

ANALYSIS 7
MAHAPRABHUJI'S VISION OF
UNIVERSAL PEACE**MONEY 8**
ALL EFFORTS ARE ON TO INCREASE
COAL OUTPUT: COAL MINISTRY**SPORTS 12**
MEDVEDEV WINS,
SHAPOVALOV EXITS

HYDERABAD, WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

'YOU CAN
CONSIDER ME
A ONE-TAKE
ACTOR'

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**CONCERN OVER INDIAN-ORIGIN BOY
BEING ASSAULTED IN SCHOOL GOES VIRAL**

A ll four Indian-American members of the current US Congress have expressed deep concern over the recent incident of an Indian-origin boy being assaulted at a school in Texas, the video of which has gone viral online. In a rare joint statement on Monday, Indian-American Congressmen Ami Bera, Ro Khanna, Raja Krishnamoorthi and Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal said: "We are expressing our deep concern about the recent incident of bullying which occurred at Coppell Middle School North in the Coppell Independent School District (CISD).

**DGCA WARNS AIRLINES NOT TO GIVE
UNSERVICEABLE SEATS TO PASSENGERS**

T he aviation regulator DGCA on Tuesday warned airlines against offering unserviceable seats to passengers on their domestic and international flights. Earlier this year, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation had conducted an audit of seats and other cabin fittings in aircraft of airlines, and found that many had broken or unserviceable seats. In a communique sent to all Indian carriers on Tuesday, the DGCA said that some of the carriers are offering unserviceable seats to passengers on their scheduled international and domestic operations. "This practice is not only causing inconvenience to the travellers but also inviting a serious safety concern as well," the regulator mentioned.

**UK PM FACES FRESH ALLEGATIONS AS
NEW 'PARTYGATE' PHOTOS EMERGE**

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is facing fresh allegations around the partygate scandal of illegal gatherings at Downing Street in breach of coronavirus lockdown rules after new images surfaced of him with a drink in hand. The pictures, released by ITV News channel, reportedly show Johnson at a farewell drinks party on November 13, 2020, for which at least one person is believed to have been fined by Scotland Yard. London Mayor Sadiq Khan is among Opposition Labour leaders calling for an explanation from the Metropolitan Police why the UK Prime Minister was not handed a second fine for that particular party.

**SNOWFALL, RAIN DISRUPT CHAR
DHAM YATRA, PILGRIMS STOPPED**

S nowfall and rain hit the Char Dham Yatra on Tuesday with thousands of pilgrims halted en route to Kedarnath and Yamunotri temples in the Garhwal Himalayas as a precautionary measure. Kedarnath began receiving snow early on Tuesday while the lower areas were lashed by rains prompting the authorities to stop the pilgrims for their safety in Gaurikund and Sonprayag. Pilgrims going to Yamunotri were also halted in Janakichatti, the last stopover on way to the famous shrine, as the weather turned worse in the afternoon. The peaks around Badrinath also received snow.

USE OF AI AND FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGIES BY GOVTS**Right regulation need of the hour: KTR**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister KTR spoke on the use of AI by governments at a panel discussion during the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos. He shared his thoughts on 'AI on the Street: Managing Trust in the Public Square'.

Speaking at the session, KTR said, "The big challenge in using technologies like facial recognition coupled with AI is for us to gain citizens' confidence that the government is unbiased in its use of data and that citizens will not be kept under surveillance unless they have been notified."

KTR also said that the only way to be able to achieve this would be to first clearly identify the regulatory powers that each government organisations would require.

"These powers must be given to them in a parliamentary and a fully transparent method," KTR said. "Facial Recognition has reduced



Telangana Minister KTR participating in a panel discussion held at Davos on Tuesday

dependence on physical resources and the time taken to find criminals and missing people. With the right regulatory system we can make it far easier for the police and also support citizens," KTR said.

Emphasising making the process transparent, KTR said that every single step that the gov-

ernment takes to use Facial Recognition needs to be shared with the public first before it is used by government organisations. This needs to be formally bestowed upon them as per the rules of democracy.

2

KTR, Jagan meet at Davos

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A rare meeting took place at Davos which is hosting the World Economic Forum meeting.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and Telangana IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao cordially greeted each other.

KT Rama Rao posted the 'rare' picture with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on his Twitter account and commented, "Had a great meeting with my brother, AP CM YS Jagan garu." Jagan is 49 years old and KTR is 45.

In normal circumstances, it may not be significant. But it became a 'rare picture' and



gained importance as the meeting between Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy and Telangana Minister KT Rama Rao took place after KTR's remarks about AP's condition.

2

**Help red chilli growers in TS**

■ Minister Niranjan demands Centre to supply pesticides

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Telangana Agriculture Minister S. Niranjan Reddy has asked the Centre to supply effective pest control chemicals during the coming kharif season to ensure that chilli farmers do not suffer losses due to pest infestation this year.

Reddy, who met Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on this issue at the Krishi Bhavan in New Delhi, said that Telangana is one of the key red chilli growing states. About 3.88 lakh acres are under

chilli cultivation in the state.

Last year, 80 per cent of the area under chilli cultivation was affected by black thrips causing huge losses to farmers, he said.

The Telangana Minister informed Tomar that farmers could not control the pest last year despite spraying chemicals available in the market.

Some farmer associations had expressed concern that the pest was spreading to other flowering vegetables, cut flowers and fruits, he said.

2

**Punjab Health
Minister sacked
over corruption,
arrested**

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Health Minister Vijay Singla was sacked from the state Cabinet Tuesday over graft charges, and was arrested shortly afterwards, with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann asserting his government has zero-tolerance to corruption.

The chief minister himself announced Singla's removal from the Cabinet which was sworn-in just two months ago after the Aam Aadmi Party stormed to power, riding on the agenda of corruption-free governance, and other poll promises.

2

**Ashirvad Pipes to invest
Rs 500 crore in Telangana**

○ KTR rolls red carpet to companies

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao is rolling out the red carpet to companies in Davos.

Ashirvad Pipes of Aliaxis will be setting up a greenfield facility at a cost of Rs 500 crore in Telangana. This will create around 500 jobs.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Aliaxis and the Telangana Government in the presence of KTR in Davos.

The firm will manufacture plastic piles, fittings, and accessories.

The announcement came after Aliaxis CFO Koen Sticker met KTR during the WEF meeting in Davos. Ashirvad Pipes is also in talks with the Telangana Government for setting up a centre of excellence for manufacturing in the state.

KTR met Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairman, and Rajan Bharti Mittal, Vice Chairman, of Bharti Enterprises (Airtel), and discussed collaboration on T-Fiber, and connecting rural and urban households with broadband.

2

**Father's death
biggest learning
experience: Rahul**

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**Election strategist Sunil in
AICC's Task Force-2024**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress party's electoral strategist in Telangana and Karnataka has been given a place in the AICC Task Force-2024 Committee along with seven other AICC members.

The Congress had commissioned Sunil Kanugolu as its election strategist after political strategist Prashanth Kishor made it clear that he will not join the Congress.



2

Only democracies can deliver

○ Biden praises PM Modi for handling Covid pandemic successfully

PNS ■ TOKYO

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for handling the Covid pandemic "successfully" and contrasted India's success with China's "failure" in dealing with coronavirus, according to a senior Indian official.

During a closed session of the Quad Summit, Biden said Modi's success has shown the world that democracies can deliver, and busted the myth that "autocracies" like China and Russia can handle the rapidly changing world better because their leadership can take and implement decisions without going through lengthy democrati-



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was having discussions with the US President Joe Biden

ic processes, the official added.

Biden praised Modi for handling the Covid pandemic "successfully in a democratic manner",

the official said on condition of anonymity.

2

'No greater feminist than Draupadi and Sita'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Feminism is not a western concept but "very integral" to Indic civilisation, JNU Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit said on Tuesday and added that there could not have been a greater feminist than Draupadi and Sita.

Speaking at an event where she was presented with the Shrimati Sushma Swaraj Stree Shakti Samman-2022, she urged students interested in intellectual narrative of modern India to look into these figures.

"Feminism is not a western

concept but a concept very integral in Indic civilisation.

There could not have been a greater feminist than Draupadi or Sita as the first single mother," she said.

"I come from the south of the country, we have Kannagi and Manimekalai.

I urge many students who are interested in the intellectual narrative of modern India to look into these figures," she added.

She noted that the women being celebrated at the event have to be 20 times better than a man to come to the same position.

**Karnataka interested
in Hyd's wood villas**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Karnataka wants to replicate the villas built in the Maheswaram Mandal of Telangana.

The Karnataka Minister of Municipal Administration, M.T.B. Nagaraj, visited the Canadian Wood's Villa Project at BTR Greens in Maheswaram Mandal on Tuesday.

Before that, he called on H.E. Dr Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan, the Managing Director of MAK Projects Pvt Ltd, at Hyderabad to know about the novel initiative of MAK Projects, the Canadian wood house concept.

2

Cycling track with solar-powered roof along ORR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A cycle track will be coming up within a year along ORR. The cycle track will stretch 8 km from Nanakramguda to TSPA, and 13 km from Narsingi to Kollur. The cycle track will have a solar panel-covered roof.

The Hyderabad Growth Corridor Limited is taking up construction of the cycle track along ORR. Industries Minister KT Rama Rao directed the department to create the South Korean style cycle track with solar roofing.

The cycle track will be 4.5 metres wide and can accommodate three cycle lanes with one metre of green space on either side within the available right of way.

The track will be a cycling surface. Facilities like parking spaces, lighting arrangements for use at



night, CCTV cameras, bicycle docking and rental stations, food courts, drinking water, restrooms and basic repair shops will be provided along the cycle track. Officials said that the project will

be launched by August.

The cycle track will come up between the Service Road and MCW and will be taken up along with the widening of service roads.

Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar said, "The cycling track will be always open to the public. Cycles are available on rent. Even a car parking facility is being provided for people who want to cycle for leisure. Lighting with sufficient level of brightness will be made available to facilitate cycling during the early and late hours of the day. The power needed for the lighting will be generated from the solar panelled roof making the project self-sustainable."

This solar project will be implemented as per the RESCO model where a RESCO operator will invest the initial capital needed for solar panels and will also maintain the project for 25 years and supply power to the Department at a discounted price.

2

**High demand for
luxury homes in Hyd**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The demand for luxury housing is high in Hyderabad.

Anarock group says that in overall housing sales in cities, Hyderabad had the highest demand for luxury (17 per cent) and ultra-luxury (8 per cent) homes priced above Rs 2.5 crore.

Although average prices in Hyderabad are much less than that in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), property sizes in these segments are significantly larger than in MMR.

Across major cities, the 2 and 3 BHK types had the maximum demand, accounting for 64 per cent of overall demand. 2BHK



units are most popular in Chennai, where nearly 67 per cent of the sales during the fiscal were for that configuration.

Bengaluru sold the maximum 3BHK units, which accounted for 49 per cent of overall sales during the year, closely followed by Hyderabad with 44 per cent.

2

Will TDP take concrete steps to come out of oblivion?

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is at a critical juncture ahead of the birth centenary celebrations of its founder and former chief minister of combined Andhra Pradesh, NT Rama Rao, as well as the big test of '2024' that would determine the very future of the nearly four-decade-old party.

In the backdrop of its humiliating defeat three years ago, after having ruled the residuary state of AP for the first five years since its formation, TDP president Chandrababu Naidu no longer has the early mover advantage. Given his experience of having ruled the state for almost two terms previously, in the minds of people he was the right person to rule the state formed with a deficit of Rs. 16,000 crore, following bifurcation of the undivided state of AP.

In contrast, the president of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) YS Jaganmohan



Reddy was then almost novice in politics, lacking experience of ruling.

Still, after becoming the ruler, Chandrababu Naidu spent time with his hurriedly drawn policies and plans on various issues, including finalising designs for the construction of capital city of Amaravati for the state of residuary AP. Despite having all plus points, he managed to get people's mandate by the difference of just one per cent of excess votes polled by TDP. Initially Chandrababu thought that his experience was essential to bail out the state of AP from all its problems.

The issue of Amaravati became crucial for both YSRCP & TDP.

Had Chandrababu completed at least half of the construction of the new capital Amaravati, it would have obviated the need for a reversal of the decision taken by the successive government

Only a meaningful perspective with a proper vision for the near future will take TDP further, for which a new ideology is needed. Will Mahanadu look at this aspect and take the right decisions to give voters some clarity?

headed by YSRCP. Chandrababu spent 75% of his time finalising designs and graphics required for building of the capital city Amaravati. Consequently, a significant portion of the work could not be completed by the end of Naidu's tenure.

He thought that building Amaravati could be his trump card for retaining power in the 2019 elections.

His poll campaign was designed in line with his thoughts on Amaravati. According to that strategy, TDP cadre simply requested the electorate to

give one more opportunity to Naidu to enable him to complete his unfulfilled programme of building Amaravati and that too "for your beloved children". People instead voted for YSRCP, decimating TDP to mere opposition party with just 23 out of 175 seats.

Now TDP is preparing to celebrate the birth centenary of its founder NT Rama Rao during this week at the venue of the party's annual meet Mahanadu. Mahanadu may show the way forward for the TDP, which is bracing to move forward 'come what



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

may'!

Naidu has announced that his party is ready for 'sacrifices' on a large scale if the situation warrants. The word 'sacrifices' perhaps indicates seat sharing with other like-minded parties, particularly Jana Sena Party (JSP) headed by film star Pawan Kalyan.

The JSP president Pawan announced on its formation day rally that he will not allow anti-YSRC government's votes to get divided at

any cost.

This created ripples in political circles of AP. Pawan's words have become an inspiration for opposition parties that are working against the government.

This perhaps prompted the TDP supremo to broadly indicate his line of thinking on a possible alliance with Pawan's JSP. He exhorted his possible future political ally that the ongoing discussion among cadres of both the parties should not be like 'one side love story'.

Since the completion of local bodies' polls across the state, which was swept by the ruling party, TDP had been in a pessimistic mood over elections. Pawan's words changed the situation. Both parties seem to be inclined for an alliance. The modalities may be discussed in the days to come. TDP is currently looking like a warrior without sword. The past provides solace sometimes. After two consecutive defeats at the hands of TDP in the elections

of 1983 & 1985, the Congress was in distress for some period. But incidents such as Dalits' killings at Karamchedu and Neerukoda had created anti-TDP mood among the electorate. This reflected in the local bodies' elections held in 1987 in which the Congress achieved impressive results. A very big incident took place in 1988: Congress MLA Vangaveeti Mohanaranga Rao (Vijayawada -East) was brutally killed in Vijayawada. Large-scale violence ensued and this paved the way for the Congress to come to power. Now TDP may repeat the same, if it wants too. Dalits are subject to harassment on various occasions. Being the principal opposition, TDP must be able to use this factor and expose the state government's lethargic attitude in dealing with the situation.

At the Mahanadu, Naidu would be compelled to promote himself as future leader of the party. What about succession plans? If Naidu does not succeed in projecting his

son as his successor, he has to agree for giving due importance to his alliance partner(s) in the days to come. What else does 'sacrifices' mean in this context? It may be too early to discuss power sharing, instead of just seat sharing; yet, it seems inevitable for both the parties to be prepared for any eventuality.

