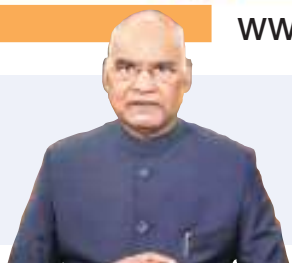




Why Tesla won't make cars in India

P 6



Prez hails India's healthcare facilities

P 5



Algerian dissidents: Victims of crackdown, or outlaws?

P 10

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In brief

Villagers ransack liquor outlet, destroy its entire stock

A mob of villagers angry over the opening of a liquor shop close to a temple, a mosque and a school in their area on outskirts of the city ransacked the outlet and destroyed its entire stock on Saturday, police said. The villagers also roughed up the owner of the liquor shop in the Khari panchayat in Bishnah area, who had to be rescued by police, they said. We have been demanding the closure of the shop since its opening some time back but the government failed to take action on our repeated requests, local sarpanch R K Sharma said. He said the wine shop was set up in an area surrounded by a temple, a mosque and a school. We do not need wine shops and our protest is against the government which has turned the city of temples into a city of wine shops, he said.

IndiGo fined Rs 5L for denying boarding to specially abled child

Aviation regulator DGCA on Saturday said it has imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on IndiGo airline for denying boarding to a specially abled child at Ranchi airport on May 7. IndiGo had on May 9 said the boy was denied permission to board the Ranchi-Hyderabad flight as he was visibly in panic. After the boy was prohibited from boarding, his parents also decided not to enter the plane. The regulator said in order to avoid such situations in the future, it would revisit its own regulations, making it mandatory for airlines to take the airport doctor's written opinion on the health of a passenger before making a decision to deny boarding.

'Agri land converted to residential use not against law'

The purchase of land after it is converted from agricultural to residential use does not contravene the provisions of the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prohibition of Transfer of Certain Lands) Act, the Karnataka High Court has said. It upheld as valid the purchase of three acres of land by the Tibetan Children's Village in Sheshagirihalli village in Ramangara, which was originally a grant land, after the land had been converted for residential use. Agricultural land granted to SC/ST cannot be transferred as per the said Act.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Tithi:	Chaturdashi:	May 28 01:09 PM to May 29 02:55 PM
Amavasya:		May 29 02:55 PM to May 30 05:00 PM
Nakshatram:		
Kritika:		May 29 04:39 AM to May 30 07:12 AM
Rahukalam:		5:05 PM to 6:42 PM
Yamagandam:		12:13 PM to 1:50 PM
Varjyam:		05:56 PM to 07:42 PM
Gulika:		3:27 PM to 5:05 PM
Amritakalam:		None
Abhijit Muhurtham:		11:47 AM to 12:38 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Sunny
Temp: 34°C
Humidity: 38%
Sunrise: 5:45 AM
Sunset: 6:41 PM
Updated: MAY 28, 2022 5:00 PM

OBTUSE ANGLE



What will be the 'sensation'?

★ What is in KCR's mind? ★ Political circles agog with speculations

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

Why did Kattappa kill Bahubali? The answer to this question remained a mystery for around two years till Bahubali's second part was released. Now, a cryptic statement made by Telangana Rashtra Samiti supremo and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has kept political circles on tenterhooks.

Two days ago KCR said that there would be sensational news in the next two to three months. Hearing this, political circles, including those in TRS, have started speculating about what could be the sensational news hinted by KCR.

Political observers are throwing various possibilities about the 'sensation' according to their imagination. KCR has given them food for thought for the time being.



Some politicians say that KCR would complete consultations with anti-BJP parties and then announce a new front to fight the BJP in the next General Election. Others say that KCR may launch a national party. There have been speculations that KCR may launch Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) as a nation-

'Political observers are throwing various possibilities about the 'sensation' according to their imagination. KCR has given them food for thought for the time being'

al political party by changing the name of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS). But TRS circles have expressed doubts regarding this. If BRS is launched, then there will be no more TRS, which is ingrained in the hearts of the people of Telangana.

