

**ANALYSIS 7**  
SUSTAINABILITY - ROAD TO  
A BETTER FUTURE

**MONEY 8**  
EXPORTS UP 30.7 PC TO US\$ 40.19 BN IN  
APR; TRADE DEFICIT WIDENS

**SPORTS 11**  
IT'S LIVERPOOL VS CHELSEA  
IN FA CUP FINAL

HYDERABAD, SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



# the pioneer



IMPORTANT TO  
STRIKE A BALANCE  
WITH SOCIAL  
MEDIA EXPOSURE

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## LIFE INSURANCE CORP PRICES IPO AT TOP END OF INDICATED RANGE

Life Insurance Corp (LIC) has priced its initial public offering at the top of the indicated range, at 949 rupees (\$12.28), a source familiar with the matter said on Friday. The state-owned insurance behemoth is likely to be listed on stock exchanges on May 17. LIC did not immediately respond to an email request seeking comment. The source, not authorised to speak to the media, did not want to be identified. The price range for the issue had been set at between 902 and 949 rupees per share. LIC offered a discount to employees and retail investors of 45 rupees per share while policyholders were given a discount of 60 rupees per share.

## SCIENTISTS GROW PLANTS IN SOIL FROM MOON FOR FIRST TIME

Scientists have for the first time grown plants in lunar soil brought back to Earth by astronauts in the Apollo missions, a step towards producing food and oxygen on the Moon or during future space missions. The researchers at the University of Florida (UF) in the US showed that plants can successfully sprout and grow in lunar soil. Their study, published in the journal Communications Biology, also investigated how plants respond biologically to the Moon's soil, also known as lunar regolith, which is very different from soil found on Earth. This research comes as NASA's Artemis Program plans to return humans to the Moon.

## FOURTEEN PEOPLE KILLED IN NEPAL ROAD ACCIDENT

At least 14 people were killed and 10 others injured when a jeep carrying voters to a polling station veered off the road and fell 500 feet off a hilly road in Nepal on Friday. The accident occurred at Arkhalbas in the Syangja district. At least 14 passengers were killed and 10 others injured in the accident, police said. The jeep was carrying voters to a polling station. Local polls are being held across Nepal on Friday. Road accidents are very common in Nepal. The country is mostly covered with mountains and most roads are narrow. Bus accidents in the country are generally blamed on poor roads.

## WICKREMESINGHE ASSUMES DUTIES, OPPOSITION DECLINES SUPPORT

Ranil Wickremesinghe assumed office as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka for the sixth time on Friday even as Opposition parties SJP and JVP announced that they will not extend any support to him as his appointment has been made with "zero regard" to the voice of the people. The 73-year-old United National Party (UNP) leader took over as Sri Lanka's 26th prime minister on Thursday as the country was without a government since Monday when President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's elder brother and prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned after violence erupted following an attack on the anti-government protesters by his supporters.

# KCR keen on national party

○ 'No succumbing to Centre's pressure'

NAVEENA GHANATE  
■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is determined to announce the launch of a national party, and, going by what sources shared with The Pioneer, no amount of pressure from the Centre will deter him.

KCR is preparing to pull off a feat done by TDP founder N T Rama Rao in the 1984 elections. TDP was the first regional party to become the main opposition party in the 8th Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989.

Following Indra Gandhi's death, the 1984 General Election saw the Congress win a landslide victory, with the TDP winning 30 seats and accounting for 4.31% of votes, thus achieving the distinction of becoming the first regional party to become a national opposition party.

Sources said that when KCR mentioned that they would play a key role in national politics and set an agenda for the nation, he did not mean being PM alone.

KCR has been showing all traits of



NTR - be it in handling Governor, or preferring farm house, or starting a regional party, among others. It would be no surprise if he aspires to be the second regional party to become the main opposition.

Sources indicated that KCR's role in national politics was on the cards and that he would announce the details towards the fag end of the year. No amount of pressure from the Centre would deter him from moving forward, sources asserted.

It may be mentioned here that the Centre has decided to stop the Fiscal and Responsibility Budget

Management Loans (Act) (FRBM) limits for Telangana; thus preventing the state from going for open market borrowings. That is, it is not giving permissions to go for loans. This is directly going to impact all the welfare schemes, including flagship schemes like Rythu Bandhu, Dalit Bandhu, Bhagiratha, loan waiver and 2BHK, among others.

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, during the recent plenary, said: "It is not about building a front against this party or that party. It will be a pro-people". He added, "Our fight is not to dislodge anyone from power or against any political party." KCR had recently visited many states, including Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu.

It may be mentioned here that a fortnight ago, KCR, during the TRS plenary, dropped hints about Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi (BRS). KCR said that he had received suggestions from leaders to turn the TRS into BRS, in order to float an all-India party. Prior to that, he even said that there was space in national politics.

# Amit Shah should come with assurances: KTR

**KTR'S POSERS TO CENTRE ON BIAS AGAINST TS**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS working president and IT Minister K T Rama Rao has said that BJP's national leaders only know how to tour Telangana once in a while and try to spread hatred amongst the people in the state, though they did not help fulfil a single promise made to Telangana while meeting every requirement of states like Gujarat on a war footing.

On Friday, KTR wrote an open letter to Amit Shah, ahead of the latter's arrival in Telangana.

Amit Shah will be visiting Telangana on Saturday.

KTR stated that the BJP had been spitting venom on Telangana for the past eight years. The BJP had always insulted the Telangana movement. "We will fight for the rights of the people of Telangana and demand our rightful share under the AP Reorganization Act," he said. KTR



The Telangana movement. "We will fight for the rights of the people of Telangana and demand our rightful share under the AP Reorganization Act"

stated that the people of Telangana knew the true colours of the BJP, which had not done any good to Telangana.

KTR warned the BJP about its step-motherly attitude towards Telangana and stated that people here would give a befitting reply to these unfaithful leaders. Posing questions to Amit Shah, KTR said: "BJP should tell which of the promises made under the AP Reorganization Act to Telangana were fulfilled by them. Is it not true that BJP washed of their hands when TRS leaders demanded the establishment of a rail coach factory in Kazipet? But the BJP govt at the Centre has allocated a rail coach factory to Gujarat for Rs 20 crore.

When you can allot a rail coach factory to Gujarat, why not for Telangana? Why this partiality towards Telangana?"

"Can you name even a single central educational institution allocated to Telangana by the NDA govt? Not a single medical college was allocated to Telangana under the NDA govt. Lakhs of students in Telangana are unable to pursue medical courses. Does this not affect Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who earlier responded to the injustice done to a medical student during the admission process in Gujarat?" asked KTR.

2

# 'ONE SEAT FOR ONE FAMILY' Sonia's statement spells trouble for many TPCC leaders

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The announcement regarding 'One seat for one family' made by AICC chief Sonia Gandhi at the Congress party's Chintan Shivir on Friday may spell trouble for many Congress leaders in Telangana.

For, there are many Congress leaders in Telangana who want seats for more than one family member in the next elections. This runs counter to Sonia's significant statement on the first day of the party's Chintan Shivir at Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Speaking to 'The Pioneer', AICC official spokesperson Dasoju Sravan said that Sonia's statement was



welcome. "It should be followed in letter and spirit. True democracy will be restored only if all political parties keep social justice in mind while distributing tickets. Tickets

must be distributed in proportion to the population of different groups without taking into consideration the wealth of the candidates," he said.

Around 10 Telangana Congress leaders have been expecting two tickets for their family members.

Former TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, former minister K. Jana Reddy, the MP, MLA Komatireddy brothers, MLA Seethakka, CLP Leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ponnala Lakshmaiah, former minister Konda Surekha, former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav, former MLC K. Premasagar Rao, Sangareddy MLA T. Jagga Reddy, and some others want more than

one ticket for their family members in the next polls. Former TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has been expecting two tickets -- one for himself and the second one for his wife and former MLA Padmavathi Reddy. Uttam Kumar Reddy may contest from Huzurnagar and his wife is hoping for a ticket to contest from Kodad.

Former minister K. Jana Reddy is expecting one ticket for himself and the second one for his son Raghuvir Reddy. Jana Reddy may contest from Nagarjuna Sagar and plans to field his son Raghuvir Reddy from Miryalaguda.

2

# All eyes on Amit Shah's public meeting

K VENKATESHWARLU  
■ HYDERABAD

All eyes are now on the BJP's May 14 public meeting at Tukkuguda in Maheshwaram in which Union Home Minister Amit Shah is participating as the people are eagerly waiting to know what Amit Shah has to say.

Amit Shah's meeting is taking place after former AICC chief Rahul Gandhi's meeting at Warangal during which Rahul gave many assurances to the people of Telangana.

In this context, the TS people are expecting more from Amit Shah. Moreover, the BJP wants to prove that it is the alternative to the ruling TRS. Given this backdrop, BJP

cadres, leaders, and the people are eagerly waiting for Amit Shah's meeting.

Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy has made it clear that Amit Shah is going to call on the people to end Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's corrupt, family rule at the public meeting being held to mark the conclusion of the second phase of the Praja Sangrama Yatra. Kishan said that the BJP is planning to organise Amit Shah's meeting on a grand scale.

Kishan and Huzurabad MLA Eatala Rajender have checked out the venue of the public meeting being held at Tukkuguda in Maheshwaram on May 14 in which Amit Shah is attending as the chief

guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Kishan said that KCR has been forcibly imposing his family's rule on the people of Telangana. KCR is planning to keep the entire state in the hands of his Kalvakuntla family. But that will not happen, he said. The Kalvakuntla family has been facing severe opposition from the people of Telangana as the people hate KCR and his family, Kishan said.

The TRS failed to win the GHMC elections even though it distributed money door to door. The people gave a shock to KCR in Huzurabad even though he spent billions, he said.

2

## CM to review Palle, Pattana Pragati

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao will hold a review for implementation of the next phase Palle Pragati and Pattana Pragati programmes.

The high-level meeting will be held under the chairmanship the Chief Minister at Pragati Bhavan at 11 am on May 18. State Cabinet Ministers, Zilla Parishad Chairmen, all District Collectors, Local Bodies' chiefs, all district DPOs, state level Forest Department officials, Municipal Corporation Mayors, Commissioners and other high-level officials will participate in the review.

# Pubs, bars told to instal CCTV cameras with 30-day backup

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All bars, pubs, and restaurants must install CCTV cameras with 30-day backup, Hyderabad Police Commissioner CV Anand told their owners at a meeting here on Friday.

The Commissioner held the meeting in the backdrop of the recent case at the Pudding and Mink pub where cocaine was found during a raid.

Addressing the owners of pubs and bars Anand said, "Hyderabad is now attracting investments from abroad and from other parts of



India. So we expect you to run businesses in a responsible manner upholding the city's image which is getting damaged by a few who violate rules for petty gains. The 24-hour permission for star hotels to serve liquor was given to serve

international travellers and is not meant for the local public."

He also added that soon businessmen will be able to apply for the renewal of licenses and for fresh licenses through the website of the Hyderabad City Police. Commissioner Anand stressed that orders received after 11 pm should not be accepted and that all establishments must close by 12 pm (midnight). On Fridays and Saturdays an exemption of one hour has been given with a half-an-hour grace period to clean up and settle accounts, he added.

2

## AIMIM insulted Muslims by glorifying Aurangzeb: Fadnavis

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said AIMIM MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi had insulted "nationalist Muslims" of the country by trying to glorify Aurangzeb. Fadnavis was speaking to reporters after his arrival from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. Owaisi, MLA from Chandrayangutta in Telangana, had recently offered prayers at the tomb of the 17th century Mughal emperor in Khuldabad in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district.

2

## Kishan Reddy alleges protocol violation

Says TS govt insulted him by not inviting for Buddhavanam inauguration

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Centre spent Rs 22.24 crore on the Buddhavanam Project that is being inaugurated by KTR on May 14, Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy said.

He said the TRS government had him, the Union Tourism Minister, by not inviting him to the inauguration of the Buddhavanam Project.

Meanwhile, Kishan said in a Tweet, "The Buddhavanam Project being inaugurated by Telangana Ministers near Nagarjunasagar in Nalgonda district on May 14 is funded by the Centre. The Centre had given Rs 22.24 crore for the proj-



ect." Kishan extended best wishes in another Tweet, "My best wishes to the Buddhist community on the occasion and on the eve of Buddha Purnima."

He also posted an invitation card prepared by the Telangana Tourism

2

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

**Month & Paksham:**  
**Tithi:** Trayodashi: May 13 05:27 PM to May 14 03:23 PM  
**Chaturdash:** May 14 03:23 PM to May 15 12:46 PM

**Nakshatram:**  
**Chitra:** May 13 06:48 PM to May 14 05:28 PM  
**Swati:** May 14 05:28 PM to May 15 03:35 PM

**Rahukalam:** 9:00 AM to 10:36 AM  
**Yamagandam:** 1:48 PM to 3:24 PM  
**Varjyam:** 10:37 PM to 12:06 AM

**Gulika:** 5:48 AM to 7:24 AM  
**Amritakalam:** 11:25 AM to 12:56 PM  
**Abhijit Muhurtham:** 11:46 AM to 12:38 PM

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

**Forecast:** Scattered thunderstorms  
**Temp:** 32°C  
**Humidity:** 29%  
**Sunrise:** 5:49 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:35 PM  
**Updated:** MAY 13, 2022 5:00 PM





# The Yatra that busted a fake narrative!

The month-long second leg of the Praja Sangrama Yatra, culminating in a public meeting to be addressed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Tukkguda in Rangareddy district on Saturday, will be remembered as a milestone in the political history of Telangana for many reasons. Spearheaded by BJP Telangana unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, the Yatra shook the TRS establishment to its core, by exposing the 'Bangaru Telangana' (Golden Telangana) narrative craftily created and nurtured by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and his son KT Rama Rao.

The first and foremost fact that came to the fore is the gross negligence of the TRS government in developing Palamuru. Contrary to the claims of the father-son duo that their reign had transformed this once dry area

into lush green fields, everyone could see busloads of migrant workers heading to Mumbai on a daily basis streamed live during the Yatra. This migration in search of livelihood opportunities is due to the lack of development in this region. People of this region migrate not just to Mumbai and Pune but also Kurnool and other cities in Andhra Pradesh for educational and medical needs, exposing the utter lack of progress and apathy shown over the last eight years by this government towards health and education services in the state.

The success of public meetings held at Alampur, Gadwal, Makthal, Narayanpet and Mahabubnagar gave a tremendous boost to BJP cadre. Electrifying speeches of leaders like BJP national president JP Nadda, charged up leaders and cadre to work for capturing power in the com-

**People of this region migrate not just to Mumbai and Pune but also Kurnool and other cities in Andhra Pradesh for educational and medical needs, exposing the utter lack of progress and apathy shown over the last eight years by this government towards health and education services in the state.**

ing elections. An innovative programme, christened 'Prajala gosa-BJP bharosa', conducted as part of the Yatra, became a huge hit. Undoubtedly, a double-engine sarkar is the need of the hour.

In the first week itself, the Yatra scored major points against the government. By then, KCR was forced by the BJP to promise to procure paddy from farmers. His attempts to project the Central government as a villain boomeranged and his 2-hour sit-in at New Delhi

proved to be a damp squib. The cold-shouldering by his so-called friends thoroughly exposed his bombastic claims to rally the entire opposition as a front against the BJP at the national level.

TRS working president and IT Minister KTR released an open letter to Sanjay with a bundle of lies. KTR alleged that the Centre was biased against Telangana. The issues raised by the BJP leaders debunked the government's claim to have achieved 'Bangaru Telangana'. Sanjay's letter to the Chief Minister



KISHORE POREDDY

highlighting the government's failure in waiving loans of farmers met with no response. His demand for an all-party meeting to discuss issues faced by the farming community also fell on deaf ears.

The second week of the Yatra saw an awesome public response to the issues raised by the BJP leaders on 'family

rule', corruption, lack of healthcare, non-availability of water, power supply problems and so on. Having sensed the mood of the public, KCR held confabulations with election strategist Prashant Kishor in Pragati Bhavan.

During the third week of the Yatra, TRS held a plenary to mark its 21st Foundation Day without a single mention of their beloved phrase 'Bangaru Telangana'. A pack of lies were presented in the form of resolutions at the plenary. KCR made incoherent remarks during his presidential speech. On the one hand, he said that the awards received from the Union Government remained proof of the wonderful performance of the State government, and on the other hand, he alleged that the Modi government was working against the interests of the State.

The Chief Minister did not feel shy to claim credit for the top 10 villages selected across the country under the Sansad Adarsh Grameen Yojana (SAGY). "All top ten villages belong to Telangana," he announced amidst applause from his cadre, hiding the fact that most of the best performing villages under the scheme come under the constituencies represented by the BJP MPs!

While the Yatra was in full swing, a series of murders and suicides rocked Telangana, exposing the sad state of Law and Order in the state. A BJP leader, 24-year-old Sai Ganesh, was forced to take his life by consuming poison, unable to bear the harassment caused by the foisting of dozens of cases against him by the Khammam police, allegedly at the behest of TRS Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar. A mother and son had commit-

ted suicide in Kamareddy, unable to bear the harassment of TRS leaders. The daylight honour killing of a 25-year-old Dalit, Nagaraju, in full public view in Hyderabad by his Muslim wife's family members shocked everyone. In all the cases, the response from the government was slow in coming for obvious reasons. The Yatra, which covered five districts, three parliamentary constituencies and nine assembly segments along 372 kilometres, received more than 25,000 petitions indicating the level of frustration among the public. The public meeting to be addressed by Amit Shah will sound the death knell for the KCR government, which failed Telangana miserably on all fronts.

