, they said.

These visits are expected to infuse confidence among cadre and the people about the party, the sources said.

The BJP is aiming to emerge as the alternative to the ruling

TRS in Telangana in the assembly elections to be held towards the end of 2023. The party is making massive arrangements for the national executive meetings to be held in the city on July 2 and 3 and the public meeting to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 3. BJP General Secretary Tarun Chugh, in-charge of party affairs in Telangana, on Wednesday visited the Parade Ground at

Secunderabad to inspect the venue. As part of the arrangements, the BJP has put up banners and cutouts at various places in the city. The BJP had earlier installed a digital hoarding at the party's state office, saying 'Bye Bye KCR'. BJP sources claimed that the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) imposed a fine for certain alleged violation of rules with regard to the hoardings.

## TRS leader K T Rama Rao condemns murder of tailor

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Working President of the ruling TRS in Telangana K T Rama Rao on Wednesday expressed shock over the brutal murder of a tailor in Rajasthan's Udaipur and favoured "most stringent punishment" to the culprits. The TRS leader said he was horrified and shocked at the ghastly murder. "This barbaric violence has no place in civil soci-

ety & and the most stringent punishment should be given to the perpetrators through fast track court," Rama Rao, son of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhra Rao, tweeted. In Udaipur, two men with a cleaver murdered a tailor on Tuesday and posted videos online that said they are avenging an insult to Islam, with the brutal killing drawing widespread condemnation.

## UK unveils 75 scholarships for students

PNS ■ LONDON

The UK government on Wednesday announced a partnership with leading businesses in India to offer 75 fully funded scholarships for Indian students to study in the UK from September, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

The programmes on offer include Chevening scholarships for a one-year Master's programme, with the opportunity to study any subject at a UK university.

Additionally, the British Council in India is offering around 18 scholarships for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) covering over 12,000 courses across more than 150 UK universities.

## Clinics scramble to divert patients

PNS ■ MISSOURI

They call her, desperate, scared and often broke. Some are rape and domestic violence victims. Others are new mothers, still breastfeeding infants. Another pregnancy so soon, they say, is something they just can't handle.

Heart wrenching, said Angela Huntington, an abortion navigator for Planned Parenthood in Missouri, who is helping callers reschedule canceled abortion appointments sometimes hundreds of miles away from their homes after the fall of Roe v. Wade.

The ruling has set off a travel scramble across the country, with a growing number of states mostly banning the procedure. Clinics operators are moving, doctors are counseling crying patients, donations are pouring into nonprofits and one group is dispatching vans to administer

abortion pills. Some cities like Kansas City and St. Louis also are drafting plans to help with the travel logistics.

Huntington has been preparing for this moment for months. Even before the U.S. Supreme Court's decision last week to end constitutional protection for abortion, the procedure had become difficult to nearly impossible to obtain in states including Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

Basically," she said, they were living in a post Roe era."

Now a fresh round of laws are taking effect. Staff at a clinic in Nashville were flooded with calls from patients trying to understand the new legal landscape, after a federal court on Tuesday allowed the state's ban on abortion as early as six weeks into pregnancy to take effect.

In Arkansas, some patients already were headed to a Planned Parenthood clinic in

## Maha floor test BJP demands protection for rebel MLAs

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar on Wednesday met state legislature secretariat's principal secretary Rajendra Bhagwat and urged him to ensure protection to the rebel Shiv Sena MLAs, who are scheduled to arrive in the state for floor test on June 30. Majority of the legislators of the Shiv Sena, which heads the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) gov-

ernment, have been camping in Guwahati along with some independents since June 22. The Sena rebels are demanding that the party snap ties with the NCP and Congress, allies in the government, accusing these parties of trying to eliminate their party.

Maharashtra Governor B S Koshiyari has directed the Uddhav Thackeray-led government to face the floor test at 11 am on Thursday.

### ABORTION BAN IN AMERICA

Little Rock to obtain medication-induced abortions when the decision came down last week. Upon arriving, they were sent home.

I cannot believe this is happening today, they told Huntington. Or alternatively, they muttered, their voices oozing with sarcasm, Of course it's happening today.

Huntington and others try to help move their appointments to clinics in Kansas, Illinois and even Colorado. If a patient is broke but has access to a reliable car, Huntington can offer gas cards. She works with nonprofits to arrange commercial flights and lodging. In recent weeks, she said, a group called Elevated Access has enlisted volunteer light aircraft pilots to transport patients to abortion appointments, sometimes departing from small rural airstrips.

It's been hell," said Dr. Jeanne Corwin, a gynecologist

who works at a clinic in Dayton, Ohio, where most patients are being turned away after new state rules took effect banning abortions after a heartbeat can be detected. Many are being sent over the border to Indiana and the clinic's sister site in Indianapolis, where Corwin also works.

She said they are desperate, including a patient in her 30s, recently diagnosed with advanced melanoma and in her first trimester.

She has to end her pregnancy" so she can begin chemotherapy, and is going to Indiana, Corwin said, adding that patients who are beyond Indiana's 14-week cutoff are being sent to Illinois or Michigan. Time also may be short for women diverted to Indiana because lawmakers there are expected to re-consider the state's abortion laws at a special session starting July 6.

## Drones banned ahead of PM's visit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Prohibitory orders against drones and any kind of flying machines under Section 144 Cr.P.C will be in vogue for a radius of 5 km at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre at Gachibowli in view of the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## BJP pins hopes on...

Continued from page 1

The Chief Ministers, Deputy Chief Ministers, Union Ministers and other important party leaders belonging to the party are going to stay across the 119 Assembly constituencies in the state for two days from June 30th. They will stay at party leaders' residences in the allotted constituencies. The party's TS unit leaders are hopeful that the NEC and the Prime Minister's July 3rd public meeting would pave the way for the saffron party to come to power in Telangana. All eyes are on the Prime Minister's public meeting to be held on July 3, considering that BJP TS leaders have gone on record that it would be a 'turning point' for politics in Telangana. The BJP Telangana unit has been making all-out efforts to attract 10 lakh people for the public meeting, drawing at least 10,000 people from each constituency. Telangana BJP vice-president NVSS Prabhakar told The Pioneer: "The Prime Minister's public meeting would definitely give muscle to the State BJP. The

Prime Minister's speech would certainly change Telangana politics as he will give a political speech. The NEC meetings' resolutions should be in favor of Telangana BJP. People are already looking for alternative to the TRS party rule and they are seeing that alternative in BJP as they are opposing TRS' family rule, betrayal attitude, corruption, red-tapism, and nepotism of the TRS government. People are thinking that time has come for effecting change. The Prime Minister's meeting would certainly provide a way for the people to expect change." BJP OBC Morcha national president Dr K Laxman said that they had named the Prime Minister's public meeting venue as 'Vijay Sankalp', since people would

### DECISION ON PM'S STAY IN HYDERABAD...

Continued from page 1

Deployment of snipers, anti-sabotage checks and roof top watch are being set up at the respective locations. "Out of the 5000 personnel deployed, 1000 will be looking after the internal security arrangements at the location where the PM will be residing and the remaining 4000 will be used for external security like clearing up the route to be taken by PM for his travel while coordinating with the Special Protection Group (SPG)," said a senior police official. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the BJP's National Executive Committee Meeting at HICC Novotel on July 2 and address a public meeting at Parade Grounds on July 3. The July 2 event comes under the Cyberabad Commissionerate and the later day event under the Hyderabad Commissionerate limits.

extend their support to the BJP, which is waging a war against the family rule, corruption, and to ensure that justice prevails over injustice. The party would be conducting 16 meetings separately with 16 major communities living in Hyderabad. The

police are making elaborate security arrangements for the sake of the Prime Minister, who will arrive on July 2nd by a special flight at Begumpet airport and go directly to HICC Novotel, where the NEC would be held.

## War of slogans...

Continued from page 1

The BJP leadership is confident that in Telangana the party would come to power in the forthcoming Assembly elections. TRS supremo and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhra Rao is inclined to take a plunge into national politics. KCR has started anti-

BJP campaign at the national level. He is planning to launch a national party. Both the parties have come up with slogans, keeping their respective objectives in mind. As the BJP has targeted CM KCR, the TRS has targeted PM Modi.

The BJP Telangana unit leaders have put up in front of their office a big board against KCR and have launched a website in the name of 'saalu dora-selavu dora'.

## ‘Ensure random RT-PCR...

Continued from page 1

Bhushan asked them to implement the revised strategy which focuses on early detection and timely management of suspected and confirmed cases, and the containment of outbreaks of new coronavirus variants.

Bhushan said the June 9 strategy was issued with the long-term vision to fully inte-

grate COVID-19 surveillance within existing Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) mechanism.

Summarising the actions that states need to take, Bhushan said they should ensure "Surveillance of Incoming International Travelers which will include random screening of 2 per cent of passengers in each incoming flight into India by RT-

PCR". He asked them that all positive specimens should be sent for genome sequencing and such passengers should be advised isolation and clinically managers as per prevailing guidelines.

He also said all healthcare facilities should report Influenza Like Illness (ILI) cases, and mentioned that the District Surveillance Officer (DSO) will be responsible to analyse the data.

## Konda to...

Continued from page 1

Konda will join BJP in the presence of JP Nadda.

It may be mentioned here there has been talk of Konda joining BJP for the last one year. He had distributed pamphlets during the Huzurabad by-poll in favor of BJP candidate Eatata Rajender, lending credence to it.

Konda Vishweshwar Reddy had joined TRS party in 2013 at the behest of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhra Rao. He left the TRS party in 2018 and joined the Congress party. However, Konda later quit the Congress party.

## Uddhav quits as Maha CM...

Continued from page 1

He said security has been tightened in Mumbai and Shiv Sainiks have been detained. Congress and NCP did not oppose his decision to rename Aurangabad as Sambhajnagar in the last cabinet meeting, held in the evening, Thackeray said. He also thanked Congress president Sonia Gandhi and NCP chief Sharad Pawar for their cooperation and support while running the MVA government.

"Congress leader Ashok Chavan told me that if the rebels want, Congress would

get out of the government and extend outside support. Those who were expected to ditch me, stood by me while my own left me," he said.

Referring to the rebels, he said, "What were your problems? Instead of going to Surat and Guwahati, you could have come to me directly and expressed your views. " Shiv Sena is a party of common man and has faced several challenges successfully, Uddhav Thackeray said, adding he would rebuild the party.

"I thank Shiv Sainiks for standing by me. Those who

grew politically because of Shiv Sena were disgruntled, while those who did not get anything were loyal," he said.

Earlier, vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and J B Pardiwala of the Supreme Court said it was "not staying the floor test as convened by the Governor" but "tomorrow's proceeding will depend on the final outcome of this petition." The Shiv Sena had challenged before the apex court Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari's order to the Assembly secretary to schedule a floor test on Thursday morning.

## NIA investigates...

Continued from page 1

The Centre and the state government have termed the Udaipur murder as a terror incident.

The Union Home Ministry tweeted Wednesday that it has directed the NIA to take over the investigation. "The involvement of any organisation and international links will be thoroughly investigated, it said.

The autopsy report showed 26 injury marks, including those caused by a sharp-edged weapon, on the tailor's body, police sources said.

Curfew imposed in seven police station areas in Udaipur continued in the morning but police allowed Kanhaiya Lal's funeral procession under a strict watch. People joined on motorcycles and in cars joined along the way to the Ashok Nagar cremation

ground.

They shouted slogans like 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Kanhaiya Hum Sharminda Hain Tere Katil Jinda Hain' (Kanhaiya, we are ashamed your killers are alive).

### NO IMPUNITY FOR...

Continued from page 1

In response to the incident, Aakar Patel, chair of board of Amnesty International India, said that Amnesty International strongly condemns the horrific killing of Kanhaiya Lal and the Indian authorities must ensure a prompt, thorough, independent, impartial, transparent and effective investigation into the killing, and bring those suspected to be responsible to justice in fair trials and without resorting to the death penalty.



# Hyderabad in top 2 cities with highest housing sales growth

Second sharpest sequential increase in sales was witnessed in end-user driven market of Hyderabad at 21 per cent

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As economic stability provides homebuyers with more confidence in their financial state, residential demand has picked up across the top eight cities, with both housing sales and new supply registering positive growth in the quarter ending April-June 2022.

A quarterly analysis of India's top eight residential markets by REA backed PropTiger.com, the recent spike in property prices has had little impact on homebuyer sentiment as outlook towards overall economic scenario and income stability improved in the post-coronavirus pandemic phase.

The markets covered in the report of Real Insight Residential, include Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai Metropolitan Region,



Delhi-National Capital Region and Pune.

"Though the RBI increased the repo rate twice during the quarter to bring it to 4.90%, home loans remained largely affordable for the period analysed. The biggest booster to housing demand has been the increased importance of owning a property which has

been further backed by the consumer confidence in the overall economic scenario and impending income stability," said Vikas Wadhawan, Group CFO, Housing.com, PropTiger.com & Makaan.com.

The housing sales during the quarter ending June 30, 2022 registered a sequential 5 per cent uptick when com-

**Growth in new supply superseded sales numbers, registering a quarter-on-quarter growth of 13 per cent in the region**

pared to the previous quarter (Q1 CY2022). According to the report, 74,330 units were sold across the top eight in Q2-2022 as compared to 70,620 units sold in Q1-2022.

The sharpest sequential increase in sales was witnessed in end-user driven markets of Ahmedabad at 30 per cent and Hyderabad, at 21 per cent, respectively.