2

'People with monkeypox will be isolated'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Health Department on Saturday said that people diagnosed with monkeypox will be isolated. This decision was taken as the Centre has alerted all state governments regarding the monkeypox outbreak in many countries. People who recently travelled to countries where monkeypox has been detected have been asked to stay alert and continuously monitor their condition. If they develop symptoms like rash, they should contact the district medical centre immediately. Their samples will be collected and sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune, officials said.

Sub-lineage of Omicron found in Maha P2

2

DELHI IAS COUPLE'S TRANSFER

Anurag Thakur's remarks rile TS babus

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

"In New Delhi, an IAS officer and his wife took their dog to a stadium and asked sportspersons to get out. The Delhi government did nothing. It's these athletes who win medals for the country. No one should interfere with it. Not my party, not any other party. What can be more shameful than expelling athletes from a stadium so that IAS officers can walk their dog?" Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur observed in Pune on Saturday.

Some officers in Telangana, having read between the lines in the comment, are now concerned that, given recent incidents of protocol violations in Telangana, such a situation could arise even in the state "if things are stretched any further".

A bureaucrat, preferring anonymity, said: "On the face of it, what the officer in Delhi did expose is his feudal mentality and it is unacceptable. That was a blatant misuse of power. Irrespective of cadre rules and amendments, the Centre should have done it.



Officers are divided on the issue as some feel that the officer couple belonged to the AGMUT cadre, which is controlled by the Centre, and which is different from state cadres.

Complaints about the misuse of facilities at the government-run Thyagaraj Stadium are with the Delhi government.

It should be seen as a message to all officers. Irrespective of cadres, all officers should also know their limits."

Officers are divided on the issue as some feel that the officer couple belonged to the AGMUT cadre, which is controlled by the Centre, and which is different from state cadres.

Another officer said, "The AGMUT cadre and the policy

2

Speed up Secretariat construction: Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Roads and Buildings Minister Vemula Prashant Reddy has directed officials to speed up the construction of the new secretariat.

The work is expected to be completed within the stipulated timeframe set by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

He directed the officials to speed up the elevation and GRC cladding works. "Special attention should be paid to the grand entry structure finish. Increase manpower in three shifts and get things done faster," he said.

Prashant Reddy also directed that the martyrs' memorial should be completed before the deadline set by the Chief Minister. He suggested that cladding should be completed expeditiously.



Arrangements have to be made so that guests can pay their respects at the Telangana Talli Statue, he said.

He suggested that the finishing work should reflect the pleasant atmosphere with the greenery as well as the sacrifices of the martyrs. This structure symbolises the sentiments of Telangana's people, he added.

MODI GOVT ANNIVERSARY

BJP to start outreach campaign

○ Service, good governance will be the theme

PNS ■ NEWDELHI

All ministers in BJP-led central and state governments and its elected representatives will take part in a massive public outreach campaign to mark the eighth anniversary of the Modi government, focusing on its priorities of the welfare of the poor and good governance, the party said on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, its national general secretary Arun Singh hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a reliable, popular, decisive, sacrificing and ascetic leader, and said that the entire nation is standing with him.

Made honest efforts in eight years: Modi

PNS ■ RAJKOT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that in the last eight years, his government made an honest attempt to build the India that Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel dreamt of, and added that it worked to protect the dignity of the poor during this period.

Modi, who completed eight years in office as prime minister on May 26, also said that he did not spare any effort in serving the country and did not indulge in anything that would make the people of the country hang their heads in shame.

He was addressing a gathering after inaugurating a 200-bed multi-specialty hospital in Atkot town of



Gujarat's Rajkot district. During his speech, he gave an account of the work his government carried out in the last eight years.

2



Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar inspecting arrangements in Public Gardens on Saturday

CS visits Public Gardens, inspects Formation Day arrangements

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar visited Public Gardens on Saturday to check out the arrangements being made for State Formation Day celebrations on June 2.

He instructed officials to coordinate and to make extensive arrangements. The CS inspected the police drill and enquired about arrangements being made by various departments.