*(The author is a spokesperson of BJP Telangana unit)*

## Decongest Hyd roads: Gudur

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Senior BJP leader Gudur Narayana Reddy has urged the police and civic officials to immediately take steps to ease the traffic congestion in Hyderabad city.

In a media statement issued on Friday, he said that people were experiencing hell on roads during peak hours. He said that vehicles were unable to move due to the bumper-to-bumper traffic. Travelling on the arterial roads of Hyderabad has become a nightmare for the public, he added.

Gudur said that traffic is very heavy at main junctions and motorists were forced to wait for a long time to cross each junction. Traffic jams have become the order of the day on Hyderabad's roads, he said in his statement.

He said that due to the Covid pandemic traffic had

come down in Hyderabad from 2020 March to January this year. But now traffic has reached normal levels as all businesses and government offices have started functioning normally.

"Many IT sector employees have also started to work from offices. Cabs are back on the roads carrying IT employees. All these have been increasing traffic on the roads," Gudur Narayana Reddy said.

He said that apart from the increasing traffic, encroachments on roads have also become a major reason for traffic jams. He said that footpaths have been occupied and the setbacks being left by developers and builders are being grabbed.

Gudur said that the roads around KBR Park are a good example of the chaos on the roads. Traffic conditions around KBR Park could be

seen at all major junctions in Hyderabad.

He said that the open spaces around KBR Park have been let out for paltry sums to shopkeepers by the HMDA and GHMC. There is no service road around the park and drivable roads have shrunk substantially.

He suggested that the traffic police, the HMDA, and GHMC officials should jointly inspect the KBR Park and find out the reasons for the heavy traffic there.

He also suggested to the traffic DCP and other concerned officials to go around Hyderabad during peak hours to personally experience the problems being suffered by commuters on the roads.

Gudur said that continuous action is required to ease the traffic congestion and provide relief to the motorists of Hyderabad instead of a few cosmetic steps here and there.

## TS BC panel hails Stalin's steps

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As a part of a 3-day official study tour to the State of Tamil Nadu, Telangana BC Commission Chairman Dr. Vakulabarnam Krishna Mohan Rao, along with the panel members Ch. Upendra, Subhpradh Patel Nooli and K.Kishore Goud, met Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK. Stalin at his office on Friday and apprised him of the intent, content and purpose (Caste Data Enumeration to be undertaken in TS and legal-glitch-free implementation of 69% reservation for the BCs) behind the tour.

The BC Commission Chairman and the accompanying team members expressed their deep appreciation of the initiatives and welfare measures undertaken by the Government of Tamil Nadu under MK. Stalin as regards the Backward Classes communities in the State.

The study team led by Dr. Rao felicitated Stalin. It held detailed discussions with Sattanathan,

Ambasankar and Janarthanam as well as the Chairman Justice(Retd) Thanikachalam and officials of TN Backward Classes Commission. They are trying to understand the methodology and parameters adopted while formulating the survey design and instruments over a period of time which set the exact format for withstanding the legal scrutiny of its recommendations and implementation processes. Dr. Rao and the team called on Raja Kannappan, Minister for Backward Classes, Government of Tamil Nadu. The visiting delegation also met Karthik, Principal Secretary, Department of Backward Classes Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu and Amudha, Principal Secretary, Department of Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamil Nadu and ascertained the technical information about the implementation of 69% reservation and local body reservations for BCs in the State.

## Congress blasts Govt for allocating prime land to TRS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC chief Revanth Reddy Tweeted on Friday that there is no land in Telangana according to the TRS government to give three acres to Dalits and to establish the Tribal University. But the KCR government has land worth Rs 100 crore to donate to the TRS to construct its Hyderabad district office, Revanth said.

AICC official spokesperson Dr Dasoju Sravan alleged that the TRS government has been grabbing hundreds of acres from the poor in the name of land acquisition in the Hanwada village of Mahbubnagar district.

He alleged that the TRS government had put up fenc-



ing on the lands of the poor using JCBs during a single night after misleading courts. He alleged that the government has been taking over the lands of the poor to give it to bigwigs.

A Minister has been

behaving offensively in Mahbubnagar district. The TRS government has been behaving lawlessly all over Telangana and is trying to grab the lands of the poor, Dr Dasoju said.

He said that government officials have become slaves to Minister V. Srinivas Goud. Does Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar have a mind or not?, he asked. He said that the CS should not tell the court something and do just the opposite.

Dr Dasoju said that the government has to pay compensation as per the Land Acquisition Act-2013 if the government takes over the lands of the public. He made it clear that the Congress will stand by the poor till they get justice.

## Sonia's statement spells trouble for many TPCC leaders

Continued from page 2

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and his brother Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy may contest from Nalgonda and Munugode, as they did in the last elections.

Mulugu MLA Seethakka has been expecting a ticket for her son also. Seethakka has been making her son visit the Bhadrachalam constituency.

Former PCC president Ponnala Lakshmaiah is also hoping for two tickets --one for himself and the second one for his daughter-in-law Vaishali Reddy.

Former minister Konda Surekha is also expecting two tickets --one for herself and the other for her husband Murali or her daughter.

CLP Leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka is hoping for two tickets -- one for himself and the second one for his wife, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's brother Mallu Ravi will also contest the election.

Former MP M. Anajan Kumar Yadav also wants two tickets - one for himself and the other for his son Anil Kumar Yadav.

Sangareddy MLA T. Jagga Reddy also wants two tickets --one is for himself and the other one for his wife or daughter.

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

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

## Amit Shah should come with assurances: KTR

Continued from page 2

The Minister asked if Amit Shah could answer why Baiyaram Steel Plant was not allocated to Telangana, despite promising the same in AP Reorganization Act?

"Telangana has been the top investment destination for global firms. Yet, Telangana is not being given any industrial incentives. Why? Do you have an answer for it? Scrapping ITIR project in Telangana, denying city's rapid development in the IT sector shows how BJP conspires against Telangana", he said.

KTR asked: "After rejecting ITIR status to Telangana, can you name at least one programme introduced by the BJP government as an alternative option for the development of the IT sector? What answers do you have for the youth of Telangana who lost opportunities in IT companies due to the rejection of ITIR? Why are you not allocating new Software Technology Parks to Telangana whose IT sector is progressing at a rapid speed?"

He asked about the Palamuru Rangareddy lift Irrigation Scheme and said, "What answer do you have for the farmers of Palamuru and Rangareddy districts who feel

### KTR SENDS LEGAL NOTICE TO BANDI SANJAY

Therefore, as an elected sitting Member of Parliament, you are at all times under an obligation to act in a bona fide manner and conform to a high standard of integrity.. However, in the greed to derive publicity, an attempt was made to falsely imply the issue of Intermediate students' suicide upon my client". The notice issued by the lawyer read, "In view of the false allegations made against my client and the attempts to malign his reputation, Bandi Sanjay is liable for legal action, including payment for damages and compensation. Also, to extend unconditional apology within 48 hours". The notice said that KTR had garnered immense goodwill and reputation amongst the general public both as a dedicated politician and as a dynamic individual for the various initiatives undertaken by him. In 2021, KTR sent a legal notice to Revanth Reddy for linking him to the Tollywood drugs case. The Court restrained Revanth from linking him to the drugs case.

cheated by you for not allocating national status to the project? Instead, you have announced to give national status to Karnataka's Upper Bhadra project? This shows how partial BJP is towards Telangana farmers".

On the Krishna waters, KTR said: "For the past eight years, why are you not referring to the Brijesh Kumar tribunal to resolve the issue of 575 TMC irrigation water, which is the rightful share of Telangana? Instead, you have appointed the Krishna River Management Board, which only further exploits the rightful share of water to Telangana".

KTR demanded that the number of funds allocated to Telangana in the past eight years, keeping aside the funds which the state receives constitutionally, be disclosed.

On Hyderabad, KTR asked, "Isn't it the fact that you are troubling the citizens of Hyderabad by becoming a hurdle in the construction of skyways by not allocating defence lands to the State govt? Is it not true that you are allocating crores of rupees as funds for river rejuvenation projects in BJP-ruled states and not allotting even a penny to the Musi River rejuvenation works?"

He asked, why BJP was

not extending financial support to the Hyderabad Pharma City? "Why no Defence Industrial Corridor to Telangana? Why move it to a State which has zero presence of defence factories, while Telangana houses major Aerospace and defence companies? Not a single mega powerloom textile cluster was allocated to Telangana, despite Telangana leading the way for others in the textile sector", he wrote.

KTR said, "Why are you creating hurdles in procuring paddy produced by farmers of Telangana? Why did the BJP govt not allocate Turmeric Board to Nizamabad? Why did the BJP MP completely forget the promise made to the people of Nizamabad, even after writing it on a bond paper during the 2019 election?"

He asked if Amit Shah will make a statement on the abolition of cess on petrol prices and reducing the prices. He asked why the World Health Organization's Traditional Medicine Center, which was to be set up in Hyderabad, moved to Gujarat. "Instead of supporting the newly set up International Arbitration Center in Hyderabad, you have set up another center in Gujarat", he concluded.

### CS SAMEER SHARMA GETS EXTENSION

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief secretary Dr. Sameer Sharma's service tenure has been extended by six more months. The State government received a communique from the DoPT about his service extension on Friday. It is Sameer Sharma's second extension. While he was to retire at the end of last November, his service has now been extended till this year's November end.

## Debate, discuss...

Continued from page 2

KTR said about 46 per cent of the state's population is living in urban areas now. More than half of the state's population would be living in towns in another five to seven years, he said.

Urban areas contribute the lion's share of Telangana's GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) which has doubled during the last seven years, he said.

Hyderabad accounts for one-fourth of the population but it contributes 45 to 50 per cent of the GSDP, he said.

## 26 dead, 40 hurt in Delhi fire mishap

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A massive fire ripped through a three-storey commercial building near Mundka metro station in west Delhi Friday evening, leaving at least 26 dead and 40 injured, police said.

Around 60-70 people have been rescued from the building, the police said, adding some people are still trapped inside.

According to fire department officials, information about the blaze was received around 4.40 pm following which 24 fire tenders were rushed to the spot.



"It's a tragic incident 14 dead bodies confirmed and 12 people are injured," Deputy

Commissioner of Police (Outer) Sameer Sharma said around 10 pm.

## All eyes on Amit Shah's public meeting

Continued from page 2

Kishan said that he was confident that the BJP's flag will fly high in the next Telangana elections. The father-son government of TS has been engaging in a campaign of falsehood against the Centre and the BJP, he added.

KCR has also been day-dreaming about taking charge

of developing the nation by giving an impression that he has already developed Telangana in a big way. There is no need for money to day-dream, Kishan said mocking KCR.

Eatala said that Amit Shah's meeting has great importance. KCR has lost the people's confidence and he has been ruling the state using Machiavellian

tactics. BJP leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar launched his Praja Sangrama Yatra to explain these things to the people, he said.

"We will make Amit Shah's public meeting a grand success and that will shock KCR. KCR has been criticising the Prime Minister irresponsibly," Eatala said.



# TS aims to jumpstart 3D printing

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The state of Telangana intends to get a jump start in the hugely promising sector of 3D printing, said Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development KT Rama Rao on Friday while speaking at the National Conference on 3D Printing in Medical Devices and Implants. The meet was organised by National Center for Additive Manufacturing (NCAM) in Hyderabad.

In his keynote address, KTR spoke about how NCAM and the conference supports that start-up and innovation ecosystem in the state and how it helps to establish Telangana as a leader in emerging technologies. He also said, "India has a huge opportunity in the 3D printing segment to become a dominant player. During the pandemic, we observed several young entrepreneurs display their innovation and



Minister K T Rama Rao and others at the national conference on 3-D printing in Hyderabad on Friday

use 3D printing to quickly develop parts of ventilators and other devices. We also have T-Works that has been using 3D printing for their prototyping efforts. Through all these efforts, Telangana intends to get a jump start at this hugely promising sec-

tor and it is with this intent, we established NCAM and conducted this key conference."

The day-long national conference featured exhibitions of the latest 3D printing technology, panel discussions on latest trends, applications and challenges of

this technology in medicine and a round table between doctors, industry leaders and academic experts to discuss the roadmap for developing an ecosystem for additive manufacturing (AM) in medicine. One of the highlights of the conference was the announce-

**One of the highlights of the conference was the announcement of 20 partnerships with leading organisations in AM technology from India and abroad.**

ment of 20 partnerships with leading organisations in AM technology from India and abroad. These partnerships aim to fulfill NCAM's core objective of promoting the adoption of additive manufacturing in India.

Other guests present at the event were Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, CIO NCAM Rama Devi Lanka, CEO NCAM Jaspreet Siddhu and Commissioner (South Asia) at Global Victoria, Government of Victoria, Australia Michelle Wade.

# Mini-diagnostic center opened in Govt Hospital

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Minister for Animal Husbandry Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Friday inaugurated a mini diagnostic center at a 50-bed Government Hospital in Ameerpet. The diagnostic center was set up at a cost of Rs 74 lakh.

Addressing on the occasion, the Minister said, "Since the formation of Telangana state, the government has brought in major changes in the medical sector. The number of people visiting government hospitals has seen a sharp increase and this is because of the development programmes being carried out by the government. As the diagnostic center has been set up here, people will no longer have to visit Osmania or Gandhi hospital." The Minister also said that



Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav, MLC Vani Devi and others at the launching of mini-diagnostic center at government hospital in Ameerpet in Hyderabad on Friday

the government had sanctioned a 30 bed hospital before the formation of the state, but after identifying the demands of the local people, the present government has built a 50 bed hospital in Ameerpet at a cost of Rs 3.78 crore. He requested patients not to visit private diagnostic centers to get the tests done, instead they have to visit the diagnostic cen-

ter at government hospitals where 57 types of tests are being done free of cost. An ambulance will soon be sanctioned to the hospital by the government, said Srinivas Yadav. The programme was attended by MLC Vani Devi, District Medical Officer Dr Venkat, Hospital Superintendent Darshad and T-Diagnosis programme officer Arun Kumar.

# Parks under Buddha Purnima project lack basic amenities



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The parks under Buddha Purnima project lack basic facilities, no ticket prices boards, contractors working irregularly, Sanjeevaiah children's park has no drinking water. Visitors to these parks face inconveniences due to lack of basic amenities. The management of the Buddha Purnima project parks has become chaotic. The project needs an Officer on Special Duty (OSD).

The parks under this project are NTR Garden, Necklace Road and Sanjeevaiah Park. It is learnt that some people were injured in a recent accident at

NTR Garden due to lack parking places. No action was taken against the contractors for their negligence for not allotting parking places for vehicles. Police are imposing penalties for parking vehicles on roads. Parking spaces for vehicles were not allocated in Lumbini Park, allege leaders of Communist Party of India.

Although the contract with Ixora Agency for housekeeping services expires in December 2021, they are working without new tenders. The CPI leaders also demand regular payment of wages for workers. They demand to provide the basic facilities for the visitors and complete development works.

# Attendance through biometric only: DME

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Director of Medical Education (DME) on Friday issued a circular directing the institutions to record the attendance of their respective faculty through biometric method only. The circular said,

"All the Principals/Directors/Supervisors of all the institutions under DME are again informed that the daily attendance of faculty should be recorded only by biometric method both entry and exit. This was informed earlier, but some institutions are not following it. This will be viewed seriously." The circular also said that daily after 9:30 AM the details of attendance should be shared by the representatives of institutions in the whatsapp group created for the purpose.

# CCMB develops 'India's first mRNA vaccine'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) Hyderabad on Friday announced that they have developed India's first mRNA vaccine. The team at Atal Incubation Center-CCMB (AIC-CCMB) led the development of the vaccine.

"Even though Covid-19 is waning, the vaccine platform holds promise for many infectious diseases that India faces. This is a proof-of-principle wherein we have shown that we can replicate the mRNA vaccine technology end-to-end. The beauty of this technology is in its modularity and rapid turn-around times. That means with significantly less efforts, the developed technology can be used to sire vaccines for other infectious diseases like dengue, tuberculosis or malaria, said Dr Vinay Nandicoori, Director, CCMB. Dr Rajesh Iyer, Scientist



CCMB officials addressing media persons in Hyderabad on Friday

involved in the project said, "We observed robust immune response against SARS-CoV-2 spike protein in mice, upon administration of 2 doses of the mRNA. The anti-spike antibodies generated were found to be more than 90% efficient in preventing the human ACE2 receptor binding to the coronavirus."

"The current war with the pandemic has brought to light many vaccine technologies

and India's vaccine programme is highly lauded. However, we lacked the potent mRNA vaccine technology, as developed by Moderna and Pfizer/BioNtech to combat Covid-19 in the USA and Europe. The developed technology is different from mRNA vaccine developed from Geneva Bio, which is based on self-replicating RNA" said Dr Madhusudhan Rao, CEO AIC-CCMB.

# 2BHK HOUSES AT BANDA MAISAMMA 310 units to be given to beneficiaries tomorrow

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Over 310 units of double bedroom houses are ready for opening at Banda Maisamma in Bansilalpet. The 2-BHK houses were constructed at a total cost of Rs 23.65 crore, said officials from Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). Roads, Buildings, Legislative Affairs, Housing Minister Prashant Reddy and Livestock, Fisheries and Cinematography Minister Talsani Srinivas Yadav will inaugurate these units on Sunday.