## Traffic advisory for Golconda Bonalu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Traffic police issued an advisory to motorists in view of Jagadamba Mahankali Golconda Bonalu celebrations. The traffic restrictions will be in place from 8 am to 11 pm as large-scale devotees are expected to attend the celebrations from all over the city and surrounding villages between June 30 and July 27 for Bonalu celebrations.

Joint Commissioner of Hyderabad Traffic Police said that the commuters using roads from Ramdevguda to Golconda Fort via Makkai Darwaza, Langar Houz to Golconda Fort via Fathe Darwaza, Shikpet Nala, Seven Tombs to Golconda Fort (via) Banjara Darwaza are advised to take alternate routes in order to avoid inconvenience on the dates mentioned from 8 am to 11 pm. The devotees are requested to park their vehicles at designated parking places only and maintain queue at parking places and the commuters are also requested to take alternative routes to reach their destinations to avoid traffic congestion.

## Drainage overflow gets worse in city; complaints unanswered

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

People in many parts of the city are suffering due to overflowing drainage. They are facing trouble with the constant stench emanating as drainage overflows on many roads. Citizens say the issues are unattended by authorities despite lodging complaints. Concerns have been raised that drainage water leakage problem is becoming more common due to heavy rains in the city.

People in Hyderabad are worried about the overflowing of drainage water amid heavy rains in parts of Masab Tank, Madhapur, Banjara Hills, Kondapur, Jubilee Hills, Bholakpur, Saroornagar, Begumpet, Khairatabad, Secunderabad and several other places. They expressed concern that the continuous flow of drainages is causing mosquito infestation.

As drainage issues are largely ignored, citizens are now raising concern and complaints about the problem to Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage



work," said Rajeshwar, resident of Banjara Hills Road No.10.

Meanwhile, citizens of Hayathnagar said that the drainage in front of their apartments near Sathya Lakeview was overflowing every 15 to 20 days due to blockage of pipes while laying VDCC road in front of their apartment. They complained that the issue should be resolved quickly as it was leading to problems.

Similarly, the residents of the colonies could not walk due to the continuous flow of drainage water in the Kavuri Hills of Madhapur and other places. The Pioneer Correspondent found that residents of many parts of the city have been suffering due to excessive drainage problems for more than two weeks and have been lodging complaints on the Twitter.

However, HMWSSB officials responded to the issue by saying that all the drainage problems in the city will be resolved soon without causing any inconvenience to the public.

Board (HMWSSB) officials both online and offline. "We have been having serious problems with drainage leakage for the last three months. Many shopkeepers, travelers and pedestrians could not stand on the road as the drainage overflowed. Shops, hotels and other businesses have been hit hard but they have been overlooked over the past few months. As the number of complaints from the area increased, HMWSSB officials responded and began

## TSRTC earns Rs 123.45 cr through cargo services

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation is making available technology for the fast delivery of goods to the general public through cargo services at affordable prices.

It has also announced that home delivery services will be launched soon for the convenience of the public. The two-year cargo revenue has been recorded at Rs 123.45 crore after launching the services across the state of Telangana.

The second year saw better customer service compared to the first year. The TSRTC is always trying something new in the form of cargo to better serve the needs of the customers. About 79.02 lakh customers booked RTC cargo parcels across the state in two years. RTC cargo delivers seeds, fertilizers, curry leaves, grain, ration to Anganwadi



Centres and schools and a wide range of services to farmers. It provides courier services along with freight forwarding facility.

All the people of the state should support the RTC and avail the services of the company. TSRTC will expand its cargo services to Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and other states as well, said Telangana State RTC Chairman, Nizamabad rural constituency MLA, Bajireddy

Govardhan. There are 455 TSRTC Cargo Parcel Centres across the state. In addition, 177 cargo buses are in service. RTC, the largest public transport system in the state, is moving in new directions to offset its losses. It aims to provide the required equipment to the people without relying solely on parcels and couriers. Through Medaram services, the RTC has increased its cargo services by Rs 23.30 lakh.

TRS MLC Kavitha to open Telangana pavilion at Telugu Association meet in USA

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS MLC K Kavitha will be attending the American Telugu Association's (ATA) 17th Convention and Youth Conference which is to be held at Walter E Convention Centre from July 1-3 in Washington DC, USA.

A release from her office said the former Lok Sabha member would inaugurate the Telangana pavilion on July 2 and participate in the prime meet organised by ATA representatives in Washington DC.

She would inaugurate a book on Bathukamma, a Telangana cultural festival, at the venue, the release said.

Kavitha-led cultural organisation Telangana Jagruthi scripted history with the screening of Bathukamma at Burj Khalifa, a skyscraper in Dubai, last year, it added.

## 4 foreigners held for drug peddling, meth and cocaine worth Rs 13 lakh seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of Hyderabad Narcotic Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) arrested four foreign nationals for overstaying and being involved in drug peddling.

Their overstay has also been notified to the Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO) and they have suggested the police to initiate legal proceedings against them. The police also seized 110 grams of Methamphetamine, 20 grams of Cocaine and 5 mobile phones, all worth Rs 13 lakh. A case under Section 14 of Foreigners Act and Section 2 of the Passport Act has been registered at the Banjara Hills police station.

The police have identified six accused of whom four have been caught and two are absconding. The accused belong to Nigeria, Tanzania and Yemen, all of whom are residing illegally in Hyderabad.

According to the police, the accused frequently visited Bangalore and procured drugs



like Meth and Cocaine at Rs 5000-6000 per gram and sell it at Rs 10,000 per gram in Hyderabad. As of now, 23 consumers have also been identified and the police will soon start taking action against them, said City Police Commissioner CV Anand.

The seized material has been handed over to SHO, Banjara Hills police station for further investigation. The arrests were made under the supervision of Chakravarthy Gummi, DCP H-NEW, P Rajesh, Inspector Mohd Hafeez Uddin, Inspector Banjara Hills PS and the team from H-NEW and Banjara Hills police station.

**The police have identified six accused of whom four have been caught and two are absconding. The accused belong to Nigeria, Tanzania and Yemen, all of whom are residing illegally in Hyderabad.**

## 400-year-old temple well in Zaheerabad to be restored

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 400-year-old well at the Tulja Bhavani temple in Zaheerabad will be completely restored as part of programme to restore historic wells across the state.

The historic well at Tulja Bhavani temple is situated in Khanjampalpur, which is a small village hamlet in Zaheerabad in Medak district. The well, which had been neglected for decades, has now come to life with the initiative of the Telangana government.

Founder of the Rainwater

Project, Kalpana Ramesh, requested Mr Arvind Kumar to restore the historic well through the social media.

"Tulja Bhavani temple in Zaheerabad, is the most powerful Goddess that Chatrapati Shivaji believed in taking her blessings before he set out for war. The well is 400-year-old. Telangana is surely a treasure trove for heritage wells, said Kalpana Ramesh.

It may be mentioned that the Rainwater Project has restored at least six wells in and around Hyderabad in collaboration with NGOs and private donors.



## 15 nala works to be completed soon in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation officials said that nala work has been undertaken at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore and 15 works will be completed soon and made available to the public.

GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi on Wednesday inspected the construction work of a one-sided bridge over the picket nala near Karachi Bakery in Secunderabad. Meanwhile, the Mayor said the construction of a one-sided bridge over the picket nala at Rasoolpura has been completed and will be made available to the public after 15 days of water curing. Apart from that, nala undertaken in LB Nagar, Kukatpally and Serilingampally zone will be ready soon. In the wake of rains, warning boards have been set up in 363 troubled areas, as well as mobile and mini mobile monsoon emergency teams have been deployed for flood prevention.



Senior Resident Doctors continued their strike on Wednesday over non-payment of their salaries

## Docs continue strike

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As many as 698 Senior Resident Doctors (SRDs) working at 28 government hospitals across the state went on a strike on Wednesday over non-payment of salaries.

Senior Resident Doctors from Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital protested outside the hospital on Wednesday saying that they have not been paid salaries since the last eight months.

"We joined the hospital in November 2021 as senior residents. Since then we have not been paid our salaries. If the government cannot pay our salaries, they should terminate

our services and send us off by paying our pending salary. They are not doing that as well. They want our services for free.

We have our families to feed. That is why we are boycotting the in-patient and out-patient services from today and we will also boycott emergency services from July 1 until our problem is solved," said a senior resident doctor.

Moreover, the doctors say that the government has not paid their stipend for the services they provided during the Covid period. Senior residents have informed that they have notified the government about boycotting services.

## A rare 1,500-yr-old sculpture found in Cherial

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A rare Nagnakabandha (nude) sculpture of a Goddess was found in Cherial mandal in Siddipet by a farmer Venkataramanagari recently, while he was digging his farm field.

The farmer intimated the Telangana Charitra Brundam group that he found the sculpture. Convenor of the group, Sriramaju Haragopal, said, "It is a 1,500-year-old sculpture. We named it as Nagnakabandha, Lajja Gauri, which means that the sculpture was that of a nude which was five-inch-tall and nine-inch-wide. The large female sculpture was unusually seated on two legs. The sculpture on the rock on the right was not clearly visible. This mother Goddess is known as Nagnakabandha, Aditi, Lajja Gauri and Uttanapada." There are many sculptures in our country and abroad that are worshipped as fertility goddesses. It is a historical fact that this mother goddess has been worshipped in our country since the time of Indus Valley civil-



isation. The custom of worshipping these sculptures dates back to the first century to fourth century. It is said that there would have been more such sculptures during this period.

The Chalukyan queen Mahadevi is worshipped in the nude at Alampuram, which is dedicated to marital happiness and health. There is a Lajja Gauri sculpture in the Archaeological Museum in Badami. Also in the grand coalition, a fourth century sculpture of a mother goddess has been found at Kesar. A first century nude idol was also found at Singaraya.

**The Chalukyan queen Mahadevi is worshipped in the nude at Alampuram, which is dedicated to marital happiness and health.**

The family which has found this sculpture began worshipping it and the process of returning it to the archeology department was not in their mind as they felt the goddess has arrived for the goodwill of the family.

## DOST-2022 notification out: New authentication features added

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Degree Online Services, Telangana (DOST)-2022 notification has been released for admission to the UG courses offered by the degree colleges.

The registration will begin from July 1 and a new feature of face authentication has been introduced. The registration fee is Rs 200. Students can download the T-App Folio mobile application which contains the DOST ID generation service. Students have to enter details such as hall ticket number of TSBE and date of birth.

On verification of the data details, (candidate's name, father's name, mother's name,

gender and candidate's photograph), they would be referred to the TS App Folio application. On successful authentication of a photograph with the photograph available in TSBE service, DOST Reference ID is generated. Students get an SMS of the DOST Reference ID.

It is offering single window (DOST website https://dost.cgg.gov.in) for seeking admission to any of the Undergraduate Programmes in any of the State universities (Osmania, Kakatiya, Telangana, Palamuru, Mahatma Gandhi, Sathavahana and Mahila Vishwa Vidyalayam (Women's University) and TSBTET.



Officials of the Telangana State Council for Higher Education interact in Hyderabad on Wednesday

The process of admission is simple. It is student-friendly and the candidate must register himself or herself by visiting the website and logging in with the Intermediate hall-ticket number.

The other ways include, If a

student has already linked Aadhaar number with the mobile number, he or she can directly register in the DOST website with mobile OTP authentication. In case, his or her Aadhaar number is not seeded with mobile number,

the student has to link the parent's mobile number with the student's Aadhaar number.

The student can visit MeeSeva Centre for Biometric Authentication (Fingerprint/Iris/Face Auth) and registration in DOST. The students who are allotted to private colleges and are eligible for ePass fee reimbursement need to pay an amount of Rs 500 for online self-reporting.

The students who are allotted to Government or University Colleges or Private Colleges and are not eligible for ePass college fee reimbursement and need to pay an amount of Rs 1000 for online self-reporting.

The students also have a GPS location display for letting them know how far their institution is. The Dost web is also on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube Channel for helping students clear their doubts.

Regarding the closure of colleges which registers zero admissions, Chairman of the Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE), Prof R Limbadri, said, "Last year there were 56 such colleges and this year we will know shortly but letters have been sent to University and this rule will be implemented. The students who opt for such colleges will be intimated and seats will be revisited.

## 531 abandoned vehicles auctioned

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rachakonda Police Commissionerate auctioned 531 abandoned vehicles and handed over Rs 43 lakh to the finance department.

It is a six months process of leaving vehicles for the owners to claim and all the vehicles which were neglected had been arranged for auction. The police also waited for extra time to return the two-wheelers which were collected from no-parking zones, some left at crime scenes and a few caught in drunk-and-drive cases. If people claim they are asked to submit documents and after scrutiny the vehicles are returned. In the auction also original owners

come and take their vehicles.

"On Wednesday the auction of abandoned vehicles under Rachakonda Police Commissionerate was held at Car Headquarters, Amberpet parade grounds. Information has been given to the public in newspapers regarding the auction and citizens participated actively in the auction. During the auction, 531 abandoned vehicles which are road worthy, including three-wheeler vehicles were made available to the participants. All the vehicles were placed in the auction as per Section 39(b), R/w Act 7 of Cyberabad / Rachakonda and Section 40 and 41, Hyderabad City Police Act 1348E," said Addl DCP Shameer.