On June 2, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will pay tributes to Telangana martyrs and later reach Public Gardens where he will unfurl the tricolour. He will also address the gathering on the occasion.

DGP Mahender Reddy, Special Chief Secretary Housing, Sunil Sharma, Secretary R&B Srinivas Raju, Secretary Health Rizvi, GHMC Commissioner Lokesh Kumar, and senior police officials were present on the occasion.

Forests restored, urban forests developed

○ Government spent Rs 8,511 cr to plant 243 crore saplings in the State

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In the last eight years, 243 crore saplings were planted at a cost of Rs 8,511 crore in Telangana. According to official data, 9.65 lakh acres of forests have been restored. Nearly 109 urban forests have been developed in cities and towns.

According to the Forest Survey of India, the green cover in Telangana has increased by 7.7 per cent in the last four years.

The Telangana government has set up a 'green budget' with the participation of all sections in an innovative manner like nowhere

else in the world. At least 10 per cent of the green budget is allocated and spent exclusively on local, municipal and local bodies.

The state's 12,769 gram panchayats have set up nurseries to grow plants. Every year, before the monsoon season the Haritha Haram programme is organised as a movement. Public representatives, officials and dignitaries are planting saplings on all official occasions. The tradition of planting plants on birthdays continues in Telangana.

2



Bandru Shobha Rani quits BJP, joins Congress

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD



Political leaders belonging to various Telangana parties went to the US to attend the Telangana American Telugu Association –2022 convention. TPCC President Revanth Reddy, TPCC Star Campaigner Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, TPCC IT Cell Chairman Madan Mohan Rao, BJP Vice-President DK Aruna and Power Minister G. Jagdeesh Reddy from the TRS went to the US to attend the Telangana American Telugu Association–2022 convention. It is common for politicians to share their views with Telugu NRIs whenever they go to the US. However, leaders

resignation through email to Telangana BJP Chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar a few days ago. Bandru Shobha Rani had already held discussions with Revanth a few weeks ago on joining the Congress and she had told Revanth that she will join the Congress unconditionally. It is learnt that Bandru Shobha Rani is now in the US. She will meet Revanth and Bhongir MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy to discuss about joining the Congress. A Congress leader told The Pioneer that she had been planning to join the Congress in the US if things work in her favour just to create a sensation. Bandru Shobha Rani sent her resignation letter to Sanjay

through email from the US. Bandru Shobha Rani quit the BJP due to former Alair MLA Boodidha Bikshamaiah Goud joining the BJP. She was angry with the BJP as she thought it may not give the Alair Assembly ticket due to Bikshamaiah Goud joining the BJP. Bandru Shobha Rani started her political career with the Left. Later, she joined Chiranjeevi's PRP and contested elections in 2009 from Alair unsuccessfully. She then joined the TDP, quit TDP and joined the BJP in 2019 in the presence of the BJP Working President JP Nadda. Earlier, Bandru Shobha Rani worked in the PRP's Women's Wing and was the TTDP Women's Wing president.

KCR's dictatorship pushing TS into bankruptcy: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Telangana is moving towards bankruptcy due to the dictatorial rule of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao, Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy said here on Saturday. He was speaking at the Secunderabad Lok Sabha constituency's BJP Executive Committee meeting on Saturday at the Arya Vaishya Bhavan in Musheerabad. He said that the people would certainly teach a lesson to the TRS in the next elections and reiterated that the people wanted a change in Telangana. He said, "KCR, KTR, Asaduddin Owaisi, and Akbaruddin Owaisi cannot stop the change that the people want." He said that Telangana Ministers have been spitting at

Hyderabad. The TRS government is not in a position to give salaries to the employees of the GHMC and HMWSSB, he said. The people are angry with KCR's family rule, but people are happy with the eight years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule. The BJP has become the biggest party in India, he said. Kishan said that there is no delay in paying salaries to Central employees and in funding the Centre's welfare schemes. He said that BJP leaders should launch protests against the failures of the TRS government. Former MP AP Jithender Reddy, BJP OBC Morcha President Dr K. Laxman and others participated in the programme.