Each of these houses is built in 560 square feet with a cost of 7.75 lakhs. Amenities such as cement road, drainage and electricity poles, 300 m sewerage line, sump for 100 kl capacity drinking water, installation of street lights, 11 lifts, 16 shopping shutters are being built for the benefit of residents. The state government is committed to provide better



infrastructure to the people in the wake of Hyderabad growing into a cosmopolitan city. The main objective is to make Hyderabad a slum-free city. With this aim, double bedroom houses are built in different areas under GHMC and are being made available to beneficiaries in phased manner. The GHMC has set a target of constructing one lakh double bedroom houses at 111 locations in GHMC limits and has so far completed over 70,000 units.

# AWS InCommunities renovates govt school at Hythabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

AWS InCommunities (Amazon Web Services) has established a new oxygen generation plant and renovated a school to strengthen rural infrastructure in Telangana.

While schools are the foundation of learning, the best learning outcomes require an environment that is comfortable and inspiring. However, for students and staff at the Zilla Parishad High School in Hythabad in Rangareddy district even basic facilities were out of reach. They had to contend with damaged toilets, lack of access to drinking water, water seepage in class-

rooms, and a worn-out school building. Come the new academic year, the school will welcome students to newly renovated premises with clean and safe toilets, a cooking shed, and cheerful, freshly painted classrooms. These initiatives were completed by AWS InCommunities in collaboration with Concern India Foundation. Sabitha Indra Reddy, Minister for Education, Telangana, who inaugurated the facility said, "Education and healthcare are key pillars that support the goals of all-round rural development and the creation of a sustainable society. The unprecedented situation resulting from the

Covid-19 pandemic requires all sections of society, including corporates, to come together to tackle challenges such as gaps in schooling, and access to affordable and reliable healthcare. I would like to thank AWS for their help to build the rural infrastructure in Telangana."

The team also undertook extensive civil and electrical works, plumbing, carpentry and painting work. A water storage tank with 300 litres capacity and a water purifier have been installed to provide a healthy water supply. The team also provided furniture such as benches, tables, and chairs.

# Ex gratia of Rs 13 lakh given to kin of lady constable



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rachakonda police has provided an ex-gratia of Rs 13 lakh to the family of a police woman who died in the line of duty. Jyotsna, a lady constable, who worked at the Jawahar Nagar police station in the Rachakonda police Commissionerate, was critically injured in a road accident and died after being treated at a hospital for 38 days. As per the directions of Rachakonda CP, Additional DCP Admin Srinivasulu has handed over the cheques of Rs 8 lakhs of ex gratia and Rs 5 lakhs from welfare fund to the family members of deceased constable on Friday.

# Inter students forgetting mathematics formulas request counsellors for techniques

DEEPIKA PASHAM ■ HYDERABAD

It has been over two years that the Department of Intermediate has appointed trained counsellors and psychologists to guide students to cope up with the stress, strain and also remove fear to face examinations. Counsellors working with the department have received more calls for Mathematics subjects as students were complaining that they are forgetting the formulas though they practise for several times. One of the counsellors Saroja shares, "A lot of calls from the MPC students, they ask me why these formulas are so tough and also they question about any technique for remembering them. Students also ask me why they forget mathematics so quickly and though they write and practice, they are unable to solve the previous year's papers." We mostly provide them with a time table before



the exam, we are ushering them that early morning hours practice can be helpful and also ask them to solve the easy questions first, so that they have time to think and apply the accurate formula for other questions. We guided them to gain concentration for memorising the formulas, she added. Apart from the students, the department's toll free number is receiving calls from software

Apart from the students, the department's toll free number is receiving calls from software engineers.

Not pertaining to the average students, counsellors are receiving calls from students who have scored 98 per cent in college pre-finals. Students have also asked about how to score the maximum marks in languages, as marks are not given more than 95 in the languages. Earlier the department used to receive between 20 to 28 calls per day, but now they are nearing to above hundred every day. They have recorded that these callers prefer evenings to call everyday. Students are also sharing with the counsellors that they are feeling confident and relaxed to attempt the exams.

# Telangana has 2, 21, 000 organ donors: RTI

SIDDHARTH KUMAR SINGH ■ HYDERABAD

The state of Telangana has a total of 2, 21, 000 organ donors, according to an RTI. The RTI reply from 'Jeevandan' to a social activist mentioned that under the Jeevandan Cadaver Transplantation Programme where donors can pledge their organs for donation after brain death both offline and online, the total number of pledged donors offline are 2, 00,000 and online 21,000 till date.

The RTI also revealed that a total of 1,021 brain dead deceased donors have donated their organs in the last 9 years. The organs were donated after taking consent from the donor's family. It started in 2013 with 41 donors then increased to 51 in 2014, 89 in 2015, 106 in 2016, 150 in 2017, 150 in 2018, 134 in 2019, 75 in 2020, 162 in 2021 and 53 till



date in 2022. There was also an increase of 20-30% in donors after Jeevandan held their awareness programmes across the state.

While answering the ques-

tion on unregistered donations, Jeevandan in the RTI replied that there are no unregistered donations happening in Telangana as after the patient is brain dead, the transplant

coordinators counsel and take consent from the patient's family members and the donor is registered under the Jeevandan scheme. Speaking to the Pioneer, Aleti Rajesh Sagar, an

**An RTI query revealed that a total of 1,021 brain dead deceased donors have donated their organs in the last 9 years. The organs were donated after taking consent from the donor's family.**

RTI Activist who had filed the RTI in April 2022 said, "After seeing the news of

people frequently dying in road accidents, found out that few of them had registered themselves as organ donors. I wanted to find out the number of organ donors in Telangana. So, I filed the RTI and then I received a reply from Jeevandan where they provided me with all the statistics. The data is from 2013 when Jeevandan was formed. What we can also find out from the data is that in 2020 due to the Covid crisis the donor number had decreased, but then it shot up again in 2021."

The undivided state of Andhra Pradesh in 2013 had cleared a comprehensive scheme 'Jeevandan' proposed by Cadaver Transplantation Advisory Committee (CTAC) to give a boost to organ transplantation in the state.

# Red sanders smuggling: 2 held, 31 logs worth Rs 60 lakh seized

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

The sleuths of LB Nagar zone SOT, along with Malkajgiri police, busted an interstate red sanders smuggling racket and apprehended two persons. They seized 31 red sanders weighing about 1,500 kg, 3 mobile phones and cash Rs.1600, total valued at Rs.60,18,600. The accused persons were identified as Shaik Mohammed (arrested), Mulla Basheer Ahmed (arrested) and Murthy(absconding).

Shaik Mohammed Rafi is native of Maddunur of Kadapa district in AP. Basically he is a banana fruit business man and has been transporting bananas from AP to various states.

The other accused Mulla Basheer Ahmed is resident of



Sainikpuri and native of Kurnool district. He used to purchase bananas from Shaik Mohammed and sell the same in Telangana. Due to financial losses, they hatched a plan to procure and sell the red

sanders in Telangana. They came in contact with Murthy of Kadapa district in AP. Murthy supplied 31 red sanders weighing about 1,500 kgs. They brought the red sander logs to Hyderabad and placed them near Government land in Moula-Ali Dargah of Malkajgiri. On 12th May, in the evening on a tip off, SOT LB Nagar Zone Team with assistance of Malkajgiri police conducted raid and apprehended the two accused persons. They also seized red sandal logs and other material. The above arrests were made under the supervision of Rachakonda CP Mahesh M Bhagwat, Addl CP G. Sudheer Babu, DCP Rakshitha K. Murthy, SOT DCP K. Muralidhar, ACP D. Venkanna Naik and other staff.





TSRTC chairman Bajireddy Goverdhan Reddy receiving a box containing mangoes delivered by the TSRTC Cargo Service in Nizamabad on Friday

## RTC chairman receives mangoes through RTC cargo service

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation Chairman and Nizamabad rural MLA Bajireddy Goverdhan on Friday booked mangoes online for delivery through the TSRTC Mango Express.

The RTC Cargo delivery staff delivered Mango Express Pack to the RTC chairman.

Later, Goverdhan Reddy said that over 13,000 have booked mango packs through Mango Express. If anyone books mangoes on [www.tsrtcparcel.com](http://www.tsrtcparcel.com) the mangoes would be delivered in four or five days. The cost of five kg of mangoes with the inclusive of transportation charges would be Rs 581.

# 'TRS govt committed to bring all services in districts under one roof'

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Minister for Finance T Harish Rao has said that the objective of locating all government offices at one place is to enable the people to help easily access all services under one roof.

He was addressing a gathering, after laying the foundation stone for the village panchayat office at Markuk in Gajwel constituency and also a village function hall and integrated government offices' complex at mandal level on Friday. He also laid the foundation stone for a Gajwel-Pragnapur modern bus station, to be built at Rs 5 crore.

He also laid the foundation stone for Rs 25 lakh Viswakarma Bhavan for the benefit of Veerabhadra community and for a modern bus station at Pragnapur.

The TRS government alone is implementing welfare schemes for the past seven decades. He described Chief Minister as a humanist who is providing food to the hospital attendants of patients. Paddy production in Telangana currently is 2.59 crore tonnes as against 99 lakh tonnes earlier. Refuting allegations of BJP that Kaleshwaram project did not irrigate even one acre of land, he asked the saffron party



Minister for Finance T Harish Rao laying foundation stone for modern bus station in Gajwel on Friday

leaders to come to Siddipet, Dubbaka, Gajwel constituencies for them to see how many ponds, tanks were full with Kaleshwaram waters.

He said that the TRS government would give Rs 3 lakh for the poor to build houses on their own lands. Further, he said that the subsidy for cultivation of oil palm is put at Rs 1,000 crore. He appealed to farmers to come forward to cultivate oil palm liberally. The government has plans to run train to Tirupati from Kachiguda and Gajwel. People faced drinking water problems under the regimes of the previous regimes, he said.

Construction of the most modern bus station in Chief Minister's constituency of Gajwel at a cost of Rs 5 crore with 8 bus bays and construc-

tion of a bus bay in Gajwel town at a cost of Rs 2 crore and launching of construction of Rs 4 crore bus station at Pragnapur is a happy occasion, he said. The face of Gajwel has changed for better in four years with ring road works launched at a cost of Rs 297 crore are almost nearing completion. Gajwel district hospital was built on a par with private hospitals.

All community associations have their own buildings, he said. Zilla Parishad Chairperson Roja Sarma, MLC Yadava Reddy, FDC chairman Pratap Reddy, undivided Medak district DCCB chairman Chitti Devender Reddy, District Additional Collector Srinivas Reddy, GADA special officer Mutyam Reddy and others were present on the occasion.

## 'Mana Vooru-Mana Bandi will transform State into vibrant knowledge society'

Minister for Finance T Harish Rao on Friday expressed confidence that Mana Vooru-Mana Badi would change the face of government schools in the State. It would ultimately help transform the State into a vibrant knowledge society, he said. Speaking at a meeting, shortly after laying the foundation stone for renovation of a high school at a cost of Rs 80 lakh at Kukunoorpal village under Kondapaka mandal, Harish Rao said the government had decided to introduce English medium in government school from the next academic year. The introduction of English medium is aimed at fulfilling the dreams of the students from poor families to pursue higher education not only in the country but also abroad. Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has rolled out Mana Vooru-Mana Badi scheme to ensure that the government school have all facilities on a par with corporate schools.



Energy Tech Global delegates at the launch of office in Hyderabad on Friday

# EnergyTech Global expands central office in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

EnergyTech Global, a 100% owned subsidiary of The Energy Collective (TEC) - a New Zealand based company, has expanded its footprint in Hyderabad city by adding additional modules to its central office at NSIC Business Park ECIL, a satellite office at N-Heights. HiTech City.

Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Ralph Hays - New Zealand Consul General and Trade Commissioner, India, Sri Lanka, David Pine - New Zealand High Commissioner to India and Bangladesh, Luke Blincoe, CEO - The Energy Collective, said, "TEC is a founder-led growth business active in energy-tech and energy retail markets. Around 1,50,000 households across

Speaking on the occasion, Kishore Borra, Managing Director EnergyTech Global, said, "The new office space marks the roll-out of the company's aggressive India growth plan. With 250+ associates and leadership in all functional areas, we are actively hiring for multiple roles in application development, testing, support, DevOps, data science, analytics, and customer experience as we are looking to increase our India headcount to 1000 by 2025. Luke Blincoe, Group CEO of The Energy Collective, said, "TEC is a founder-led growth business active in energy-tech and energy retail markets. Around 1,50,000 households across

Australasia are supplied electricity by our award-winning brands Electric Kiwi and ReAmped Energy. We have now expanded our service offerings to Broadband and Gas.

After inaugurating, Jayesh Ranjan said, "The Government of Telangana is promoting a policy called Growth In Dispersion (GRID) to encourage IT companies to look outside Cyberabad and expand their presence. I hope the success and growth impetus of EnergyTech Global on the Eastern corridor propels more companies to open here and contribute to the holistic development of the IT Industry in this city."

## SHIFTING OF PADDY TO RICE MILLS

# Minister directs Collector to deploy more lorries

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Minister for Panchyat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao on Friday directed the District Collector to deploy more lorries to transport the procured paddy from the procurement centres to the rice mills.

The Minister, during his visit to China Gudur village in Jangaon district to inspect the process of paddy procurement at the procurement centres, the farmers complained to him that the paddy remained at the centres only.

He suggested to the farmers that they may bring to his notice any problem being



Minister for Panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao interacting with farmers at a procurement centre at Chinna Gudur in Jangaon district on Friday

faced by them.

He sought to instil confidence in the farmers by assuring them that the TRS govern-

ment would procure every grain of paddy produced by Telangana farmers during the Yasangi season.

# AAP appoints conveners for LS constituencies

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday appointed convener for the party's State unit organisational development and training committee and conveners for all 17 Lok Sabha constituencies. The AAP appointed Diddi Sudhakar as the convener of the organisational development and training committee, according to AAP State unit election in-charge Somnath Bharti. Somnath Bharti also appointed conveners for all the 17 Lok Sabha constituencies. They are Indira Shobhan (Secunderabad), Diddi Sudhakar (Khammam), Burra

Ramu Goud (Nizamabad), Suresh Thallapally (Warangal), Shoban Babu Bhukya (Mahabubabad), Dr Sudhakar Pappula (Malkajigiri), Randeer Singh (Karimnagar), Chintalapally Babu (Mahabubnagar), Madhu Malem (Peddapalli), Praveen Chhanglera (Zaheerabad), C Janardhan Reddy (Medak), Mohammed Mazed (Hyderabad), Hari Prasad Goud Anthati (Bhuvanagiri), Dr Solomon Raj (Nagarkurnool), Subhash Rathod (Adilabad), Mahammad Afzal (Nalgonda), Barka Krishna Yadav (Chevella).



Warangal police displaying wall posters released to sensitise youth on harmful effects of drugs, in Warangal on Friday

# Police to undertake campaign to wean away youth from narcotics

PNS ■ WARANGAL

City Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi has said the main object of the police is to eradicate the ganja menace in the State and wean the youth away from narcotics.

The police under the city Police Commissionerate undertook a novel campaign with the title 'Awaken Warangal' to explain youth on the harmful effects of ganja and other narcotic substances. The police also

stressed the need to follow traffic rules.

To sensitise the people, a ramp walk participated by national and international models and para-athletes. Several cultural programmes would be organised on the occasion. A top Tollywood actor is going to attend an event as chief guest, he said, but did not divulge the name of the chief guest. City Police Commissioner along with other police officials released a wall poster of the event.



# Body found

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

The body of a 39-year-old man was found on the outskirts of Dubbak town on Friday. The body was identified as that of Rachamalla Srinivas. He hailed from Dubbak town.

Initially, it was thought that he could have died in a road accident.

The police, however, said that there were injuries on the neck and other part of the body. Srinivas is survived by wife, a son and a daughter. The police are investigating.

# TSLPRB receives above 4.5 lakh applications in 11 days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board (TSLPRB) has received more than 4.5 lakh applications from nearly 2.5 lakh candidates in the past 11 days, since the board started accepting online applications. Of these, more than 1 lakh applications (23%) were received from women candidates and the remaining from males.

TSLPRB had announced a total of 17,291 vacancies for various posts in the Police department, Disaster response & fire services department, Prisons & correctional services department, Special protection force, Transport department and Prohibition and Excise department. TSLPRB has been accepting online applications since May 2 and the deadline is May 20.

# Bejjanki VRO accused of grabbing land

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Bejjanki VRO Srikant Reddy has been accused of encroaching upon the ancestral land belonging to two persons. Addressing the media at the Press Club here on Friday, Nimma Narayana Reddy and Dharma Reddy alleged that the VRO first got the 550 square yards of site under survey number 680D in Bejjanki transferred in the name of his benami holder Kurella Yellaiah and later got it registered in the name of his wife Sweta. When information has been sought about it under the RTI in the MRO office, the MRO office authorities denied having any proceedings in this regard.

They sought legal action against Srikant Reddy who encroached upon their land.

They pointed out that Srikant Reddy was placed under suspension twice on charges of misuse of power.

# Officials told to ensure protection of farmers at procurement centres

PNS ■ JAGTIAL

District Collector G Ravi on Friday directed the officials to ensure that paddy procurement at procurement centres is carried out speedily. He particularly instructed the officials to take all measures for the protection of farmers.

The Collector was inspecting the paddy procurement process at Bommenna, Thanadrial and Sirikonda and medepally under Kathalpur mandal and Mohanraopet and other places under Koratala mandal.

Ravi interacted with the

farmers at the procurement centres. He advised farmers to dry the paddy properly before it was brought to the procurement centres. The Collector instructed the officials at the procurement centres to procure paddy speedily without giving any trouble to the farmers. He asked the officials to deploy more hamalis to transport the procured paddy to the rice mills. He examined the moisture content of paddy in the procurement centres. He asked the officials to make available tarpaulins in sufficient numbers at the procurement centres.