TDP had been shining for four decades on the political platform of undivided AP. Today it is feeling suffocated due to desertions since the last General Election. Naidu's flip-flops on crucial issues such as AP's bifurcation without taking a firm stand, abrupt shifting of the administration from the joint capital Hyderabad to Vijayawada only to save himself from 'cash for vote' case resulted in TDP's bad shape.

Only a meaningful perspective with a proper vision for the near future will take TDP further, for which a new ideology is needed. Will Mahanadu look at this aspect and take the right decisions to give voters some clarity?

Chanting Jai Hanuman for political gains unforgivable, says Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar has stated that God will not forgive if anyone chants 'Jai Hanuman' for the sake of politics.

Sanjay said that the credit of making TRS leaders chant 'Jai Hanuman' goes to the BJP.

He demanded that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and his MLC daughter K. Kavitha should reveal whether they support the construction of a Ram Mandir or not.

He said that Hindus are now proudly declaring that they are Hindus only because of the BJP.



It may be recalled that TRS MLC K. Kavitha had said that the TRS will chant 'Jai Hanuman' if the BJP shouts 'Jai Sriram.'

Sanjay said that Punjab

farmers were expressing doubts on whether the cheques given to them were valid or not.

He lashed out at the Chief Minister for going to Punjab even though paddy is not being procured properly in TS.

He reiterated that the CM coming out from his farmhouse was indeed a big sensation. KCR has achieved nothing by touring the nation, he added.

Sanjay said the salaries of government employees and the beneficiaries of Aasara pensions are not receiving money in time.

He said the TRS government

had earned Rs 60,000 crore from the VAT imposed on petrol. He said that the state government has been speaking lies even though the Centre has been extending its cooperation to the state.

He said that they are conducting Hindu Ektha Yatra on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanthi on Wednesday in Karimnagar to promote the unity of Hindus.

He said that political parties have been trying to suppress Hindus and appease minorities. The BJP has been organising Hindu Ektha Yatras to show that Hindus are united and to tackle such policies.

Revanth Reddy blackmailed me, says Malla Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Labour Minister Ch. Malla Reddy has alleged that TPCC chief Revanth Reddy is a blackmailer and declared openly that he was a victim of the TPCC President.

Malla Reddy said there were clashes among them from the time he was in the TDP and that Revanth had blackmailed and threatened him that his colleges would be closed. Malla Reddy said that he will start legal proceedings against Revanth.

In a scathing attack on the TPCC President, Malla Reddy said the TPCC President had conveniently

forgotten all the favours he had received.

"I gave money for Revanth Reddy's daughter's wedding. But he has been trying to blackmail me accusing me of encroaching lands for my educational institutions. If I am wrong, let him prove it by taking an oath in the presence of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy at Yadadri," Malla Reddy said.

He alleged that the TPCC President has been harassing him from the times they were working in the Telugu Desam Party. He accused Revanth of trying to sabotage his victory prospects in the Malkajgiri Parliamentary constituency.

Minister Malla Reddy said that his own community (Reddy) was unhappy with Revanth's remarks. The Minister was outraged and said that everything Revanth does is a drama except blackmailing. He will even blackmail Rahul Gandhi, the Minister said.

Meanwhile, PCC chief Revanth Reddy said that Minister Malla Reddy was involved in land grabs and that his son-in-law had a hand in it and that if the Congress came to power, the two will be sent to jail. Malla Reddy commented that he had not purchased government land anywhere.

Cycling track with solar-powered...

Continued from page 1

Around 9 MW of power can be generated through the solar roofing of the cycle track and it will be used by HGCL for ORR lighting, drip irrigation and other requirements of ORR.

B. Santosh, the Managing Director of Hyderabad Growth Corridor Ltd, said the cycle track will be built as per international standards.

At Narsingi, a sports hub is being set up for cyclists and families to relax during weekends. It will have skating boards, and volleyball and squash courts.

Help red chilli growers in TS

Continued from page 1

"In view of the anxiety of our farmers and the huge losses likely in the coming kharif season due to the black thrips pest, urgent steps have to be taken to implement the integrated pest management programme," he said. The TS minister requested the Centre to direct the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee to register new molecules like Syngentia India on priority and supply effective new compounds to help the chilli farmers of Telangana in the kharif season. The Telangana Minister also discussed oil palm cultivation in the state and requested Tomar to establish a regional centre for oil palm research in Telangana.

Reddy also said that the TS government has identified oil palm as the best alternative to paddy and is promoting its cultivation on a massive scale.

The TS government intends to cover 20 lakh acres with oil palms. It is also planning to cultivate 1.78 lakh acres with oil palms in 26 notified districts under a government programme in 2022-23, he added.

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

TS to discuss caste data with K'taka

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana BC Commission is visiting Karnataka on Wednesday. The Commission is continuing its study on the recommendations to be made regarding the determination of BC reservations in local body elections, modernisation of the traditional occupations of Backward Classes, and improvement of the livelihood standards of poor BCs.

The Telangana team led by Commission Chairman Dr Valculabharan Krishna Mohan Rao and Members Ch. Upendra, Shubhpradth Patel Nooli, and K. Kishor Goud are slated to meet their counterpart, Karnataka BC



Commission Chairman Jayaprakash Hegde and Commission Members.

The Telangana team will discuss in detail the caste data enumeration conducted by the Karnataka BC Commission, its methodology, and the procedures adopted during the survey. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the Karnataka BC Commission's office.

Election strategist...

Continued from page 1

The Congress had appointed Sunil Kanugolu in the beginning as the strategist for the Assembly elections of Karnataka and Telangana. On Tuesday, the AICC appointed three committees for winning the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in tune with the decisions taken at the Udaipur Chintan Shivir.

AICC chief Sonia Gandhi appointed three Committees namely the Political Affairs Committee, the Task Force-2024 Committee, and the Central Planning Group for coordinating the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

Sunil Kanugolu got his place in Task Force-2024 along with senior leaders P.Chidambaram, Muku Wasnik, Jairam Ramesh, KC Venugopal, Ajay Maken, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Randeep Singh Surjewala.

The AICC said that each member of the Task Force shall be assigned specific tasks related to organisation, communications and media, outreach,

finance, and election management. They shall have designated teams that will be notified subsequently.

The Task Force will also follow up on the Udaipur Nav Sankalp Declaration and the reports of the six groups.

Meanwhile, the Political Affairs Committee has Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjuna Kharge, Gulam Nabi Azad, Ambika Soni, Digvijay Singh, Anand Sharma, KC Venugopal, and Jethendra Singh.

The Central Planning Group for Coordinating the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' has Digvijay Singh, Sachin Pilot, Shashi Tharoor, Ravneeth Singh Bittu, KJ George, Jothimani, Pradyut Bordoloi, Jithu Patwari, and Saleem Ahmed as its members.

This committee will look after the proposed Kashmir to Kanyakumari padayatra of Rahul Gandhi aimed at regaining the lost sheen of the Congress by highlighting unemployment and other public issues.

Right regulation need of the

Continued from page 1

KTR said that securing public confidence is very important. "The government understands the advantages that Facial Recognition provides in policing.

The confidence that the public has in this system needs to be strengthened by optional systems that can expose them to the method and only then scale up."

Talking about education within the government, the Minister said, "We need minds that are well-versed in AI, ML, Blockchain, Data Sciences and the risks that come with the use of the same. The data being used must be fully secured and the security must be verified."

The other members of the panel discussion were Takayuki Morita, President, Chief Executive Officer, and Representative Director, NEC, Japan, Angie Nicole OD, Executive Director Ushahidi, South Africa, and Coen van Oostrom, CEO & Founder of Edge Tech.

KTR, Jagan meet at...

Continued from page 1

It may be recalled that KTR had commented about the "horrible civic conditions, unstable power supply, drinking water problems and battered roads of Andhra Pradesh." Of course, later KTR clarified about his remarks on AP.

Both Jagan Mohan Reddy and KT Rama Rao went to Davos to attend the World Economic Forum meeting and to attract investments to their states.

Both are in power and both represent the Telugu people, but their positions are different and their states are different.

The close associates of Telangana Minister KTR hope that a day will come soon when KTR will meet Jagan on equal terms, that is, as the Telangana CM.

High demand

Continued from page 1

In Delhi-NCR, 4BHK+ homes were sold more.

The focus of buyers' has clearly shifted from affordable housing (homes priced under INR 40 lakh) to mid-end (INR 40 to 80 lakh) and high-end homes (INR 80 lakh to INR 1.5 crore).

This is very evident from analysing buyer behaviour in the top seven cities in the last fiscal FY21-22 as nearly 80 per cent of the demand is for mid-end and high-end homes. The affordable housing segment accounted for just 10 per cent of the demand.

Rahul Phondge, Chief Business Officer, Anarock Group, says that sales data at Anarock confirms that home-buyer preferences are evolving rapidly.

Punjab Health...

Continued from page 1

Mann said the decision was made after he came to know that Singla was allegedly demanding a "one per cent commission" in tenders and purchases of his department.

As he announced Sinha's sacking, Mann also said he also directed the police to register a case against the minister.

Soon afterwards, the 52-year-old Singla was arrested by the Punjab Police, sources said.

Singla, a dental surgeon, was elected to the assembly from the Mansa seat, defeating Punjabi singer and Congress candidate Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, also known as Sidhu Moosewala.

Karnataka interested in Hyd's wood...

Continued from page 1

MAK Projects, a Hyderabad-based infrastructure, and housing development company, in collaboration with Canadian Wood, has launched Hyderabad's maiden premium Canadian Wood Villa Project on Srisailem Highway. Canadian Wood is a crown agency of the Government of British Columbia in Canada.

The state-of-the-art 300 premium wood villas being constructed will be part of the world-class gated community of MAK Projects.

Spread over 250 acres in the heart of Hyderabad's Knowledge City at BTR Greens, the project offers luxuries of the city in a serene environment that stands apart in appeal and

ambiance.

M.T.B. Nagaraj was thoroughly impressed with the elegant Canadian Wood Villas and evinced a keen interest in exploring its possibilities. He had extensive discussions with H.E. Dr Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan on replicating the sustainable wood house projects in Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka.

Forestry Innovation Consulting Pvt. Ltd. (FII India), better known as Canadian Wood, has the mandate to promote wood products in offshore markets.

It focuses on promoting five distinct wood species in India, namely the Spruce-Pine-Fir (SPF), Western Hemlock, Douglas-Fir, Yellow Cedar, and Western Red Cedar.

Only democracies...

Continued from page 1

The US president contrasted India's success with China's failure to handle the pandemic, though both countries are of comparable size.

According to the official, President Biden's remarks appeared to be unscripted as he made a special intervention to say this before his prepared remarks.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida also appreciated India's contribution and recalled that Indian-made vaccines delivered under the Quad Vaccine Initiative were received with gratitude in Thailand and Cambodia recently, the official said.

Kishida also noted that in Cambodia, Prime Minister Hun Sen himself attended the handing over ceremony.

Stone laid for Govt Degree College at Maheshwaram

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Education Minister Sabita Indra Reddy laid the foundation stone for a Degree College building at Maheshwaram, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, on Tuesday.

The Minister, giving details of the project, said, "Maheshwaram is becoming the home of Saraswati. We are also working on establishing Pharma University and Polytechnic College. As this place has more middle class people and as they are finding difficulty in transportation to better educational institutions, we have worked more on this and selected the area for establishing a degree college. Over



Education Minister Sabita Indra Reddy after laying the foundation stone for Degree College in Maheshwaram on Tuesday

Rs 2 crores have been sanctioned to complete the construction works."

Works are progressing on

construction of Model School with accommodation at an estimated cost of Rs 75 lakh at Maheshwaram. With all these

Maheshwaram will be the educational hub of the future, she added.

The Minister has said that she will work hard for the integrated development of Maheshwaram constituency. She insisted that people should strive to join SSC completed students into Junior colleges and then these Junior college students to degree colleges, so that officials can think about establishing PG College.

She further said that the area has attracted 57 companies which have invested Rs 3,000 crore. The Minister said that false propaganda are being created by other political parties about educational institutions.

'Needa' headgear big hit in Chevella



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

People in chevella district can be seen working under the sun wearing the 'Needa' headgear. 'Needa' is a novelty that resides in the shape and configuration of a head gear. It provides shade to the person leaving both the hands free to work, unlike an umbrella. It also protects their back from sun as they bend to work. These protective headgears were distributed by former Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy.

Expert guidance, CBSE syllabus helping students crack IIT

DEEPIKA PASHAM ■ HYDERABAD

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) affiliated school students seem to be dominating in the engineering admission tests, including the Joint Entrance Examination Main (JEE Main). The survey of Careers360 says that 11 per cent of the total number of CBSE schools has a high 59 per cent of students who are successful in the JEE Main and are scoring high scores. While the experts point out that teacher guidance is the need of the hour for any board students to get into IIT institutes, the students agree with the research that they depend on the CBSE syllabus for high scores.

One of the experts, Ujjwal Singh, CEO at Infinity Learn

says, "We have witnessed students from various state boards performing brilliantly and getting accepted into IIT in the past as well. I believe it's not about the board, but it is about the expert guidance that the students get from their teachers."

Adding on what is future growth, he said, "We at Sri Chaitanya Group (parent Company Infinity Learn) have had many top-ranked students from different parts of the country, and about the statistics, I can surely say that this will change year-on-year as the new-age student-oriented digital learning platforms allow students to have an equal chance of becoming part of the country's most prestigious institution."

The same survey shows that state board schools, which are

83 per cent of all senior secondary schools, accounted for just 35 per cent of the students successful in JEE Mains JEE Main, the second-tier exam for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT).

The survey tried to understand which boards students who have written the JEE Main and JEE Advanced examinations come from and how they prepare. The responses explained by many students is that the textbooks based on the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), a central advisory body on curriculum, is helping to prepare on more topics. "While some state boards have been pushed to adopt NCERT textbooks directly or modified versions of them, CBSE textbooks are all NCERT books.

Swimming pool in Ameerpet reopens after 2 yrs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The swimming pool at Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Multipurpose Sports Complex, Ameerpet which remained closed for two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, resumed its operations on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav said the State government has taken up a series of measures to promote sports and provided many opportunities to sports per-



sons. He instructed the officials to take up the fencing works at the pool immediately and later

interacted with the children and took their feedback about the sports facilities.

Cricket betting racket busted, Rs 25 lakh cash seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of the Commissioner Task Force, East Zone, along with Kachiguda Police, busted a cricket betting racket and seized Rs 25 lakh cash from the three accused persons. According to the police, the accused Neeraj (45), Amit (41) and Narayan (37) are close friends and are addicted to cricket betting. Two of the 3 accused were arrested previously on charges of cricket betting. Amit was arrested in 2019 by Rajendranagar Police whereas Neeraj was arrested in 2019 and 2020 by Rajendranagar and Jubilee Hills Police under the same charge. Based on credible



information, the police apprehended them and seized Rs 25 lakh cash, one communicator device with 11 phone lines, 2 laptops, 11 mobile phones, 3 calculators and 14 notebooks from their possession.