Bahubali crane saves...

Continued from page 1

It may be mentioned here that the Telangana Fire Department purchased the sky lift recently. The sky lift can reach up to 15 floors. The firefighters rescued the remaining people by smashing a third-floor window glass of the building. First aid was given to those who had difficulty breathing due to the thick smoke. The firefighters deployed three fire engines to put out the fire. A short circuit is believed to be the cause of the fire. Traffic was light at that time of the night. The Bahubali sky lift crane grabbed everyone's attention during the rescue operation. People were watching with interest as the sky lift went up, smashed the building's windows and rescued those trapped on the terrace.

Dharani Portal turned farmers into beggars: Dasoju Sravan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Farmers having lands have turned into beggars due to the TRS government's Dharani Portal, AICC official spokesperson Dr Dasoju Sravan said here on Saturday. He alleged that the state government had taken the documents on Podu land rights in the name of Haritha Haram but had not given them back. Dr Sravan demanded that the state government should give back the Podu land documents giving rights to tribal farmers. Speaking to the media, Dr Sravan said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao's wild ambition to enter

national politics has become an unfortunate thing for Telangana farmers. He said that the TRS government had procured only 31 lakh tons of paddy out of the 93 lakh metric tons of paddy produced by farmers. He alleged that the TRS government has been engaging in Tuglaq rule in the state. Dr Sravan asked farmers to pull up TRS leaders across the state. He alleged that the CM helps only Punjab farmers and not the farmers of Telangana. There were no gunny bags or tarpaulin covers at the paddy procurement centres to protect paddy from rains. The government is not in a posi-

Sub-lineage of Omicron found in Maharastra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time, four patients of B.A. 4 variant and three cases of B.A. 5 variants of the Omicron sub-lineage of coronavirus have been found in Maharashtra. All of them had only mild symptoms and were treated at home, he added. These sub-lineages of Omicron were found in April in some parts of the world including South Africa, but until now no cases had been detected in the state. The whole genome sequencing was conducted by the Institute of Science Education and Research, and its finding has been confirmed by the Indian Biological Data Centre in Faridabad.

‘Welcome BJP-bound leaders from other parties’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



The BJP MLA representing Huzurabad, Eatala Rajender, has said that the BJP's flag will fly high in the state in coming days as the Congress' light in New Delhi is getting extinguished and as there is no chance of getting it lit in the state. People do not have confidence in the TRS and a BJP wave is coming in the state, Eatala said. The party should be strong to solve people's problems. Money cannot ensure power but activists can ensure power. The leader will be among the people if he thinks that he won elections due to the people, he said. "We have to invite leaders from other political parties and not prevent anyone interested in joining the party. A

leader cannot last long if he doesn't have strength. The new water will be filled with mud but water is needed to fill the lake," he added. Eatala said that politicking is the hardest job in the world as one cannot shine in politics if he fails to infuse confidence in the people. Political leaders must have patience. One's position in politics depends on decisions, he said. One minute is enough for destruction but needs years for construction. There is no politics without hard work, he added. He said that the BJP will grow in the state. However, the king alone cannot win the war. The king can win only if soldiers fight. The party has to give top priority to activists. Everyone must remember that all are under the BJP flag. A leader should be considered as a failure if people don't approach him. Political leaders have to update themselves every day, Eatala said. Addressing BJP leaders in Karimnagar on Saturday, Eatala said goals cannot be achieved if the party fails to serve the people. He asked leaders to strive hard to solve people's problems.

He alleged that an anti-people government has been running the state and there is no democracy in the state. The BJP has to come to power to end the arrogant rule of TRS, he said. The government has been opening rowdy sheets if anyone posts something on social media. BJP activists have to protest against such acts, he said. Eatala said that as per a survey about 6.5 lakh people have become ill after getting addicted to liquor in the state. Due to KCR, 6.5 lakh wives are going to become widows. KCR is going to get Rs 40,000 crore from liquor this year. He wants money and not people. KCR should not forget the fact that the money spent on schemes is the money of the people. KCR is not giving money from his pocket, he added.