# Pink relegates saffron in bid to grab eyeballs

SNCN ACHARYULU  
■ HYDERABAD

In the context of the upcoming Bharatiya Janata Party national executive meeting here, pink (colour of TRS party) has relegated saffron (colour of BJP) across the city, be they banners, flexes or ads on Metro pillars.

The BJP has virtually no prominent commercial space to put up its banners or flexes. A cynic commented: "When BJP national leaders, Chief Ministers and other top leaders come to Hyderabad and see the city painted pink, instead of saffron, they will turn red".

Whenever any political party holds its significant meeting in the city, it usually puts up a large number of banners and flexes in and around the venue, while painting other important areas also with party colours.

In view of the BJP's upcoming national executive meeting, the party's Telangana unit wanted to put up banners and flexes across the city. But the pink party did not want to give that chance to the saffron



party. If any one round the city today, they may get an impression the pink party is holding its meeting. The pink party has not yielded any space that the saffron party can use for putting up its banners or flexes during the national executive meeting.

The BJP is holding its NEC meeting after 18 years in Hyderabad. In 2004, during the reign of Atal Behari Vajpayee, the BJP held its national executive meet in Hyderabad. On July 2nd and 3rd, BJP is holding its national executive meeting here at Novotel, HICC. More than 300 national leaders, including

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, party national president JP Nadda, 19 Chief Ministers, central ministers and others will attend the meeting. The TRS has proactively painted the city pink. After the Metro Rail came to existence, Metro pillars have become main publicity points for political parties and business establishments. Almost all the Metro pillars (more than 2,000 in the city) have been occupied by the ruling TRS and they are filled with government welfare programmes.

Thus, Metro pillars have turned pink. Besides, there

**The BJP is holding its NEC meeting after 18 years in Hyderabad. In 2004, during the reign of Atal Behari Vajpayee, the BJP held its national executive meet in Hyderabad.**

are pink party flexes at around one thousand bus stops.

Allotment of Rajiv Swagruha Flats done in Pocharam and Bandlaguda

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Allotment of Rajiv Swagruha Flats was successfully completed in a transparent way from June 27 to June 29, 2022 by Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority under the supervision of District Collector Medchal-Malkajgiri.

According to HMDA officials, 14 teams were formed with staff from Revenue, Municipal, Rajiv Swagruha, Housing and Rural Development Departments for conducting lottery.

Applications were received through Mee-Seva and online with a nominal application fee of Rs1,000 from May 12 to June 14, 2022 and allotments were made from June 27 to June 29 by draw of lots.

HMDA officials said in a press release that 39,082 applications were considered for allotting 3,902 flats, 2,238 flats in Bandlaguda and 1,464 flats in Pocharam. HMDA officials said that the allotments were completed for 2,237 flats in Bandlaguda and 1,458 Flats in Pocharam and details are being uploaded on the website.

One flat in Bandlaguda and six flats in Pocharam are left unallotted due to discrepancy of Aadhaar and the applicants (who were selected in lottery) could not be reached with the phone numbers given.

# Manickam Tagore delivers 'shocker' to Komatireddy

The Telangana Congress Affairs in-charge declared that the induction of Vaddepalli Ravi into the party as 'invalid'

K VENKATESHWARLU  
■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Congress Affairs in-charge Manickam Tagore has given a shocker to the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) star campaigner and Bhongir Lok Sabha member Komatireddy Venkat Reddy by finding fault with the latter for inducting Vaddepalli Ravi into the Congress party.

It is learnt that Tagore has conveyed the message to Congress leader from Thungathurthy Addanki Dayakar, who lost the elections twice, that the induction of Ravi into the party was 'invalid.' Tagore pointed out that the TPCC was kept in the dark as far as induction of Ravi into the party and hence it was 'invalid.' The AICC's recognition of the induction was necessary, he made it clear.

Venkata Reddy inducted Ravi, who came from TRS, into the Congress in retaliation to TPCC president A Revanth Reddy 'stealthily' inviting people from other parties into the Congress.

It may be recalled that Ravi joined the Congress party in



presence of Venkat Reddy on June 26 at the latter's residence. After joining the Congress party, Ravi went to Revanth Reddy's residence.

Revanth Reddy, however, did not meet Ravi. Moreover, Revanth Reddy conveyed a message to Vaddepalli Ravi through his followers that he would meet him later.

Meanwhile, Dayakar lodged a complaint with Revanth Reddy and Manickam Tagore that the party had suspended Ravi from the party for six years for contesting as he contested as a Congress rebel candidate in 2018 elections. Dayakar also alleged in his complaint that he had lost election because of Ravi's

**Revanth Reddy, however, did not meet Ravi. Moreover, Revanth Reddy conveyed a message to Vaddepalli Ravi through his followers that he would meet him later.**

anti-party activities.

Close on the heels of Dayakar's complaint, Tagore made call to the former in regard to induction of Ravi into the party.

# Dasoju demands ban on online loan apps, crackdown on organisers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All India Congress Committee (AICC) spokesperson Dasoju Sravan on Wednesday demanded that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao immediately ban online loan apps. Sravan said the organisers of online loan apps have been inflicting unbearable harassment on lullible people and even resorting to illegal practices.

In a letter addressed to Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Wednesday, the AICC spokesperson urged the latter to constitute a special task force within the police department and order a crackdown on the online loan app organisers.

You are well aware that a dreaded and elongated Covid-19 pandemic has played havoc with people's lives in all

spheres, including financially. Besides, declining economic growth, layoffs, rising inflation, lack of new job and entrepreneurial opportunities have pushed people into severe financial stress. During these

troubled times, the traditional banking system, which needs to support the common people, has completely failed. As a result, many people have approached online loan apps for loans to attend to emergencies and difficult times, not knowing that they are getting into a murky web of harassment, fleeing and cheating. Though these online apps offer loans at higher interest rates and charge exorbitant amounts in the name of processing fee, late fee and on other pretexts, people are forced to approach these



loan apps as they are completely let down by traditional banks, which turns a blind eye to the poor and middle-class borrowers, said Sravan, explaining the backdrop in which these online loan apps are thriving. He further said the organisers had been forcibly collecting interests at the rate of 30 to 200 per cent. Most of these organisations were devoid of valid registration, and they were resorting to immortal practices, he observed. The organisers were sharing the photographs and details of the borrowers with the latter are friends and relatives in a bid to 'shame' them. He recalled that several people, including entrepreneurs, IT professionals, had committed suicide unable to bear the harassment. Under such circumstances, it was necessary to impose ban on the online loan app and clamp down on them.

# Roof caves in at Adriyala coal mine

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Roof of Adriyala Longwall underground coal mine of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), Ramagundam- III area, under Ramagiri mandal, caved in on Wednesday.

There was no loss of life and or critical injuries to anyone as workers were not near the accident spot.

A 10 meter stretch roof collapsed at BSL machine's boot ending point at 85 level, 3rd panel of the completely mechanised underground mine. The incident occurred in the first shift.

Every day, about 10 to 15 labourers would work at the spot. However, no workers were there at the spot when the accident occurred.

# Police officers asked to keep tabs on movements of jailbirds

PNS ■ WARANGAL

City Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi has asked police officials to keep tabs on movements of the jailbirds and issued directions on how to resolve the pending grave cases and laid emphasis on effectively implementing visible policing.

Addressing a monthly crime meeting with east zone police officials of the east zone of the police commissionerate here on Wednesday, he sought information about the progress of cracking the pending cases from SHOs, circle inspectors and ACPs. He also reviewed the style of working of the officials and police personnel.

He wanted the every SHO should implement standard operating procedures to solve the cases filed with the police station. As it would be very easy for them to resolve the cases if they follow the procedures.



Warangal Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi speaking at police officers' meeting in Warangal on Wednesday

**Each and every police station should take steps to install CCTV cameras at vantage points with the help of public support by creating necessary awareness among the people.**

The police officials should speed up investigation of the pending grave cases, constitute special teams to nab the criminals and gather necessary evidence to prove the cases and submit the same to court.

Therefore, the investigation officers should technical evidence besides their skills in the investigation.

As part of the visible policing, patrolling should be conducted extensively under the

limits of each police station. The rural police station personnel should compulsorily visit each and every village under the station limits.

Awareness programmes on adverse impact of ganja, ID arrack, gutka, gambling should be conducted under the police station limits and important cross sections and in educational institutions under the police station limits.

Each and every police station should take steps to install CCTV cameras at vantage points with the help of public support by creating necessary awareness among the people.

He asked the police to encourage the youth to take part in the police recruitment board to be held soon.

East Zone DCP Venkata Lakshmi, ACPs Sampat Rao, Nareesh Kumar, Sivaramaiah, circle inspectors, inspectors, sub-inspectors and others took part in the meeting.



Mahabubnagar Collector S Venkata Rao along with officials unveiling wall posters on mega job mela, in Mahabubnagar on Wednesday

# Mega job mela to be held in Mahabubnagar on July 3

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

A mega job-mela with the participation of over 60 employers will be held here on July 3 for the benefit of the unemployed with an earning potential of Rs 1.80 lakh to Rs 10 lakh per annum, according to Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud.

He directed the District Collector S Venkata Rao to make suitable arrangements to hold the mela at ZP grounds in the town. The mela would begin at 9 am on July 3. The district authorities should provide drinking water, tents and

other amenities.

Reviewing arrangements with officials here on Wednesday, he released a wall poster pertaining to the mela. Anyone from class 7 to post-graduates in engineering, pharmacy and management can get jobs. The job aspirants should attend the mela along with original certificates and should bring photo copies of the originals with them.

He asked the district authorities to give a wide publicity to the mela in villages through SHGs. He directed the DMHO to deploy to medical team at the venue.

# Collector felicitates KGBV students, special officers, DEO

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Students of nine Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyas in the district who came out with flying colours in Intermediate examinations were felicitated by District Collector P Uday Kumar at a simple function held at the District Collectorate here on Wednesday.

The girls, along with their parents and school authorities, called on the District Collector who arranged for the felicitation of the meritorious girls.

Those felicitated were B Jyoti of KGBV at Kollapur, who secured 461 out of 470 marks, K Bhumika of Veldanda KGBV secured 425 out of 440 marks, G Gayatri of Telakapalli KGBV who got 485 out of 500 and M Kavita of Bijinapalli KGBV got 475 out of 500 marks in CEC group -- all first Intermediate students. Similarly, R Akhila (KGBVat Naganool) secured 951 out of 1000 marks in MPC group, while G Swati (KGBV at Naganool) got 951



Nagarkurnool Collector P Uday Kumar with KGBV students in Nagarkurnool on Wednesday

out of 1000 in BPC, G Swea of (Telakapalli KGBV) got 930 out of 1000 marks in MPH group and Manisha of the same school secured 859 marks out of 1000 in CEC group. The Collector asked the parents to encourage the students to pursue higher studies. He described the KGBV at Amrabad achieving 100 per

cent results as a welcome development. He appreciated the efforts of special officers and teachers of the KGBV for the success of the students. He told them that he would be visiting the KGBVs to congratulate them.

Also, the Collector felicitated the special officers who are responsible for making the

KGBV at Bijinapalli, Lingala and Amrabad achieve 100 per cent results.

He also felicitated the DEO Govindarajulu and special officer of KGBV Surya Chaitanya for the wonderful results in the KGBVs and wished them that they should continue to achieve good results in future too.

# Etala's 'grabbed' land restored to farmers in Medak dist

TRS Lok Sabha member Kotha Prabhakar Reddy and MLA Ch Madhan Reddy distributed pattas to landowners

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ahead of the BJP national executive committee (NEC) meeting, which will be held on July 2 and 3, the Telangana government delivered a big shock to the BJP MLA from Huzurabad on Wednesday by distributing the lands, which were allegedly encroached by Jamuna Hatcheries, to farmers.

Medak Lok Sabha member Kotha Prabhakar Reddy and MLA Ch Madhan Reddy distributed pattas to farmers who claimed that their lands

were grabbed by Jamuna Hatcheries.

It may be recalled that the officials, who conducted a survey twice, declared that the 85.19 acres of land belonging to 65 farmers in Achampet and Hakimpet villages under Masaipet mandal were being encroached upon by the Jamuna Hatcheries. The 84 acres of land is located in survey numbers 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 130 in Achampet village and 19 guntas land is in Survey number 97 in Hakimpet village.

The farmers and

Achampet Sarpanch's husband, along with Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, arrived at the village and broke the locks of the hatcheries. The Masaipet Tahsildar, Malathi, and Kotha Prabhakar Reddy handed over the 'panchanaama' copy to the Hakimpet villager Shyamala, who said that her land was grabbed by Jamuna Hatcheries. They also distributed the pattas to the farmers.

The distribution of land pattas to the farmers has caused embarrassment to the Telangana BJP as it has happened much before their NEC

meetings to be held on July 2 and 3. It may be an embarrassing situation for the BJP, particularly Eatala Rajender.

While speaking on the occasion, Prabhakar Reddy stated that they were giving pattas to restore the land grabbed by Eatala Rajender to the farmers. The TRS leaders vowed to justice to every farmer. They said they would take a decision in regard to sheds constructed by Jamuna Hatcheries.

The farmers are jubilant as they got back their lands, the leaders said.