The accused have been handed over to SHO Kachiguda Police Station for further investigation.

Rapido driver sent to jail for harassing college girls online

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

8 college girls from the city had approached SHE Teams when they were receiving semi nude obscene images and messages on their phone from an unknown number. One of the girls had approached SHE Teams on April 15 and filed a complaint in this matter. Upon receiving the complaint, officers from SHE Teams visited the college and took him into custody where he confessed to have committed the crime. The accused has been identified as Vijay Kumar (25) working as a Rapido driver in the city.

Applications invited for the posts of Director of Govt Medical Colleges

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The office of the Director of Medical Education (DME), Telangana, has issued a circular inviting applications from eligible candidates to the post of Directors at Government Medical College (GMC), Mahabubnagar and Siddipet.

The candidate shall be a doctor with PG degree in any

medical specialisation recognised by the NMC. They should have minimum 10 years teaching experience in the specialty out of which 5 years shall be in the cadre of a professor. They shall be aged less than 62 years. The initial term of appointment will be for 3 years. The selection will be done from a panel of names recommended by

the executive council and appointed by the President. The emoluments will be as per the scale adopted for the semi-autonomous medical colleges of the state.

Interested candidates have been requested to submit their applications online with their bio-data, work experience and list of publications on or before May 31.

As food vendors dump garbage, IDL lake stinks

SAITEJA BURRA ■ HYDERABAD

The IDL Lake near Kukatpally is now filled with trash and hyacinth and turning to miserable condition as street food vendors are dumping garbage near the lake, despite being instructed to dump it in garbage bins. Now, the lake is filled with sewage water, and covered with a thick blanket of hyacinth-covered water and debris near and around the lake. It emits a foul smell, which envelops nearby areas and has a nauseating effect on residents and creating mosquito to menace problems for nearby localities.

Once the clouds turn blue, the whole lake becomes brighter, shiny with lights and busier with customers coming



for street food near the lake. But once the clouds return to their original position, the other side of the lake, full of rubbish and dumps, is visible to residents. On the other

hand, the lake is also emitting a foul smell which is causing inconvenience to day travelers.

Earlier, the street food vendors were instructed by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal

Corporation officials to dump the waste in garbage bins and not near the lake. Despite being instructed by the officials, they continue to throw a dump near the lake and make

the lake into a more pathetic condition. Meanwhile, the street vendors said that they are dumping it only in garbage bins not near the lakes.

"A lot of customers come in at night for street food and they throw garbage near the lakes. Although we told them to put their waste in the bins, some people still throw it near the lake," said Mohibul Islam, one of the street food vendors.

With this, GHMC officials are making strenuous efforts to clean the lake in the morning.

However, the Kukatpally GHMC Deputy Commissioner Ravi Kumar said that the vendors had been advised in the past to dump garbage in bins and would take further steps to curb dumping near the lake and also impose fines.

Gandhi Hospital sends back the beds procured during Covid

The hospital is witnessing a 150% rise in patients after the facilities were upgraded

SIDDHARTH KUMAR SINGH ■ HYDERABAD

The 600 beds which were set up during the Covid period at Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad have now been sent back to the parent organisations from where they were originally procured.

"The hospital had procured those 600 beds meant for ICU and ventilator purposes from various centers in the city as Gandhi Hospital was made the nodal center during Covid. Now that the Covid cases have declined and are in a decreasing state, we have sent back all those beds to the parent orga-

nizations," said Dr Raja Rao, Superintendent, Gandhi Hospital. The Hospital is also witnessing a rise of 150% in patient visits after the administration upgraded the facilities in the recent months. The hospital currently on an average is handling about 1,500 patients against the capacity of 1,012.

Dr Raja Rao added, "The hospital is currently witnessing about 2,000-2,500 patients everyday in the Outpatient (OP) department. These patient visits are subjected to all kinds of diseases from minor fever to major health issues. This increase in patients' visits can be credited to the upgrad-

ed facilities in the hospital. Doctors from the orthopedic department are doing an excellent job by performing a record number of knee replacement surgeries."

Doctors from the hospital had recently performed six knee transplants in six hours. A new Cath Lab and a MRI-Machine were also set up by the Health Minister Harish Rao during his recent visit.

Talking about the Cath Lab, a Cardiologist from the hospital said the administration is working on getting the required permissions from the authorities and it will soon start functioning.

Medical camp organised at Karkhana PS for staff



Medical camp being organised at Kharkhana PS on Tuesday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Station House Officer (SHO) of Karkhana Police Station on Tuesday organised a medical camp for all the staff at the police station. The medical camp included tests like ECG, Diabetes, Blood Pressure, Eye and Dental check up for all the staff of the police station. SHO Karkhana Police Station B

Ravinder said, "The medical camp was conducted free of cost for all the members. The objective of the camp was to ensure the medical fitness of the staff at the police station. We, the Hyderabad Police, believe that healthy life leads to healthy work environment." The medical camp was conducted under the supervision of B Ramesh, ACP Mahankali division.

'TS has become seed hub of India'

Annual event of Seed Mela organised at PJTSAU and 18 other institutes in state

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The annual event of Seed Mela has been organised by the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU) at the University campus in Rajendranagar in Hyderabad and also at other 18 research institutes across Telangana on Tuesday. The seed mela was formerly launched by Kondabala Koteswararao, Chairman, Telangana State Seed Development Corporation (TSSDC) and Dr V Praveen Rao, Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU, K Hanumanth, Special Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Telangana.

While speaking at the meeting Kondabala Koteswar Rao has said that, Telangana has become the quality seed production hub of India and it pro-



Officials at annual Seed Mela event at Rajendranagar in Hyderabad on Tuesday

vides seed for 7 to 8 states. He further said that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao wanted to make Telangana the seed hub for the entire world on this line, a thrust has been given to the quality seed production and providing of international standard infrastructure in the state.

Hanumanth, Special commissioner, Department of agriculture, has appreciated the University for organising seed mela on appropriate time before commencement of the

monsoon season and in the Rohini karthe.

Dr Rao has stated that, it is a proud for PJTSAU that, in the last seven years university has released 51 varieties in several crops and out of which 16 crop varieties have become popular in other states and they are released for commercial cultivation in those respective states. Large number of farmers, scientists, students, attended the seed mela held in Rajendranagar.

PM'S VISIT TO ISB TOMORROW

Traffic restrictions in Gachibowli

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Indian School of Business (ISB) at Gachibowli on Thursday, traffic restrictions will be in place in the area from 1pm to 5pm.

The Cyberabad Police have requested managements of offices located between Gachibowli Stadium to IIIT Junction, IIIT Junction to Wipro Junction and IIIT Junction to Gachibowli to alter work timings accordingly or to go for 'work from home' mode to avoid any inconvenience.

Alternative routes: Traffic from Gachibowli Junction towards Lingampally can take a diversion at Gachibowli



Junction - Right turn - Botanical Garden - Left turn - Kondapur Area Hospital - Masjid Banda - left turn - Masjid Banda Kaman - right turn -HCU Depot road towards Lingampally Road.

Similarly, traffic from Lingampally towards

Gachibowli can take a diversion at HCU Depot- Left turn - Masjid Banda Kaman- left turn - Masjid Banda - Kondapur area hospital - Botanical garden - Right turn towards Gachibowli Junction.

Likewise, traffic from Wipro towards Lingampally can take

a diversion at Wipro Junction - Left turn - Q city - Gowlidoddi - Gopanpally X road - Right turn- HCU back gate - Nallagandla and proceed towards Lingampally Road. Traffic from Wipro towards Gachibowli junction can take a diversion at the Wipro junction - Right turn - Fairfield Hotel- Nanakramguda Rotary- left turn - ORR- L&T Towers and Gachibowli Junction.

Traffic from Durgam Cheruvu cable stayed bridge towards Gachibowli junction can take a diversion at the cable bridge up ramp - Road No. 45 - Ratnadeep - Madhapur L&O PS - Cyber Towers - HITEX - Kothaguda - Botanical and Gachibowli Junction.

OGH must be restored: Asaduddin

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Osmania General Hospital (OGH) will be restored and the cost of renovation and restoration will be Rs 560 crore, said Asaduddin Owaisi, President of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) in a meeting on Tuesday. The AIMIM chief on Tuesday said, "A committee of chief engineers will be submitting a report on Osmania General Hospital's expansion and upgradation. The hospital is a heritage building and will not be demolished, but restored. A new building will also be constructed while not obstructing the heritage building.

Drones banned in Hyd in view of PM Modi's visit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad Police on Tuesday have issued a notification banning the use of remotely controlled drones or para-gliders or remotely controlled micro light aircraft in a five-kilometre radius of the Indian School of Business and the Gachibowli Stadium in view of the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ISB.

"Inputs have been received by intelligence agencies about the possibility of attacks by terrorist/antisocial elements by the use of Para-gliders, Remote Controlled Drone and Remote Controlled Micro-Light



Aircraft etc. There is likelihood of breach of peace and disturbance of public tranquility and also there is grave danger to human life, health, safety and damage to public property on that account," a statement issued by the police said.

There is likelihood of breach of peace and disturbance of public tranquility, police say.

VELAMA-REDDY IMBROGLIO

AICC member Bakka Judson issues show-cause notice to Revanth Reddy

Usually, party president issues show-cause notice to dissidents, but here party leader serves a notice to the party chief, triggering a storm in the grand old party

K. VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

TPCC president Revanth Reddy's comments on Reddy-Velama castes have created repercussions in the Congress and TRS.

AICC Programme Implementation Committee Chairman, A Maheshwar Reddy, said that he does not agree with the comments of Revanth on Reddy-Velama castes. He said that there were no differences between Reddys and Velamas.

Leaders like J Chokkarao had worked hard for the Congress. The Congress belongs to all groups of people and gives equal importance to all castes. Leaders from all castes have become PCC presidents and Chief Ministers in the Congress. Social justice is possible only through the Congress, he added.

Revanth's comments are his personal ones and they must not be taken in any other manner. Revanth spoke in Karnataka. Leaders like Revanth Reddy who joined the Congress recently might not

know the party's policies, he said, making it clear that he is condemning Revanth's comments.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, AICC member Bakka Judson served a show-cause notice to TPCC chief Revanth Reddy asking him to explain 'Why I should continue in the Indian National Congress?'

Usually, party presidents issue notices to leaders. But here Congress leader Bakka Judson has served a show-cause notice to the party's President (Revanth Reddy) seeking an explanation from him within three days.

In his show-cause notice, Judson alleged that Revanth made a highly derogatory and objectionable speech a couple of days ago describing his community (Reddys) as his brothers and asking them to remember the good old days when they (Reddys) were considered by the BCs, SCs and STs as their saviours.

"You (Revanth) gave several examples including the collapse of the Kakatiya Kingdom, which according to him was due to Kakatiya rulers alienating the Reddys. We are



Bakka Judson



A Maheshwar Reddy

a democratic society and leaders are elected through a transparent electoral system. Today leaders need commitment and dedication. This kind of blunders that you committed while you were a TDP member while dealing with the nominated MLA representing the Anglo-Indian community, Elvis Stephenson, led to the TDP collapsing in Telangana. As you have the same attitude as the TPCC President, I am afraid that the Congress is now in grave danger in Telangana. The spirit of our party's Udaipur Resolution to provide equal opportunities to SCs, STs, BCs, minorities and women has gone for a toss due to the mindless statement of the TPCC President. The irresponsible statement of the

TPCC President has sent waves of insecurity among marginalised communities belonging to the Congress. Even the Reddy and Velama leaders in the Congress are not able to digest the TPCC chief's statement. You as TPCC president are more concerned about building your own image at the cost of the party. Why did you stop speaking about the large-scale corruption by My Home Rameshwar Rao, Mission Bhagiradha, Kaleshwaram, Kokapet Land scam etc," Judson said.

He alleged in his letter that Revanth is known to promote mediocre leaders and to suppress talent fearing that able leaders might become a threat to him."During the 32 years of my journey with the Congress

as an NSUI leader, Youth Congress leader and AICC Member, I gave the best I could by sacrificing my youth for the party. I worked hard without any selfish motives to take the Congress and its ideology forward. Even today, I am the voice of the voiceless people and I fight the undemocratic acts of the TRS government. I, therefore, call upon you to advise me why I should continue in the Congress if the TPCC president openly advocates the hegemony of upper-caste Reddys unmindful of the fact that more than 50 per cent of the Telangana population are SCs, STs and BCs. I am issuing this show-cause notice to the President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee seeking an explanation within three days, that is, by 5 pm on May 27 as to why I should continue in the Congress under your leadership," Judson added.

Meanwhile, TRS MLA Danam Nagender and Minister Ch. Malla Reddy condemned the comments of Revanth about the Reddy and Velama communities.



Minister for Panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao along with Government Chief Whip inaugurating CT Scan in MGM Hospital in Warangal on Tuesday

Warangal emerging as healthcare hub after Hyderabad: Dayakar Rao

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Minister for Panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao along with Government Chief Whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar inaugurated the CT Scan, which was set up at a cost of Rs 2.14 crore in MGM Hospital.

The Minister wanted to know the functioning of the CT Scan. He also wanted to know how many persons can be scanned in a day. He posed these questions to Hospital Superintendent V Chandrasekhar and technicians. Speaking on the occasion, Dayakar Rao said the MGM Hospital was developed after the TRS came to power. Under the guidance of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, Minister

for Health T Harish Rao has been strengthening the health sector. Healthcare facilities were being given a much-needed boost in Warangal and the city emerged as healthcare hub after Hyderabad, he said. He appreciated the services extended by the MGM Hospital staff during coronavirus pandemic. He expressed hope that the doctors and the staff of the hospitals would continue to serve the people and get good name from the public. Infrastructure development in the hospital would be given a top priority.

Biometric has been introduced in the hospital, the Minister said. Dayakar Rao said a new x-ray machine at a cost of Rs 15 lakh and an

ultrasound machines at a cost of Rs 40 lakh would be set up on the hospital soon. In addition to it, an MRI machines at a cost Rs 12 crore would also be provided in the hospital, he said. As many 65 kneecap replacement, 300 angiogram and cath lab surgeries were performed in the hospital. The 1,000-bed MGM Hospital has been upgraded to 1,300-bed hospital, he said. The number of beds in the ICU has been increased from 100 to 180, he pointed. Ventilator beds have been increased from 25 to 200 and two oxygen tanks and oxygen plants too were set up. Warangal Mayor Gundu Sudharani, MLC Baswararaju Saraiah, District Collector B Gopi and others were present.