BJP to start outreach campaign

Continued from page 1

He said the BJP will be celebrating the Modi government's eighth anniversary for a fortnight starting from May 30. From May 30 to June 14, the party will organise public outreach on the theme of the service, good governance, and poor welfare fortnight across the country, as these have been the priority of the Prime Minister Modi-led government, Singh said. As part of this campaign, a 75-hour public outreach programme will be organised from booth to the national level in which all Union ministers, ministers in the BJP-led state governments and elected representatives will take part and

Made honest efforts in eight years: Modi

Continued from page 1

"I have spared no effort in the service to the nation in the last eight years. I have neither allowed, nor personally not done any work that will make you or even a single person of India hang their head in shame. In the last eight years, we have made an honest attempt to build the India of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel's dream," he said. "Mahatma Gandhi wanted an India in which the poor, Dalits, adivasi and women are empowered, where cleanliness and health are part of life, where economy is based on swadeshi (local) solutions," Modi said, adding that his government has worked for all this. In the last eight years, pucca houses were provided to over three crore families; 10 crore families were saved

from the ignominy of open defecation (by way of constructing toilets), nine crore women were saved from the adverse impact of smoke (by providing LPG connections); electricity connections were provided to 2.5 crore families and tap water connections were given to six crore families; over 50 crore people are covered to get free treatment (under PMJAY insurance scheme), Modi said. "These are not just figures, but this is a proof of our commitment to provide dignity to the poor of the country. In the last eight years, my government has worked for the uplift of the poor," he said. "With the mantra of 'Sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas aur sab ka prayas' (everyone's support, everyone's development and everyone's trust), we have given new direction to the

AIPEF urges probe into coal crisis

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

The All India Power Engineers' Federation's (AIPEF) Federal Executive has demanded a high-level probe into the coal crisis and the direction of the Union Ministry of Power to states to purchase imported coal. The AIPEF's Federal Executive meeting was held in Hyderabad on Saturday and was presided over by AIPEF Chairman Shailendra Dubey. The meeting also demanded the withdrawal of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2021 and the privatisation of the power sector including the privatisation of profit-making electricity departments of the UTs of Chandigarh and Puducherry. The AIPEF resolved to

review Power Purchase Agreements and demanded the restoration of the old pension scheme for all electricity employees and engineers. The AIPEF also demanded regular appointments in regular posts and the abolishing of outsourcing and the hiring of contract workers in the highly technical power sector. AIPEF Secretary-General P. Rathnakar Rao, Patrons K. Ashok Rao and PN Singh, Senior Vice Chairman T. Jayanthi, Sunil Jagtap, and delegates from 17 states attended the meeting. After the meeting, AIPEF Chairman Shailendra Dubey and Secretary-General P. Rathnakar Rao told the media that nine resolutions were passed at the Federal Executive meeting.

Forests restored, urban forests...

Continued from page 1

It may be mentioned here that the 'Telangana ku Haritha Haram' is the third largest human effort after China and Brazil to increase greenery. The government is implementing the Harithaharam programme to increase the greenery in Telangana to 33 per cent. Programs like the Green India Challenge, inspired by KCR's Haritha Haram, are also continuing as a movement. The responsibility of caring for the saplings rests on local organisations, people, and public representatives. By providing tractors, trolleys and tankers to gram panchayats they are also helping the growth of plants.

Anurag Thakur's...

Continued from page 1

However, some officers believe that this means nothing to the state and is just an aberration. An officer said, "The Delhi government can transfer only within Delhi. At the most, they can surrender an officer to DoPT. AGMUT is a Central service. This is damaging the image of bureaucrats. But it cannot be taken as a drift between Delhi and the Centre. This is just an aberration. Transfers are always kneejerk."

Revealing USN to file complaints on power problems can be dangerous

Continued from page 1

When people file complaints online on power issues officials of the Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TSSPD-CL) ask them to share their USN details. When people share USN

details online they can get their electrical problems solved but they are at a greater risk as their USN number shows details about their homes. Despite the low number of such cases being reported, the cybercrime wing of the Cyberabad Police is warning citizens not to share personal

information on social media platforms. "When filing grievances on social media platforms avoid providing personal information. Cybercriminals may use it to defraud you by posing as a customer service representative," the cybercrime police said.