TRS MP Kotha Prabhakar Reddy and TRS leaders at Achampet village in Medak district on Wednesday

# Harish Rao visits PGI Hospital in Chandigarh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Health Minister Harish Rao, who is attending the GST Council meeting in Chandigarh, on Wednesday, visited the prestigious Chandigarh Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGI). Hospital director Dr Vivek Lal, Dean Dr Puri and Medical Superintendent Dr Vivek Kaushal welcomed the minister. He was briefed about the facilities and services provided at the hospital. Minister Harish Rao

informed them about the reforms being brought about in the medical and health sector under the guidance of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in Telangana.

He discussed with them about the expansion of Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) in Hyderabad, the ambitious Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS) being set up by the government in the city and the setting of a super-specialty hospital in Warangal.



INDIA CORNER

## Govt taking steps to reduce no of road accidents: V K Singh

The government is taking a series of steps to reduce the number of road accidents in the country and is also working on creating helipads at wayside amenities that are coming up along the expressways to provide emergency care, Union minister V K Singh said on Wednesday. Addressing an event here, the minister of state for road transport and highways said that the government has placed ambulances at each toll plaza on highways but more needs to be done in this area. We are trying to create helipads in each one of our wayside amenities that are coming up along the expressways. It will have helipad facility and hospitals can set up trauma centres at these locations, he said. The minister noted that 11 per cent of world accidents happen in India and "we need to work to bring down the number of road accidents to 2 lakhs per year from current 5 lakhs". This can be rectified and brought down if all stakeholders work together, he stated.



## Thousands witness Lord Jagannath's 'Nabajaubana'

Thousands of devotees Wednesday thronged the 12th century 'Sri Mandir' here to witness the Nabajaubana (The Holy Sight of Juvenile Youth) of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra after a gap of two years due to the pandemic. The state government allowed the people to congregare at the temple after the decline in the prevailing pandemic. As per the tradition the deities remained in the Anasar Gruha (the sick room) inside the temple after their ritual bath on Snan Purnima day. It is believed that the Holy Trinity appears in youthful form on this day after recovering from fever induced by the bath. As per the schedule issued by Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Parimanik (paid) darshan was held for an hour from 8 am to 9 am after the temple opened in the morning.



## After 3-year gap, Amarnath Yatra all set to begin today

The 43-day Amarnath Yatra to the holy cave shrine located in south Kashmir Himalayas is all set to begin on Thursday after a gap of three years. All arrangements have been put in place by the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) to ensure smooth pilgrimage to the naturally formed ice-lingam at the cave shrine, officials said. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday morning flagged off the first batch of pilgrims from Jammu base camp. The first batch of 4,890 pilgrims left around 4 am from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for Kashmir Valley in a cavalcade of 176 light and heavy vehicles, the officials said. The Jammu and Kashmir administration is also augmenting the efforts of the shrine board by providing foolproof security cover along both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes to the holy cave, a senior official said.



# India needs to form Green Hydrogen Corridors: NITI Aayog

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India needs to form Green Hydrogen Corridors and governments can look at providing grants to startups as well as support entrepreneurs to promote green hydrogen, NITI Aayog said on Wednesday.

In a report titled 'Harnessing Green Hydrogen - Opportunities for Deep Decarbonisation in India', the Aayog also suggested that there is a need to facilitate investment through demand aggregation and dollar-based bidding for green hydrogen.

"Three hydrogen corridors should be developed across the country based on state grand challenges... The governments can provide grants and loans to startups and projects, support entrepreneurs through incubators and investor networks, and put in place regulations that manage first-mover risks," the report said. The govern-



ment can also use public procurement and purchase incentives (for green hydrogen) to create demand in niche markets and crowd in private investment, it added.

The report suggested that th government should promote

export of green hydrogen and green hydrogen-embedded products through a global hydrogen alliance.

Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia is defined as hydrogen/ ammonia produced by way of electrolysis of water

using renewable energy, including renewable energy which has been banked and the hydrogen/ammonia produced from biomass.

Most large economies including India have committed to net zero targets. The

report predicted that hydrogen demand in India could grow more than four-fold by 2050, representing almost 10 per cent of global hydrogen demand. In the longer term, steel and heavy-duty trucking are likely to drive the majority of demand growth, accounting for almost 52 per cent of total demand by 2050, it added.

Emphasising that the roadmap should also identify a timeline and scale of manufacturing support for electrolyzers, the report said, "India may aim for 25 GW of electrolyzers by 2030, while also investing USD 1 billion in R&D to catalyse the development of commercial green hydrogen technologies across the value chain."

It noted that radically improving the speed of regulatory clearances coupled with preferential treatment in public tenders will help catalyse local manufacturing.

## Assam flood situation worsens, 24.9 lakh people affected

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

The flood situation in Assam worsened on Wednesday following incessant rain, with five more people losing their lives in the deluge and the number of affected people rising to 24.92 lakh, while Silchar town in Cachar district continued to remain inundated for the last 10 days, officials said.

The MeT Department has issued a 'red alert' in the districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang and Baksa, and an 'orange alert' in Dhubri, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Udalguri, Biswanath, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji and Dibrugarh. The weather office has also issued an 'orange alert' in South Salmara, Kokrajhar, Chirang and Baksa districts till Thursday. Five fresh fatalities have taken the total number of deaths due to floods and landslides in Assam this year to 139, while three more people have been reported missing, a bulletin issued by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said. Brahmaputra, Beki, Kopili, Barak and Kushiyara rivers were flowing above the danger level in



some places although most of the remaining rivers were showing a receding trend.

Most localities of Silchar were still water-logged and the situation remained critical with residents facing a shortage of food, drinking water and medicines.

The town has remained submerged for the last 10 days due to breach of a dyke in Bethkundi. Deputy Comm issioner Keerthi Jalli said work is underway to repair it. She said priority was being given to reach out to the affected people with clean drinking water and food while medical

camps are being organised by the health department to ensure prevention of water-borne diseases.

A team of the National Health Mission, Assam, led by its Mission Director M S Lakshmi Priya is also camping at Silchar to ensure that the affected people get proper medical facilities.

Medical personnel have been deployed in the 28 municipal wards of the town, while health camps have been organised at different relief centres where inmates have been provided with ORS packets for prevention of diarrhoea.

## Shinde, rebel Sena MLAs our guests : Assam govt



PNS ■ GUWAHATI

Assam government Wednesday said rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde and other Maharashtra dissidents who are camping in Guwahati for a week are "guests" of the state. Assam Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pijush Hazarika said that the dissident MLAs of the western state are being treated as guests and assistance is being provided to them.

Hazarika, who is also the government spokesperson, BJP MP from Assam Pallab Lochan Das, MLA Diganta Kalita and Guwahati Police Joint Commissioner Partha Sarathi Mahanta on Wednesday accompanied the rebel legislators in the bus journey from their upscale hotel in the city to Kamakhya

temple. "They (the dissident Maharashtra MLAs) told the administration that they would like to visit Maa Kamakhya temple. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma then assigned me to assist them because they are our guests," Hazarika told reporters. "It is the duty of the state government to help any guest coming to the state," he added.

To questions on the number of lawmakers camping in the hotel and when they are likely to leave, Hazarika said "I do not know how many MLAs are there. I am not aware of their plans."

Dissident legislators of Shiv Sena, which heads the ruling coalition in Maharashtra, along with several Independents have been camping in Guwahati, around 2,700 km away from Mumbai, since June 22.

## Huge security for July 1 rath yatra in Ahmedabad

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

As many as 25,000 security personnel will be deployed on the route of the forthcoming Lord Jagannath rathayatra in Ahmedabad in which lakhs of people are likely to participate after a gap of two years without COVID-19 restrictions, officials said on Wednesday. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will perform the Mangla Aarti at the temple on July 1 around 4 am before the chariots of the deities roll out. In normal times, lakhs of people gather along the route of the rathayatra on the day of 'Ashadhi Beej' to catch a glimpse of deities and the procession, which includes decorated elephants and several tableaux. Traditionally, the procession, led by chariots, starts around 7 am on 'Ashadhi Beej' from the 400-year-old temple in the Jamalpur area of the city and returns by 8 pm after passing through the Old City, including some communally sensitive areas. "With lakhs of people from across Gujarat are expected to attend the 145th Lord Jagannath Rathayatra here on July 1, at least 25,000 security personnel will be deployed on the entire city to thwart any untoward incident," officials said.

## CBI announces reward on TMC MP Banerjee's confidant

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has announced a reward of Rs one lakh for anyone giving actionable information leading to arrest of TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee's alleged confidant Vinay Mishra, who is wanted in a cattle smuggling case, officials said Wednesday. The central agency had issued a similar reward against Mishra



in a case of coal pilferage from the mines of Eastern Coalfields Ltd in West Bengal's Asansol a few

months ago, they said. The CBI had also moved Interpol seeking a Red Notice against Mishra and attempts are

## CRPF booths to help Amarnath pilgrims

PNS ■ JAMMU

To assist the Amarnath pilgrims, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has established 'Madadgar' booths across Jammu and Kashmir, a spokesperson of the paramilitary force said on Wednesday. The 43-day annual pilgrimage is scheduled to commence Thursday from the twin base camps - the traditional 48-km Nunwan in south Kashmir's Anantnag and a 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district - after a gap of two years following the outbreak of COVID-19.

The CRPF spokesperson said help desks have been set



up at various places along the route, and at transit and base camps. The force has also established a medical camp along the pilgrimage route to provide free treatment, he said.

The first batch of 4,890 pilgrims, who left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu under tight security arrangements in the early hours of Wednesday, have reached their

respective base camps in the Valley to start their onward journey. The spokesperson said all efforts have been made to ensure their safety and security and their convoys in view of a heightened threat perception and statements by various terror groups to disturb the pilgrimage. "The force has left no stone unturned to take up the challenge...the surveillance of every inch is being made by the vigilant jawans, who are also using drone 'Netra' to keep the pilgrims safe," he said.

The spokesperson said the pilgrims leaving the base camp on the first day were excited and expressed full faith in the CRPF's capability.

## Udaipur incident: Kerala Guv against Madrassa curriculum

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A day after the brutal murder of a tailor in Rajasthan triggered shock waves across the country, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Wednesday came out against Madrassas and wondered whether young children were taught there that punishment for blasphemy is beheading. He also called for broad-based education to every child till the age of 14 years, saying it was one of their basic rights and opined that no specialised education should be given to them before that age.

## Encourage students to be curious, innovative: VP

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Imploring educators to pay attention to imparting education in one's mother tongue, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Wednesday fervently appealed to schools across the nation to foster the spirit of curiosity, innovation and excellence among the students.

Challenges and opportunities abound in a technology-driven fast changing world and in this context the best skill schools could impart a student is adaptability, he said. "Students must be trained to think quickly on their feet, be agile and innovate using cutting-edge technologies to solve 21st century problems," the Vice President emphasised while inaugurating the Vellore International School (VIS), established at Kayar, near Kelambakkam, near here, by the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT). Complimen-



ting the management of VIT Group of Institutions for the important milestone in their educational journey, he said the VIT Group has been making consistent efforts to strengthen higher education in the private sector and "I am confident this institution will be another feather in their cap." Educational strategy should be

aligned to futuristic approach and shun rote learning. Also artificial segregation between curricular and extracurricular activities should be dispensed with and the students encouraged in multidiscipline, he suggested. "It is my fervent appeal to the schools across the nation to foster the spirit of curiosity, innovation and excellence in

students," Naidu said. The Vice President said he was informed that the VIS is trying to introduce the concept of house parent to integrate the positive aspects of Guru-Shishya tradition with modern pedagogical practices.

Urging teachers to pay attention to the use of mother tongue, he said wherever pos-

sible, at least until the primary level, the medium of instruction in public and private schools should be in mother tongue. "We must encourage students to speak freely in their mother tongue in their social environment on the school premises, at all the cultural events and in their homes. Only when we can freely and proudly speak our mother tongue can we truly appreciate our cultural heritage," he said.

Reiterating that focusing on our mother tongue is not to suggest one not to learn other languages like English, Naidu said he often said that one should learn as many languages as possible.

What is required is a strong foundation in the mother language. Proficiency in other languages, in addition to one's mother tongue, helps build cultural bridges and opens windows to new worlds of experience, the VP said.

## Siddaramaiah to be CM face; rivals favour collective leadership

PNS ■ BENGALURU

In an attempt to project Siddaramaiah as the Congress's Chief Ministerial candidate in Karnataka for the 2023 Assembly polls, his loyalists are planning a month-long programme in August when he turns 75, even as State Congress chief D K Shivakumar's side asserted collective leadership and said anyone can become the Chief Minister. The voice of assertion from Shivakumar's camp this time came from his brother and Bengaluru Rural MP D K Suresh.

This is seen as another round in the game of one-upmanship between the two leaders, who have been nursing Chief Ministerial ambitions and also want to consolidate their clout within the party. The development comes even as Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah were in Delhi dis-



cussing the party's preparedness and campaign strategy for the polls with party's national leader Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi, along with general secretaries KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala. According to sources, Siddaramaiah's supporters and wellwishers, including senior

Congress leaders and former Ministers like R V Deshpande and H C Mahadevappa, have planned a massive convention at the district headquarters town of Davangere on August 3, which is also being seen as a show of strength by the former Chief Minister's camp.







FIRST COLUMN

LET'S BE THE CHANGE THAT WE WANT TO SEE

We have to develop a culture that springs from non-violence



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

In the past couple of years, there has been a growing concern across the world with regards to ruthless killings of whistleblowers, most of whom were courageous citizens who fought to secure the truth at the risk of their lives. These whistle blowers play an essential role in exposing corruption, fraud, mismanagement and other wrongdoing that threaten public health and safety, financial integrity, human rights, the environment and the rule of law.