System of Rice Intensification helps in reducing input costs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A recent study has conclusively assessed the significance of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in terms of water saving, input costs, plant growth and social impacts. The investigation also proved that the sampled number of SRI farmers had a significant reduction in number of pumping hours as well as number of irrigation days when compared to conventional paddy farmers. It is now proven that SRI can help meet the policy objectives in the Indian agricultural sector. The research study was implemented by the Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) with support from Axis Bank Foundation. The study was recently documented in a research paper by Kishan Meesala and Suhitha Rasala of Water Organisation Trust, Hyderabad unit, published in the Journal of Agricultural Sciences of Scientific Research Publishing with the title "Potential of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) to Contribute to the Policy Objectives: Paradigm of Three-Tier Approach in Southern Telangana - A Case Study of Narayanpet."

Narayanpet block comprises 27 villages with a gross cropping area of 167,911 ha (hectre), of which the net paddy cropping area is 19,500 ha during Kharif and 10,314 ha in Rabi.

"The result shows that significant water saving was achieved for SRI, i.e., 8586 m3/ha under tubewell irrigation over conventional. Less utilisation of water and distance maintained in SRI has benefited in reducing the biotic and a biotic stress caused by snails and nutrient deprivation, respectively. However, it is also suggested that appropriate drainage, irrigation scheduling, water control at open sluice, and block irrigation are some of the areas that must be modified to the best of the farmer's ability to benefit most from both types of the paddy cultivation.

The total yield for a sampled number of SRI farmers has been found to have a 22 per cent increase for the total expenditure difference of Rs 6153, i.e., 13 per cent less than conventional paddy farmers, which highly impacts the SRI farmers' net income, i.e. 69 per cent more than the conventional returns.

T-Diagnostic, Radiology Hubs to be set up at all district headquarters hospitals

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

As part of the programme to enhance facilities in government hospitals, the government has decided to establish T-Diagnostic Hub and Radiology Hub at all district headquarters hospitals, according to Minister for Health T Harish Rao on Tuesday.

The Minister was inaugurating Radiology Hub in government hospital here. Speaking on the occasion, Harish Rao said that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has given a top priority for health sector. The idea of setting up T-Diagnostic Hub and Radiology Hub at all the district headquarters hospital is the brainchild of the Chief Minister.

As many as 134 categories of tests would be conducted in these headquarters hospitals. Patients can demand these tests free of charge. Patients visiting primary health centres (PHCs) at times need to undergo tests like ECG, 2D Echo, etc. In view of this, the government has decided to provide these facilities in the government hospitals, Harish



Minister for Health T Harish Rao interacting with the government hospital staff after inaugurating radiology hub in government hospital in Siddipet on Tuesday

Rao said. He said that the government would set up radiology hubs at all 33 district headquarters hospitals. He promised to ensure the poor would secure quality healthcare in government hospitals. Apart from it, the government would set up 10 more radiology laboratories in Hyderabad city. During the previous regimes, the doctors used to send the patients to private laboratories for various tests. But, now the TRS government was determined to provide quality healthcare to the poor and ensure that they

secure all facilities in government hospitals. The government hospitals are being development on a par with corporate hospitals, he pointed out. He appealed to the people to avail these facilities in government hospitals and not waste their money by visiting private laboratories.

Under the initiative of ST-Elevation Myocardial Infraction (STEMI), the government was giving injection costing Rs 40,000 free to patients suffering heart attack. The facility has been extended to all districts, he said.

TSRTC to launch home delivery, pick-up services

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has decided to launch home delivery and pick up services and invited channel partners for last mile connectivity.

TSRTC, in its quest to bridge the last mile delivery of courier and parcel services, proposes to launch home delivery and pick up facility to enable the customers seamlessly book and take delivery of courier without leaving their homes. This has been made possible with a vast network of 97 bus depots and 177 bus stations throughout the length and breadth of Telangana State.

TSRTC Chairman Bajireddy Govardhan, MLA and Vice Chairman and Managing Director, VC Sajjanar, IPS said that TSRTC buses ply to nooks and corners of the Greater Hyderabad and the life line that connects all the 33 districts. And when it comes to movement of goods and passengers, RTC is offering one stop services. To efficiently bridge the last mile

connectivity, TSRTC will shortly launch home delivery and home pick up service.

Further they have sought the help of delivery partners, channel service agents to join hands with TSRTC to make home delivery and pick up a robust engagement. Interested candidates or firms may mail their business details including potentiality and financial capability to the e-mail address: splofficertsrtc@gmail.com, the note said.

The other meeting was held on the employee provident fund and officials of TSRTC urged employees to update e-nomination on PF Portal.

Stressing the need to update E-Nomination details of employees on the Employee Provident Portal, (EPF), the Regional Provident Fund (RPF) Commissioner Vamshi Krishna, said that EPFO has directed mandatory e-nomination for all its EPF members. Though there is no deadline, he urged the TSRTC employees to comply with the e-nomination update at the earliest and ensure hassle free settlements going forward.

Prime Minister's visit: CPI condemns surveillance on ISB

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Communist Party of India (CPI) senior leader K Narayana on Tuesday condemned the alleged surveillance conducted on Indian School of Business (ISB). He called it 'undemocratic.'

Narayana, in a statement, said that the alleged surveillance on the students of ISB on the eve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi attending the ISB's 20th annual day celebrations on Wednesday was undemocratic. He alleged that the PM security was trying to detain students opposed to the Prime Minister. Narayana said that the ISB was an institute that got international recognition and the students would also get international recognition. He demanded that the PM security lift the surveillance on the students and allow the students post their views in social media. He said the security personnel of the Prime Minister had collected information on 930 students. The security personnel were checking the social media and collecting the phone numbers of email ids of the students.

Medical officers told to provide nutritious food to school children

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALAPALLY

District Collector Bhavesh Mishra has called upon the authorities to provide nutritious food to children.

He was distributing device to diagnose anaemia among the schoolchildren at a programme held at his chambers in the District Collectorate here on Tuesday.

He distributed devices

among medical officers working in Mahadevpur and Mahamuttaram mandals as part of the aspiration district project programme to check anaemia among school-children, especially among the girls.

The District Collector checked the functioning of the hand-held device.

As part of the aspirational districts programme, first and foremost anaemia tests are conducted for schoolchildren in Mahadevpur, Mahamuttaram mandals. The students found anaemic should be provided nutritious food through Anganwadi centres. On the success of the pilot project in the two mandals, the programme would be extended

to other mandals, the District collector told the medical officers. He wanted the authorities to make the programme a success in the two mandals first.

District Medical and Health Officer Dr D Sriram, aspirational district coordinator Sowmya, immunisation officer Dr Ravi Kumar, Ambatipalli Medical Officer Dr Gopinath and others took part in the event.

BTech graduate arrested for theft

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Addicted to an expensive lifestyle, a BTech graduate allegedly resorted to committing thefts. Narasmpet police on Tuesday arrested the 30-year-old Meaka Balaraju and seized Rs 1 lakh from him.

According to East Zone Deputy Commissioner of Police Venkata Lakshmi, Balaraju hailed from Sundarayyapet under Kothavalasa mandal in

Vizianagaram. He had been working as an electrician. But he was not satisfied with the income he was getting in his job. In a bid to make quick money had resorted to stealing money stashed away in boxes of the two-wheelers, the DCP said. He was arrested earlier and sent to jail. He continued to commit thefts after being released from jail. He committed crimes at several places which included Vizianagara and Warangal.

60-year-old man, wife commit suicide

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Even as the twin suicides by a mother and her son are still green in public memory, a couple allegedly committed suicide in Maya Bazar area in the town on Tuesday. Their bodies were found hanging from the roof of their house. The deceased were identified as Gajawada Kuberam (60), and his wife Gajawada Lakshmi, 55. The incidents have created sensation in the town. A suicide note, purported to have been written by them, held none responsible for their committing suicide. Moreover, it urged the authorities to not to conduct post-mortem on their bodies and cremate them together.

According to the locals, the couple committed suicide in separate rooms of the house in the early hours of Tuesday. Kuberam is a dry fruit merchant in daily market of the town. They are survived by two daughters, Sameera and Susrita. They celebrated marriages of their daughters 10 years ago. The couple apparently have no known problems. People are at a loss to know as to why they had taken the extreme step of committing suicide. According to the mother of Gajawada Kubera, the couple are living together happily. The bodies were sent to Kamareddy Area Hospital. The two police registered a case and are investigating the case.

Uttam blames govt as banks freeze accounts of farmers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Nalgonda Congress Lok Sabha member N Uttam Kumar Reddy has strongly condemned the TRS government for not honouring the promise to waive crop loans amounting up to Rs 1 lakh.

He said banks have reportedly withheld the accounts of over 31 lakh farmers across the State for non-payment of loan dues.

Participating in the Rachabanda programme on Tuesday in his constituency, Uttam Kumar Reddy criticised Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao for not honouring the promise to waive crop loans up to Rs 1 lakh even after completing more than three years in power in his second term.

He said that with less than a fortnight left for the com-

mencement of the Kharif season, the bank accounts of lakhs of farmers who took crop loans earlier have been kept on hold. It means that these farmers are not eligible to get fresh crop loans for the Kharif season.

He pointed out that the TRS government had promised during the 2018 Assembly elections that it would waive crop loans up to Rs 1 lakh. But so far, only two instalments have been cleared.

While loans up to Rs 25,000 were waived in 2020, loans up to Rs 37,000 were cleared in August 2021. Of the 36.68 lakh farmers eligible for loan waiver up to Rs 1 lakh, only 5.66 lakh farmers benefited from the last two instalments.

Therefore, the bank accounts of the remaining 31.02 lakh farmers have been kept on hold due to the non-payback of earlier loans.



Nalgonda Lok Sabha member N Uttam Kumar Reddy at Rachabanda programme in Nalgonda constituency on Tuesday

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that over 31 lakh farmers would not be eligible to apply for fresh crop loans as RBI rules mandate clearance of crop loans in three seasons from the time of credit off-take to be eli-

gible for renewal of accounts. He also pointed out that of the Rs 20,164.20 crore allotted in annual budgets from 2018 for the waiver of crop loans, the TRS government released only Rs 1,171.38 crore in two instal-

ments. The MP demanded that the government should immediately credit Rs 18,000 crore to the bank accounts of over 31 lakh farmers to ensure that they are eligible for fresh crop loans. He also said that the non-

clearance of crop loan waiver amount at one go prevented farmers from accessing the benefits of the Rythu Bandhu and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana schemes.

The farmers were unable to utilise the Rs 5,000 per acre per season from Rythu Bandhu and the Rs 2,000 under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana as financial input as banks have adjusted those amounts towards their outstanding dues that had accumulated from 2018.

Former minister J Geetha Reddy said that the Warangal Declaration announced by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi offers a comprehensive solution to all the problems of the farming community.

She said that the waiver of crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh at one go would provide immediate relief to lakhs of farmers.

INDIA CORNER

E-procurement eliminates avenues for corruption: CAG

Making a strong case for promoting e-procurement, CAG Girish Chandra Murmu on Tuesday said it has the potential to eliminate avenues for corruption and rent-seeking in public procurement. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) was speaking at the e-seminar of INTOSAI Working Group on IT Audit (WGITA) on the topic 'Auditing e-procurement systems', hosted virtually by SAI India. "There is no doubt that e-procurement has potential to eliminate avenues for corruption and rent-seeking in public procurement. E-procurement with its promise of transparency, is also a deterrent to collusion between officials and the suppliers as a digital trail for every transaction is recorded," said Murmu, as the Chair WGITA. However, Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) need to remain vigilant as discretion in many steps in the procurement process continues, leaving scope for corruption, he added.



HC grants 12 weeks to K'taka to complete delimitation for ZP-TP polls

The Karnataka High Court has given 12 weeks time to the State Government for the delimitation exercise and preparing the reservation list for the Zilla Panchayat and Taluk Panchayats. The HC accepted the 12 weeks time sought by the state in the memo filed before it. The Karnataka State Election Commission (SEC) had approached the HC following the Supreme Court directions to hold the elections immediately. The state government had constituted a delimitation panel and a backward classes commission under the chairmanship of a retired judge, the HC was informed. The SEC accepted the government's proposal. The HC made it clear to the government that it cannot seek an extension. The HC directed the SEC to announce the elections within a week after the government completes the delimitation and reservation exercise.



Modi to address cooperative sector meet, dedicate hospital in Guj on May 28

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a conclave of cooperative sector leaders and dedicate a multi-specialty hospital in Gujarat on May 28, officials said on Tuesday. As per the official schedule, the prime minister will first inaugurate a multi-specialty hospital built by Shree Patel Seva Samaj at Atkot village in Jasdian taluka of Rajkot district at 10 am. The 200-bed KD Parwadia Multispecialty Hospital is situated on Rajkot-Bhavnagar Highway and built at a cost of Rs 40 crore, said Managing Trustee of the hospital, Dr Bharat Boghara said. "The hospital will benefit people in rural areas of Rajkot, Botad, Amreli and other surrounding districts. We will provide free treatment to people who possess Ayushman Bharat and other cards issued by the government."



MODI'S MEET WITH JAPANESE PM KISHIDA IN TOKYO

Defence mfg, trade & tech on agenda

PNS ■ TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday met his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida here and the two leaders undertook a comprehensive stocktaking of the entire framework of the bilateral partnership to carry forward cooperation in diverse areas, including defence manufacturing in India and trade and technology. Prime Minister Modi, who is here for the second in-person Quad summit, held a bilateral meeting with Kishida during which they underscored the importance of maintaining the momentum of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries.

Both leaders undertook a comprehensive stocktaking of the entire framework of bilateral partnership to carry forward our cooperation in diverse areas, including in the field of defence manufacturing in India, skill development, partnership, trade and technology partnership cooperation, including for resilient supply



chains in the region, and other areas, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said in a media briefing. This is Prime Minister Modi's fifth visit to Japan since becoming Prime Minister and his second meeting with his Japanese counterpart Kishida, he said.

Prime Minister Kishida invited Prime Minister Modi to visit Japan later this year for the annual summit, the Foreign Secretary said. In fact, during the summit, both Prime Ministers underscored the importance of maintaining the momentum of regular high level exchanges between the two countries, he added.

Prime Minister Modi, US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Kishida and Australia's newly-elected Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Tuesday attended the second in-person Quad summit which took place under the shadow of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The summit also took place at a time when the relations between China and the Quad member countries have become tense, with Beijing increasingly challenging democratic values and resorting to coercive trade practices.

India, the US and several other world powers have been

talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the region.

China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea.

In March last year, President Biden hosted the first-ever summit of the Quad leaders in the virtual format that was followed by an in-person summit in Washington in September. The Quad leaders also held a virtual meeting in March.

Australia will host the next Quad summit in 2023.

In November 2017, India, Japan, the US and Australia gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the Quad to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence, amidst China's growing military presence in the strategic region.

Kerala to conduct special vaccination drive for children



PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Health Department is gearing up to conduct a three-day COVID-19 vaccination drive exclusively for children from May 25.

The objective of the drive was to vaccinate as many children as possible in view of the reopening of the schools next month after summer vacation, state health minister Veena George said on Tuesday.

It is being organised in collaboration with schools, residents' associations and volunteer groups, she said adding that children can receive the shots in all major hospitals by registering in the COWIN portal or through spot registration at the respective centres. School ID cards or Aadhaar cards are mandatory for children to get vaccinated, the minister said and directed the officials concerned to ensure that all children of this age group are vaccinated in the state.