India sends 15k litres of kerosene to Sri Lanka

PNS ■ COLOMBO



India sent 15,000 litres of kerosene to Sri Lanka on Saturday to help 700 fisherfolk and power ferry services in the Tamil-dominated Jaffna city, days after it delivered around 40,000 metric tonnes of petrol to the debt-ridden island nation which is grappling with its worst economic crisis. India extended an additional USD 500 million credit line to Sri Lanka last month to help the neighbouring country import fuel as it has been struggling to pay for imports after its foreign exchange reserves plummeted sharply in recent times, causing a devaluation of its currency and spiralling inflation. Continuing Indian assistance to Sri Lanka. 15000 ltrs of kerosene gifted to 700 fishermen of Delft, Nainativu, Eluvaitivu & Analitivu. CG Shri Raakesh Natraj with Fisheries Min Hon. Douglas Devananda initiated distribution; for the consignment will also power ferry service between islands, the Consul General of India in Jaffna said in a tweet. India on Friday handed over 25 tonnes of medical supplies worth

over USD 700,000 to Sri Lanka as part of its ongoing efforts to help the island nation combat its worst economic crisis. India on Monday said it delivered around 40,000 metric tonnes of petrol to Sri Lanka, days after supplying 40,000 metric tonnes of diesel under the Indian credit line to help ease the acute fuel shortage in the country. Last week, India sent urgent relief supplies comprising 9,000 metric tonnes (MT) of rice, 200 MT of milk powder and 24 MT of life-saving medicines with a combined value of Rs 45 crore

to Sri Lanka. On Friday, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe expressed appreciation for the support India has been extending to his country during "this difficult period". Taking to Twitter, the prime minister said he had a conversation with India's finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday. "I expressed our country's appreciation for the support India has extended during this difficult period. I look forward to further strengthening ties between our nations," he wrote. Sri Lanka is going through the worst economic crisis since independence in 1948. A crippling shortage of foreign reserves has led to long queues for fuel, cooking gas and other essentials while power cuts and soaring food prices heaped misery on the people. The economic crisis has also triggered a political crisis in Sri Lanka and a demand for the resignation of the powerful Rajapaksa.



‘Reach global level of meat production’

Minister’s call to sheep and goat-rearers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy on Saturday visited the National Research Centre on Meat in Hyderabad along with representatives of Sheep and Goat Rearers' Association and officials of the Animal Husbandry Department and appealed to sheep and goat rearers to strive to reach international level of meat production to be able to survive in the market with-standing competition.

In countries like China, farmers produce 100 quintals per acre while they produce only 30 quintals an acre back in India. Of the 7.5 crore sheep in the country, 2 crore sheep are in Telangana, he said.

Meat consumption per capita in the country in a year is put at 6 kg, while it is 23 kg in Telangana. That is why, Telangana is importing sheep almost on a daily basis, he said.

To overcome the situation, he called for developing quality meat by producing breeds in the State. A sheep on an average yields 13 kg of meat, he said suggesting increase meat production to 25 kg per animal on an average to meet the demand



Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy planting a sapling on the premises of the National Research Centre on Meat in Hyderabad on Saturday

Meat consumption per capita in the country in a year is put at 6 kg, while it is 23 kg in Telangana.

in future. In a country like India, changes take place rather slowly. Once the change takes places it would multiply further, he opined. He called for sheep

and goat rearers to form into a society and focus on meat exports. The minister said, "Let us establish the state-of-the-art slaughter house and meat processing unit in Wanaparthy." In Telangana, one can see more and more sheep in Wanaparthy area, he said. The minister later planted saplings on the premises of the National Research Centre on Meat. Director of the research centre SBR Bude, principal scientist Baswa Reddy and others took part in the event.

Task Force arrests chain snatcher, 120 grams gold recovered

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of the South Zone Commissioner’s Task Force along with Shalibanda Police apprehended a chain snatcher and recovered 120 gram of gold chains from his possession.