By disclosing information about such misdeeds, these courageous people have helped save countless lives and billions in public funds, while preventing emerging scandals and disasters from worsening. Hence, such violent resistance to truth and its custodians in innumerable cases across the world shows extreme moral degradation of our society and the erosion of values. What kind of society would punish its whistleblowers and stifle the truth? Perhaps that's the question we all need to ask ourselves. When muscle and money power call the shots everywhere, it is obvious that truth will always be on the run and evil on a perpetual chase.

The dictum of might is right has been strengthened by the depiction of violent episodes in history as well as through religious writings. There are many religious scriptures that show that even the Almighty showed His might by decimating the evil forces by means of a violent war to contain unrighteousness in the world. Hence, using force to set a wrong right or to discipline a wrong doer has been adopted as a norm by humans at all levels of existence.



To change this scene, patchwork solutions will no longer suffice. Because we need a complete transformation that can emerge when we change the powers we use. From the power of might, we now have to shift to the power of right and develop a culture that springs from non-violence.

Discarded as a theoretical tool and reduced to a mere embellishment in books, non-violence is actually a magic wand that can protect against the wrong and wrongdoer. One should not forget that we have already witnessed that the policy of an eye for an eye has made the whole world blind, so we need to now make use of the power of values to connect and correct.

The great potential of non-violence needs to be explored—a value which asks its users to refrain from aggression not just in action but also in words and even thoughts. The simplicity of non-violence lies in the fact that it can be used by anyone and at all levels—personal, social and global. Peace, spirituality and self-sustainability will be dominant in a culture nourished by non-violence. It will naturally ooze with security and brotherhood and any anti-social elements will soon be forced to the road of guilt and self-realisation.

Ideals that we struggle and fight for today—freedom, justice and equality—will be natural there. From a place where anything can happen to anyone at any time, the world will be transformed to a place where everything would happen at the right place, at the right time and in the right manner. There, the right would not just be right but right would be right.

Is it all as simple as it sounds? Yes, it is! Together, we all can, through spiritual empowerment, create such a way of life, but the fundamental rule for it is self-change. Most of us have wasted much of our precious time and energy in checking others and the quality of people at the social level, without realising that the creation of a fair society would begin from personal change that would work from the inside out. This change would be contagious which would spread through all of us, thus triggering a social transformation at global level. So, Let's Be the Change.

*(The author is a spiritual educator and popular columnist for publications across India, Nepal, and the UK)*

# Higher education has to become meaningful

## Indians going to the US for education need to be informed about the world-class institutions India has

My mind goes back to 1945 and 1946. I was a postgraduate student in pure mathematics. We were just six students. Shree Satyen Bose was our Professor. He used to wear Dhoti Kurta (snow-white). Our classes were on the 3rd floor and there were no lifts.

Bose and Einstein were collaborating on some research which resulted in the discovery of the Bose-Einstein (Bosen) theory. Bose used to love me and was keen that after finishing studies, I go to study astronomy at Mount Wilson observatory in America. He was disappointed when I did not continue my studies.

I came from a very poor family. My mother died of tuberculosis without proper treatment for want of funds in 1936. My family had great expectations from me, that I would earn money as I was brilliant in education. But I became brilliant in business. I started learning business from my uncle in 1946 side by side with studies.

I came into business full-fledged in 1946 and retired in 2000. I have been very close to the Ramakrishna Mission since 1951. The mission had a splendid educational institute at Narendrapur in the suburb of Calcutta with about 3,000 students. Of the top 10 students in Calcutta University, at least two students were from Narendrapur. I was dreaming of having something like Narendrapur but on a tiny scale run by the Ramakrishna Mission monks.

Shree Arjun Singh was the human resource development minister. He belonged to Madhya Pradesh where I had established a technologically challenging graphite electrode plant. I had become very close to him. He would attend lectures of Swami Atmanandaji, whom we used to invite to Bhopal for lectures.

The mission had a number of educational institutions but no university. They decided to establish one at Belur Math in their large compound on the banks of the Ganges. They decided to send a delegation of monks to meet Arjun Singh. Knowing my closeness with him, they asked me to accompany them. His response was good; the next meeting was fixed after a month.

The Ramakrishna Mission had three subjects in mind for the University: (i) disaster management whose practical experience they had in floods and famines; (ii) rural development; and (iii) poverty alleviation. I was keen that they included mathematics so that their performance could be compared internationally.

I met Arjun Singh alone and requested him, while interacting with them, to emphasise on mathematics. He was enthusiastic. The ministry did their homework. An additional secretary and other officers attended the meeting. Five senior monks of the mission and I attended the meeting. On Singh's emphasis, mathematics was agreed upon.

He was highly impressed that the proposed vice-chancellor was a scholar of



SATYEN BOSE AND EINSTEIN WERE COLLABORATING ON SOME RESEARCH WHICH RESULTED IN THE DISCOVERY OF THE BOSE-EINSTEIN (BOSEN) THEORY. BOSE USED TO LOVE ME. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED WHEN I DID NOT CONTINUE MY STUDIES

The author is Emeritus Chairman, LNJ Bhilwara



physics and was teaching it to graduates of the mission college and another monk, Mahan Maharaj, was a great scholar of mathematics and famous internationally.

The mission pointed out that the mathematics education would be expensive. Faculty will have to be paid liberally. As there are Nobel Laureates in other subjects, mathematics also has able laureates. The mission wanted a grant of Rs 40 crore and Singh agreed to that.

The mission started looking for a mathematics scholar to start this course. Fortunately, there was a Bengali mathematician, Abhijeet Dutt, at the Kyoto University who was engaged in research with Japanese students. He was keen to come to Bengal. With his coming back, the RK Mission University became a hub of mathematics in India. The board of governors included four monks of the mission and four officials of the Ministry. Singh nominated me on the board. He told the mission that I had vast experience in dealing with the bureaucracy and that I would be helpful. Thus I became a board member.

Unfortunately, Arjun Singh passed away in 2011. Dealing with the ministry became difficult.

The senior Sanyasinis of Sarada Math once came to visit the university. Abhijeet Dutt welcomed them in his half pants and a sports T-shirt. The Sanyasinis were not very comfortable. Nobody told anything to the professor but he started feeling uncomfortable. He resigned and went back to Kyoto. This was unfortunate. I wish the mission had handled the professor better.

After the demise of Arjun Singh, I found my name had disappeared from the board without my knowledge. I was not happy.

In 2020, I came across an IIT dean. I informed him that I have four thousand students studying for higher secondary at four places where we have schools. I requested his assistance. He visited one of our institutes and was highly impressed with our research activities. We were looking forward to some kind of association with IIT. But nothing came up.

Recently, my daughter became very enthusiastic for our schools. Therefore, I fixed a meeting with the Dean of an IIT. The Dean was warm and he briefed me about their activities in mathematics research done by postgraduate mathematicians.

Similarly, I am now associated with the Harish-Chandra Maths research institute at Allahabad. With my daughter's involvement and my good health and alert mind, I am hopeful that I will be alive to see India produce an able laureate in mathematics.

I requested the Vice-Chancellor, Swami Atmapriyanadaji, to include artificial intelligence and I donated Rs 15 lakh for that. He was also thinking about artificial intelligence. One of his students is teaching artificial intelligence at the South African University; he has agreed to join soon. I hope something emerges.


I look across at my friends and my own family. My grandson went to the United States to study mathematics. After two years, he wanted to specialise in some branch of mathematics whose expertise was available at Cambridge; he moved to Cambridge. I was hopeful that



LN JHUNJHUNWALA

# Murmu: NDA's choice for inclusive democracy

## Draupadi Murmu struggled to raise her children, while also becoming a foremost social and political worker



SUMEEET BHASIN

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance, by picking up former Jharkhand governor Draupadi Murmu as its candidate for the July 18 Presidential election, has abided by the inclusive Dharma of democracy.

The two successful candidates of the NDA in the past who made to Rashtrapati Bhavan equally emphasised inclusivity and most suitable to hold the top Constitutional post. APJ Abdul Kalam, India's missile man, not only lived to give the country strategic deterrence but also became a role model for all, particularly youth. His life was a living testimony to the Indian tradition of pursuit of knowledge and humility.

The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre (@Sumeeetbhasin)

In Ram Nath Kovind, India got a President who was most humble and democratic, who opened the doors of Rashtrapati Bhavan for the people while being most courteous in his conduct and discharge of the duty. The political commentators sought to bracket him as the BJP's Dalit bet, but he eventually proved that he could conduct the Constitutional duties most efficiently.

Murmu struggled all her life but beat the odds to raise her children, while also becoming a foremost social and political worker. From being a legislator, she proved her mettle in Odisha as a minister and thereafter as the governor of Jharkhand.

She would be the first tribal President of India since the

NDA has the support of the Biju Janata Dal and the YSR Congress for the July 18 election. The BJP has for long been pursuing an inclusive agenda. Even in 1996, when the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government fell in 13 days despite being the single largest party, it had the largest number of the tribal MPs in its ranks. The BJP's foremost commitment to take all sections of society has been an abiding principle.

Murmu will be a candidate in the Presidential election at a time when the Narendra Modi-led government has given a new hope to the tribal population in the country by taking his mantra of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Viswas aur Sabka Prayas' to every nook and corner of the country, including the tribal areas in Jharkhand, Odisha

and Chhattisgarh. During the rule of the United Progressive Alliance, Leftwing or Maoist extremism was at its peak; people talked about the Red Corridor, connecting the hotbed of Maoist violence in Nepal to the deep forests in Sukma in Chhattisgarh. The violence cost several lives of paramilitary forces.

The NDA government set out for course correction right at the outset, and gave hope to the tribal youth that they can see better future in the mainstream of society, as several welfare schemes brought benefits to the people without hassles, without paying bribes. The government's honesty was visible, and the tribals of the country turned their backs to violence.

In the last few years,

Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Odisha have largely been peaceful, with a decline in Maoist violence.

When Murmu takes the oath of the office as the President of India, the tribal population will see the fulfillment of their political aspirations. They will see that one from among them is the first citizen of India.

The Aspirational District programme of the Central government was envisioned with clear objective that the gains of the development must reach the poorest of the poor, in accordance with the true of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

The tribals have seen that they have been brought in the mainstream of the economy with financial inclusion, pucca houses with toilets, pension

schemes and so on. They don't need to fall for the allurements of the evangelists to embrace their religion.

The elevation of Murmu to the post of the President of India will be the firm democratic empowerment of the tribal population, as well as women of the country. She has thoroughly been a spiritual person and her association with Brahmakumaris is well known.

She was sweeping the floor of a temple a day after her name was announced by the BJP president JP Nadda; people have seen how humble a person she is. She stands for simplicity, spirituality.

She is a Constitutionalist, a firm believer in the Indian Constitution's capacity to fulfill the aspirations of all sections of society. Her life is also a living

testimony of perseverance. She never lost hope even when she faced personal losses. In her, India will have a President who will give hope to the vast majority of the people that all hardships can be won over with honesty and patience.

While the Opposition parties were busy in elimination rounds to find a candidate for the Presidential election, the BJP was thinking of national interest. When the BJP named Murmu as its Presidential candidate, even the rivals suggested that the contest has become one-sided. The Opposition candidate, Yashwant Sinha, can save his lost reputation by gracefully withdrawing from the Presidential election to pave way for the unanimous election of Murmu as India's President.





MONEY MATTERS

## Pharma company Innova Captab files IPO papers with Sebi

Pharmaceutical company Innova Captab Ltd has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The proposed IPO comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 400 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 96 lakh equity shares by promoters and other shareholders, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). As part of the OFS, Manoj Kumar ohariwala, Vinay Kumar Lohariwala and Gian Parkash Aggarwal will sell 32 lakh shares each. At present, promoters -- Manoj and Vinay -- hold 39.66 per cent and 30.08 per cent stake, respectively, in the company, while Gian owns a 30.23 per cent holding in the pharma firm. Besides, the company may consider pre-IPO placement of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 80 crore. If such a placement is undertaken, the size of the fresh issue will be reduced.



## Tata Steel to spend Rs 1,200cr on new technology development

Tata Steel Ltd is betting big on new technology development over the next three to four years and has firmed up plans to pump in around Rs 1,200 crore as a part of its endeavour to enter materials beyond steel, a top company official said. In the new materials business, the steel giant has been focusing on graphene, which can be mixed with plastic and recycled like brand-new products, among other attributes, he said. Tata Steel is a leading global producer of graphene-enriched products - the biggest in the country and among the top 10 in the world. "As far as the new materials business is concerned, the outlay in entire technology development, including incubation, over the next three to four years is about Rs 1,200 crore," Vice-President, Technology & New Materials Business, Debashish Bhattacharjee, told PTI. As compared to "asset heavy" steel - the core of Tata Steel, these new materials are asset light, he said.



## Steel prices likely to go up again from July 1 on high input cost: JSPL MD

After back-to-back downward corrections, steel prices are expected to rise from July due to high input costs, an industry executive said on Wednesday. "While coal price is at Rs 17,000 a tonne, iron ore prices by Odisha Mineral Corporation are still high. It is the main supplier of iron ore in Odisha," JSPL Managing Director V R Sharma told PTI on the sidelines of an event organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce here. "The prices have already bottomed out. There is no chance of reducing them further. There will be an upward price correction from Friday, July 1 by (primary players) mainly on account of higher input costs," he said. Secondary steel makers have already increased the price of rebars by Rs 2,000 to Rs 55,000 per tonne in the last four days, Sharma said. There are various other factors building pressure on steel makers, Sharma said, adding there are issues with the availability of coal.