Akhilesh slams UP govt over crime

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a face-off with Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on law and order, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday recalled SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav's "boys will be boys" remark on rape.

Opposing death penalty for rape, Akhilesh Yadav's father and Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav had purportedly said at a rally, 'Ladke, ladke hain. Galti ho jati hai (Boys will be boys. Mistakes happen sometimes)'.

Replying to Leader of Opposition Akhilesh Yadav's attack over the crime against



women, the CM said, "This is the government of the BJP. Here it's not said that boys will be boys. Mistakes happen sometimes." Any kind of crime is "unforgivable" and the government is taking strict action against criminals, especially those committing crime against women, he claimed. During the zero hour, Yadav

referred to the crime against women in Allahabad, Chandauli, Siddharthnagar and Lalitpur, claiming that maximum crimes against women were committed in UP.

Referring to a girl's rape allegedly by an SHO in Lalitpur, he said the case was registered only after the CM went there. Yadav added that the CM at a meeting said he will set 'officers right' and asked them to leave acting like "middlemen". The CM wasn't aware of it in the past five years, said Yadav in a jibe at Adityanath.

Adityanath retorted to Yadav saying, "You support every criminal who spreads anarchy in the state and practise hooliganism."

Hindu & Jain deities inside Q-Minar opposed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on Tuesday opposed a plea before a Delhi court seeking restoration of Hindu and Jain deities inside the Qutub Minar complex, saying it is not a place of worship and the existing status of the monument cannot be altered. The ASI also said that it would be contrary to the law to agree to the

contention of any person claiming a fundamental right to worship in this centrally protected monument. The ASI, however, said that the architectural materials and images of Hindu and Jain deities were re-used in the construction of the Qutab complex. Additional District Judge Nikhil Chopra reserved the order on the plea for June 9. "Fundamental right to the law to agree to the



lation of any status of the land. The basic principle of protection conservation is not to allow starting of any new practice in a monument declared and notified as a protected one under the Act, the ASI said.

Father's death biggest learning experience: Rahul

PNS ■ CAMBRIDGE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said that the assassination of his father and former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was the single biggest learning experience of his life, asserting that he cannot get away from the fact that the event also made him learn things that he would have never learnt otherwise.

In conversation with Indian-origin academic Dr Shruti Kapila at the prestigious University of Cambridge on Monday, he was asked about the death anniversary of his father who was killed in an LTTE suicide bombing during an election rally in Tamil Nadu in May 1991.

Kapila, Associate Professor in the Faculty of History at Corpus Christi College, posed the Opposition MP with a Gandhian question of violence and how to live with it at a personal level.

The single biggest learning experience of my life was my



father's death. There is no bigger experience than that, said Gandhi, after several minutes of pause during the 51-year-old leader seemed visibly moved. Now, I can look at it and say the person or the force that killed my father caused me tremendous pain that's correct, as a son I lost my father and that's very painful.

But then I can't get away from the fact that the same event also made me learn things that I would never ever have learnt otherwise. So, as long as you are ready to learn, it does-

n't matter how nasty or evil people are, the Congress leader said. Gandhi went on to relate this to day-to-day politics, adding: If I turn around and (Prime Minister) Mr (Narendra) Modi attacks me, and I say oh my god he's so vicious, he's attacking me. That's one way of looking at it, and the other way of looking at it great, I could learn something from him, give me some more.

Asked if loss could be productive, Gandhi reflected on the perils of politics where large energies are at play. In life you

will always, especially if you are in places where large energies are moving, you will always get hurt. If you do what I do, you will get hurt. It's not a possibility, it's a certainty because it's like swimming in an ocean with big waves you are going to go under. When you go under, you learn how to react from it, he said.

During the course of the session at Cambridge University, Gandhi also fielded a series of questions from students from the university who wanted to know how they could get involved with making a difference in Indian politics.

The Congress leader said they could join as interns with party leaders and then be sent to different parts of India to witness political action, but urged them to be ready to tough it out. It's a hard business and if you do it properly, it's a painful business, it's not a fun business it's a tough job and you are going to get beaten up, he said, calling on the youth to join in.

Quad condemns terrorism; denounces 26/11, P'kot attacks

PNS ■ TOKYO

The leaders of India, Australia, Japan and the United States on Tuesday unequivocally condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, and reiterated their condemnation of terrorist attacks, including the 26/11 Mumbai and Pathankot attacks perpetrated by Pakistan-based terror groups.

In a Quad Joint Leaders' Statement issued after the second in-person meeting of the Quad leaders here, Prime



Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

and Australia's newly-elected Prime Minister Anthony Albanese reiterated that there

can be no justification for acts of terror on any grounds whatsoever. We condemn unequivocally terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, the statement said. The four leaders denounced the use of terrorist proxies and emphasised the importance of denying any logistical, financial or military support to terrorist groups which could be used to launch or plan terror attacks, including cross-border attacks, it said, without naming any country.

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GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned, borrowers in specific, who had pledged their ornaments vide Gold loan numbers in the branches which is given below. The auction for the gold ornaments of the borrowers who failed to redeem their overdue accounts after repeated reminders and being notified by registered letters. The auction will be conducted at the respective branches on 30.05.2022 from 10 AM.

ADALARABAD DISTRICT AUCTION: MUTHOOTU MINI FINANCIERS LTD, 28-1-22, OPP. TOWN POLICE STATION, WILLAMPALETTI - 504251. AUCTION DATE: 26.06.2022

APP-BALAPALLY 13544, 13572, 13585, 13609, 13677, 13686, 13687, 13689, 13691, 13692, 13710, 13734, 13737, 13743, 13749, 13767, 13813, 13883, 13885, 13888, 13889, 13887, 13893, 13895, 13896, 13901, 13946, 13948, 13954, 13955, 14004, 14005, 14016, 14017, 14022, 14023, 14024, 14025, 14026, 14027, 14028, 14029, 14030, 14031, 14032, 14033, 14034, 14035, 14036, 14037, 14038, 14039, 14040, 14041, 14042, 14043, 14044, 14045, 14046, 14047, 14048, 14049, 14050, 14051, 14052, 14053, 14054, 14055, 14056, 14057, 14058, 14059, 14060, 14061, 14062, 14063, 14064, 14065, 14066, 14067, 14068, 14069, 14070, 14071, 14072, 14073, 14074, 14075, 14076, 14077, 14078, 14079, 14080, 14081, 14082, 14083, 14084, 14085, 14086, 14087, 14088, 14089, 14090, 14091, 14092, 14093, 14094, 14095, 14096, 14097, 14098, 14099, 14100, 14101, 14102, 14103, 14104, 14105, 14106, 14107, 14108, 14109, 14110, 14111, 14112, 14113, 14114, 14115, 14116, 14117, 14118, 14119, 14120, 14121, 14122, 14123, 14124, 14125, 14126, 14127, 14128, 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FIRST COLUMN

INDIA MUST STABILISE THE VALUE OF RUPEE

Steep falls reveal that rupee's value is vulnerable to net forex outflow



RP GUPTA

In Maysecond week, the forex reserve of India has reduced to \$595 billion from \$635 billion in September 2021. Existing reserves are about 18% of nominal GDP which is acomfort zone. Despite this, the value of rupee against US dollarfell almost by 6%to ₹77.4 in May, 2022 from ₹73 in September 2021. Such steep fall reveals that the value of the rupee is vulnerable to the net outflow of forex. Historically, India has been in the trade deficit (goods & services) and therefore, the forex reserves are generally built from the "capital receipts" in shape of debt and equity. Net "inward remittance" in the current account is about\$60-65 billion which is consumed in the part financing of trade deficit and mostly, India had been in "current account deficit". Trade deficit is somewhat similar to "operating loss" and the current account deficit is similar to"net loss" of Nation in the international trade. This is not a good scenario for the stability of rupee. Ideally, India should be in "trade surplus" for a stable rupee. For appreciation ofrupee value, India should have"current account surplus" on consistent basis. Import of energy (Petroleum & Coal) must be partially replaced with domestic production. India is having enough reserves of coal and its production must be increased through mineral and coal sector reforms. Indiahasalso good reserves of oil and gas, as quoted by ex-petroleum Minister VeerappaMoily and also by Vedanta's Anil Agrawal. However, thisneeds huge spending in prospecting. For replacing imports of electronics and defence items, Government has taken good steps; that may be pushed. Similar steps are also needed for other



major imports. Government should bring a white paper for boosting-exports and replacing imports with domestic production. Besides this, there is a vast scope of export of services in the field of tourism, consultancy (legal, accounting and engineering), shipping, education and health sector; that also needs a separate white paper.

The financial savings of India are not adequate for financing the investment needs and therefore, the dependency upon the inflow of global funds shall continue for few more years. As an interim measure, the physical savings in gold must be reduced to alimstnil through financial innovation, as suggested by author in his Book 'Turn Around India'. Huge import of gold is indeed a drag on the trade balance. In 1992,the regime of fixed exchange rate was ended. Thereafter, the value of rupee was almost stable from the year 2000 to 2010, as evident from the table below. It means that; it is feasible to maintain stability of rupee. Simultaneously, the reasons for subsequent fall inrupee value must be analysed and resolved. Total financial assets in the world are exceeding \$200 trillion. Global investors are in search of such destinations which provide them a high return in terms of US dollars. In case, India succeeds in achieving stability of Rupee, the global funds shall rush in. In such case, it is imperative that global funds are mostly used for the investment in productive assets and not for consumption. Failing which, the inflation might aggravate and the servicing of global funds might pose problem. For boosting investment in productive assets, the regulatory easement and the simplification of Tax laws are the prerequisites. Theexternal risks, if any, arising due to outflow of forex anddepreciation of rupee shall be totally eliminated. Rather, due to surplus forex reserves, the diplomatic relation of India shall improve, particularly with neighbouring nations. And thus, India shall command high respect in the global fraternity.

(The writer is an economist and author. The views expressed are personal.)

Mahaprabhuji's vision of universal peace



PRASHANT TEWARI

A Vaishnav does not harbour negative feelings of hatred, jealousy, envy, and so on, and treats everyone with respect, equanimity and equality

Vaishnavism is one of the major forms of modern Hinduism, characterised by devotion to Vishnu and his incarnations. A devotee of Vishnu is called a Vaishnava. The Vaishnavite tradition is known for the loving devotion to an avatar of Vishnu, and as such was key to the spread of the Bhakti movement in South Asia in the 2nd millennium CE. For Vaishnavas, absolute reality is manifested in Vishnu, who in turn is incarnated in Rama, Krishna, and other avatars. Through his avatars, Vishnu defends traditional righteousness in keeping with the moral law.

Vaishnavism is the worship and acceptance of Vishnu. The various sects of worshippers of Vishnu pray to him in different ways. For some, the goal of religious devotion to Vishnu is liberation from the cycle of birth and death. For others, it is health and prosperity in this life, good crops, success in business, or thriving children. Vaishnavism comprises many sects and groups that differ in their interpretation of the relationship between the individual and God. It has four main categories of sub-schools: the medieval-era Vishishtadvaita school of Ramanuja, the Dvaita school of Madhvacharya, the Dvaitadvaita school of Nimbarkacharya, and the Pushtimarg of Vallabhacharya. The Srivaishnava sect, for example, emphasises the doctrine of qualified non-dualism of Ramanuja, according to which, although the differentiated phenomenal world is illusory, it is nevertheless the medium through which devotees may gain access to God. Another group professes the dualism of the philosopher Madhva, the belief that God and the soul are separate entities and that the soul's existence is dependent on God. The Pushtimarg sect maintains the pure non-dualism doctrine of the theologian Vallabhacharya, which does not declare the phenomenal world to be an illusion. The Gaudiya sect, founded by Chaitanya, teaches inconceivable duality and non-duality, the belief that the relation between God and the world is beyond the scope of human comprehension.

HDH Shashth Pithadishwar Puja Pad Goswami 108 Shree Dwarkeshlalji Maharajshree is the chief patron - managing trustee of Vaishnav Innerfaith Pushtimargiya Organisation (VIVO-Global). His Divine Holiness hails from the Pushtimarg tradition of Vaishnavism as the direct descendant of Jagadguru Shrimad Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhuji, the founder of Pushti Bhakti Marg and one of the five great Acharyas in Hinduism. His Divine Holiness is enthroned as the 14th Gadipathi of Shashthpeeth at Vadodara, one of the seven thrones of Shri VitthalnathjiGusainji, the son of Shri Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhuji. He is not only the head at Kalyanraiji Mandir, Vadodara but also at several temples/Havelis in India, the UK, the USA, and Canada. The first supreme omnipresent Jagad Guru Shrimad Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhuji established the Vaishnav religious system to grace upon



INNER FAITH IS THE DIVINE LOVE ONE EXPERIENCES AFTER REALISING KRISHNA'S TRUE NATURE. IT IS THE RECOGNITION OF THE ALL-PERVADING NATURE OR BRAHMAVAD ESSENCE OF GOD WITHIN OURSELVES AND IN THE WORLD THAT GIVES A POSITIVE OUTLOOK AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE

(The writer is Editor-in-Chief of Opinion Express. The views expressed are personal.)



the Universe, the Divine Grace, also known as Pushtimarg. Jagad Guru Vallabhacaryaji had two Divine Sons - Shri Gopinathji& Shri Vitthalnathji-Gosainji. Shri Vitthalnathji-Gosainji had seven sons. His sixth son was Shri Yadunathji. Shashtha pithadishwar Param Puja Goswami 108 Shree DwarkeshlaljiMaharajshri is the 14th Generation of Shri Yadunathji. For the past 13 generations based on the traditions of Shashtha pithadishwar, he resides on every Gaadi-Pati (Throne) as Raj-Tilak. He is presently residing in Vadodara as Raj-Tilak in Seva of Mohini Swarup Shri Kalyanrayji. This is the same Swarup that Beloved Vallabhacharya ji served (Sevya). Pujyapad Goswami 108 Shree DwarkeshlaljiMaharajshri is presently the Raj-Tilak Gaadi-Pati of Vadodara, Ahmedabad-Naroda (Shri Mahaprabhaji'sBethakji), Gondal, Baria, (Gujarat), Gokul (Uttar Pradesh), Dhanpur, Shergad (Rajasthan), Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh), Sikandarabad (Telangana). Likewise, in Atlanta-Gokuldham, Ocala-Pushtidham, Connecticut-Vallabhdham (All-USA) &Leceister-Shreeji Dham (UK). Moreover, he is serving var-

ious other religious establishments around the world as an advisory. From a very young age, Puja Maharajshree has been an inspirational religious, social and cultural leader as well as a guiding force for the young and old alike and strong support for the disadvantaged members of society. He has motivated thousands of youngsters to embrace Pushtimarg through various religious, cultural, educational, and charitable institutions throughout India and the world. Over the years, HDH has been honored for His profound philosophical and poetic writings as well as for His religious, social, and humanitarian work. He is a renowned Pushti Margiya Propagator, Philosopher and Teacher. He appreciates antique collections and art &artistry. He is very proficient in playing Mrudang (Pakhawaj) in Music Area. He is articulate in preparing and adorning jewelry for Shree Thakorjee. He has written several ongoing poetries in Gujarati, Hindi & Vraj Bhasha. He is the author of various religious and philosophical articles and texts. He has an interest in ancient & modern, known-unknown Gazals' collections. He displays a keen interest in national geographic and

current affairs of past and present times...