The complaint was filed on May 21 by Sujata, a 56-year-old school teacher stating that her chain was snatched by motorcycle-borne assailant when she was purchasing vegetables near Shamsheergunj. Based on the complaint, a case was registered at the Shalibanda police station.

The accused has been identified as Faisal Shah, aged 40, and is a resident of Asifnagar in Hyderabad. According to the police, the accused was involved in more than 135

chain snatching cases across the three Police Commissionerates since 2006. He has also been detained twice under the Preventive Detention Act at Langerhouse and Sultan Bazar Police Stations.

He was released from jail in April and after that he was staying with his friend Khaleel. Due to the financial crisis, both of them hatched a plan to commit chain snatching again. Since then Faisal committed 3 chain snatchings. After that, he would hand over the chains to Khaleel for further disposal.

The arrests were made under the supervision of DCP Commissioners Task Force G Chakravarthy, Inspector South Zone Raghavendra, SI Narendar and staff of South Zone Task Force.



Police officers announcing the arrest of chain snatcher in Hyderabad on Saturday



Forest officials from Kerala Keerthi and Mohd Shabab visiting Mulugu Forest Research Centre Nursery in Siddipet district on Saturday

Kerala Forest officials all praise for Haritha Haram project

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Kerala Forest Department officers on Saturday praised Telangana government and the Forest officials for making progress in increasing green cover in the State. They particularly appreciated the greening activity like urban parks, Outer Ring Road (ORR) greenery and avenue plantation.

Kerala State Forest officials Keerthi and Mohd Shabab visited Telangana State and studied implementation of programmes like urban forest parks, forest

rejuvenation under Telanganaku Haritha Haram. The officers visited Siddipet district Mulug Forest Research centre Nursery, 200 hectare Narsampally RF Block plantation, 157 hectare, ANR forest rejuvenation works and Yadadri model plantation in Singaipally, Avenue plantations in Gajwel town, Mission Bhagiratha Balancing reservoir at komatibanda, 60 hectare AR SMM plantations at komatibanda, Palle prakriti vanam and GP nursery at Tuniki khalsa and Sangapur Forest urban park in Gajwel range. Chief

Conservator of Forest (CCF) Medak Saravanan, District Forest Official Siddipet Sridhar Rao and Forest Range Officer (FRO) Gajwel Kiran Kumar accompanied the Kerala IFS officers and explained the various initiatives of Telanganaku Harithaharam.

Further the officers visited Forest College and Research Institute, Mulugu and met Dean Priyanka Varghese Indian Forest Service (IFS) who briefed the various activities of (FCRI) Forest College and Research Institute and interacted with them.

99 BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

TRS Ministers, MLAs pay tributes to NTR

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

A rare event took place at the NTR Ghat in Hyderabad on Saturday on the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of TDP founder former united AP chief minister and legendary actor Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao aka NTR.

In a surprise, TRS Ministers and MLAs paid tributes to NTR at the NTR Ghat for the first time.

TRS Ministers Puvvada Ajay Kumar, Ch. Mallareddy, MP Nama Nageswar Rao, MLAs Arikepudi Gandhi, Mahanti Gopinath, MLC Madhu and former minister Motkupally Narasimhulu



Political leaders paying homage to Telugu Desam Party founder and former Chief Minister N T Rama Rao on his 99th birth anniversary at NTR ghat in Hyderabad on Saturday

went to NTR Ghat and paid their tributes to NTR. All these leaders except Puvvada Ajay were former TDP leaders and most of them are from the same community. Telangana BJP President

Bandi Sanjay Kumar also paid his tributes to NTR. It has never happened like this earlier. Ahead of the Assembly elections suddenly NTR has become an all-party leader. The reason is that in several

Assembly constituencies in Telangana and in the former districts of Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Warangal, and Khammam and in and around Hyderabad there are a large number of Kammas.