Jagtial District Collector G Ravi inspecting procurement centres at Bommenna village Jagtial district on Friday

# TS horticulture Dept has only five pack house facilities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana horticulture has only five pack house facility of the required 100. The government is looking at entrepreneurs to invest in pack houses which are growth engines for Horticulture exports.

Pack houses are structures where the harvested produce is pre-cooled, cleaned, graded and packed as per requirements/ certifications of the destination market. Such units also contain cold storage facilities to establish a cold chain right from the place of origin of produce to destination.

E Sreenivasa Rao, ARS, Advisor (Horticulture) said, "Several important horticultural crops like mango, citrus, pomegranate, fig, dragon fruit and vegetables are



being grown in Telangana. Our farmers are well versed with the cultivation of these crops for getting an export quality produce. Several farmers are even doing this organically after getting requisite certifications.

However, our produce is not able to reach international markets, where our farmers can get better prices.

The major intervention needed in this regard is establishment of pack houses. Ansh Agronomy is one

such pack house facility established by Anandsagar in the 2019-20 at Chinna revali(V), Balanagar(M), Mahabubnagar(Dist), Telangana. They are engaging with local farmers and are able to successfully

export mangoes and specialty herbs like Rose mary, Basil, Thyme, Lemon grass etc. to different destinations in Europe.

Sreenivasa Rao recently visited this unit and opined that, 'Pack houses are a huge investment and entrepreneurship opportunity in the state of Telangana. Each such unit may cost around Rs.60 Lakhs and we need atleast 100 such units, while we currently have less than five in the State. Enterprising youth should enter this field, establish contacts in international markets and connect them to the local small and marginal farmers, following Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). These would help build green businesses and also sustainably improve the livelihoods of small and marginal farmers in the state.'

# Free paddy seeds promised to tribal farmers

PNS ■ MULUGU

National Mirchi Task Force Committee director N Sambasiva Reddy on Friday promised to provide Rs 1 lakh worth of paddy seeds free to tribal farmers in the first week of June during Vanakalam season at Shanigakunta village. The free seed distribution would be taken up with the help of Annapurna Seeds and Farm company in Warangal. He said he had decided to help the tribal people in the village because they had lost everything in a fire accident recently. He distributed clothes, worth Rs 75,000 clothes to the people in the village. It was sponsored by Vikas Agri Foundation Vice-chairman P Naresh, and Nasireddy Venkateswara Reddy.

**TIRUMALA CO-OPERATIVE URBAN BANK LTD**  
(Regd No:T.A.1444)  
1st First Floor, "Tirumala Pride", Main Road,  
Opp to TMC, Malakpet, Hyderabad - 500 036.  
Ph- 040-24544456, 24544457 & Mobile No.9494184061

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that the 24th Annual General Body meeting of the members of the Tirumala Co-op Urban Bank Ltd., will be held at 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, the 4th June, 2022 at Bank premises, 1st First Floor, "Tirumala Pride", Main Road ,Opp to TMC, Malakpet, Hyderabad - 500 036.to transact the following business:-

- To consider and adopt the 24th Annual Report with audited statement of accounts and audit report for FY 2021-22 .
- To approve the dividend for Financial year 2021-22 payable to shareholders .
- Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Body meeting held on 19th March 2022.
- To ratify the admission of members, allotment of additional shares, transfer of shares, refund of share capital during the period from 01.03.2022 to 30.04.22.
- To ratify all loans and advances sanctioned from 01.03.2022 to 30.04.22.
- To ratify all investments/ withdrawals/ loans raised from 01.03.2022 to 30.04.22.
- To review all overdue loans and advances as on 30-04-22
- To ratify all the expenses from 01.04.2022 to 30.04.22...
- To consider any other subject matter with the permission of the Chairman.

**//By order of the Board of Directors//**  
Sd/-  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Place : Hyderabad**  
**Date : 13.05.2022**  
**Note:**

- Members who have not encashed the dividend warrants for the financial year ended 31st March 2018-19 & 2020-21 are requested to do so without any further delay.
- Members are requested to intimate us immediately any change in their address to enable us to send the dividend warrants to their correct address.
- Members are requested to bring their share certificates for identification and two photographs for issue of New Identity Cards.



INDIA CORNER

### Deshmukh can undergo shoulder surgery in state-run hospital: Court

A special court here on Friday refused to grant permission to Maharashtra's former home minister Anil Deshmukh to undergo a shoulder surgery at a private hospital and said he could get the medical procedure done at the state-run J J Hospital in the city. Deshmukh had sought permission to be temporarily shifted to a private hospital of his choice to undergo the surgery and treatment for his dislocated shoulder. The NCP leader said he would bear the expenses. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had, however, opposed the plea and said that the J J Hospital was well-equipped with qualified doctors to perform the surgery. The court rejected Deshmukh's application and said he could get the surgery and treatment done at the J J Hospital. Deshmukh is currently in judicial custody following his arrest by Enforcement Directorate (ED) in November last year in a money laundering case.



### MP govt may consider making national anthem recital compulsory at madrasas

With singing of national anthem made compulsory in all madrasas in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Friday said a similar step could be considered in the state. He made the statement in response to a query asked by reporters here. Speaking separately, Madhya Pradesh BJP chief Vishnu Dutt Sharma said 'Jana Gana Mana' should be recited in all educational institutions across the country. Singing of national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' has been made compulsory at all madrasas in Uttar Pradesh starting Thursday. The Registrar of the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board issued an order to this effect to all the District Minority Welfare Officers on May 9. Talking to reporters, minister Mishra said the national anthem should be sung everywhere. "It is a good thing. It is a national anthem and it can be sung everywhere," he said.



### 'K'taka govt forcing anti-conversion law to divert attention from corruption'

Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly Siddaramaiah on Friday accused the BJP government in the state of trying to force anti-conversion law on the people through ordinance route to "divert attention from corruption and lack of administration." The former Chief Minister even urged the Governor to reject the 'The Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion (anti-conversion) ordinance', stating that it is aimed at "harassing" minorities. The Karnataka cabinet on Thursday decided to promulgate the ordinance to give effect to the law against forceful religious conversions. The Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly in December last year. However, it is pending for passage in the Legislative Council, where the ruling BJP is one short of majority.



CHINTAN SHIVIR

# Sonia targets Modi, says minorities being 'brutalised'

PNS ■ UDAIPUR

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Friday launched a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, charging that it has become clear that his mantra of 'minimum government, maximum governance' means keeping the country in a permanent state of polarisation, "brutalising" minorities and "threatening" political opponents.

In her inaugural address at the party's 'Chintan Shivir' here, she urged delegates to deliberate with an open mind



In her inaugural address at the party's 'Chintan Shivir' here, she urged delegates to deliberate with an open mind and send out a clear message of strong organisation and unity.

and send out a clear message of strong organisation and unity. She said the Shivir is also an occasion to deliberate

on the many challenges ahead of us and bring organisational changes. "It is both 'Chintan' about national issues and meaningful 'aatmachintan' (self-introspection) about our party organisation," she said.

Gandhi charged that it has become "painfully clear" what Prime Minister Modi and his colleagues really mean by their frequently used slogan of maximum governance, minimum government.

"It means keeping the country in a permanent state of polarisation, compelling

people to stay in a constant state of fear and insecurity. It means viciously targeting, victimising and brutalising minorities who are an integral part of our society and equal citizens of our republic," she charged. "It means using our societies age old pluralities to divide us and subverting a carefully nurtured idea of unity and diversity. It means threatening and intimidating political opponents, maligning their reputation, jailing them on flimsy pretexts using investigative agencies" Gandhi further alleged.

### NCP minister seeks action against Twitter user

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Jitendra Awhad on Friday demanded strict action against a Twitter user, who allegedly wrote on the micro-blogging site that time has come to prepare "Baramati's Nathuram Godse for the 'Gandhi' of Baramati". The Twitter user, however, did not mention the name of any leader or political party in his purported comment. Baramati, a town in Pune district of the state, is the home turf of NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar. Godse was the one who had assassinated Mahatma Gandhi on January 30, 1948.

### Sisodia urges Shah to stop demolition drive in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah urging him to stop the "destruction" ensuing in the national capital due to the anti-encroachment drive by the BJP-ruled municipal bodies. In an online briefing, Sisodia slammed the "bulldozer politics" of the BJP and claimed that the civic bodies are planning to raze 63 lakh dwellings in the national capital.

"Of these, 60 lakh houses are in unauthorised colonies while the remaining three lakh are those where people have extended their balconies or covered them. We have learnt that notices have been sent to them," Sisodia said. "This will



lead to a huge destruction in the national capital. Almost 70 per cent of the population of Delhi will be rendered homeless," he added.

The Aam Aadmi Party will oppose the demolition drive and I have written to the Union home minister to seek his intervention in the matter, he said,

adding that they are even ready to go to jail.

"I have written to him (Shah) saying that this (demolition drive) should be stopped. If bulldozers are to be used, they should be used to demolish the houses of those BJP leaders and civic body representatives who took bribes to allow such structures to be constructed," he said. In the letter, Sisodia said there are 1,750 unauthorised colonies where nearly 50 lakh people live and 860 slum clusters which are home to around 10 lakh people.

"In Delhi, the BJP has a plan to run bulldozers on these colonies. Every day, some BJP leader reaches a colony with a bulldozer," Sisodia said in the letter written in Hindi. "Apart from this, three lakh people residing in unauthorised and

DDA colonies have been given notices for making alterations like extending their balcony or covering it. In reality, there is no house in Delhi where alterations have not been carried out," he added.

He further alleged that in the last 17 years, councillors, officials and mayors of the civic bodies took bribes to allow jhuggis and providing plots for unauthorised colonies.

Now when there is a threat to BJP's rule coming to an end in the municipal corporations, they are trying to ruin people's houses, he said. "I appeal to you (Shah) to tell BJP leaders to not indulge in dangerous politics in the name of bulldozers and to fix accountability of those who let these illegal constructions happen," Sisodia said.

### Local body polls: K'taka govt likely to seek time from SC to fix reservation for OBCs

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Faced with the possibility of local body polls that were due, following the recent Supreme Court order, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday said the government is considering moving the apex court seeking time to fix reservation for other backward classes (OBCs) or for an opportunity to go by the reservation that existed until now.

The Chief Minister also expressed hope about getting time.

"On OBC reservation.....one case regarding BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) is pending before the Supreme Court, secondly regarding Zilla and Taluk Panchayat polls too we have to request that we (govt) have to give OBC reservations legally and constitu-



tionally," Bommai said. Speaking to reporters here, he said the options before the government were to appeal for time or to request for an opportunity to go by old OBC reservation. "We are hopeful of getting time..We have to go for polls with OBC reservation, either to go by reservation that existed so far or give time for new reservation," he added.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission (SEC) to issue a poll programme for local bodies within two weeks. The apex court said the ongoing activity of delimitation or formation of the ward cannot be a legitimate ground to be set forth by any authority to not discharge its Constitutional obligation in notifying the election programme at the opportune time and to ensure that the elected body is installed before the expiry of five-year term of the outgoing body. The bench said its order and directions are not limited to Madhya Pradesh but to all the states/ union territories and the respective election commission to abide by the same without fail, to uphold the constitutional mandate.

### Miscreants pelt stones at boutique, open fire in Punjab

PNS ■ PUNJAB

Three unidentified youths allegedly pelted stones at a boutique and opened fire in the air at Mukerian main bazaar here, police said on Friday. Sajan (18), a native of Pathankot but is currently residing in Mukerian, was seated outside his aunt's boutique on Thursday evening when the three youths arrived there and asked him for the address of another store, the police said. They left after Sajan told him that he did not know the address they were looking for, but returned about 10 minutes later and launched the attack, according to the police complaint. Police said they recovered some empty bullet shells from the area. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway, they said.

### Kashmir varsity prof, PC among 3 J-K govt employees sacked for terror links

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday sacked three government employees, including a professor and a policeman, for their alleged links with terror groups, officials said. The trio was terminated from services based on the recommendation of a designated committee constituted under Article 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution that allows dismissal from service without an inquiry in the interest of the State's security.

Those sacked are Altaf Hussain Pandit, chemistry professor at Kashmir University, Mohammed Maqbool Hajam, teacher in the school education department, and Ghulam Rasool, a constable with the Jammu and Kashmir Police.



Hussain Pandit is actively associated with the proscribed Jamaat-e-Islam (JeI). He had crossed over to Pakistan for terror training and remained an active terrorist of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front for three years before his arrest by the security forces, sometime in 1993. He continued to be an active cadre of JeI and worked as a terror

recruiter. Pandit was instrumental in organising stone pelting and violent protests over the killing of terrorists in 2011 and 2014, the officials said.

In 2015, Hussain Pandit became an executive member of the Kashmir University Teachers Association and used his position to propagate secessionism among students.

### Nidhi Chibber appointed CBSE chairperson

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior bureaucrat Nidhi Chibber has been appointed as the chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre on Friday. Chibber, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, is currently Additional Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries. She has been appointed as chairperson of the CBSE in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary to the government of India, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. Vivek Kumar Dewangan, a 1993 batch IAS officer of Manipur cadre, has been named Chairman and Managing Director, REC Ltd., Ministry of Power.

### 1995 CUSTODIAL DEATH CASE

# Guj: 3 IAF personnel sentenced to life

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

A special CBI court here has convicted two retired and one serving Indian Air Force personnel in a 27-year-old custodial death case at Jamnagar Air Force Station in Gujarat and sentenced them to life imprisonment.

The court of CBI special judge N D Joshi on Thursday sentenced then Squadron Leader Anoop Sood and Sergeants Anil K N and Mahendra Singh Sherawat to life imprisonment, a release issued by the CBI stated on Friday.

Sood and Anil have already retired from service, while



Sherawat is still in service, it said. The trio were found guilty of killing Girja Rawat, who worked

as a cook at Air Force-I, Jamnagar. Of the seven accused in the case, three were convicted,

one died during the course of the trial, while three others were acquitted by the court, the cen-

tral agency said.

As per the case details, Rawat was a cook in the DSC Mess of Air Force-I, Jamnagar. On November 13, 1995, around 10 to 12 Air Force police officials, including Sood, conducted searches at his residence and forcibly took him with them, as they suspected him of stealing liquor from the Air Force canteen. It was alleged that the accused tortured Rawat to make him confess about the theft. In the evening, his wife visited the Guard Room and requested the officials to release her husband and was told that he would be released soon.

### Jamia Millia extends deadline for UG, PG admissions to May 25

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) on Friday extended the last date of submission of online application forms for all graduate and post-graduate courses till May 25. Earlier, May 13 was the last date for submission of the admission forms. The deadline for registration has been extended for all JMI programmes such as post-graduate, undergraduate, postgraduate diploma, advanced diploma and diploma programmes, except for the PhD programme. The university said this was done as the last date for registration for the Common University Entrance



Test (CUET) has been extended to May 22. "In view of the extension in the last date of CUET Admission form, the Vice-Chancellor, JMI has very kindly approved the extension in the last date of filling of online application form for all Jamia pro-

grammes like PG/UG/PG Diploma/ Advanced Diploma/ Diploma programmes and Foreign Nationals/NRI wards except PhD programmes for the academic session 2022-2023 from 13.05.2022 to 25.05.2022," a notification issued by Jamia read.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## An unforgiving May

Revised work hours protocol for extreme summers is needed

The effect of Cyclone Asani has waned. The moisture-laden easterly winds did lower temperatures for a couple of days in the north. The plains are back to witnessing a return of the debilitating heatwave. The weather office has issued a yellow alert that could soon be upgraded into an orange alert. Are any steps afoot to mitigate people's misery as the temperatures threaten to cross 46 degrees Celsius in Delhi and neighbouring states? A welcome step is shortening school hours, limiting students' outdoor activities, and relaxing the dress code norm. However, is there a need for primary schools to function? The heat threatens the adult population in no less measure. Sunstrokes are on the rise and dehydration is common. And yet there is no attempt to advance or shorten office hours. Private offices can easily shift to the WFH mode if advancing office hours is not possible. Online work in digitised government departments is recommended. The situation eminently suits half-day work timings. Routine activities in courts like date extensions, submission of documents, and bail arguments, especially related to petty crimes, can be online. However, what about the daily-wage labourers, agricultural labourers, and civic workers of the public works departments?



Millions spend their days under the unrelenting sun with barely any protection or nutritious supplements. The civic works have not been stopped or postponed anywhere. Big projects related to national highways, track-laying, and construction of bridges and buildings have no systems to allow for reduced working hours. In some states, the governments make arrangements for cool drinking water, buttermilk sachets, and medical camps. Most states have first-aid kits at the primary health centres in rural areas. But all these efforts miss the point. They essentially deal with basic resuscitation measures for labourers and workers suffering heat strokes. We are witnessing a definite, recurring pattern of extreme summer heat. The pattern is already an intrinsic part of summers, and climatologists fear things may become worse in the coming years. So, we should be talking about more than the basics. The focus should be on tweaking working hours without affecting productivity but sparing the workers from heat fatigue. Proposals for the work hours to begin earlier than usual or shift to the late afternoons and early evenings are worth examining. Implementing them is not easy without backup infrastructure, including the provision of power and, possibly, transport and arrangements of creches, temporarily in 'anganwadis', for the children of the labourers. By now, the National Disaster Management Authority could have met to discuss a summer public works protocol roping in organisations from the Centre, the States, and the non-governmental sector. The Authority's website does recognise the threat that extreme summers pose. The homepage lists the criteria offered by the weather office for heatwaves and spells out first-aid and stroke-prevention measures. It also acknowledges that India is also feeling the impact of heatwaves. But that is all.