# Proper interpretation of data key to informed decision-making

PNS ■ MUMBAI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday emphasised the need for proper interpretation of data to facilitate more informed decision making as it will bring clarity in communication from decision makers as well as formation of rational expectations from market participants.

"The importance of statistics in public policy is well understood. In the face of high uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the discipline of statistics found itself in greater spotlight. This unprecedented global phenomenon has tested human endeavour in multiple facets and magnitude," he said.

Speaking at the RBI's annual 'Statistics Day Conference', Das mentioned that lockdowns in various countries, including India, posed severe challenges to the compilation and availability of data relating to the spread of the pandemic, and its impact on various economies and the world urgently needed solutions to a problem it had never seen before.

Recalling India's experience



in data gathering, he said the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation was compelled to publish imputed figures for Consumer Price Index (CPI) for two consecutive months during the first wave of the pandemic in 2020 due to immense difficulty in collection of prices for many items.

He said statistical innovations arising out of the pandemic disruption will have long-lasting benefits and added that the upheaval also posed

challenges to statistical agencies to build more public trust in the resulting statistics.

While new data sources open up opportunities for official statistics, he said it also raises issues for the discipline. "... statistics should focus on laying down the pathway towards proper interpretation in the present world of data abundance. This would facilitate more informed decision making, clarity in communication from decision makers and formation of rational expecta-

tions from market participants," Das said.

Observing that the development of proper data quality framework and ensuring data privacy and data security has assumed top priority, Das said this was a central theme for the recently held International Association for Official Statistics Conference in April 2022. Central banks on their part are both producers and users of statistics for policy actions as well as for assessing the outcomes of their actions. They also need to establish stronger communication of their policies and actions in such turbulent times, he noted.

Thus, central banks too had to cope with all these challenges by focussing on alternative indicators and data sources for monitoring the effects of the pandemic in all its dimensions. Talking about RBI, Das said it has refocused its statistical endeavours during the pandemic to ensure the continuity of its mission.

"RBI's past efforts in streamlining of data flow, investment in technology and continuous engagement with regulated entities paid dividends.

Stocks halt 4-day winning run, Sensex down 150 pts on weak global markets

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Snapping its four-day winning run, benchmark Sensex declined by over 150 points on Wednesday due to profit booking in IT, FMCG and banking shares following weak global trends and persistent foreign capital outflows.

In a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 150.48 points or 0.28 per cent lower at 53,026.97 as 20 of its stocks ended with losses. During the day, it tumbled 564.77 points or 1.06 per cent to a low of 52,612.68 ahead of the expiry in the derivatives segment on Thursday.

The broader NSE Nifty declined by 51.10 points or 0.32 per cent to 15,799.10 with 34 of its constituents closing in the red. In the four-day rally to Tuesday, Sensex spurred by 2.59 per cent or 1,354 points while Nifty had gained 2.84 per cent or 436 points. Among Sensex shares, Hindustan Unilever fell the most by 3.46 per cent. IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Titan, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Bajaj Finance were the other major losers.

## Cabinet gives *post facto* approval to pact with IRENA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday gave post facto approval to the strategic partnership agreement with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) which will help India in green energy transition.

"The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was apprised of a Strategic Partnership Agreement signed between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)," an official statement said.

According to the statement, the Agreement was signed in January 2022. The aim of the Agreement is to drive ambition, leadership and knowledge on green energy transitions based on renewable energy in India. It also stated that the Union Cabinet has approved the strategic partnership agreement. The Agreement will help India's energy transition efforts and will also help the world in combating climate change.

The areas of cooperation as envisaged in the Strategic



**"The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was apprised of a Strategic Partnership Agreement signed between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)," an official statement said.**

Partnership Agreement will support India in achieving its ambitious target of 500 GW of installed non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030. This in-turn will promote Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The salient features of the agreement include enhanced cooperation in the areas such as facilitating knowledge sharing from India on scaling-up

renewable energy and clean energy technologies.

It will also support India's efforts on long term energy planning and collaborate to strengthen the innovation climate in India. The pact will also focus on moving towards cost-effective decarbonisation through catalysing development and deployment of green hydrogen.

## Marine exports up 30 pc to nearly US\$ 8 bn in FY22

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Exports of marine products rose 30.26 per cent to USD 7.76 billion during 2021-22 as against USD 5.96 billion in previous fiscal year, the commerce ministry said on Wednesday.

India shipped 13,69,264 MT (metric tonne) of seafood worth Rs 57,586.48 crore during 2021-22. "During 2021-22, the export improved in rupee term by 31.71 per cent, in USD terms by 30.26 per cent and in quantity terms by 19.12 per cent," the ministry said in a statement.

K N Raghavan, Chairman, Marine Products Export Development Authority



(MPEDA), said India managed to do "all-time high" exports of USD 7.76 billion.

Frozen shrimp remained the major export item in terms of quantity and value. Its shipments stood at USD 5.82 billion last fiscal year. The seg-

ment accounts for 75.11 per cent of the total dollar earnings.

The US is the largest market of frozen shrimp, followed by China, the European Union, South East Asia, Japan, and the Middle East.

NIIF invests US\$ 300 mn in DP World's container terminal arm

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Indian government-promoted National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) on Wednesday said it has invested USD 300 million or Rs 2,250 crore for a 22.5 per cent stake in Hindustan Ports, a local arm of UAE's DP World. This is the single largest investment by NIIF's master fund and takes the vehicle's total investment in DP World's India arms to USD 500 million, as per an official statement. Hindustan Ports operates five container terminals, managing more than 5 million TEU or standard 20-ft container unit capacity, and accounts for a market share of over 20 per cent. It operates two terminals in Mumbai, and one each at Mundra, Chennai and Cochin, NIIF said in a statement.

## Jet Airways in talks with aircraft makers, lessors to lease 6-8 planes by Dec

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Jet Airways is in discussions with aircraft manufacturers and lessors to lease 6-8 planes, including some of those which were to be delivered to Russian carriers prior to the Ukraine war, as it gets ready for the relaunch, according to sources. Moreover, the airline is also negotiating with airport operators to secure slots with "good" timings, they said.

Once a major player in the Indian aviation space, the carrier has not flown since April 17, 2019 and is being revived under the ownership of the Jalan-Kalrock consortium.

Last month it got its air operator certificate revalidated by the aviation safety regulator DGCA.

"Aircraft availability is



always an issue but now due to the Russia-Ukraine war, aircraft which were to be delivered to Russia are also available in the market along with those leased planes which were flying in Russia," a source told PTI. He said the airline is negotiating with Both Boeing, Airbus and the lessors, adding that "discussions are at a very

high level and an announcement is expected to be made very soon." According to the source, Jet Airways is looking to lease 6-8 aircraft by December.

Jet Airways confirmed that the airline is in "advanced discussion" with the lessors and original equipment manufacturer (OEMs) but did not share specific details.

Rupee falls 18 paise to close at all-time low of 79.03 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 18 paise to close at a record low of 79.03 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, weighed down by persistent foreign capital outflows, a strong dollar overseas and surge in crude oil prices. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 78.86 against the greenback and finally settled at 79.03, down 18 paise over its previous close.

During the session, the rupee touched an all-time low of 79.05 against the American currency. On Tuesday, the rupee plunged by 48 paise to close at the record low of 78.85 against the US dollar. The domestic unit has lost 1.97 per cent so far this month and has eroded a staggering 6.39 per cent since the start of this year.

## Eveready in midst of transformation: MD

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Batteries and flashlights maker Eveready Industries India Ltd on Wednesday said it is in the midst of a transformation that lays the road map for a growth journey.

Chairing the company's AGM virtually, Managing Director Suvomoy Saha said that Eveready is now actively working towards improvement in portfolio augmentation, reaching out to consumers and process upgradation.

Saha said that the fundamental strengths of the businesses remain intact with a solid brand, strong distribution reach and significantly high market share in the core categories of batteries and flashlights.

The management of the company is now purely focused on harnessing these strengths for delivery of results. Some of the initiatives may need some time to fructify, but directionally these are for long-term and sustainable value creation, he told shareholders.

Eveready has exited from the appliance business in the



second half of the last fiscal to focus on core activity.

... the company's growth in the recent past has been negligible. This is an identified area for improvement. Towards this, the company is working to chart out a strategy for growth and also improve existing operational areas, the MD said.

Speaking about the economy and market, he said that a slowdown in demand for FMCG products was seen in large parts of the market, particularly rural ones due to high inflation resulting from geopolitical headwinds.

Turnover for the year was down by 3.4 per cent primarily due to a slow-down in the Q4 in the core categories of batteries and flashlights, and also due to the gradual exit from the appliance business in the 2nd half, Saha said.

## Indian direct selling industry reports US\$ 3.25 billion sales

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian direct selling industry has reported retail sales of USD 3.25 billion in 2021 (around Rs 27,650 crore) and maintained its 12th place in the global rankings, said a report released by Washington-based World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA).

The Indian direct selling industry reported a growth of 7.7 per cent in 2021 and had a CAGR (Compound Annual

Growth Rate) of 15.7 per cent in the last three years from 2018 to 2021, grabbing sixth position in the Asia Pacific region, the report added.

The Indian direct selling industry is led by companies, including Amway, Avon, Oriflame, Modicare, Herbalife etc. US has emerged as the top direct selling market accounting for 23 per cent of the total sales with USD 42.67 billion retail sales, said WFDSA report.

It was followed by South Korea and Germany, both contributing equally 10 per cent of the total global sales with around USD 19 billion sales from direct retail.

In 2021, the global direct selling industry reported sales of USD 186.10 billion, up 1.5 per cent in constant currency terms, the WFDSA report added.

During the period, wellness category reported the highest sales and contributed around

35 per cent of the global sales, followed by the cosmetics & personal care segment with 25 per cent. Top 10 countries, including the US, Germany, South Korea, China, Japan, Malaysia, Brazil, Mexico, France and Taiwan, contributed 78 per cent of the global sales. "Excluding China sales, the industry continued growth with a three-year compound annual growth rate of 3.8 per cent for the 2018-2021 period," the report said.

## Centre working on model bylaws to allow diversification of PACS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is working on model bylaws to enable primary agriculture credit societies (PACS) diversify from their core business and allow them to undertake several activities and services to become viable, a top Cooperation Ministry official said on Wednesday.

The computerisation of all functional 63,000 PACS, which will commence this fiscal with the Cabinet approving a budget of Rs 2,516 crore, will bring transparency in accounting and book keeping, thereby facilitating them to diversify to other

activities smoothly, he said.

"The existing bylaws does not allow PACS to diversify from their core business. The Union Cooperation Ministry is in the process of drafting a model bylaws to enable them to offer several services and activities," the official said.

PACS will be allowed to offer 20-odd services. They will be allowed to work as Bank Mitras and common service centres (CSCs), provide cold storage and godown facilities, set up PDS shops besides enabling them to work in dairy, fishery, irrigation and biogas sectors among others, he said.



"The draft 'model PACS bylaws' will be ready in a month

and will seek comments from the state governments. The

model bylaws will be advisory in nature," he added. At present,

majority of PACS have not computerised their operation and still functioning manually resulting in inefficiency and trust deficit.

PACS constitute the lowest tier of the three-tier short-term cooperative credit in the country comprising 13 crore farmers as its members. At present, there are 63,000 PACS in the country and the Centre has a target to set up 3 lakh PACS by 2025. Besides a model bylaws for PACs, the government is working on a new cooperation policy, setting up of an university and develop a data base of cooperatives.





For this week's edition of Community Wise, *The Pioneer* brings to you an initiative called KIIMS Cuddles by Dr. Shilpi Reddy.

poses." New moms struggle with anxiety over a number of things, from fear of something happening to the baby to not making enough breastmilk. Disrupted sleep and being overtired can amplify these feelings. And she's doing it all while praising the positive changes in her life.

She recalls, "The idea of being pregnant came to me when I was 34 years old because I was so engrossed in work. From the time I delivered preterm twins, we adopted a sustainable lifestyle for healthier choices in life. Then again, I conceived spontaneously at the age of 39, and it's all because we are all healthy. I am adding my personal money to this initiative. KIIMS Cuddles also talks about infertility issues and removing infertility in men as taboo. They have been pretty successful."

She states, "Obesity is on the rise, substance use is exploited, then there is radiation and all kinds of pollutants, or crops with pesticides, they are all in our bodies causing infertility sometimes. They impact the quality of the sperm. The effort towards parenthood actually starts even before pregnancy. Nearly half of all fertility treatments, especially in-vitro fertilisation, are due to male infertility. Their sperm are susceptible to stress too. Even caffeine-containing soft drinks appear to have negative effects on semen volume, sperm count, and sperm concentration. So, all this is happening in this new world."

However, KIIMS cuddles continue to make parents confident about handling pregnancy, but with joy.

## HANDLING PREGNANCY WITH JOY

SHIKHA DUGGAL

**A** newborn baby and their parents are the purest forms of attachment that you'll see around and Dr. Shilpi Reddy, the founder of a beautiful initiative called KIIMS Cuddles, is propagating how parents can instinctively care and nurture for the child along with their own wellness, which is so very important in today's life.