He has received several accolades and awards including the prestigious "Glory of Gujarat" award in 2015 for promoting social well-being, Indian culture, and religion as well as for His valuable contributions to economics and religious research. Most recently in August 2021, His Divine Holiness was awarded an honorary doctorate by North American University, USA.

Puja Maharajshree continues to travel tirelessly throughout the world. HDH Dwarkeshlalji Maharajshree enlightens the world on the specifics of terminology commonly used by followers of the Vaishnav cult.

Who is a Vaishnav? Anyone offering divine loving services to Lord Shree Krishna by dedicating and finding refuge in Him is called a Vaishnav. A Vaishnav does not harbor negative feelings of hatred, jealousy, envy, etc., and treats everyone with respect, equanimity, and equality.

What is Inner Faith?Inner faith is the divine love one experiences after realising Shri Krishna's true nature. It is the recognition of the all-pervading nature or Brahmad essence of God within ourselves and in the world that gives a positive outlook and attitude towards life and creates respect, understanding, and awareness of oneself as well as others. Unyielding faith originating from one's experiences of God's omnipotent presence can lead to extraordinary experiences which are practical and liberating. In this state of liberation, one merges into Shri Krishna's blissful form and no caste, creed, color, sex, or age prevents one from attaining Shri Krishna's grace. It transcends all boundaries of identity, time, space, and place.

What does Pushtimargiya mean?Pushtimarg also known as "The Path of Grace" is a Vaishnav sect of Hinduism established by Jagadguru Shrimad Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhuji, one of the great Acharyas of Hinduism. "Pushtimargiya" is spontaneous, selfless, motiveless love for LordVaishnavism theology, descend to empower the good and fight evil, thereby restoring Dharma. This is reflected in the passages of the ancient Bhagavad Gita as: Whenever righteousness wanes and unrighteousness increases, I send myself forth.

For the protection of the good and for the destruction of evil, and for the establishment of righteousness, I come into being age after age.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THIS IS A GOVERNMENT WORSE THAN THAT OF HITLER, MUSSOLINI OR EVEN STALIN. THEY ARE BULLDOZING THE NATION'S FEDERAL STRUCTURE.

— WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

MAMATA BANERJEE



IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS, WE HAVE MADE OUR DEMOCRACY STRONG AND RESILIENT... ONE OF THE STRONGEST PILLARS OF PROGRESS.

— PRIME MINISTER

NARENDRA MODI

Rajya Sabha elections will give BJP numerical edge

The regional parties may gain more than the two national parties, the ruling BJP and the Congress, in elections to the Upper House

The composition of Rajya Sabha will soon mirror Lok Sabha giving an advantage to the ruling BJP. But it will not gain the majority yet. Stakes are high for the BJP and the opposition parties because of the upcoming Presidential and vice-presidential polls in June-July. Any changes in the composition of state assemblies will impact the Rajya Sabha, the House of Elders.

The House will witness several changes after the upcoming biennial elections for 57 Rajya Sabha seats and two bye-elections on June 10. Some retiring members might come back, and others may not. The regional parties may gain more than the two national parties - the ruling BJP and the Congress — after the biennial polls.

The regional satraps rule



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

several states like West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Delhi, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu. The last three states are coalition governments. The young Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ruling Delhi and Punjab has been the biggest gainer in the Rajya Sabha biennial elections. It won five seats, with which its strength in the House has gone up to eight. The regional parties might increase their tally to 27 from 25 seats out of the 57.

Secondly, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first term (2014-2019), the Congress-led opposition was strong and created hurdles for most bills. The BJP, which had just 47 members in 2012, has touched three digits. The numbers changed in Modi- 2-0, enabling the Government to



push through many contentious bills, including the abrogation of Article 370 and the trifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir.

Of the 59 members retiring, 25 belong to the BJP, while its allies, the Janata Dal (United) two and AIADMK, three. The shrinking National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has 31 seats out of the 59. It will be challenging for the NDA as it will likely lose 7 to 9. As far as other parties are

concerned, the Samajwadi Party has three, the Biju Janata Dal four, the Bahujan Samaj Party two, and the Telangana Rashtra Samiti three. In contrast, the YSR Congress, the Akali Dal, and the Rashtriya Janata Dal have one each.

In Andhra Pradesh, the BJP will lose the three it currently holds out of the four seats going to the polls. The YSRCP's sweeping victory in 2019 means

it will gain all four seats. Similarly, the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) will gain both seats going to the polls. Biju Janata Dal (BJD) will continue to hold all three seats. In Bihar, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) will improve its tally from one seat to two, and AAP will win both the seats in Punjab that Congress and Akali Dal previously held. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has offered one seat to Congress, held by the BJP.

Thirdly, the Congress Party, the main opposition since 2014, could shrink further. Electorally, the Congress Party has not recovered from the jolt it received in 2014 and 2019 and has lost one state after the other since then. Its tally in Rajya Sabha will dip further after the forthcoming biennial elections

to the Upper House. The party will get zero seats in Andhra Pradesh, come down in Rajasthan from 4 to 2, and lose one seat each from Jharkhand and Chattisgarh. Moreover, between now and 2024, there will be elections for 65 seats, but Congress's chances are bleak and its strength will decrease further.

Fourthly, some senior Congress leaders might not get a Rajya Sabha berth due to the recent Udaipur resolution giving a 50 percent share to the youth in all positions. The tenure of senior Congress leaders, like P Chidambaram, Kapil Sibal, Jairam Ramesh and Ambika Soni, are set to end. Some Union ministers including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, and

Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi will also retire. However, they are all likely to come back. The party will be able to accommodate almost all of them after its recent massive win in four of the five state Assembly elections.

On the contrary, Congress's footprint has shrunk geographically. The party is ruling in only four states-in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh on its own and in Maharashtra and Jharkhand as a junior partner in the ruling alliance. The party will have zero representation in the Rajya Sabha from 17 states and Union Territories.

Above all, the Rajya Sabha is likely to have a new Chairman if the incumbent, M. Venkaiah Naidu, is either elevated as President or does not get a second term.

MONEY MATTERS

BSNL to migrate 30,000 wifi hotspots to PM-WANI framework by June: DoT official

State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam will migrate 30,000 of its wifi hotspots to the PM-WANI framework by June, a senior telecom department official on Tuesday said. Adding Railways too has an ambitious blueprint for all its future hotspots to be under the framework. Speaking at Broadband India Forum (BIF) event, Vivek Narayan, DDG (data services) in the Department of Telecom (DoT) mentioned the potential and impact of the PM-WANI wifi hotspots scheme across areas, such as tourism, smart cities and last-mile connectivity in villages. In a bid to fuel broadband internet proliferation across the country, the government, in December 2020, approved the setting up of public wifi networks and access points by local Kirana and neighbourhood shops through public data offices that will not involve any licence, fee or registration. The public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface, known as PM-WANI, hold the promise of unleashing a massive wifi revolution in the country.



LG eyes leadership position with 32 pc share of Indian TV market

South Korean consumer electronics major LG is targeting for a 32 per cent share of the Indian TV market in 2022, with a gain of around 5 per cent to become the number one player in the segment, a top company official said. The company is banking on its country-specific product line-up with local insights, expansion of retail and after-sales network, as it seeks to be the leading player in the TV segment providing a quality viewing experience to its customers, LG Electronics India Director- Home Entertainment Hak Hyun Kim told PTI. "Our aspiration is to be the number one TV brand. We would have around 32 per cent market share when we exit 2022," Hyun Kim said in an interview here. The Indian TV market is estimated to be at USD 4.6 billion (around Rs 35,700 crore by value) and the South Korean firm had close to 27 per cent market share in 2021, he added.



'Indian data centres may get up to Rs 1.2 lakh cr investment in five years'

Data centres capacity expansion in India by both foreign and local firms is expected to add investments to the tune of Rs 1.05 lakh to 1.2 lakh crore over the period of next five years, credit rating agency ICRA said on Tuesday. The Indian data centres market is witnessing a healthy growth primarily driven by large hyper-scalers like Amazon web services, Google, Microsoft, Facebook, IBM, Uber, Dropbox etc who are outsourcing their storage needs to third party data centre providers, ICRA said. Indian corporates like the Hiranandani Group, Adani Group, foreign investors which include Amazon, EdgeConnex, Microsoft, CapitaLand, Mantra Group have started investing in Indian data centres. "Along with them, existing players like NTT, CtrlS, Nxtra, STT India are also expanding their capacities. Overall, 3900-4100 MW of capacity involving investments of Rs 1.05 to 1.20 lakh crore are likely to get added in the next five years," ICRA said.



Komaki Electric launches two new e-scooters

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Expanding its electric scooter portfolio, Komaki Electric on Tuesday launched two advanced models -- DT 3000 and LY -- priced at Rs 1.22 lakh and Rs 88,000 onwards, respectively. The DT 3000 comes with a unique battery while the high-speed LY with anti-skid functions, the company said in a release. Komaki Electric in January this year rolled out its first battery-powered cruiser motorcycle Ranger and e-scooter Venice. The introduction of the two new electric scooter models has expanded the company's product portfolio to eight models with four of them coming in this year alone, Komaki said. The launch of these vehicles also reflects the company's commitment to aggressive R&D activities, production capacity and prompt response to the ever-changing demands in the market, it said. "After receiving overwhelming response from the customers, we are inspired to be back with two new EVs, the DT 3000 with its unique battery and LY with anti-skid functions," said Gunjan Malhotra, Director, Komaki Electric Division.

All efforts are on to increase coal output: Coal Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The coal ministry on Tuesday said all efforts are being made to further boost output and dispatch of coal, and that production of the dry fuel jumped over 36 per cent in the first half of May.

The ministry's statement comes against the backdrop of certain parts of the country grappling with power outages due to shortage of coal for power plants.

"During the first half of May 2022, total coal production increased to 33.94 Million Tonnes (MT) achieving a growth of 36.23 per cent over the production of 24.91 MT during the same period last year," the ministry said in a statement.

The dispatch of the dry fuel also increased 15.87 per cent to 37.18 MT in the first half of the current month over the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

The coal ministry "is continuing all efforts to further enhance coal production and dispatch to meet the increasing power demand in the country



due to sustained economic growth and also the seasonal factors".

Total coal dispatches were at 71.77 MT in April, registering a rise of 9.39 per cent on a year-on-year basis. The country's coal production rose to 67 MT in April. Coal India Ltd (CIL) -- which accounts for over 80 per cent of the domestic coal output -- has played main role in augmenting production and recorded its highest monthly coal output of

53.47 MT in April.

The total dispatches of the dry fuel from CIL increased to 57.50 MT in April from 54.23 MT in the year-ago period. This represents a growth of 6.03 per cent.

As per the consolidated figures, overall dispatches (including non-CIL production) to the power sector have been at the level of 61.69 MT as compared to 52.32 MT in April 2021, an increase of 17.91 per cent.

The dispatch of the dry fuel also increased 15.87 per cent to 37.18 MT in the first half of the current month over the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

India, 12 other Indo-Pacific nations pledge to promote free & fair trade

PNS ■ TOKYO

India along with other Indo-Pacific nations including the US, Japan and Australia, on Tuesday committed to a free and fair trade with a view to promoting investments and achieving sustainable economic growth.

The Indo-Pacific nations also agreed to identify additional areas of cooperation based on consultations among partners to further shared interests, a joint statement said. The joint statement was issued after the launch the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) on Monday.

"We, the India, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Vietnam of the Indo-Pacific region, acknowledge the richness and the diversity of our vibrant regional economy.

"We share a commitment to a free, open, fair, inclusive, interconnected, resilient, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region that has the potential to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic



growth," it said.

The member nations also acknowledged that the economic policy interests in the region are intertwined, and deepening economic engagement among partners is crucial for continued growth, peace, and prosperity.

In the long term, the statement emphasised, the economic competitiveness would largely defined on the ability of nations to harness technology, promote innovation, participate in the digital economy, achieve energy security, and tackle the climate crisis.

Asking other interested Indo-Pacific partners to join the initiative, the statement said that collective discussions were being launched toward future negotiations on the fol-

lowing pillars -- trade; supply chains; cheap energy, decarbonization, and infrastructure; and tax and anti-corruption.

As regards trade, the statement said that the objective would be to build high-standard, inclusive, free, and fair trade commitments and develop new and creative approaches in trade and technology policy that advance a broad set of objectives that fuels economic activity and investment, promotes sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and benefits workers and consumers. The statement also expressed commitment of the leaders to improving transparency, diversity, security, and sustainability in supply chains to make them more resilient and well-integrated.

GOYAL MEETS GLOBAL LEADERS

Pitches India among best investment destinations

PNS ■ DAVOS

Pitching India as one of the best investment destinations globally, Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday asked global business leaders at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting to "come to India and grow with India".

Goyal, who has been meeting a host of global leaders here since Saturday, reiterated India's position as one of the world's most preferred investment destinations and told them about the massive scope and range of opportunities it presents to investors globally.

The Commerce and Industry Minister, who addressed a breakfast session on Tuesday morning, said there was so much interest in India among those present



here that he was finding it hard to adjust his calendar, but was trying to accommodate everyone as all of them are important and are keen to make large investments. On Monday evening, he also met John Kerry and discussed future

tracks for India-US Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership.

In his meeting with Deutsche Bank chairman-elect Alexander R Wynaendts, he discussed how the financial institution can further complement the Indian government's sustainable growth agenda.

The two leaders also explored how digitisation can aid businesses pursue environment, social and governance-linked goals. He also addressed a global investors roundtable here.

His other meetings included those with Standard Chartered Bank Group CEO Bill Winters, Micron Technology CEO Sanjay Mehrotra and Brookfield Asset Management CEO Bruce Flatt.

Norms tightened to check wheat export by corrupt traders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry has imposed a new condition for the grant of registration certificates for wheat exports as it looks to curb shipments by unscrupulous traders.

The government is allowing wheat shipments for which irrevocable letters of credit (LoC) were issued on or before May 13, when the ban of the export of the foodgrain was imposed.

According to the new condition notified by the DGFT, the message exchange date between the Indian and foreign bank/swift date for the issue of a LoC should be on or prior to May 13, 2022.

Exporters will have to submit the message exchange date with foreign banks along with



a valid LoC, issued on or before May 13, to obtain registration of contracts (RC) to ship their consignments, according to a notice by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

The DGFT issued the notice

to prevent unscrupulous traders from exporting wheat on the basis of fraudulent back-dated letter of credits (L/C). The notice stated that exporters having valid L/Cs would have to register with the regional authorities (RAs) of

the DGFT to obtain registration of contracts (RC) to ship their consignments. Information has been received from sources that fraudulent back dated L/C showing date of issuance as on or prior to May 13, 2022, are being submitted by some unscrupulous exporters for issue of RCs, but as per the L/C, message exchange date between foreign and the Indian bank/swift message is after May 13, 2022," the DGFT said.