### PICTALK



People perform yoga during a yoga event ahead of International Day of Yoga at the banks of Lower Lake in Bhopal

## Walk the talk

If Congress did not resolve the leadership issue then talks about revamp will have few takers

Both Opposition and the BJP camps will keenly watch the deliberations at the three-day Congress Chintan Shivir at Udaipur where the GOP will try to find ways to stem the rot within the party and settle the leadership issue. Ironically, the grand old party which wants to lead the nation has no permanent leader itself. The continuation of Sonia Gandhi as interim president is not only a perceptual disaster but it also reflects a complete lack of professionalism in the functioning of the party and its obsession not to allow anyone outside the Gandhi family to steer its course even when 10 Janpath has failed to perform, at least electorally. An army is as good as its general, the saying rings so true in the case of Congress. Sonia Gandhi rarely makes any public appearance, and Rahul Gandhi has yet to project himself as a leader who can keep the party together, mend fences with old guards, and sacrifice his foreign jaunts for the party's sake. Somehow a perception has gained ground over the years that Rahul Gandhi lacked the killer instinct to lead the party to electoral victories. It's one thing to address public rallies and hit out at the Modi Government, it's another to plan and plot strategies to fight electoral battles. Take the case of Punjab and Uttarakhand, where Congress virtually gave walkovers to the BJP in the assembly polls because of the failure of the leadership to resolve the infighting even at the peak of electioneering.



Sonia Gandhi's words in her inaugural address at the Chintan Shivir that "We need to change the way of our working", apply as much to the party workers as to the leadership. Similarly, when Sonia urged party leaders to keep the organization above personal ambitions, saying the party has given "us a lot and it's time to pay back", many would ask should not charity begin from home. For years the Congress leaders have been playing the same old tune. It's time they walk the talk themselves. Sonia Gandhi may have rightly said that the Shivir is an occasion to discuss the challenges before the party and bring organisational changes, but if Congress did not resolve the leadership issue and showed a readiness to empower leaders from outside the Gandhi family, too, then all the talks about organizational revamp will have few takers.

# Hindus' incoherent angst about identity

If the Hindus had found a sufficiently eloquent manner of expressing their pain, the Muslims could then have taken the current changes in their stride

A few people know what Sir Arnold Toynbee told his Indian audience when he came to address them to commemorate Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Toynbee had come at Jawaharlal Nehru's special invitation in the early 1960s. Arnold Toynbee said: "In the course of the first Russian occupation of Warsaw, the Russians had built an Eastern Cathedral in the city that had been the capital of the once independent Roman Catholic country Poland. The Russians had done this to give the Poles a continuous ocular demonstration that the Russians were now the masters. After the re-establishment of Poland's independence in 1918, the Poles pulled this cathedral down. I do not blame the Polish Government for having pulled down the Russian church. The purpose for which the Russians had built it had been not religious but political, and the purpose had also been intentionally offensive."

In the Abrahamic religious tradition, a church or mosque is a prayer hall. It is not unusual for a parish in Europe to sell for money a church; say, for the reason it does not attract an adequate number of worshippers on Sundays. I was present in England when such a sale was made in Leicester and the sold-off place was brought down to be replaced with a temple. In West Asia, including Saudi Arabia, mosques are brought down to straighten or widen highways. By sharp contrast, in the Hindu belief, a temple is the residence of the divine. Therefore, it is very impious to meddle with its structure. Contrast a prayer hall with a residence of God, and one would know how deeply the Hindu sentiment has been hurt for centuries by the demolition of temples by Islamic invaders and conquerors from West and Central Asia; it is almost impossible for an Abrahamic person to imagine the extent of the psychological injury thus caused.

Quite to the contrary, when the communists came to power in Russia in 1917, they went about targeting all places of worship. This is no surprise; communism



is the fourth sibling in the Abrahamic family of religions and shares their intolerance towards any other belief system and like its siblings, has no hesitation in turning upon its fellow siblings as well.

However, it must be admitted that it is the Hindus who have largely been at fault in first allowing the emergence of a separate entity within the sovereign state of India after 1947, and thereafter, not putting forth their point of view eloquently and convincingly enough. In fact, over the centuries, they have not reacted sufficiently for the Muslims to know how badly they have hurt Hindu sentiments. In fact, more often than not, they have gathered around their destroyed edifices, wept and beaten their breasts. As a result, when the Babri structure at Ayodhya was brought down by Hindus, they had surprised the Muslims for the first time in centuries. Being the first such incident it could be taken as an exception that proves the rule. Now, with demands being raised for the restoration of Gyanvapi at Varanasi and the Idgah at Mathura, there is amazement, albeit privately, as to what has come over the Hindus.

Of equal consternation, if not greater, are the demands

CONTRAST  
A PRAYER  
HALL WITH A  
RESIDENCE OF  
GOD, ONE WOULD  
KNOW HOW  
DEEPLY THE HINDU  
SENTIMENT HAS  
BEEN HURT FOR  
CENTURIES BY THE  
DEMOLITION OF  
TEMPLES BY  
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AND CONQUERORS  
FROM WEST AND  
CENTRAL ASIA

for changes in the names of the roads named after medieval Muslim conquerors. While there is much stomach-churning and hand-wringing, accompanied by a flurry of attempts to turn the narratives in favour of the "secular-liberal" lobby, hardly anyone has stopped to think, leave alone acknowledge that the injuries were first inflicted by Mahmud of Ghazni on the famous Somnath Temple and soon followed by his attack on the Keshav Dev Mandir at Mathura. Not long thereafter, were the unholy adventures by Mohammed Ghori when he converted three temples into one mosque at Ajmer and named it "Adhai Din Ka Jhopra"; the aggression was completed in 60 hours and hence the name. Barely a few years earlier, he had devastated Kannauj, then considered the capital of India. Qutbuddin Aibak's destruction of 27 Jain temples at Delhi's Mehrauli and converting them into a mosque called "Quwwat-ul-Islam" or the "might of Islam" was the next chapter of deliberate humiliation inflicted upon the Hindus.

I suppose the type of sentiments would differ from person to person. Even if we accept this contention, it was



PRAFULL GORADIA

all supposedly settled with the partition of the country on the midnight of August 14, 1947, when one-thirds of Hindu were given away to appease the progeny of those medieval conquerors, whose political representatives had declared in unambiguous terms that they could not co-exist with the Hindus. But such a settlement did not materialise and post-independent India allowed "a state within a state" to exist and flourish. When Vladimir Lenin conquered the Russian Empire for communism, most of the churches, synagogues and mosques were converted into municipal offices, departmental stores or places of any other civil purpose. In 1973, I happened to visit the sites of three such conversions. These changes were presumably accepted on the morrow of the Russian Revolution.

Be that as it may, it would have been much better if the Hindus had found a sufficiently eloquent manner of expressing their pain, the Muslims could then have taken the current changes in their stride.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### JOURNALIST'S KILLING

Sir—The killing of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh by the Israeli forces in a raid in Jenin in the occupied West Bank was tragic. Documenting life under occupation was her sole crime. It was what led to her targeted killing by the Israeli forces. The 51-year-old brave journalist did her job in a place where her life was susceptible to danger. But undeterred by the prospect of being killed, she discharged her duties. She was the epitome of a passionate and brave journalist. She sympathised with the Palestinian cause.

She reflected in her work the pain and suffering of the Palestinians living in occupied areas. She was affectionately called "a daughter of Palestine". She keenly observed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; she chose to be on the frontlines and at flashpoints to tell the story—the story of the stories of the Palestinians. Her face is familiar to all those who follow the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Her unique way of telling the story won her many admirers. Her voice conveyed the strength of her feeling when she reported the systematic and structural oppression and repression of the Palestinians on a daily basis by the right-wing Israeli regime. The Israeli military stifled her voice, but her martyrdom will inspire all those who cherish freedom and justice.

G David Milton | Kanyakumari

### BACK-BREAKING INFLATION

Sir—The retail inflation shoots up to a 95-month high in April, paving the way for more policy rate hikes by the central bank. Inflation has remained above the central bank's upper tolerance limit for four consecutive months. The data released by the National Statistical Office showed the food inflation rate in April soared to 8.38 per cent as prices of edible oils and vegetables shot up by 17.3 per cent and 15.4 per cent, respectively.

Fuel inflation also breached the double-digit mark at 10.8 per cent in April due to rising retail prices of petrol, diesel, and cooking gas even as crude oil prices softened from March. The second round impact of higher energy prices has become

## Historic verdict



The Supreme Court's verdict to stay all pending cases, appeals and proceedings with respect to the charges framed under Section 124A (Sedition law) was historic and courageous. In its first affidavit filed before the Supreme Court, the Central Government had vociferously defended the sedition law, and argued that the 1962 verdict of a constitution bench in Kedar Nath Singh vs State of Bihar case upholding its validity had withstood "the test of time" and needed no reconsider-

ation. However, the Government filed another affidavit, wherein it said, it had decided to re-examine and reconsider the sedition law, and urged the apex court to wait for the review by a "competent forum" and to "not invest time" on petitions filed by the Editors' Guild of India and others. The dramatic political volte-face reflected the discomfort of the ruling establishment in losing the sharp claws of the colonial law.

In the early 1960s, Kedar Nath Singh was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for his speech, "We believe in that revolution, which will come and in the flames of which the capitalists, zamindars and... will be reduced to ashes and on their ashes will be established a government of the poor and the downtrodden people of India." India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had wanted to "get rid of it (Section 124A)," and the latest Supreme Court verdict is a ray of hope.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

visible with transport and communication prices rising in double digits by 10.9 per cent. The services sector inflation rate rose to a 115-month high at 8.03 per cent as household goods and services (7.79 per cent) and personal care (8.62 per cent) inched up. With this there is very heavy burden on the common people who are struggling for survival and the country is heading for a disastrous situation.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### WIDENING NATO BLOC

Sir—Recently, in Russia's neighbouring country Finland, a referendum was held regarding joining the NATO. About 62 per cent of people had given their consent to join the NATO. However, it is noteworthy that just before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, most people in Finland wanted to remain neutral. However, seeing the condition of the people of Ukraine, they felt that joining the NATO bloc would secure their 13,000 kilometres border with Russia. Moreover, till 1917 Finland was a division

of Russia. Therefore, the vultures of Russia may also have an eye on them. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has said he expects the membership process for Sweden and Finland to be "quite quickly".

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

### MARITAL RAPE A CRIME

Sir—It is gut-wrenching to read the split judgment on marital rape by the Delhi High Court where one judge said it is not a crime as the existing law. A husband has no right to force himself on his wife. A rape is a rape, there is no exception.

The act of rape itself destroys the institution of marriage. It was expected that both the justices should have declared marital rape as a crime. However, the only grace is that both the judges have allowed the parties to move the Supreme Court against their split verdict on marital rape.

Vishal Mayur | Tumkur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

I am deeply saddened to know about the passing away of HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed.



Prime Minister  
— Narendra Modi

Competition system in India is well behind big boxing countries and it needs to seize the momentum back.

High Performance Director  
— Santiago Nieva

Excited to bring 'Jungle Cry' to audiences and share with them the journey of these heroes.

Actor  
— Abhay Deol

I'm a player living with an injury. It's nothing new. It's something that is there, unfortunately.

Tennis star  
— Rafael Nadal

Many said you will get jobs if you learn Hindi. Is it so... Look here in Coimbatore, who is selling pani puri.

TN Higher Education Minister  
— K Ponnudiy



FIRST COLUMN

THE JAPANESE HAVE THEIRS, WE’LL SOON HAVE OURS

It’s all about commuting from home to work and back!



R C **ACHARYA**

Urbanisation the world over has spawned transport systems ranging from bicycles to horse drawn carriages, buses, cars, trains. The ultimate in trains being the ‘Bullet’ trains which first appeared in Japan in 1964. Typically, a commute should last no more than 2 or 3 hours beyond which sustaining it on a daily basis, 5 days a week, months on end, would be somewhat inconvenient. The urban sprawl has been somewhat limited by this need to commute where typically the Railway commuter systems world over such as the Delhi Metro, London tube, or New York Transit system running at an average speed of 100 kmph would cover 200 kms in 2 hrs. However, the Japanese found a way to beat this limit by introducing trains with an average speed of 250 kmph, the bullet-shaped nose of the lead bogie earning it the name — ‘Bullet’ train. It connected Osaka 500 kms away to Tokyo, enabling a daily commute in just 2 hours. Rising out of the ashes of the Second World War II, Shinkansen was a bold reassessment of Japanese national pride, and involved concerted effort by the Government, business and the scientific community to place priority on train travel. These state-of-the-art trains run on dedicated tracks laid usually on concrete to minimise maintenance, and have few level crossings, enabling them to maintain an accident-free record for the last almost 60 years. Tokaido Shinkansen, covering 515 km between Tokyo and Shin-Osaka, was the first service, serving a number of major cities Shin-Yokohama, Shizuoka, Nagoya, and Kyoto en route.

Laid with tracks having a curve radius of no less than 4 km, the speed could now be raised to 260 km. Serving the major cities of Shin-Osaka, Shin-Kobe, Okayama, Hiroshima, Kokura, and Hakata, the line was a precursor to a nationwide Shinkansen network. Now, most trains attain a maximum speed of 300 kmph. A new station complex at Shinagawa, just south of Tokyo station, was opened in October 2003, which allowed some trains to start and terminate there, thereby increasing the number of trains on the Tokaido line from 11 to 15 per hour, that is, one every four minutes. In all, nine lines, ranging from the smallest of Hakata-Minami with just 8.5 km run by JR West, and the longest of Tokyo-Hachinohe of 593 km, totalling 2556 km are now in operation. Japan, being a relatively small country, the short runs at high speeds have successfully made the nation virtually a suburb of Tokyo. And to keep commuters happy, trains run, as suburban trains of Mumbai do, on some sections at three-and-a-half-minute intervals during peak hours. Back home, we still have to dream about our own “Bullet” trains soon becoming part of the Indian scenery running between Ahmedabad and Mumbai, making the 492-km journey in just two hours against the seven now taken by the super-fast Shatabdi Express. In the process it would also put fast growing tier 2 cities such as Surat, Valsad, Bharuch, and Vadodara, on a quick transit map connecting to India’s financial capital, Mumbai. With trains running at an average speed of 250 kmph, completing a journey from city-centre to city-centre in just under two hours would also save a traveller the hassles of a long commute to and from the airport, security checks and uncertainty created during foggy days. Trains may be delayed, but you don’t have to cool your heels in the passenger lounge waiting for the announcement to board. Last but not the least, they will always reach you to the intended destination, and in one piece.

*(The writer is a former Member, Railway Board. The views expressed are personal.)*

# Venture Capitalists to provide strategic direction to startups

## The role of venture capitals has to be much more than selecting a good business to provide funding and should extend to value-creation

The importance of startups in an economy cannot be undermined as they are technological revolutionaries, disruptors and creators. They create new industries, provide jobs, increase income levels, improve quality of life and play a critical role in the changing the image of a nation. With as many as 50,000 startups, of which a significant increase is from tier-II and tier-III cities like Kochi, Ahmedabad and Pune, India is now considered world’s 3rd largest ecosystem, according to Startup India portal.

However, failure is the other side of Startup industry. In a study conducted by Oxford Economics and IBM’s Institute of Business Value, it was found that 90% of India’s startups fail due to lack of innovation. In



HIMA BINDU **KOTA**

*(The writer is Associate Professor at Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal.)*

fact, according to KPMG report, in 2020, revenue of at least 30 percent of Indian startups declined by about 80 percent, whereas 70 percent of them had the probability of running for the next three months only.

Apart from business environment created by government and a robust banking network, a strong venture capital industry is one of the crucial requirements to develop successful startups. Overall, the success of start-ups is a collaborative effort of both entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.

Venture capitalists work in a highly competitive environment and yet typically generate a mediocre return. Add to this the high failure rate of entrepreneurs, a better working strategy is a critical need of the hour



for venture capitalists. The type of financing provided by venture capitalists is unique and very different from that provided by private equity funds or commercial banks. These organizations provide funds in the form of corporate lending to firms that are established and have a proven track record of operations and profitability. On the other hand, venture capitalists provide funding to new,

high risk, technology-oriented companies that operate in a fast and volatile environment with constantly changing paradigms. They work with entrepreneurs with an idea but fairly less experience about implementing the idea, identifying and putting together a competent team and developing the customer base. The lack of experience and an established record of performance of startups make investments in them extremely risky and uncertain. According to Harvard Business School’s entrepreneurship professor Shikhar Ghosh, about three-quarters of startups backed by venture capitalists are not successful enough to return cash to their investors. Therefore, the role of venture capitals has to be much more than selecting a good business and provide

funding and should extend to value-creation. In addition to providing strategic direction, most venture capitalists are already extending their support to various functional aspects of start-ups. Firstly, venture capitalists help in team building in start-ups by identifying and recruiting appropriate talent, which is the most important asset of a start-up. Secondly, providing support to the administrative activities like accounting, legal and other routine organizational responsibilities can free up founders’ time which can be further used for growing business. Thirdly, venture capitalists help start-ups in building the right skills for all employees and the leadership team. Fourthly, probably the most important, is providing strategic focus by defining the

target market, underlining the scope of the product or service, identifying the competitive advantage and providing appropriate strategic direction. Additionally, support to building a customer base is an essential encouragement. And lastly, the most important aspect of venture capitalist and entrepreneur relation is access to its network. Venture capitalists also provide performance metrics to startups to monitor, measure and report their performance at their early stage.