Motherhood, and in fact, fatherhood, changes you inside and out. As parents adjust to a new life with a baby, it's important to remember that their minds and emotions are also changing, so the gynaecologist should be sure to give them the support they need to move away from a routine check-up. She's instead on a bigger mission.

She narrated to us how pregnant women had a gala time in the infotainment carnival once, where mothers-to-be walked the ramp and celebrated the joy of pregnancy during the event.

And, not to forget, this is her personal agenda. "I'm doing all of this for 360-degree holistic care, it doesn't end with giving my patients medicine. The nine months should be a memorable time and not only nauseous for the woman and stressful for the man to watch her spouse undergo these blatant changes. Most

importantly, I only encourage normal delivery. All these changes can only be made when we create the right awareness amongst the crowd about child-care. It's a dire need to incorporate health and wellness programmes into every hospital now. For example, organic food or organic farming is the way to go. At the same time, spiritual holistic like water yoga is as important as the above pointers. Because emotions go on a rollercoaster ride during these days," she informs us.

But, why is she stressing so much about normal delivery and not a caesarean? Well, she responds, "Because women are going for the latter method only out of fear. It's against mother nature. All of a sudden, the Telangana state government has realised that the caesarean rates are increasing in the city, even in government hospitals. Sigh. Now, they want the doctors to convince mothers to go for normal deliveries when the whole system has

turned upside-down. What can we do? Women go onto Google search bars which indicate to them that labour means pain and pregnancy means stress. I have had a team for the past five years, who are equally passionate about KIIMS Cuddles. Let me clarify, the hospital doesn't sponsor us. They are only for branding pur-



Couture: Lecoanet Hemant unveils more than forty years of creations blending the art of French couture with the spirit of the East. From the first creations produced by Lecoanet Hemant in its initial incarnation as a Paris-based haute couture house to the shift to ready-to-wear, more than 80 silhouettes underline the savoir faire synonymous with Lecoanet Hemant.

Taking us through their early days, Hemant informs us, "Didier and I met in Paris, as students at the Ecole de la Chambre Syndicale de Couture Parisienne. There was a lot of mutual respect and admiration of our individual journeys, as we studied the art of couture at the epicenter of high fashion. The journey of Lecoanet Hemant began in 1981 with our first store in Rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré. The inaugural collection, in partnership with Cartier Haute Joaillerie, earned us the prestigious membership of Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne, the governing body of high fashion. The label was an organic reflection of our design philosophy. It was the coming together of our heritage, lived experiences and a common vision for authenticity." He further adds, "The house won the Golden Thimble known as Le de d'or (the Oscar equivalent of Haute

Couture), the Swarovski Creation Prize 2005, and the Designer of the Year Award, Miami 2007. Select creations are now in the permanent collection at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, Deutsches Museum, Berlin, and the Musée des Arts de la Mode, Paris and now find a home at the prestigious La Cité de la dentelle et de la mode de Calais."

As the fashion landscape changed, it marked a new dawn in the brand's trajectory. Lecoanet Hemant moved the business metaphorically, from couture to ready-to-wear, and also physically, from Paris to New Delhi. This saw the conception of Genes and Ayurgnic. Over the years, they have taken inspiration from various cultures and continents. When asked why this has been an important aspect for the brand, he tells us, "Travel has always been instrumental in developing our varied inspirations. The unusual amalgamation of east and west is expressed through modulations of signature drape reminiscent of the sari. It seemed like the obvious step to combine cultures, to forge a vision that thrives on diversity. The theme of nature has also appeared in the very first collections, with pieces made from plant, animal and mineral



based materials: raffia, wood, shells, rice paper to name a few."

According to the designer the fashion landscape in India is very unique, inherently dependent on its strong traditional and cultural roots. He finds it refreshing to see some of those voices find space internationally.

Admired everywhere, the French fashion and the French style is known in the whole world as a classy and elegant style, describing his favourite pieces from their brand, he shares, "The thing with haute couture is that each piece of creation is nurtured and brought to life with love and skill. Every piece is a sacred element that lends voice to the house's vocabulary. One silhouette that embodied our philosophy of gesturing at the brand's eastern roots is the white linen dress from the White Coats collection. It was crucial for us to draw inspiration from culture but never appropriate. Taking cue from a sari, the dress envelops the body in a diagonal spiral flowing into a full skirt that features a mid-thigh slit. What looks simplistic to the viewer is actually an elaborate construction that supports the flowing

skirt and the moulded top into one silhouette. In its essence it is kind of an anti-sari, taking away the volume of the silhouette while maintaining the movement."

Furthermore, telling us more about the Ramie display at this exhibition, he shares, "Our approach to fashion has always had a strong ecological bend. Sustainability is an ever evolving way of being for us. It is about how we look at our methods and transform it for a better tomorrow. This culminated in our effort to promote Ramie, one of the world's oldest textile plants. The exhibition presents a selection of objects created by established Indian designers, made from Ramie- a locally grown, organic, anti-bacterial fibre which is a member of the nettle family and a far more sustainable alternative to other fibres in the market. In collaboration with the government of Meghalaya, the project will also provide a source of income to the many plantation farmers of the region. The unique geographical position of Meghalaya ensures abundant natural water supply through rainfall- ensuring there is no carbon footprint from its agriculture at all."

## Here is what Shahid Kapoor's signature reveals about him

**D**one in a matter of seconds, a signature can reveal a lot about your personality. A signature's style and patterns reflect your inner feelings, emotions, and approach to life. For fans of Shahid Kapoor, his signature or autographs can be a peek into his personas off the camera. Read on to know with graphologist Sudhir Kove what Shahid's signature says about him as a person, husband, and thinker.

"People with signatures like that of Shahid Kapoor tend to prioritize individual needs over collectivist needs. A proper mumma's boy, Shahid is more fun as a friend than a typical husband or so says his signature. He signs only with his first name, Shahid. It signifies that he is an excellent friend and coworker to hang out with," tells the logo guru. When it comes to marriage, he has his own ways of doing things. Many a time, his partner may have to sacrifice her style but Shahid will not sacrifice or give up his way of doing things. Despite being a lovable husband, he likes to have an upper hand at home. "His signature is the sign of someone being a good administrator and manager. He will also be flamboyant and stylish, which is good for actors. His signature is illegible in nature, which means after the first initial, it is not visi-



ble enough. It makes the person impatient and prone to losing investments. Such a person may try to force his success early, say, taking a project before he is ready. At the same time, the S that he makes shows that he faces challenges from the people he is sympathetic with, like his employees, co-workers, kids or even animals," reveals Sudhir. His signature also means that he's a fast thinker, so he's quick-witted during interviews. The way he signs his D shows he's intelligent and likes to do his research. He has to be convinced before he does anything. So he's truthful and open about his feelings, rather than hiding

and engaging in physical activities that require his body to move such as sports, dancing, and physical intimacy," concluded Sudhir Kove.



## 'French'nable & chic

Created in Paris and Cultivated in India, *The Pioneer* brings to you the journey behind label Genes Lecoanet Hemant, and Lecoanet Hemant being the only designer to ever exhibit at La Cité de la dentelle et de la mode de Calais



K. RAMYA SREE

**B**orn out of zest for couture, Frenchman Didier Lecoanet and Indo German Hemant Sagar commenced their fashion journey in the late 80s in Paris and established a new language of style with the soul of impeccable Haute Couture perfection. With label Genes Lecoanet Hemant, they have also crafted



their own niche in Ready To Wear over the past 8 spectacular years.

Now, Genes Lecoanet Hemant is working towards achieving complete sustainability in the future and recently introduced Ayurvastha in the mix, a concept borrowed from its sister brand Ayurgnic

After 40 years in fashion, the universe of Lecoanet

to the house of Lecoanet Hemant. The museum has famously hosted the legendary archives of the stalwarts of haute couture from Cristobal Balenciaga and Hubert de Givenchy to more modern voices like Olivier Theyskens and Iris Van Herpen," tells Hemant Sagar in an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*.

"The Orientalists of Haute





● Ritika



● Sony



● Ishika



● Priya



● Ritika



● Kamakshi Bhaskarla

## PARTY

Photos by SV Chary



Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Governor of Telangana, in the Presence of Ajay Mishra, IAS, Former special Chief Secretary, Government Of Telangana, and Ketan Agarwal Director Swachh Adhikar India, unveiled the Book on 'PR-A Tool for Success' written by Dr. Ajai Agarwal at Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad.

## LISTINGS

### PAN ASIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Novotel Hyderabad Airport is throwing an oriental treat for its patrons. A gorgeous spread of classical Asian food encompassing several regional cuisines like East Asian, Central and Western Asian to Middle Eastern delicacies would be a part of the extensive spread. The menu is curated by Chef Varun Movva and his talented brigade of the culinary team which serves the right balance between innovation and delicate flavours from the region. 'Food Exchange' where the

buffet would be laid will also be done up in Asian accents and décor to compliment the feel and mimic the pan Asian vibe.

**Date:** July 4th onwards

**Time:** 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

**Location:** Food Exchange, Novotel Hyderabad Airport  
**Type of meal and inclusions:** Buffet with live counters and special welcome drinks

**Price:** Adults INR 2250 + GST and Kids (6 years to 12 years) INR 1250 + GST  
**Contact Details:** +91 88860 64430



ADP India has reassessed its commitment to safety, welfare, and sustainability in their CSR mission for the quarter. The company has hosted a sapling plantation drive to revitalize the Nanakramguda area of Hyderabad, and its office premises in Wadgaon Sheri area of Pune. In the scorching Hyderabad sun, over 100 associates at ADP India participated in this plantation drive to champion the cause of environmental preservation and regeneration.

### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR STUDENTS TO STUDY IN THE U.S.

Zolve announced a scholarship programme for incoming Fall '22 batch students going to study in the U.S. Zolve has the highest market share in financial services for Indian students in the U.S of Indian-based neobanks and has more than 300k sign-ups on its app. Students can apply for a scholarship by signing up on the Zolve website during the offer period with the referral code ZSCHOLAR. Participants can

then complete the scholarship application process by submitting the basic KYC documents including a copy of their passport. The winners would be selected on the basis of sweepstakes and all the participants hold an equal chance of winning. Sweepstakes ends at 9:29am IST and 11:59:59 p.m. EST on September 30, 2022. Zolve will deposit the scholarship amount directly in the winners' Zolve accounts.

### POPCORN NACHOS by KFC

Picture this, KFC's signature flavorful Chicken Popcorn, tender on the inside but unbelievably crispy on the outside, served on a bed of crispy Nachos, and sauced to perfection. Well, we aren't being dramatic or unreal. In what could be called the crunchiest collaborations in recent times, KFC India has announced an unbelievable partnership with PepsiCo's Doritos, to launch its newest

innovation, KFC Popcorn Nachos. Nothing could be as LIT as this, because for the first time ever in India, this collab brings together two crispy OG foods to make the best version of nachos you have ever had. And wait, it's not just that. Accompanying KFC Popcorn Nachos are two delectable, specially curated sauces; Masala Salsa and Cheesy Jalapeno which are sure to tingle the palate.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



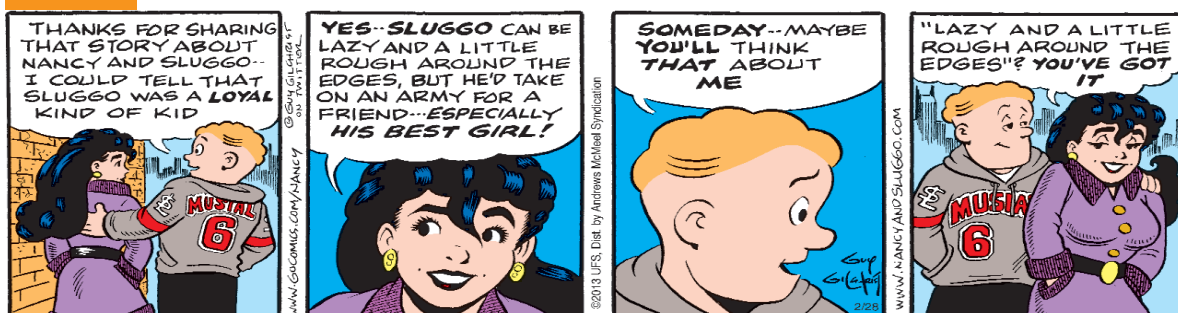
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



### NANCY



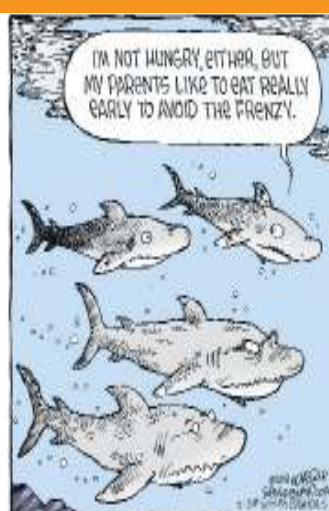
### GINGER MEGGS



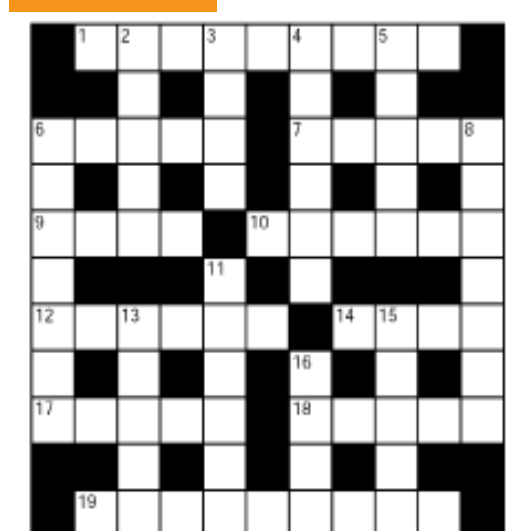
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- All people
- Fixes
- On the way out
- Too
- An underground room
- Class
- A long seat for several people
- Tiny
- Unlocks
- Replying

### DOWN

- A planet
- A prickly flower bush
- Pleaded
- A dentist's machine
- A disease with spots
- People from Germany
- Come next
- Madrid is the capital of this country
- Sea
- Having very little money



### SUDOKU



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

### Rules

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







# 2 IN 2 FOR MEN IN BLUE

## Hooda's maiden century helps India beat Ireland by 4 runs to pocket series 2-0

PTI ■ MALAHIDE

Deepak Hooda hit a master-class maiden century as India survived a mighty scare before defeating Ireland by four runs in a nail-biting high-scoring second T20 International to sweep the two-match series here on Tuesday.