The matter, it said "has been considered and it is clarified that for registration of L/C with the RAs of DGFT, apart from the L/C date, the message exchange date between the Indian and foreign bank/swift date should be on or prior to May 13, 2022".

Gold gains marginally by Rs 25; silver tumbles Rs 428

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold in the national capital on Tuesday gained marginally by Rs 25 to Rs 51,027 per 10 grams in line with firm trend in international precious metal prices along with rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 51,002 per 10 grams. Silver, however, tumbled Rs 428 to Rs 61,557 per kg from Rs 61,985 per kg in the previous trade. Meanwhile, the rupee slipped by 4 paise to close at 77.59 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by a negative trend in domestic equities and unabated foreign fund outflows.

Govt likely to cap sugar exports at 10 mn tons this year: Official sources

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is likely to restrict sugar exports to 10 million tonnes for the first time in six years in order to maintain enough domestic supply and prevent rise in prices, according to official sources. Mills have contracted for export of 9 million tonnes of sugar so far in the 2021-22 marketing year (October-September). Out of which, 7.5 million tonnes of the sweetener has been exported, the sources added. India is the world's second largest producer and exporter after Brazil.

"A notification on sugar export restrictions will be issued in a day or two," the



sources said.

A closing stock of 6 million tonnes is required at the end of September 2022, to meet the domestic demand in the first two months of the new 2022-23 marketing year.

Also, the country's priority is first to meet the domestic requirement, keep prices under check and allow export only if there is surplus quantity, the sources said.

853 FDI proposals disposed of in 5 years through FIFP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 853 foreign direct investment proposals have been disposed of through the foreign investment facilitation portal in the last five years, the commerce and industry ministry said on Tuesday.

The Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIFP) was developed after the abolition of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) in May 2017. After the abolition of FIPB, granting of government approval for overseas investment under the FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) policy and FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) regulations was entrusted to the concerned ministries/departments, the commerce ministry said in a statement. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the ministry, was made the nodal department.

India's crude oil production falls 1% in April

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's crude oil production fell 1 per cent in April after lower output from fields operated by the private sector wiped away gains by state-owned firms such as ONGC, official data showed Tuesday.

India produced 2.47 million tonnes of crude oil in April, down from 2.5 million tonnes in the same month last year, according to data released by the Ministry of Petroleum

and Natural Gas.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) produced 1.65 million tonnes of crude oil in April, which was nearly 5 per cent more than the target set for it and 0.86 per cent higher than the 1.63 million tonnes produced last year.

Oil India Ltd (OIL) produced 3.6 per cent more crude at 2,51,460 tonnes but fields operated by the private sector produced 7.5 per cent less

crude oil at 5,67,570 tonnes.

The government has been focused on raising domestic production of oil and gas to cut reliance on imports. India imports 85 per cent of its oil needs and about half of its natural gas requirement.

Natural gas output rose 6.6 per cent to 2.82 billion cubic meters on the back of higher output from eastern offshore - home to the KG-D6 block of Reliance Industries Ltd and BP plc.

Indian cos show resilience despite short-term disruption

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 50 per cent of Indian CEOs acknowledge that COVID pandemic has caused short-term disruption to their industry, but Indian companies have continued to demonstrate resilience as economy rebounds, a survey said on Tuesday.

The EY India CEO Survey 2022 has found that merger and acquisitions (M&A) is a key strategic lever for Indian CEOs as they look to buy versus build to achieve their transformation ambitions.

"Today, amidst challenges of inflationary pressures, supply chain issues, and increasing geopolitical conflicts, CEOs in India are resetting their risk



radar and reframing their investment strategy for reshaped future, with transformation and sustainability increasingly driving the M&A agenda," the survey said. According to the EY 2022 CEO Outlook Survey, 50 per cent of Indian CEOs acknowledge the pandemic

caused short-term disruption to their industry.

Geopolitical challenges have further exacerbated a tumultuous period and created additional risks to business operations. "However, Indian companies have continued to demonstrate resilience, on Indian eco-

Geopolitical challenges have further exacerbated a tumultuous period and created additional risks to business operations.

nomic rebound," it added.

As many as 80 per cent of Indian CEOs also acknowledge making adjustments to their global operations and supply chains. For 63 per cent, the purpose has been to reduce logistics

costs and increase resilience.

"This said, Indian CEOs recognize that increasing geopolitical tensions, trade conflicts and protectionism, along with increasing competition from non-traditional competitors and the acceleration of climate change impacts will pose the greatest risks to their future growth strategy," the survey said. EY India Chairman Rajiv Memani said, "There is no doubt that Indian CEOs are leading from the front to combat the challenges emanating from the pandemic and geopolitical tensions ... They are increasingly looking at M&As as a lever for accelerating business transformation and long-term value creation."

Government Of Telangana
O/o District Panchayat Raj Engineer, Rajanna Siricilla.
E-procurement Tender Notice
NITN 34-46 DP/RE/ 2022-23 Date: 19.05.2022
No of Works (13in Veerapally, Cambhiraopet, Musthabad, Siricilla, Konaraspet, Ellanthakunta Mandals of Rajanna Siricilla District undersigned. Total ECV 475.28 Lakhs Bid uploading Starting Date: 26.05.2022 to Closing Date: 01.06.2022. Further details can be had from 'e' procurement market place www.tenders.telangana.gov.in
DIPR R.O. No.: 229-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23
Sd/- District Panchayat Raj Engineer Rajanna Siricilla.



Ankush Bahuguna, who turns the voice of modern men with his one-of-a-kind initiative #TheGentlemanInYou, shares with *The Pioneer* some exclusive details about the same.

-SHIKHA DUGGAL

Little do you know that men face their own set of pressures and that in turn doesn't help them defy norms. They tend to take a setback, but among them, there is the audacious actor Ankush Bahuguna who is always on his toes to discourage this unnecessary toxic masculinity. But, how? He's doing his bit by bringing us to a one-of-a-kind initiative to drive larger conversations around by bringing out

the right direction. With respect to the recent boom in the men's grooming industry, it is a matter of great joy that more and more people are letting go of the archaic mindset. The fact that modern men are not shying away from grooming and using hygiene products is a considerable change. The majority of men were always interested in religiously grooming themselves. Given that brands like The Man Company are also providing easy yet efficient grooming-related information, male customers are embarking on their grooming journey with utmost ease. Undoubtedly, the old attitude towards grooming is changing at an incredible pace."

Everything men want to talk about but never get the opportunity to do so, for them this is one of a kind initiative and the idea is to create a platform, where modern gentlemen feel comfortable and encouraged to talk about topics that are often considered non-masculine.

He continues, "Defining masculinity shouldn't be our prerogative. Instead, we should focus on being our true selves without pretending to be someone the society deems fit. Men who dress unconventionally or wear makeup are often shamed, ridiculed, and bullied because we refuse to accept men if they don't conform to societal standards. Today, with podcasts and campaigns the conversation is getting started. We are trying to achieve the same with the new podcast series. It's a platform where like-minded people can feel confident to talk about their experiences and encourage

and the rebounding spending as the COVID-19 infections subside, present tremendous opportunities for the companies.

"Mental wellness as a government policy is also gaining ground. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her budget speech for the 2022-23 financial year, focused on the likely push to prioritise mental health for the employees in a bigger way. She announced the launch of a National Tele-Mental Health Programme, with a network of 23 tele-mental health Centers of Excellence. The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences would be the nodal agency, while the International Institute for Information Technology, Bangalore would provide the technical support. With a holistic healthcare approach, the National Tele-Mental Health Programme aims to break the taboo around mental health. Replete with social stigma, issues pertaining to mental health are still not discussed openly. Availability of cost-effective and timely healthcare services in small towns and rural areas also remains a concern. However, technology is playing a vital role in breaking the temporal barriers," he asserts.

"Tele-consultation with doctors and health experts was proven to be a lifesaver tool during the lockdown imposed in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. He continued, "Many startups are providing the facility of consulting health experts online. A person from a remote village now can consult the doctors in the cities and get treated. Basically, if

#TheGentlemanInYou! For example, a lot of men are not aware of the importance of cleanliness, while some choose to ignore it, which can lead to an unhealthy way of living too.

Ankush is here to strike a conversation on it, and he fearlessly says, "I am not the first person breaking any stereotypical boundaries. It will be wrong to take that credit and claim to be the torch-bearer of breaking stereotypes. The upcoming show titled *The Gentleman Show* is definitely spreading more awareness and striking a conversation in

age others to share their vulnerabilities. We are also discussing the question regarding rigid gender roles set by society."

The show hosted by Ankush Bahuguna has already created a niche in the men's grooming and makeup industry by calling into question the gender roles set by society. It will touch upon topics related to men's insecurities around balding, their friendly relationship with mothers but so-called diabolical ones with fathers, the pressure of choosing stable and conventional career choices, taboo around applying makeup or even basic cosmetics, myths and stereotypes surrounding sexual orientations and more.

Moreover,

spend some time with yourself and find out what makes you happy."

Unmasculine shouldn't be an insult. And, when it comes to men's grooming, even the statistics showed us earlier that it was found that most men do not wash their hands even after eating food, petting an animal, peeing, coughing, or sneezing. There might be a chance of ignoring certain basic hygiene rules in day-to-day life. During the lockdown, it was the perfect time to check on personal hygiene habits as not following these can lead to unimaginable infections. And, with a booming industry in this area now, men are really focussing on this aspect of their lives too.

On a concluding note, the host of the show tells, "Men's grooming is a whole new world. Every day, new brands and products are being introduced. The sudden but welcoming boom in the industry has given a whole new perspective on men's grooming. Going beyond shaving products, men's grooming today comprises everything from fragrances to skin and hair care and intimate hygiene. Brands are regularly working towards making men feel more confident by launching products in tandem with the consumer's demands. If you listen to my new podcast you'll know that the men's grooming world is blossoming like never before."

"In the past, vanity, like skincare, was considered a woman's business. Men used to shy away from it. But, today, the grooming industry has become far more inclusive. Why? Because men have also started participating in conversations surrounding personal care and grooming. They have also started embracing the fact that they want to take care of your appearance and that is common across genders. The strict boundaries between masculinity and femininity are blurring every day. Finally, it is good to have these conversations with the freedom of not being judged. Hygiene is obviously important, that's not even debatable because it directly impacts the overall health. It is crucial to give hygiene as much importance as one gives to having proper food."

There was a time when The Man Company struck a conversation with their first campaign presented by Ayushman Khurrana in a heartfelt poem against gender stereotyping, urging viewers to recognise the gentleman in their lives, around International Men's Day and it went viral. They are trying to eliminate the cultural prescription for men's behavior that forces them to hide their emotions, avoid close relationships, refrain from seeking help, and suppress some of their interests.

He shares, "Feeling good is subjective and personal. There is no set definition or process to feel good. Different people have different ideas and methods for staying positive. Personally, I prefer completing my skincare routine and spending quality time with friends and family to feel good. Similarly, for many people, cooking or dancing brings happiness. It would be best to try to

making it a perfect fit for the bright and warm climate of Indian summers. It can also be paired well with other aromas to render increased depth. For instance, at Rosemoore, we often pair Eucalyptus with lime to make it more refreshing and zesty. Hints of magnolia are also added to add a layer of sweetness. Eucalyptus also has mood-improving qualities and it can be used in desks, office spaces, workstations, etc.

Egyptian Cotton: This one-in-a-kind fragrance is a new age aroma made with the help of mingling soft powdery musk with white wood and ozone. It gives a very cool and soothing appeal to the overall home ambiance with dewy and airy essence. The aroma can also promote overall well-being and peace. It is an intoxicating aroma with a hint of a floral accord, adding some amount of sweetness as well.

Floral and Fruity Tones: This summer one can also try out numerous fresh floral and fruity accords such as raspberry, pomegranates, figs, berries, etc. Such aromas are refreshing and have striking appeal. They can refresh the mind and can energize

the body, giving a perfect respite from the scorching heat outside. Kids also generally love such aromas, which is a great reason you should give these a shot this summer.

Use the Right Product

While selecting the right aroma is important, it is also crucial to have the right product in place. Finding the right product often depends on a host of factors such as area, usability, exact purpose, etc.

A worthy choice is using an electronic or a reed diffuser, which can give a dash of spontaneous aroma. These reed diffusers are a preferred choice in many households as they do not need heat and electricity and are safe to operate. All you need is to insert reed sticks inside the diffuser oil. A typical reed diffuser with 10 sticks can work for around 75 days.

A traditional choice could be using a candle that can cast the whiff of your favorite aroma, rendering an olfactory makeover. While going for the candle, it is important to check the design and the aesthetics, as a beautifully designed candle is a perfect recipe to blend fashion with fragrance.

Candles are also versatile and can be used in a wide range of places. It can be used in the living room giving a perfect dash of energy. It can be put on a dining table, making the scene for a candle-lit dinner. Decorated candles can also be used on the porch, patios, gardens, deck areas, etc.

Classy and chic potpourri are increasingly becoming popular. Besides spreading your favorite aroma, these potpourris are visually appealing and can greatly enhance the overall décor and ambience. It can be placed at the entrance of homes, offices, retail spaces, etc. Meanwhile, traditional products like sprays and sachets can't be missed. In a time of fancy, beautiful, and elegantly designed aroma products, sachets have not yet lost their charm. It is cost-effective and multipurpose. Sachets can be used in living spaces, workstations, and bedrooms. Likewise, they can be tucked inside drawers, shelves, laundry bags, purses, luggage bags, etc. to keep everything clean and fresh.

Facelift your home
with refreshing aromas



The last few years have taken a toll on all of us. With ongoing uncertainty about the economy, staffing shortages, and political and social upheaval, it is not surprising that mental health issues among citizens continue to rise.

Sanjeev Dahiwadkar noticed all well is how we usually greet people. But people now mean it. Both physical and mental well-being has gained prominence like never before, especially after the multiple waves of the coronavirus pandemic claimed millions of lives across the globe.

The founder and CEO of Cognota Healthcare observed, "The pandemic has also caused various health complications even after recovery. The social media, news platforms and research papers are loud about the considerable rise in anxiety levels owing to the health calamity and its socio-economic consequences. In short, wellness has become the buzzword now."

The World Health Organization defines health as a state of complete physical, mental, and social

well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. It defines wellness as the optimal state of health of individuals and groups. Wellness is expressed as a positive approach to living," he added. A survey done by McKinsey and Company, a global management consulting firm, revealed that the interest of consumers in wellness was growing.