So, on what basis should a venture capital fund decide the extent of its involvement in a startup - at a very basic level, the participation is only financial; the next level is mentorship and guidance; and the advanced level is operational. The decision is ought to be made by ana-

lyzing its assets and resources. The most common and important resource of a VC is cash that represents the absolute amount of funds available. If the cash resources are strong, VCs would invest in an administrative function that would add value to a startup, and in case the cash resources are not strong, VCs can introduce the startups to their network which can meaningfully assist them. Brand resources are also very important for a VC which can be evaluated by the frequency of their citing in print, electronic and social media. Network resources are perhaps the most crucial of all contributions towards the growth of startups. Introductions to members of personal networks can help startups in either time-savings or cost-savings or both.



# Sustainability - road to a better future

Sustainability emphasizes the need for society to conserve resources, protect natural ecosystems, minimize pollution and promote social equity



SANJEEV **SINGHAL**

Man kind is facing the greatest threat of climate emergency which is being termed as “Code red for humanity”. Industrialization, urbanization and increasing population has led to unprecedented crisis catalysed by over exploitation of natural resources, and their contamination with toxic chemicals and pollutants. There are far-reaching impacts of ever-increasing greenhouse gases on our planet. According to estimates of various agencies like, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) this will result in rise of earth temperature by 02 °C by 2050.

Global warming is giving rise to natural calamities like, flood, drought, melting of glaciers, etc. As per a United Nations report the human-caused rate of extinction of species of both plants and animals at present is hundreds of times higher than the natural rate in the past and as the situation is turning out it can be thousands of times higher in near future. Across the world, people are facing challenge of availability of potable water, pure air to breathe and also ever an alarming problem of land degradation.

“The Global Risks Report 2022” issued by World Economic Forum states that over a 10-year horizon, the health of the planet dominates concerns: environmental risks are perceived to be the five most critical long-term threats to the world as well as the most potentially damaging to people and planet, with “climate action failure”, “extreme weather”, and “biodiversity loss” ranking as the top three most severe risks. Human-induced climate change is causing dangerous and widespread disruption in nature and affecting the lives of billions of people around the world, despite efforts to reduce the risks. People and ecosystems least able to cope are being hardest hit. Non-degradable wastes being generated is increasing every minute and are the cause of contamination of natural resources and also causing harm to the humans. As per a recent report, a mass of plastic waste named as “Great Pacific Garbage Patch” approximately 1.6 million km in size, twice the size of Texas, is floating on the surface of Pacific Ocean.

This alarming situation is the major attention area and it is the need of the hour that Governments and non-government organizations involving individuals, communities, countries, and the globe as whole, aligns themselves with the basic principles of ‘sustainability’. Human society and economy are thriving on nature, and only harmonious existence will allow Homo sapiens to persist and thrive on this planet.

Sustainability emphasizes the need for society to conserve resources, protect natural ecosystems, minimize pollution and promote social equity. In 1987 the World Commission on Environment and Development, also popularly known as the Brundtland Report, defined development



A MASS OF PLASTIC WASTE NAMED AS “GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH” APPROXIMATELY 1.6M KM IN SIZE, TWICE THE SIZE OF TEXAS, IS FLOATING ON THE SURFACE OF PACIFIC OCEAN

*(The writer is a C.A. and Chairman, Sustainability Reporting Standards Board. The views expressed are personal.)*



as ‘sustainable’ when it ‘meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’. There are three pillars of sustainability - environment, society and economy. Environmental sustainability is the most familiar concept which emphasizes on not overusing natural resources and focus on their sustainable management. Global actions are required to protect natural ecosystems and biodiversity, for ensuring clean water and air. Social sustainability has the objective to ensure that everyone has access to basic necessities like, clean, water, adequate food, health-care, shelter, and human rights. It also means setting policies to encourage fair policies at workplace so that there is no exploitation and discrimination. Economic sustainability has been defined as practices that support long-term economic growth without negatively impacting social, environmental and cultural aspects of the community. Multi-level collaboration is required to achieve sustainability and address interconnected problems by balancing the needs of economic growth and resource conservation equally. We all should all take steps to incorporate sustainability into every aspect of our life. Our willingness to think and act differently by putting economic development and environment on equal footing as central parts of the same equation will help us resolve glaring problems like, air pollution, food shortage and food scarcity.

Entities can have positive impact on society and the economy by improving their sustainability performance. Sustainability

Reporting is gaining momentum year on year due to stakeholder’s ever-rising demands for more transparent and better communication regarding their sustainability practices, initiatives and performance. Much like their global counterparts, Indian corporates too are leaning towards the reporting frameworks to demonstrate their ability to create, preserve and grow value for a diverse stakeholder base.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has a strong tradition of service to the country towards sustainable as well as economic development. ICAI through Sustainability Reporting Standards Board (SRSB), has taken several initiatives in the sustainability domain and is working to strengthen the sustainability reporting ecosystem in the country. With a view to strengthen sustainability reporting ecosystem in the country, important publications like, Background Material on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) and Standard on Assurance Engagements (SAE) 3410 “Assurance Engagements on Greenhouse Gas Statements” have been released. Sustainability Reporting Maturity Model (SRMM) Version 1.0, a comprehensive scoring tool, has been developed to measure their sustainability performance in terms of four levels of maturity of sustainability reporting namely Level 1 to Level 4. Publication on “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Accountants Creating Sustainable World - Part 1, 2 and 3” has been developed to encourage all stakeholders to contribute towards the attainment of SDGs. ICAI

Sustainability Reporting Awards 2020-21 and ICAI Sustainability Reporting Awards 2020-21 are being conducted to recognize, reward and encourage Excellence of Businesses in Sustainability Reporting and bring to light their outstanding contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Capacity building of the chartered accountants in this emerging area is being done by conducting online Certificate on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting. Awareness initiatives like, Carbon Footprint Challenge, ICAI Sustainability Literacy Drive, Corporate film on Simple Steps to make our Planet Sustainable, Champions of SDGs and SDG Videos have also been undertaken. Contributing to the initiatives of SEBI to create an ecosystem via Social Stock Exchanges, ICAI is in the process of developing Social Audit Standards and working on Certification Course for Social Auditors.

ICAI is partnering with stakeholders, government, regulators, and others to help maximize contribution to SDGs and also collaborating with international bodies in advancing sustainability agenda. ICAI also welcomes the announcement of formation of new International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) by the IFRS Foundation (IFRSF) and extends full support towards convergence to a single set of sustainability reporting standards. New initiatives have been planned in the area of Sustainable Finance, Green Bonds, ESG rating and Climate related Financial Disclosures. ESG Talk show, sustainability awareness quiz, training program for board members on ESG, tree plantation drive are other initiatives in pipeline. All these initiatives are focused towards promoting sustainable organizations that create long-term value for investors and society.

A sustainable future requires that homo sapiens live within planetary boundaries in harmony with nature. Governments and policymakers should work together to enhance national implementation and strengthen institutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by the target date of 2030, leaving no one behind. As individuals, we all should contribute in addressing this global crisis by changing our mindset and habits and adopting sustainable choices in our day-to-day life. A healthy planet will thrive and nurture happy and safe survival for present and future generations.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

“MY BEST WISHES TO THE NEWLY APPOINTED PM...I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER WITH HIM TO MAKE SRI LANKA STRONG AGAIN.”  
— PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA  
GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA



“...MR. (RANIL) WICKREMESINGHE HAD NO LEGITIMACY IN THE CURRENT PARLIAMENT RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING. HE DID NOT EVEN WIN IN HIS CONSTITUENCY.”  
— MP, TAMIL NATIONAL ALLIANCE  
M A SUMANTHIRAN





## Exports up 30.7 pc to US\$ 40.19 bn in Apr; trade deficit widens

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports surged 30.7 per cent to USD 40.19 billion in April on account of healthy performance by sectors like petroleum products, electronic goods and chemicals, even as trade deficit widened to USD 20.11 billion during the month, the commerce ministry said on Friday.

Imports during the month under review grew by 30.97

per cent to USD 60.3 billion. The trade deficit in April 2021 was at USD 15.29 billion."After a record performance in the last financial year, the exports continued robust growth in April, 2022 with merchandise exports scaling a new high by crossing USD 40 billion," it said.

Petroleum and crude oil imports during the month rose by 87.54 per cent to USD 20.2 billion. Coal, Coke and Briquettes imports

jumped to USD 4.93 billion, as against USD 2 billion in April 2021.

Gold imports, however, dipped by about 72 per cent to USD 1.72 billion during the month under review, from USD 6.23 billion in April 2021.

Engineering goods exports increased by 15.38 per cent to USD 9.2 billion, while petroleum products exports soared 113.21 per cent to USD 7.73 billion.

## Reliance top-ranked Indian firm on Forbes Global 2000 list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd climbed two spots to No. 53 on Forbes' latest Global 2000 list of public companies worldwide.

Forbes Global 2000 ranks the largest companies in the world using four metrics: sales, profits, assets and market value, Forbes said releasing the 2022 ranking of the world's top 2,000 companies.

Reliance is the top-ranked Indian firm on the list, followed by State Bank of India at No. 105, HDFC Bank at No. 153 and ICICI Bank at No. 204. Other top 10 Indian firms on the list include state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at 228 rank, Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC) at No. 268, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) at No. 357, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) at No. 384, Tata Steel at No. 407 and Axis Bank at No. 431.

"Energy and banking sector corporations were among the highest-ranking Indian companies in Forbes' Global 2000 list of public companies this year," the publication said.

Oil-to-telecom-to-retail

conglomerate Reliance, which recorded sales of USD 104.6 billion between April 2021 and March 2022, became the first Indian company to generate over USD 100 billion in annual revenue.

"On the Global 2000, Reliance climbed two spots to No. 53 among all public companies worldwide and ranked first among Indian companies," it said. "Earlier this year, Forbes estimated Ambani's net worth to be USD 90.7 billion, landing him at No. 10 on this year's billionaires list." Mukesh's father Dhirubhai launched the business in the early 1960s, starting with import and export licences for nylon, rayon and polyester.

Today, the company's businesses include plastics and petrochemicals, mobile telecom services and retail.

With a market cap of USD 56.12 billion, SBI grabbed the No. 2 spot on the list of India's largest. "The bank, headquartered in Mumbai, has 24,000 branches and 62,617 ATMs across the country. Private sector banks ICICI and HDFC followed next on the Global 2000 list of Indian companies, highlighting the growth of the banking sector in India."

## Ford shelves plans to manufacture EVs in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

US auto major Ford has shelved plans to manufacture electric vehicles in India for exports despite getting approval from the government for production-linked incentives.

The company, which in September last year had announced that it would stop vehicle production at its two plants in the country as part of a restructuring exercise, said it is exploring other alternatives for its manufacturing facilities at Chennai and Sanand in Gujarat.

As part of the ongoing business restructuring in India, Ford has continued to explore possible alternatives for its manufacturing facilities. This included applying for the production-linked incentives scheme, which allowed us to explore utilising one of the plants as a potential EV manufacturing base, a Ford India spokesperson said.

"After careful review, we have decided to no longer pursue EV manufacturing for exports from any of the Indian plants. We remain grateful to the government for approving



our proposal under the Production-Linked Incentives and for being supportive while we continued our exploration," the spokesperson added.

Ford was among the 20 automotive firms, along with the likes of Tata Motors, Suzuki, Hyundai, Kia and Mahindra & Mahindra, that got approval for the Rs 25,938 crore Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the automobile industry in February this year.

On the future of the company's two plants, the spokesperson said, "Ford India's previously announced business restructuring continues as planned, including exploring other alternatives for our manufacturing facilities. We continue to work

closely with unions and other stakeholders to deliver an equitable and balanced plan to mitigate the impacts of restructuring."

The company has been reported to be in talks with homegrown auto major Tata Motors to sell its Sanand plant while it is scouting for buyers of the Chennai plant.

Last year, after nearly three decades of struggling to make a mark in India, Ford Motor Co decided to stop vehicle production at its two plants in the country and sell only imported vehicles going ahead as part of a restructuring exercise. The company, which invested about USD 2.5 billion at its Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Sanand (Gujarat) plants, has incurred losses of over USD 2 billion in India.

As per the plan, the vehicle assembly in Sanand plant was stopped by the fourth quarter of 2021 and, vehicle and engine manufacturing in Chennai will be stopped in the second quarter of 2022.

It will, however, continue to manufacture engines from its Sanand plant which will be exported to the company's global operations.

## MONEY MATTERS

### Brookfield-backed PIL, GAIL sign pact for hydrogen collaboration



hydrogen as a source of energy and thus build a partnership between the companies, official sources said. Pipeline Infrastructure Limited (PIL) is owned by India Infrastructure Trust, an infrastructure investment trust sponsored by Brookfield Asset Management, a global leader in alternative asset management and one of the largest investors in real assets. PIL owns and operates a 48-inch diameter, 1,480 km long Kakinada to Bharuch gas pipeline that connects major domestic supply hubs on the east to key demand centers in the west. It is a vital link in India's national gas grid. GAIL is India's largest gas transporting and marketing company. It owns about two-thirds of truck pipelines. Pipelines are a critical element in transporting hydrogen, a zero-carbon emitting energy source that has caught the fancy of the world. Several Indian firms including GAIL have announced plans to make hydrogen. Ayushli Agarwal, Assistant Vice President (Strategic Planning & New Initiatives), PIL and Ashu Singhal, Executive Director, GAIL signed the MoU in the presence of PIL CEO Akhil Mehrotra and GAIL Director (Business Development) M V Iyer.

Brookfield Asset Management-based Pipeline Infrastructure Ltd has signed a pact with state-owned GAIL for jointly developing a hydrogen-based ecosystem in India. The MoU aims at collectively exploring the feasibility, desirability and viability of

### Serum Institute, Symbiosis to set up research centre for vaccine development



The R&D (Research & Development) centre will lead the development of new vaccines, technologies, products and innovations in immunisation practices that provide equitable access to life-saving interventions, especially across Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). The entity will work towards improving health equity against future pandemics and infectious diseases. It will also ensure cross-programme coordination and collaboration, as the facility will be an ecosystem that would also have R&D centres for stem cells, nanotechnology, medical image analysis, applied artificial intelligence and waste resource management, among others.

Serum Institute of India on Friday said it has signed an agreement with the Symbiosis International University earlier this month to set up a research centre for vaccines and biologics.

## Emirates Air lost \$1 billion, but that's an 80% improvement

PNS ■ DUBAI

One of the world's biggest airlines and the Mideast's top carrier, Emirates Air, said Friday it lost USD 1.1 billion over the past fiscal year, but that figure still marks an 80% improvement from the year before. The airline said revenue was up 91%, reaching USD 16.1 billion. As Emirates Air claws it way out of the worst of the pandemic, its main hub of Dubai International Airport remains the busiest in international travel.

Emirates expects to climb out of the red and see profits this year as it plans to start paying back its shareholder, the Dubai government, some of the USD 4 billion it threw the airline to stay afloat amid COVID-19 lockdowns.

The carrier's success and financial health is seen as a bellwether of Dubai's own economy, which relies heavily



on tourism, foreign investments and real estate purchases by the world's elite.

The emirate, which is part of the United Arab Emirates, was quick to swing open its doors to foreign travelers with few requirements for entry after a brief, but extremely stringent lockdown period in 2020.

Chairman and chief executive of Emirates, Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, said business recovery picked up pace in the second

half of the fiscal year, with demand for travel coming back. It's unclear how much of that was related to travel to visitors coming to Dubai to experience its six-month-long World Fair, or Expo, that ended in March.

The airline had posted a staggering USD 5.5 billion loss in the previous fiscal year — the first time the airline had not churned out a profit in more than three decades.

## Swiggy to acquire Dineout

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On-demand convenience platform Swiggy on Friday said it has entered into a definitive agreement with Times Internet to acquire dining out and restaurant tech platform Dineout for an undisclosed sum.

Dineout, which serves diners across its network of 50,000 restaurants in 20 cities, will continue to operate as an independent app post the acquisition, Swiggy said in a statement. Founders of Dineout -- Ankit Mehrotra, Nikhil Bakshi, Sahil Jain and

Vivek Kapoor -- will join Swiggy once the acquisition is completed, it added.

"The acquisition will allow Swiggy to explore synergies and offer new experiences in a high-use category," Swiggy CEO Sriharsha Majety said.

Dineout co-founder & CEO Ankit Mehrotra said, "We strongly feel that with Swiggy's deep understanding of the ecosystem and our shared passion for a superior consumer and restaurant experience, our joint forces will help provide a holistic platform in this industry."



### Elon Musk says Twitter deal 'temporarily on hold'

PNS ■ LONDON

Elon Musk said Friday that his planned \$44 billion purchase of Twitter is "temporarily on hold" pending details on spam and fake accounts on the social media platform. It's another twist after signs of internal turmoil amid the Tesla billionaire's planned buyout of the company, including that Twitter fired two of its top managers Thursday. It wasn't clear whether the fake account issue could scuttle the deal.

### Iran arrests at least 22 persons protesting staple food price hikes

PNS ■ TEHRAN

Iranian authorities have arrested at least 22 demonstrators who had been protesting sudden price hikes of subsidised staple foods in two southern cities, state media reported early on Friday.

The arrests follow Iran's announcement this week that the cost of cooking oil, chicken, eggs and milk would rise by as much as 300 per cent as food prices surge across the Middle East due to global supply chain snarls and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

## G7 unite against Russia; EU pledges funds to Ukraine

PNS ■ WEISSENHAUS

The European Union is giving Ukraine another 500 million euros (\$520 million) to buy heavy weapons to fend off the Russian invasion, the bloc's foreign affairs chief said Friday at a gathering in Germany of top diplomats from the Group of Seven wealthy nations.