Hooda scored 104 off 57 balls to become only the fourth Indian to hit a T20 International ton, while Sanju Samson contributed 77 off 42 balls to power India to a mammoth 225 for seven after opting to bat.

Ireland took the chase to the last over with skipper Andy Balbirnie (60 off 37), Paul Stirling (40 off 18), Harry Tector (39 off 28) and George Dockrell (34 not out off 16) shining bright but they eventually fell short as rookie India pacer Umranshi Patel defended 17 runs in the final over.

Opting to bat, Hooda showed he belonged to the big stage with his scintillating stroke play, both off the front and backfoot.

While Hooda was elegant and at ease on the frontfoot, he was equally good on the backfoot, dispatching the ball over the midwicket boundary for a few sixes.

Hooda decorated his knock with nine fours and six hits over the fence.

He was ably supported by Sanju Samson, who, opening the batting in place of injured Ruturaj Gaikwad, played second fiddle but grabbed his opportunity with both hands.

Both Hooda and Samson's strokeplay down the ground were a treat for the eyes.

Ireland made a rollicking start to their chase, with Stirling and Balbirnie sharing 72 runs for the opening wicket off just 34 balls. Stirling went hammer and tongs from the world go.

Stirling took Bhuvneshwar Kumar to task, hitting the bowler for a six and three boundaries to pick up 18 runs from the opening over.

Stirling then clobbered skipper Hardik Pandya for a six. The open-



ing duo continued their attacking display to notch up Ireland's 50 for no loss in just four overs.

Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi broke the dangerous-looking 72-run opening stand in the sixth over, cleaning up Stirling.

In his next over, Bishnoi had Balbirnie stumped by Ishan Kishan but it turned out to be a massive no ball.

Balbirnie utilised the chance and clobbered all the Indian bowlers to all parts of the ground to keep Ireland at par with the asking rate.

He was particularly severe on young pace sensation Malik, dispatching the pacer's short deliveries over the fence as Ireland brought up their 100 in nine overs for the loss of two wickets.

Balbirnie notched up his sixth T20 International 50 off 34 balls and continued his onslaught for some time before being caught by Bishnoi off Harshal Patel.

But Tector, Dockrell and Mark Adair (23 not out off 12 balls) kept Ireland in the hunt till the last ball from which the hosts needed a six to

win the match and draw the series. Adair, however, could manage just one run as Malik lived up to his captain's call.

Earlier, India did not have the best of starts as they lost Ishan Kishan (3) early. The left-handed opener once again wasted an opportunity, nicking a Mark Adair delivery to Lorcan Tucker behind the stumps in the third over.

Hooda and Samson joined hands and the duo batted effortlessly, albeit handing two difficult chances, to share 176 runs off just 85 balls to lay

the foundation for India's huge total.

It was a one-way traffic after Kishan's dismissal as Hooda and Samson toyed with the Irish bowlers and did not let them settle down.

Except for a difficult chance which Paul Stirling dropped at extra off in the eighth over, Hooda played a perfect knock.

Samson too was handed a life in the ninth over when leg-spinner Gareth Delany dropped a difficult caught-and-bowled chance.

Samson too played some delightful strokes, particularly off the back-

## Backed Umranshi for final over because of his pace

PTI ■ MALAHIDE

Express pace was the reason India skipper Hardik Pandya asked Umranshi Malik to bowl the final over of the second T20 International against Ireland here.

Ireland took the chase of 226 to the last over but fell short by four runs as Umranshi defended 17 runs in the last over on Tuesday.

"Not worried to be honest. Wanted to keep pressure out of my equation, wanted to be in the present. I backed Umranshi since he has pace. With his pace, it's difficult for people to hit," Hardik said, explaining the rationale behind giving Umranshi the crucial final over.

Deepak Hooda hit a blistering maiden century as India survived a scare before prevailing over their less fancied opponents in a nail-biting finish.

"I think we've come to play a game of cricket, so Ireland were going to show us what they have. Credit to them, they played amazing shots. At the same point of time, credit to our bowlers to cross the line."

"The crowd was amazing. Their favourites boys were Dinesh and Sanju, great to see them



enjoy them. Good for us to experience cricket in this part of the world too. Grateful to the fans," Hardik said to loud cheers.

Set an imposing target, Ireland showed a lot of heart and nearly pulled off what would have been a memorable victory.

"We are all pretty good, we did a lot of good stuff with the bat. We wanted to express and we did that. Bitterly disappointed, a bitter pill to swallow," Ireland captain Andrew Balbirnie said after the match.

## If you don't have any option, then why don't you go there like a warrior: Hooda

PTI ■ MALAHIDE

The big-hitting Deepak Hooda believes himself to be 'a warrior' when faced with the task of tackling the new ball in conditions favourable to bowlers.

Because, according to him, there is no other option but to just face the challenges head on when batting at the top of the order.

Riding his powerful striking abilities, Hooda hogged the limelight with a 57-ball 104 in India's second T20 International against Ireland here on Tuesday.

Batting at number three, Hooda became only the fourth Indian batter to score a century in the shortest format.

"I've never opened in an international game, but being a top-order batsman, you have to cope up to the challenges and you don't have any option."

"And if you don't have any option, then why don't you go there like a warrior. That's how I think, and things turned in my way. I'm happy about that," said Hooda after the match.



With young talents bursting at the seams, the 27-year-old all-rounder admitted that it is not easy to get into, and retain, one's place in the Indian team.

"To be honest, yes it is dif-

ficult to find a spot in the Indian team and then staying there. But at the same time when you're playing in India colours, that time you never think about yourself, you think about the

team.

"That's what I think about on the ground. How can I contribute to the team in that situation? I don't think more than that, try to keep things simple. Yes, it's a matter of pride for me that I'm playing for India, no matter if I'm scoring or not," said Hooda.

Walking in following the dismissal of opener Ishan Kishan in the third over, Hooda smashed nine boundaries and six sixes to score his maiden T20I century.

"To be honest, the Irish team played really well against us and we enjoyed playing against them."

"Between the first and second game, I think there was a difference in the pitch. In the first game, the conditions were overcast and the wicket was very good for batting, as is clear by the way both teams batted. So I felt the wicket was a big factor."

Hooda also revealed that a mindset change recently has helped him perform better.

"Being a cricketer, what

I've learnt lately is that you should not think too far ahead. How many ever series, look at it one game at a time. If my work ethic is good, I'm going to be in a good space of mind and I'm going to score, that's my thinking."

"Try to keep it simple, live in the present, play the situation well, and then automatically the outcome will come. Now or later, it will come," Hooda said.

During the course of the India innings, Hooda was associated in a record-breaking second-wicket partnership of 176 runs with Sanju Samson, who scored a career-best 77 on his return to the team.

It is the highest partnership by an India pair for any wicket in the format, surpassing the previous best of 165 by Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul in 2017 against Sri Lanka in Indore.

"To be honest, I was coming from a good IPL and wanted to follow the same performance. Happy with my intent. I like playing in that manner (aggressive) and these days I am batting up the order so getting some time."

## Rohit ruled out of fifth Eng Test, Bumrah to lead India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jasprit Bumrah is set to become first fast bowler in 35 years to lead Indian Test team in the rescheduled 'fifth Test' against England as regular captain Rohit Sharma has been ruled out of the game after testing positive for COVID-19 for the second time on Wednesday.

The last pacer-captain that India had was the great Kapil Dev, who was removed from captaincy in 1987. Since then India has never had a speed merchant leading the team in traditional cricket.

"Rohit is out of this Test match, starting July 1, as his RT-PCR test has come positive again. He is still in isolation. Jasprit Bumrah, who is one of the vice-captains in absence of KL Rahul, will lead the team," a senior BCCI official said.

Bumrah will be the 36th cricketer to lead India in the longest-format since the country first played in 1932. The Gujarat pacer, who has 123 wickets in 29 Tests, has grown into world's best fast bowlers.

The Chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma had already said that he is being groomed as



a future leader.

### PUJARA/VIHARI TO OPEN

With the experienced Rohit out of the playing eleven, seasoned Cheteshwar Pujara has a good chance of opening the batting with young Shubman Gill. The source said that Mayank

Agarwal has just been brought as "cover" and is not in the scheme of things as far featuring in the playing eleven is concerned. It is understood that the specialist batters in the set-up will be Pujara, Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Vihari and Rishabh Pant.

## Oz reach 98-3 in reply to Sri Lanka's 212

AP ■ GALLE

Nathan Lyon took his 20th five-wicket haul to bowl Sri Lanka out for 212 before Australia reached 98-3 at stumps Wednesday on the opening day of the first Test.

Sri Lankan off spinner Ramesh Mendis dismissed David Warner (25) lbw and had Marnus Labuschagne (13) caught by Asitha Fernando in Australia's innings to finish the day on 2-35.

Steven Smith was run out for 6 after a mix-up with Usman Khawaja, who refused to run after calling Smith for a single.

Khawaja was batting on 47 with Travis Head on 6 at stumps.

Earlier, Lyon returned bowling figures of 5-90 and leg spinner Mitchell Swepson had 3-55 to help Australia bowl Sri Lanka out to a modest score.

Niroshan Dickwella top scored for Sri Lanka with 58, his 21st Test half-century. He added 42 runs for the sixth wicket with Angelo Mathews



(39) after Sri Lanka lost five wickets for 97 runs, and 54 runs for the seventh wicket with Mendis (22).

Lyon trapped Mendis lbw with just two runs added to the teatime score to end his part-

nership with Dickwella. Dickwella edged Lyon to wicketkeeper Alex Carey and had Lasith Embuldeniya (6) as his fifth wicket.

Earlier, he dismissed Dimuth Karunaratne (28) and

Angelo Mathews (39), both caught by David Warner.

Australia's second spinner Mitchell Swepson took two consecutive wickets in the 37th over with identical deliveries.

## Babar Azam surpasses Virat as world No.1 T20 batter for longest period

PTI ■ DUBAI

Pakistan captain Babar Azam has surpassed India's Virat Kohli in becoming the world No 1 T20I batter for the longest period of time after he maintained his top spot in the latest ICC T20 batting rankings.

Kohli was the No 1 ranked T20I batter for a total of 1,013 days during his reign last decade, but Babar has now surpassed this number following his long-standing stay at the top.

Among others, Ishan Kishan slipped two places but Deepak Hooda and Sanju Samson made huge gains at the ICC T20I Player Rankings following their sensational innings at the second and final T20I against Ireland.

Left-handed batter Kishan slumped to number 7 after scoring 26 and 3 in the two T20s against Ireland but Hooda, who smashed 47 in the first game and a maiden century in the

second match to power India to a series-clinching four-run win, galloped 414 places to 104th. Samson was also rewarded for his knock of 77 as he reached the 144th spot in the batting chart.

Ireland's Harry Tector gained a massive 55 places to reach 66th position among batters with scores of 39 and 64 not out in the rankings, which was updated after the two-match India-Ireland series.

In the bowlers' list, pacer Harshal Patel moved from 37th to 33rd position while Ireland's Mark Adair climbed to 43rd from 45th.

In Test ranking, Joe Root hung on to his narrow lead as the top-ranked batter but there was some big movement behind him following the completion of England's home series against New Zealand.

New Zealand batting pair of Daryl Mitchell and Tom Blundell have attained career-best positions as has England spinner Jack Leach, after superb performances in the third match of their ICC World Test Championship series in Leeds.



## Bavuma out of England tour

AP ■ CAPE TOWN

South Africa batsman and Limited-overs captain Temba Bavuma was ruled out of next month's tour to England on Wednesday with a left elbow injury.

Bavuma will miss the three ODIs and three T20 games against England, two T20s against Ireland, and the three-match Test series against England. Bavuma was injured in this month's T20 series in India. He needs eight weeks to recover from the injury, Cricket South Africa said.

Keshav Maharaj will fill in for Bavuma as ODI captain and David Miller will stand in as T20 captain. Dean Elgar is the Proteas' regular Test captain but Bavuma is an important top-order batsman for the Test team.

Fast bowler Kagiso Rabada will be rested for the ODI games but is part of the T20 and Test squads. Young fast bowler Gerald Coetzee received his first call-up and is included in the T20 squad.