In the study of roughly 7,500 consumers in six countries, 79 per cent of the respondents said they gave importance to wellness, and 42 per cent considered it a top priority. The survey also pointed out that consumers in every market under research reported a substantial increase in the prioritisation of wellness over the past two to three years. It means that there is a plethora of opportunities for the wellness industry. Further, it estimated the value of the global wellness market to be more than \$1.5 trillion, with an annual growth of 5 to 10 per cent. The growing interest of consumers in wellness

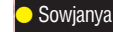
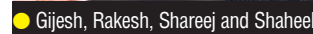
Growth
prospect
hinges on
mental
wellness
metrics



PARTY



Malabar Gold and Diamonds to host a solitaire show along with De Beers Forevermark at their showroom in Somajiguda on June 5.



Union minister Kishan Reddy, along with Telangana MLC Ravinder Rao, Srinu infra MD Srinivasa Rao, and politician Manda Krishna Madiga, inaugurated the Arrivae Home Solutions at Sarath City Capital Mall in Hitech city on Tuesday.

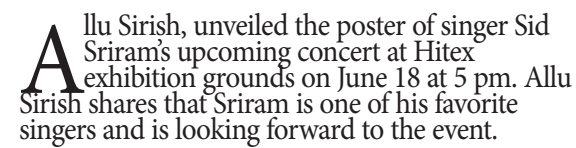


Bookchor, an online bookstore for pre-owned books, is hosting 'LockTheBox Reloaded,' a one-of-a-kind book sale in which you don't have to pay for individual books; instead, you pay for a box and take home as many books as you can fit into the box. To be held from May 26 to 29 at Sri Sathya Sai Nigamagamam Trust in Sri Nagar Colony, the event will have over 10 Lakh books to choose from across genres such as fiction, non-fiction, crime, romance, books for young

adults and children,
adventure, science
fiction, and much
more.

Bibliophiles can choose from three different sizes of boxes named after Greek mythology heroes- The Odysseus box (Rs 1,199), Perseus Box (Rs 1,799), and the biggest and the mightiest, the Hercules (Rs 2,999) box.

Readers can add as many books of their choice in the box with only the condition that the box should close flat. So, there is literally no limit on the number of books



What | Pet O' Fest is Woofing Tales' first edition festival for your lovely pets and their humans! The Founder,

Raviesha Pradeep makes safe ayurvedic products for furries and is thrilled to host this fun event for them. The festival includes grooming ses-

sions, ball pit, pool party for furrries, photo booths & lots more!
When & Where: Phoenix Arena, HITEC City.
29th May, 10am -

10pm.
Charges: On Insider -
INR 100 (<https://insider.in/pet-o-fest-may29-2022/event>)
On spot - Rs 200

1-23

I HAVE AN ITEM ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL FOR THE GOSSIP COLUMN!

RIVERDALE HIGH
BLUE AND GOLD

PAPERBOYS

OH, RIGHT. YOU'RE TOO SMART.

BELIEVE IT, LADY. YOU KNOW HOW EINSTEIN GOT BAD GRADES AS A KID? WELL, NINE ARE EVEN WORSE!

I'M THINKING "NO"

...AT THE SAD PARTY I THROW

LESTER KURTZ FOR AMERICAN MAGNET STUDIOS

A cartoon by Dave Coverly from the Dilbert comic strip. Two pirates are on a ship. One pirate, wearing a striped shirt and a red bandana, is speaking to another pirate who is wearing a striped shirt and a blue bandana. A speech bubble from the pirate with the red bandana says, "JUST HUMOR HIM - HE THINKS EVERY BODY OF WATER IS 'THE WASH BASIN'". In the background, there is a body of water and a small boat. A skull and crossbones logo is visible in the top left corner. The cartoon is signed "© 1999 Dave Coverly" in the bottom left corner.

REAL STRESS IS WHEN YOU WAKE UP SCREAMING AND REALIZE YOU HAVEN'T FALLEN ASLEEP YET!

I'M TELLIN' YA, MATE, FREE TIME IS GETTING TOO EXPENSIVE!

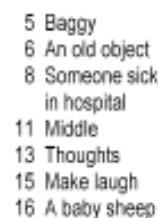
		7		3				8
		3			5			
1	6	4						3
			5	1			2	9
6	1			4	8			
8						7	9	1
			4			8		
9				2		3		

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

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

- 1 A four-sided shape
- 6 A month
- 7 A number of people or things together
- 9 Change direction
- 10 A road in a town
- 12 To tremble or shake a little
- 14 Female horse
- 17 Choose by votes
- 18 A grown-up
- 19 Put together from parts

2 Mistake
3 Chatter
4 These are longer in winter



Medvedev wins, Shapovalov exits

AP ■ PARIS

World number two Daniil Medvedev eased into the French Open second round on Tuesday as Denmark's Holger Rune reminded Roland Garros that Carlos Alcaraz is not the only teenager dreaming of the title.

Medvedev, who came into Paris with just one match on clay this year following hernia surgery, routed Argentina's 103rd-ranked Facundo Bagnis 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 on the back of 35 winners and eight breaks of serve.

"I love Roland Garros, especially since last year," said Medvedev, who had lost in the opening round on his first four trips to Paris before reaching the quarter-finals in 2021. "I hope this year I can go further."

Rune, 19 and just a week older than the highly-rated Alcaraz, marked his main draw debut with a 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) dismissal of 14th-seeded Canadian Denis Shapovalov.

Rune, the boys champion in 2019 and a former world junior number one, entered Paris at a career-high 40 having started 2021 outside of the top 400.

In the current clay season, he won his first title in Munich, beating world number three Alexander Zverev on the way.

Shapovalov committed 53 unforced errors in a tie played at breakneck speed.

"I didn't really show up today but Holger played great tennis," said Shapovalov, a Wimbledon semi-finalist in 2021.

Later Tuesday, fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, who lost last year's final to Novak Djokovic after leading two sets to love, has a dangerous assignment against Italy's Lorenzo Musetti in the night session on Court Philippe Chatrier.

The 20-year-old, ranked 66, also led Djokovic by two sets in the last 16 in 2021 before injury curtailed his



challenge.

This year on clay he made the quarter-finals in Marrakech and third round at Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Madrid where he was forced to retire against world num-

ber three Alexander Zverev.

However, Tsitsipas is enjoying an impressive clay court season in which he has successfully defended his Monte Carlo title, was runner-up in Rome and made the semi-finals in

Madrid.

The Greek also enjoys a season-leading 31 wins on the tour this year.

OSTAPENKO IN DOUBT

Two former women's champions

were also in action.

Simona Halep, the 2018 champion, who is working with Serena Williams's coach Patrick Mouratoglou, faces Nastasja Schunk, an 18-year-old lucky loser from qualifying, ranked at 165 in the world.

Jelena Ostapenko, who was a shock Roland Garros winner in 2017, defeated Italy's Lucia Bronzetti 6-1, 6-4 to end a five-match losing streak having started the year winning 14 of 18.

Ostapenko became the latest player to cast doubt on her appearance at Wimbledon after the tournament was stripped of ranking points in response to its banning of Russian and Belarusian players.

"If there are no points, I'm not really sure what I'm going to," said the Latvian.

"I think maybe they are going to change their mind. I'm not sure about points. But I think a lot of things may happen within the next week or two weeks."

BOPANNA-MIDDELKOOP WIN

Rohan Bopanna and his Dutch partner Matwe Middelkoop progressed to the men's doubles second round of the French Open with an easy straight-set win over local wild cards Sascha Gueymard Wayenburg and Luca Van Assche.

The experienced 16th seeded Indo-Dutch pair had no trouble in dispatching the lower-ranked home combo 6-4, 6-1 in the opening round.

Ramkumar Ramanathan is also in the fray, having teamed up with American Hunter Reese. They are up against the German team of Daniel Altmaier and Oscar Otte.

In the women's doubles, Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Lucie Hradecka have been seeded 10th and they open their campaign against Italy's Jasmine Paolini and Martina Trevisani.

All three Indians will feature in the mixed



Djoker intends to go to Wimbledon

AP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic on Monday said he "intends to go to Wimbledon" to defend his title despite the controversy over the tournament being stripped of ranking points. "Yes, I intend to go to Wimbledon," said Djokovic after overcoming Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka in the French Open first round. However, he added that the initial decision of the tournament to ban Russian and Belarusian players following the invasion of Ukraine was a "mistake".

The 35-year-old Djokovic stands to lose 2,000 points due to the

decision by the ATP and WTA tours to remove ranking points from Wimbledon in response to the player ban. "On a personal, individual level, I have been very negatively affected by that," said Djokovic.

He has already lost 2,000 points by not being able to defend his Australian Open title.

"Collectively I'm glad that players got together with ATP and showed to the Grand Slam that when there is a mistake happening, and there was from the Wimbledon side, then we have to show that there is going to be some consequences."

Earlier Monday, former world number one Naomi Osaka said she is "leaning towards not playing"

Xavi says Barca need rebuild but silent on Lewandowski



AP ■ BARCELONA

Coach Xavi Hernandez on Tuesday said his Barcelona team must be rebuilt after a turbulent season but refused to be drawn on whether Robert Lewandowski was a transfer target.

The Catalan giants finished 13 points behind La Liga champions Real Madrid, their campaign ending in a whimper on Sunday with a 2-0 home defeat to Villarreal.

Barcelona were beaten in four of their last nine games in all competitions.

They were on a plane the next morning for their first-ever match in Australia, a friendly against an A-League All-Star team coached by former Manchester United striker Dwight Yorke and captained by former Manchester City defender Jack Rodwell.

Xavi has brought 20 players to Sydney, including captain Sergio Busquets, Dani Alves,

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Frenkie de Jong, Memphis Depay and teenage sensation Ansu Fati.

Gerard Pique and teenage forward Pedri were among those missing. "Next season we need to improve a lot, we improved a lot since November," said Barcelona midfielder legend Xavi, who was appointed in November with the team lying ninth.

While he helped revive them and they achieved the most important objective of qualifying for the Champions League, they went out to Frankfurt in the Europa League quarter-finals and in the last 16 of the Copa del Rey.

"I think we are in a good way, we have to be positive. But next season, at least, we need to compete and win the Champions League, why not," said Xavi.

"We are rebuilding the team. We have a plan, of course, and we need to be competitive

next season. We cannot permit another season without winning titles."

Prolific Bayern Munich forward Lewandowski, who was top-scorer in the Bundesliga last season for the fifth year running, has been heavily linked with Barcelona.

Xavi refused to confirm his interest. "I cannot confirm Lewandowski or any other names," he said. "Of course we are working hard and it is obvious that we need to improve."

"It's a matter of time," he added of unveiling new players. "If we have to announce something we will announce it, but it is not the moment right now."

Man Utd need 'major surgery' under Ten Hag: Yorke

AP ■ SYDNEY

Former Manchester United striker Dwight Yorke on Tuesday said that new coach Erik ten Hag must perform "major surgery" at the club to get them back to the top.

Yorke, who won three Premier League titles, the Champions League and the FA Cup with United, spent the last fortnight around Old Trafford and saw for himself what needed to be done.

"We (Man Utd) are nowhere near where we are supposed to be, especially with the players that we have in the squad at the moment," he said.

"I spent the last two weeks there and had some more insight into looking where the club is and why we are in that position. He's (Ten Hag) got some major surgery to



repair there, there's work that needs to be done."

United finished a massive 35 points behind Premier League champions Manchester City, who pipped Liverpool to the title by a point, with the Red Devils registering their lowest-ever points tally.

"I'm not sure what his first step needs to be but he must stamp his authority on the team in terms of getting the players united together. That seems to be a bit of a challenge at the moment," added Yorke.

"When you look at our squad we have some fantastic players but the achievement doesn't add up to it. There's some major ground work that needs to be done."

Former Ajax coach Ten Hag is United's fifth permanent manager since the club last won a league title in Alex Ferguson's farewell season in 2013.



Japan crush India 5-2 in Asia Cup hockey

PTI ■ JAKARTA

A new-look Indian team paid for its inexperience and profligacy with Asian champions Japan soundly thrashing them 5-2 in a group A league match of the men's Asia Cup hockey championship here on Tuesday.

Having drawn against Pakistan in the opening game, India's chances after this defeat will be badly dented as even a big win against Indonesia in the last game might not be enough for qualification to the knock-out stages.

Ken Nagayoshi, Kosei Kawabe (twice), Ryomi Ooka and Koji Yamasaki scored for Japan while Pawan Rajbhar and Uttam Singh found the target for the Indians.

However, the younger crop of players didn't measure up against the Japanese, who looked more organised and hit India repeatedly on the counters. India fizzled out in the second

quarter after that initial spark, in the 24th minute, Ken Nagayoshi converted the penalty corner with a powerful angular drive that beat a diving Suraj all ends up.

It was in the 40th minute Japan made it 2-0 in a counter-attack with Kosei Kawabi snatching the ball from the Indian midfield and sprinting down the right wing running left-back Dipsan Tirkey ragged with his speed.

India found something going their way in the dying moments of the third quarter when veteran Birendra Lakra kept a powerful assist inside the striking circle meele and the big-bodied centre forward Pawan Rajbhar was in the right place to lay his stick for a perfect deflection that found the top corner of the net.

The final quarter once again saw the Indians going all out and conceding a goal against the run of play in the 48th minute.

Spinazzola back for Finalissima and Nations League

AP ■ MILAN

Leonardo Spinazzola will make his return to the Italy squad after Roberto Mancini named him among 39 players for the European champions' 'Finalissima' clash with Argentina and the Nations League.

Roma full-back Spinazzola was one of the stars of Italy's charge to Euro 2020 glory but ruptured his Achilles tendon during his side's 2-1 quarter-final win over Belgium.

The injury left the 29-year-old out for almost the entire season, only returning to action for Roma earlier this month, and will join the squad after the Conference League final



on Wednesday.

He features in the squad alongside Giorgio Chiellini who will play his final game for the national team when they face Copa America winners Argentina at Wembley on June 1.

Three days after captain Chiellini waves goodbye Italy will then begin their Nations League campaign with the visit of Germany to Bologna, before they host Hungary in Cesena on June 7. Italy then take on beaten Euro finalists England in Wolverhampton on June 11 and travel to Moenchengladbach to play Germany three days later.

Coach Mancini has given Sassuolo's promising midfielder

Hertha Berlin keep Bundesliga status

AP ■ BERLIN

Hertha Berlin secured their place in the Bundesliga for next season with a 2-0 away win at Hamburg on Monday to take the promotion/relegation play-off 2-1 on aggregate.

An early headed goal by Hertha captain Dedryck Boyata and a speculative second-half free-kick from Marvin Plattenhardt saw Hertha turn their fortunes around in Monday's return leg.

Hertha had lost the first leg 1-0 in Berlin last Thursday, but the visitors flew out of the traps in Hamburg when Boyata



smashed in a header after just four minutes.

Falling behind subdued the hosts, who lacked the composure of the first leg.

After nine straight seasons in the Bundesliga, Hertha

avoided their first relegation since 2011/12.

The aggregate defeat denied Hamburg a return to Germany's top flight after four seasons since their 2018 relegation.

winning squad apart from the injured Federico Chiesa, Gaetano Castrovilli, Rafael Toloi and Ciro Immobile.

Davide Frattesi and Empoli attacker Andrea Pinamonti their first senior call-ups for the run of fixtures. He selected every player from the Euro-