Josep Borrell, the EU's high representative for foreign policy, said he was also hopeful of getting the bloc's member nations to agree to an oil embargo against Russia soon, despite misgivings from some countries.

"We will provide a new tranche of 500 more millions to support the military of Ukraine," Borrell told reporters ahead of the G-7 meeting in Weissenhaus, on



Germany's Baltic Sea coast. The funds would be allocated for the purchase of heavy weapons and take the EU's total financial support for Ukraine to 2 billion euros (\$2.1 billion), he added.

Top diplomats from Germany, Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan and the United States also are attending the meeting. They plan to seek more ways to pile pres-

sure on Russia through economic sanctions, isolate Moscow internationally and to counter disinformation spread by Russia, Borrell said.

EU diplomats are scheduled to hold talks Monday on a possible embargo of Russian oil. Hungary has resisted the move because of its heavy dependence on Russian imports, but Borrell expressed optimism.

## More lives lost in road accidents than in war, says V K Singh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India loses more people in road accidents than in a war, Union Minister General (ret'd) V K Singh said on Friday.

Addressing an event organised by industry body ASSOCHAM, Singh said road safety is the most important issue which the government needs to tackle.

"More than 1.35 lakh people lose their lives due to road accidents every year...this number of people whom we lose every year (due to road accidents), is worse than fighting a war," the Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways said.

The minister lamented that unfortunately, road safety is considered something that



**Addressing an event organised by industry body ASSOCHAM, Singh said road safety is the most important issue which the government needs to tackle.**

comes once a year. "We have road safety week. We upgraded it to road safety month," he said, adding his view is that it should be a 365-day affair.

"It's not confined to one week, it is not confined to a

month because there is so much at stake," Singh emphasised.

According to recent government data, total 3,66,138 road accidents occurred in India during 2020, causing 1,31,714 deaths.

## Escorts Q4 net drops 28 pc to Rs 190 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Farm machinery and construction equipment major Escorts Ltd on Friday reported a 28.42 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 189.98 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 2022, impacted by lower sales.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 265.41 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal, Escorts said in a regulatory filing.

Consolidated revenue from operations during the quarter under review stood at Rs 1,878.51 crore as against Rs 2,228.75 crore in the year-ago period.

For the quarter ended March 2022, tractor volumes were at 21,895 units, down 32.8 per cent as against 32,588 units in the year-ago period, the company said.

Construction equipment

sales in the fourth quarter were at 1,286 units, down 19.8 per cent from 1,604 units earlier.

For the fiscal ended March 31, 2022, Escorts said its consolidated net profit was at Rs 735.61 crore as compared to Rs 871.63 crore in the previous fiscal, down 15.6 per cent.

Revenue from operations for FY22 came in at Rs 7,238.43 crore as compared to Rs 7,014.42 crore in FY21.

Escorts Ltd Chairman and Managing Director Nikhil Nanda said the farm sector is seeing some positive tailwinds.

"With prediction of a normal monsoon and good news on crop prices and production, we hope this sector will continue to flourish," he said, adding the construction and railway sectors have also shown signs of improvement.

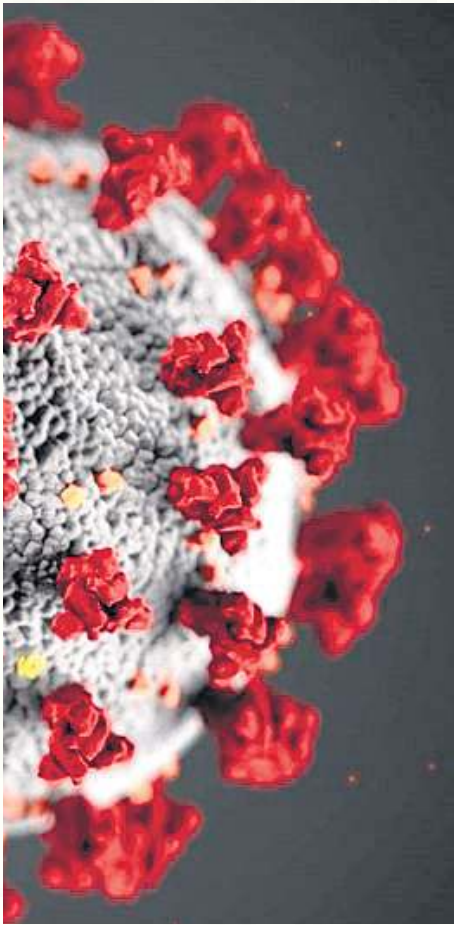
## Fynd to hire over 1,200 engineers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

RIL-backed omnichannel platform Fynd on Friday said it plans to hire over 1,200 engineers this year and 30 per cent of them will be recruited from Ahmedabad. From Gujarat, the company will look for skilled developers from python, full stack, NodeJS, angular, java, and DevOps engineers across all levels, it said. "We aim to strengthen the company's existing engineering and product teams and welcome innovative minds to our growth-oriented team of over 640 members. The onboarding of extensive developers from Ahmedabad city shall further support our strenuous efforts of building and delivering next generation cutting edge tech products from scratch," Fynd Co-Founder Farooq Adam said.



## Attention! Beware of Omicron XE Variant symptoms in kids



frequent handwashing, wearing masks, limited interactions in closed rooms and social distancing.”

Keeping all of this in mind, it is advised that parents vaccinate their children, consult your pediatrician, and stay calm.

This variant mainly has an effect on the upper respiratory tract and children tend to have higher upper respiratory tract infections as compared to adults making them more vulnerable. The first symptoms are a sore throat, then a dry cough and fever, perspiration, weakness—all the symptoms typical of acute upper respiratory diseases.

Dr Supriya Awasthi, Professor, School of Allied Health Sciences, Noida International Institute of Medical Sciences, “Cold-like symptoms such as a runny nose, persistent sneezing, sore throat along with a headache and cough had become more common. In children, Omicron can lead to gastrointestinal illnesses with symptoms including high fever, diarrhoea, and vomiting, which may cause dehydration.

If you notice any of these symptoms, we recommend that you be tested immediately, so that you can begin the treatment process on time. Otherwise, it will be more difficult to avoid complications.”

Dr Abhilasha Kochhar, Sr. Microbiologist, Metropolis Healthcare Ltd, “It is recommended and encouraged to vaccinate children in eligible age group i.e., 12 years and above as on the day of vaccination (as per the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare guidelines). This will help in reducing severity of disease and complications such as MIS-C (Multi System Inflammatory Syndrome in children) and post-COVID induced diabetes. Other than that, it has been suggested that as with all coronavirus strains, it is best to follow COVID appropriate behaviour and safety mitigation steps like

The Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus has been the object of immense speculation in global and domestic media. Presently, Omicron is the predominant strain in circulation. While the transmission rate of Omicron in comparison with other variants of concern is higher, available data suggests that disease caused by this strain is less severe than other COVID strains. Omicron has also been a cause of anxiety because of parents concern regarding their children. Seeing as those aged less than 12 years are still not eligible for vaccination, impact of Omicron on children is a point of concern. In discussions with pediatricians who had the experience of treating children in the last wave and from data presently available, the infection in children

## Hyderabad, a special home away from home

TALIB ZAFFER

When Fowzia Afaq (now Dr Fowzia Afaq) from the valley of Kashmir came to Hyderabad in 2011, little did she know about what was there in the store for her.

In this edition of the Hyderabad, we bring to you the deeply intimate association of Dr Fowzia with the city. Right from how Hyderabad shaped her career to her wedding shopping, meeting the King Khan to meeting her husband for the first time, every-

thing about her journey from a girl who came here to learn to a woman who professes.

### Association with Hyderabad:

My association with the place started way back in 2011, although there was a gap in between. I came here to do my masters. I wanted to do my masters in Urdu literature first, but I was from a mass media background so I studied the subject at Maulana Azad University. After that I had to go back home for a couple of years, But in 2015, I got my PhD admission back here. I completed my PhD by around 2019, went back home again, and now I teach here as an

Assistant Professor. The association with the city has helped me shape my career and life. I came here as a young girl and now I am here as a woman who is an assistant professor, that is a journey in itself.

### Best memory in Hyderabad:



### Meeting my husband here:

I met my husband here for the first time at a University program. So, in a way most of the good things in my life have actually happened here. After we got married because he was already working here, I decided to settle here too with him. I also love literature, especially Urdu literature. I have met a lot of people here who appreciated and enhanced my interest and craft in poetry. I even met my best teachers here, who guided and supported me all the way through, which honestly I might have never gotten in Kashmir.

I have a lot of good memories here-going out with friends, roaming around the city, making documentary films, but if I had to choose one I would choose when I got the Gold medal for my masters in our convocation in 2016. That day they had invited ShahRukh Khan, the President of India and Sanjiv Saraf, the founder of Rekhta. Also, the day I got my PHD in 2019. These days will always be etched in memory because they changed my life.

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### Everything about Hyderabad is so welcoming:

I absolutely love this city; the people, the cul-

ture, and the cuisines. Everything about Hyderabad is so welcoming. It feels like a mix of many cultures that has space for everyone. And, especially coming from a Muslim family, the city in itself is very relatable. On the other hand, for a Kashmiri girl who has grown up around Mountains and lakes the summers are very harsh here. Along with that, the traffic jams are the only things that I would want to change about the city.

As a woman I feel Hyderabad is a very safe place compared to various parts of the country. You can go anywhere you want all alone without any sort of fear. There is a sense of inclusiveness here. Nobody treats you differently because of where you come from. I even did all my wedding shopping here. I even met my best friends Musheera, Afsana, Najma here. This city has given me a lot. It has become my second home and it will always have a special place in my Heart.



# HYDERABOND

## Budget-friendly ways to make your home look stylish



Home is the most prized possession in an individual's life. We generally view our house to be a warm resting place after a long hectic day. People tend to be always on board for making changes and redoing interiors to keep it updated while following the ongoing trends. We have that uncontrollable urge to make it complete with all things necessary so that nothing is missing from our own little paradise. Changing your interiors can generally take a toll considering the heavy cost that includes the price. Find below some perfect Budget-friendly ways to make your home look stylish as Priti Lohiya, MD, Priti International Ltd. lists them:

### Incorporate multi-function furniture:

Multi-function furniture has become the new normal post-pandemic. These multi-utility furniture pieces do the trick and enhance your interiors while bearing minimal cost. Look out for a sofa-cum-bed which can

be used dually for the price of one. Similarly, coffee tables can act as a light refreshment table and work desks during office hours. These space-saving furniture items don't make a hole in your pockets.

### Go for the minimalist decor trend:

Minimalistic interiors are the current ongoing trend in the home decor industry. Less is more is what is portrayed through this trend. Minimalistic approach tends to do justice to redoing your house by maximising spaces with minimum furniture. This is a quick method for invigorating the vibe of your space by revising the furnishings. Make the ideal use of the space while putting your furnishings. Make a format that will make your home look more open. Example: Go for a bookshelf in one corner and a lounge chair in the other.

### Add that much-needed lighting effect:

The lighting in the house can have a major

effect. Guarantee that there is a great deal of regular light coming in over the course of the day. To make it a comfortable climate in the evening, you should simply add lights, pixie lights, or candles. Follow this home stylistic layout thought for your room to add a heartfelt vibe.

### Add colours:

You can change the appearance of the house by switching around your textures. Change your cushion covers, floor carpets and rugs, and draperies to give your space a new and fresh look. A definitive home-style thought for your living room is to layer various surfaces with different colors. This will add that little additional oomph to your family room.

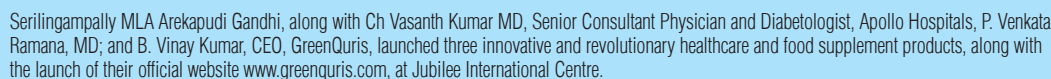
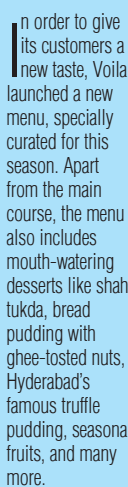
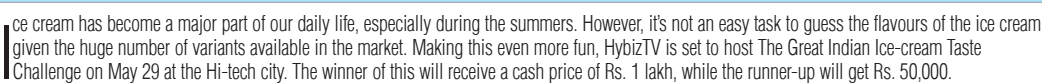
Styling your home can be a daunting task. Make sure you enjoy this process and incorporate your vibe into your interiors. Little efforts can make a remarkable difference. Go ahead and use these tips for that perfect makeover of your house.



# *what's brewing?*



Actresses Ritika Chakraborty, Divya Narni, along with a few models and fashion enthusiasts, graced the grand curtain raiser of Sutra Fashion and Lifestyle wedding special exhibition in the city on Friday. The exhibition will commence from May 20 and will go on till May 22 at Hotel Taj Krishna, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.



FUN

I'M GOING THROUGH YOUR LUGGAGE. WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE I'M DOING?

DID MOMMY AND DADDY RAISE YOU YOURSELVES, OR DID THEY JUST UNTIE YOU FOR MY VISIT?

DIDN'T YOU BRING ME A PRESENT? I CAN'T FIND ONE ANYWHERE.

THE ADVERTISING BOARD OF AMERICA REQUESTS THAT YOU NOT REPRODUCE THIS CARTOON WITHOUT PERMISSION.

THE GUY WITH TWO ROCKS SAID HE'D BE HERE TO RESTART THE FIRE BETWEEN 10:00 AND 4:00.

1		2					3	4		5
						6				
7					8					
				9						
	10									
11								12		
			13							
		14								15
16							17			
18					19					

**Yesterday's solution**

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

**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.

A comic strip set at night. Three children are sitting on a green grassy hill. On the left, a girl with red hair in pigtails wears a pink shirt. In the middle, a boy with red hair wears a blue shirt. On the right, a smaller boy with grey hair wears a green shirt. A small white dog sits between the girl and the boy in the middle. They are looking up at a dark night sky filled with stars. Two large white speech bubbles contain their dialogue. In the background, there are two simple houses with lit windows. The comic is signed 'Barthel' in the top right corner.

**SPEECH BUBBLE 1:** WHAT ARE ALL THOSE CRATERS IN THE MOON FROM?

**SPEECH BUBBLE 2:** CRICKET BALL MARKS FROM WHEN I'M BATTING.

**CAPTION:** THERE'S ONLY TWO WAYS TO TRAVELL... FIRST CLASS OR WITH KIDS!

**CREDITS:** Dist. By Andrews McMeel Syndication | enlgermegg.com

1 A sheep's coat	6 Watch
3 Halt	9 Female tiger
7 A tangle in your hair	11 Tremble with cold
8 Get	12 A bed for a baby
10 Sets fire to	14 Cold winter flakes
13 Courage	15 Sunrise

1 Counterfeit  
2 As much as is needed  
4 Rip  
5 Draw with this

Page 10





# “I want to explore the city more,” says Pavitra Nayak

PNS | HYDERABAD

**N**uvvu Nenu Prema, Star Maa's new project, which is the adaptation of a popular Star Plus daily soap *Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon?* is going live on the channel from May 16.

This project will see yet another new face making her way in Telugu tinsel-town. Ahead of the launch, we caught up with the leading actress of the serial Pavithra B Naik. Pavithra is originally from Bengaluru, Karnataka and has worked in the Sandalwood entertainment industry. This is the first time that she is acting in Telugu and her experience, she says has been memorable.

“This is the first time that I am doing a Telugu project. I knew the language a little bit but wasn't as fluent in it, so had to work on it,” said the actress.

When we asked what made her choose this project to debut in Telugu industry, she credits her debut to her character in the serial, which is lively and bubbly. She feels her character is so relatable to everyone.

“I really liked the character because this is the first time that I am doing such a character, so it was a chal-



lenge. I have done many characters in Kannada and

there I have done more of soft characters and of girls

who are very less spoken and reserved, this is different so I like it,” said the youngster.

Like any other new entrant, Pavithra is head over heels about this project and can't wait for the audience to watch her on their screens. “The preparation for this was very good, I was very happy when they approached me for this serial. This is a remake of the well-known Hindi serial *Iss Pyaar ko kya naam doon*. I was a fan of this serial beforehand. I used to follow it from day 1 till its last episode. Since I already knew about the character, I am very much related to the serial because I have a sister in real life and even the character has a sister. The character is similar to what I am in real life,” she added. Sharing about her association with the city of pearls, the actress said, “I have been here only a few times, on trips with my friends mostly. Now that I am here for work, I would love to explore the City. Even the cast and crew of Nuvvu Nenu Prema was very supportive, I was so happy when they offered me the role, and working with my co-star Swaminathan was great, he was also very cooperative.”

The show will air every Monday to Saturday at 6.30 pm on Star Maa.

**A**ctor Siddharth has been a part of numerous projects but has never essayed the role of a content moderator, which incidentally is his next performance in Disney+ Hotstars upcoming series — *Escapade Live*. Sharing details about his character in his OTT debut project, Siddharth spelt out his own views on social media as well.

“I play a content moderator in *Escapade Live*. It's a character that enables you to see the world of *Escapade* through him and his ambitions and motivations. As far as social media is concerned in today's world, it's important to strike a balance to its exposure. Excess of anything is bad. And in today's time, people need to have more real interactions as compared to virtual gratification. The internet is a make-believe place which mirrors your real life. An individual needs to be as careful as one can be.”

*Escapade Live* is a fictional story,

penned by Jaya Mishra and Siddharth Kumar Tewary, that could very well be true and real. The story features a bunch of content creators, on different paths but one goal, to produce viral content to emerge victorious in a life-changing competition announced by the hottest new app in the country called *Escapade Live*. Produced under Siddharth Kumar Tewary's One Life Studios, the nine-episode series emphasizes on the human tendency to be competitive and the drive to succeed. The series explores the lengths content creators and tech giants are willing to travel to achieve their aspirations.

Set across different cities of India, the series leveraged different dialogue writers for each city to add regional authenticity. Dance Rani story based in Jaisalmer saw her dialogues being penned by Vinod

Sharma while Amcha's lines were penned by Amol Surve. Similarly, Banaras-based characters of Meenakumari and Sunaina's dialogues were written by Ranveer Pratap Singh while Darkie and Festish Girl's dialogues were penned by Jaya Mishra and Siddharth Kumar Tewary. The

cast includes Jaaved Jaferi, Shweta Tripathi Sharma, Sumedh Mudgalkar, Swastika Mukherjee, Plabita Borthakur, Walsucha D'Souza, Ritvik Sahore, Geetika Vidya Ohlyan, Jagjeet Sandhu, Rohit Chandel and child actor Aadyaa Sharma among others.



Important to strike a balance with social media exposure, says Siddharth

## Films to watch this week on OTT

### 1. Bhala Thandanana



The film directed by Chaitanya Dantuluri of *Banam* fame featured Catherine Tresa as the female lead and Ramachandra Rau as the antagonist. According to the latest, the film's OTT premieres are confirmed. The film will be streamed on Disney+ Hotstar OTT from May 20.

### 2. RRR



RRR the S.S. Rajamouli-directed film that took the country

by storm with its box office receipts will now be released on OTT a few months after its worldwide theatrical release. Jr NTR and Ram Charan's epic *RRR* will be released on a popular OTT on May 20 ON Zee 5.

### 3. Morbius (Telugu dub)



The superhero film *Morbius* hit the Indian cinema theaters on April 1, 2022. Helmed by Daniel Espinosa, *Morbius* is based on a Marvel Comics character of the

same name which was written by Roy Thomas along with Gil Kane. The film is made under the big banners Columbia Pictures with the collaboration of Marvel Entertainment. The Telugu dubbed version of *Morbius* will release on the OTT platform BMS Stream on May 19.

### 4. Acharya

Chiranjeevi and Ram Charan-starrer *Acharya* to have global digital premiere on Prime Video on 20 May. The Telugu action drama also stars Kajal Aggarwal, Pooja Hegde, Sonu Sood and Jisshu Sengupta in pivotal roles.



Director Atlee appreciates the team of Don

The film 'Don', which hit the screens on May 13, is directed by Siva Karthikeyan and has received positive reviews from all quarters. Leaving the illogical cinematic liberties apart, the film is said to contain equal amounts of comedy and emotion. Tamil director Atlee, who took to Twitter, congratulated the entire team as he wrote, “Don emotional family entertainer @Siva\_Kartikeyan super performance da, lovely

great movie emotionally moved to keep rocking love you da. Congrats to the entire team”, Atlee added.

A video was also posted by the director of ‘Theri’, along with the above message, which was shot from the theatre during his watch.

‘Don’, starring Sivakarthikeyan, SJ Suryah, and Samuthirakani and directed by Cibi

Chakravarthi, is a fun entertainer with a message. While the ending is a little preachy, ‘Don’ manages to impress for the most part.

Siva Karthikeyan's next project will be with Telugu director Anudeep, who is best known for the superhit parody drama ‘Jathi Ratnalu’.

Rashmika Mandanna and Ritu Varma will play the female lead in this bilingual Telugu-Tamil film.



It's official! Samuthirakani to direct Pawan Kalyan's upcoming multi-starrer

Samuthirakani, who plays one of the main characters in the recently released *Sarkaru Vaari Paata*, has revealed details about his upcoming project.

Samuthirakani confirmed in a recent candid interview that he will soon direct Pawan Kalyan.

“Fans will receive good news soon. As I am myself a fan of Pawan Kalyan, I will direct Pawan Kalyan keeping a fan's point of view in consideration,” says

Samuthirakani. Pawan Kalyan will star in an intriguing remake of the Tamil film *Vinodhaya Sitham*, as previously reported. The Telugu remake will be directed by actor Samuthirakani, who also directed the Tamil version. In this much-anticipated remake, Pawan Kalyan and his nephew Sai Dharam Tej will star together.

Trivikram Srinivas is also expected to pen the screenplay. Featuring Samuthirakani,

Thambi Ramaiah, and Munishkanth in the lead roles, the original movie *Vinodhaya Sitham* was released last year.

The story revolves around a tragic car accident, in which a self-centered and dominating man dies, and on his request, he is given an additional 90 days to live so that he can make things right.

The Telugu remake of *Vinodhaya Sitham* is expected to begin in July.

## Rashmika, Kiara in race for Spirit

Prabhas, who recently appeared in *Radhe Shyam* alongside Pooja Hegde, is now busily shooting for his next movie *Project K* under Nag Ashwin's direction. Prabhas will next star in a movie titled *Spirit*, which will be directed by Arjun Reddy fame Sandeep Reddy Vanga. Apparently, either

Rashmika Mandanna or Kiara Advani will be paired with Prabhas in his upcoming thriller drama, *Spirit*.

It is reported that Sandeep feels either Rashmika or Kiara will best suit Prabhas in the film and he will be locking one of them for the film soon. Notably, Sandeep is already collaborat-

ing with Rashmika for Ranbir Kapoor's *Animal*.

Kiara, on the other hand, is to star opposite Ram Charan under Shankar Shanmugam's direction.

*Spirit* will hit the floors once Prabhas wraps up his current commitments- *Project K* and *Salaar*.







## Donnarumma says PSG must choose him or Navas next season

AP ■ PARIS

Gianluigi Donnarumma has warned Paris Saint-Germain that they must choose between him and rival goalkeeper Keylor Navas next season.

Italian Donnarumma signed from AC Milan last summer to join veteran Navas, 35, who has been in the French capital since leaving Real Madrid in 2019.

Despite stressing his "very good relationship" with Navas, Donnarumma insisted it was out of the question to share the job next season.

"No, I think it will surely not happen like that, because I think the club will make choices," Donnarumma said.

"We're two good guys, we understand the situation, but it was hard, and for him too, but let's say that we managed it well."

Donnarumma said "yes of course" he wanted to stay next season with his contract running until 2026.

The 23-year-old lifted his first league title with PSG, while for Costa Rican Navas it was a second in France to join the La Liga trophy and three Champions League trophies he won in Spain.

"It's beautiful, it's my first league title, I'm very happy, and it's my first trophy with the Paris Saint-Germain shirt," said

Donnarumma.

"I'm very proud to belong to a great, very ambitious club, always aiming higher."

Donnarumma arrived in France after being named the best player in the European championships which Italy won.

"The debut was not easy, because it was my first outside Italy, in a new club, a new city (but) pressure, no," explained Donnarumma, who had spent six years in Milan.

"I feel a big family behind me, a big club, the welcome was great, and after it was easier for me."

Donnarumma said it hadn't been an "easy" season, giving it seven out of 10.

"I know I can do more," he said. "I haven't played so many matches, only half, that wasn't easy. In the conditions I experienced, I couldn't give the maximum, but I'm convinced that I can give a lot more to this team and this club."

In addition to PSG's Champions League exit to Real Madrid in the last 16, Donnarumma's Italy failed to qualify for a second straight World Cup.

"It was hard, very hard," he sighed.

"The following days were very difficult, but there is no going back. What we did at the Euro will remain in history, we have achieved something incredible."

# It's Liverpool vs Chelsea in FA Cup final



AP ■ LONDON

Liverpool will bid to keep their quadruple chase alive in Saturday's FA Cup final against a Chelsea side hoping to welcome incoming owner Todd Boehly with victory at Wembley.

Jürgen Klopp's men have four matches left in their historic attempt to become the first English team to win all four major trophies in one season.

They beat Chelsea to lift the League Cup in February and have reached the finals of the FA Cup and Champions League, where they face Real Madrid on May 28.

No English club has come this close to such an incredible clean sweep, but Liverpool know their hopes of winning the Premier League are starting to fade.

Manchester City moved three points clear of the second-placed Reds

with a 5-1 win at Wolves on Wednesday and need four points from their last two games against West Ham and Aston Villa to retain the crown.

If a second English title in three seasons proves beyond Liverpool despite their blistering form in the second half of the season, then winning two more cup competitions would be a memorable consolation.

First up is a rematch with Chelsea, who fought gamely in an intense League Cup final in February before Liverpool prevailed 11-10 in the shootout that followed a 0-0 draw.

Liverpool and Chelsea are the first English teams to meet in both domestic finals in the same year since Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday in 1993.

Klopp's side will hope they emulate Arsenal, who did the cup double against Wednesday that season.

But, in their 60th game this season,



## Man City unveil Aguero statue

AP ■ MANCHESTER

One of the most famous moments in Premier League history has been immortalized outside the Etihad Stadium in Manchester.

To mark the 10-year anniversary of Sergio Aguero's title-clinching goal against Queens Park Rangers in 2012, Manchester City unveiled a statue of the Argentine striker celebrating his dramatic strike.

"Truthfully, it is a very beautiful thing for me, to see myself 10 years ago is very moving," Aguero said.

"In those 10 years, I was able to win a lot of trophies and was able to help the club become one of the most important in the world."

"I am very grateful to the club for making this statue in recognition of my football career in Manchester. It is something very special."

fatigue could be a threat to Liverpool's hopes of a first FA Cup triumph since 2006. In a bid to keep his stars fresh, Klopp made several changes in Tuesday's win at Villa, yet still lost Brazil midfielder Fabinho to an injury that rules him out of the final.

The history chasers will be back on league duty at Southampton on Tuesday and, aware of the strain on the squad, Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson called for one last push, starting at Wembley.

## Villa seal permanent deal for Coutinho



AP ■ BIRMINGHAM

Aston Villa completed the permanent signing of Barcelona playmaker Philippe Coutinho on Thursday in a deal the La Liga club said is worth 20 million euros.

The Brazilian has impressed since arriving at Villa on loan in January after struggling to make an impact at Barcelona.

Barca confirmed the transfer includes a 50 percent sell-on clause

if Coutinho leaves Villa.

The former Liverpool star, who has scored four times and contributed three assists for Villa, has agreed a contract that runs until 2026.

"This is a brilliant signing for Aston Villa," Villa boss Steven Gerrard told the club's website.

"Phil is a model professional and his impact on the group has been very clear since he joined in January."

## Spurs win North London derby

AP ■ LONDON

Harry Kane scored twice as Tottenham beat 10-man Arsenal 3-0 on Thursday with a north London derby masterclass that kept alive their hopes of finishing in the Premier League's top four.

Antonio Conte's side would have been eliminated from the race to qualify for next season's Champions League if they had lost to their bitter rivals on Thursday.

But Kane tormented Arsenal once again as the Tottenham striker opened the scoring with a controversial penalty.

Crucially, Arsenal's Rob Holding was sent off for two bookings in seven minutes.

Kane netted again before the interval and Son Heung-min bagged Tottenham's third goal in the second half.

Instead of sealing a return to the Champions League for the first time since the 2016-17 season, fourth-placed Arsenal now face a nerve-jangling conclusion to the top-four battle.

Arsenal still hold a slender advantage, but the end of their four-match winning run leaves them just one point ahead of fifth-placed Tottenham, with both sides having two games left.



Conte said several weeks ago that it would be a "miracle" if Tottenham reached the Champions League given their lowly position when he replaced the sacked Nuno Espirito Santo in November.

But their victory in arguably the biggest north London derby since Arsenal won the league at White Hart Lane in 2004 ensured that miracle could still come true.

Conte believes finishing in the top four is "like winning

a title in another country, a big achievement" given the depth of talent and wealth at the top of the Premier League.

To decide who takes the lucrative prize, Tottenham host struggling Burnley on Sunday then travel to relegated Norwich, while Mikel Arteta's men visit Newcastle on Monday and entertain Everton.

Arteta's bewildered expression throughout Arsenal's capitulation suggested it is far from certain he will be able to

lift his players to finish the job.

Third-placed Chelsea, five points above Tottenham, will likely need a draw from their last two games to be sure of their top-four place given their vastly superior goal difference.

As well as the huge European stakes for both sides, Tottenham also felt lingering resentment about Arsenal's successful appeal to have this fixture postponed in January due to Covid and injury problems.

## Benzema equals Raul's Real goal record

AP ■ MADRID

Karim Benzema continues to add his name to Real Madrid's record books, scoring his 323rd goal on Thursday to draw level with Raúl González as the club's second-highest scorer behind Cristiano Ronaldo.

Benzema netted in the first half of the team's 6-0 rout of last-place Levante in the Spanish league, with Madrid having secured the title a few rounds ago.

The result sealed Levante's relegation after five consecutive years in the first division.

Vinicius Junior, Benzema's trusted attacking partner all season, scored a hat trick for Madrid as it continues to prepare for the Champions League final against Liverpool in Paris on May 28, when it will try to win a record-extending 14th European title.

Benzema is now 128 goals shy of the 451 scored by Ronaldo, who played at the club until 2018.

Benzema's close-range header in the 19th minute off a cross by Vinicius gave the French striker his league-leading 27th goal, which is nine better than any other player in the competition this season. He has scored more than a third of Madrid's 77



league goals so far.

It was the 20th goal in the last 15 matches in all competitions for Benzema, who has been key in the team's run to the Champions League final, scoring decisive goals in every knockout round of the European tournament — including two hat tricks.

He could have added another goal on Thursday but unselfishly fed Vinicius the ball for the team's fifth after clearing the goalkeeper inside the area.

Vinicius had netted his first goal in the first half before closing the scoring in the final minutes for his maiden hat trick with Madrid. Ferland Mendy and Rodrygo scored their goals before halftime. Benzema was replaced in the 75th along with Luka Modric, who set up three of Madrid's goals.

## Lewa turns down Bayern extension

MUNICH: Robert Lewandowski has opened the door to a high-profile transfer after telling Bayern Munich that he will not be extending his contract beyond June 2023 when it expires, German media reported on Friday.

The 33-year-old Poland international forward has scored 343 goals for Bayern

and twice picked up FIFA's Player of the Year Award since joining from Dortmund in 2014.

"Goal machine Robert Lewandowski will leave the club no later than the summer of 2023," claimed the daily *Sport Bild*.

"In recent weeks, FIFA's 2021 Player of the Year told

his bosses at Bayern that he would not extend his contract, which is still valid for one year."

The Sport1 site, citing its own sources, confirmed this information.

According to several reports, Lewandowski has recently been in contact with Barcelona. AP

# Tsitsipas sees off Sinner to reach Rome semis

AP ■ ROME

Stefanos Tsitsipas reached the semi-finals of the Italian Open on Friday after beating local hero Jannick Sinner 7-6 (7/5) 6-2 in a match which was stopped for over 10 minutes at match point after a spectator fell ill.

World number five Tsitsipas has already won the Monte Carlo Masters this season and reached the last four in impressive style against Italian Sinner, who was in his first ever Rome quarter-final.

Next up Tsitsipas will face Alexander Zverev, who made the semis after comfortably seeing off Cristian Garin, the only unseeded player left in the tournament, 7-5, 6-2.

It will be the third time in the space of a month that the German will meet the Greek in the last four, with the pair sharing the honours from clashes in Monte Carlo and Madrid.

The Greek finally took the opening set after breaking Sinner to take

the tie-break to 6-5 and from their his opponent didn't recover.

The fervent atmosphere was finally dampened when Tsitsipas broke Sinner in game three and world number 13 Sinner had no reply, losing his serve again to love in game seven.

Sinner's fate seem sealed but at match point for Tsitsipas someone in the crowd appeared to collapse and play was stopped amid loud whistles directed at the umpire who wanted to continue.

What seemed like an age passed before the spectator was stretched out of centre court and Tsitsipas could finally serve his match point, and a simple passing shot from Sinner's miscalculated drop shot sent him through.

### SABALENKA WINS

Tsitsipas will take number four spot in the world rankings on Monday after Rafael Nadal's shock third-round exit at the hands of Denis Shapovalov on Thursday night.



Shapovalov faces Casper Ruud knowing a win would give him a possible semi-final against Novak Djokovic, who is in action in the day's final match against Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Djokovic needs to beat Canada's Auger-Aliassime in order to maintain top spot in the world rankings, a position he has held for a record 369 weeks.

Aryna Sabalenka reached the women's semi-finals after beating Amanda Anisimova 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 and setting up a potential clash with world number one Iga Swiatek.

Third seed Sabalenka beat American Anisimova for the first time in five attempts and now awaits the result of Swiatek's last-eight match with Bianca Andreescu.

Anisimova had ended Sabalenka's Madrid title defence in the first round at the end of last month. Swiatek, the reigning champion in Rome, is on a run of 25 straight wins and gunning for a fifth tournament victory in a row.

## Nadal knocked out by Shapovalov



AP ■ ROME

Rafael Nadal crashed out of the Italian Open in the third round on Thursday after falling to a shock 1-6, 7-5, 6-2 defeat at the hands of Denis Shapovalov.

Defeat in Rome for 'King of Clay' Nadal casts doubt over his prospects at the upcoming French Open, where he has been crowned champion 13 times but faces a threat from teenage phenomenon Carlos Alcaraz.

The 35-year-old had been out for six weeks with a rib injury before returning for last week's tournament in Madrid, and he began limping in the third set.

Nadal has won an all-time record 21 Grand Slam titles in a glittering two-decade career which may now finally be reaching its downturn.

World number 16 Shapovalov, who had pushed Nadal all the way when knocked out at this stage of the tournament last year, will now face Casper Ruud in the quarter-finals.