The TRS and the BJP are trying to woo them. TRS supremo K. Chandrasekhar Rao himself is a big fan of NTR. The daughter of NTR, Daggubati Purandheshwari, is now in the BJP. She also paid tributes at the NTR Ghat.

In Warangal, Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao garlanded NTR’s statue. Sources said that TRS leaders went to NTR Ghat to pay tributes only after getting the green signal from KCR.

Cricket betting racket busted, 5 arrested

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of the Gopalapuram division crime team along with officers from Gopalapuram police station on Saturday busted a cricket betting racket and apprehended five persons. The police seized Rs 55,000 cash from the accused.

According to the police, the accused P Santosh, who was the main betting organiser was working as a manager in a hotel. Santosh was facing financial difficulties so he approached four people from the city who were already into the business of cricket betting. All the five suspects started betting on IPL matches and making money. They would source the money through betting agents via online money transfer and place bets. After the match completion, the money would be distributed according to the ratio.

RKSC hands over cheques to Rachakonda CP



Rachakonda Security Council (RKSC) General Secretary V Satish Vadlamani handing over cheque to Police Commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

On Saturday, the Rachakonda Security Council (RKSC) General Secretary, V. Satish Vadlamani, Treasurer Gagan Kohli and Savithri handed over a cheque for Rs 5 lakh as a contribution to the Rachakonda Police Welfare Fund and a cheque for Rs 3 lakh to Rachakonda Police Commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat to provide pre-recruitment training to those

interested in joining the police.

The Free Police Pre-Recruitment Training was launched for those who would like to join the police department. The donation to the Police Welfare Fund was made to help the families of police officials who had died in the line of duty.

The RKSC General Secretary said that the funds were collected with the help of RKSC member companies.

Loan app executive arrested

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The executive of an instant loan app company was arrested on Saturday for allegedly harassing a woman who borrowed money and failed to clear it. The arrested was identified as Manish Kumar (23). He hailed from Bihar. He was working with a company which has been providing short term instant loans. The woman borrowed a small loan, but could not repay it. The executive, the police, had started sending morphed photographs of the woman and to her friends. He frequently abused her on phone. Though the case was booked in 2021 against the executive, the police tracked him down and arrested him. His associate Vikas is still at large. It may be recalled that a number of borrowers from the instant aps had even ended their lives unable to bear the harassment by the members of these companies.

Police bust spurious seed racket

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A Special Operation Team of Balanagar zone, Dundigal police along with Agricultural Department officers on Saturday busted spurious cotton seed racket and arrested two persons.

The police seized 400 kg of seed, two vehicles and three mobile phones all worth Rs 16 lakh, from the possession of the suspects.

According to a press note, the suspects, identified as Mula Harish (39) from Manakondur in Karimnagar and Desham Hari Prasad from Medchal were arrested by Dundigal police, during the transportation of spurious seeds. Mula Harish and Desham Hari Prasad were arrested by Dundigal police



Police announcing the busting of spurious seeds racket in Hyderabad on Saturday

when they were transporting spurious seeds.

Dundigal police said that the suspects had been luring the innocent farmers to buy the uncertified and the prohibited cotton seed (BG-II). The cotton seed was banned by the government as it would

affect the environment and weaken the soil. The suspect, Mula Harish, was earlier arrested in 2017 at Sultanabad police station in Ramagundam Police Commissionerate and sent to jail by Munugode and Chanduru police stations in Nalgonda district for spurious

seed cases. As cotton is one of the commercial cash crops, it is planted extensively by the farmers during Kharif season. The respondent Mula Harish taking as an advantage came in contact with his associate Alisha (absconded) belonging to Nandiyal of Kurnool Dist, Andhra Pradesh who supplies Spurious Cotton seeds.

Meanwhile, the police registered a complaint against the accused persons under environment protection Act 1986 of Dundigal police station. However, the arrests were made under the supervision of Cyberabad CP Stephen Raveendra, DCP Balanagar zone, Special Operations Team, Cyberabad, and staff of SOT Balanagar zone and Dundigal Police Station.

MANUU UG admissions via CUET, application date extended

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The portal for submitting online applications for admission into undergraduate courses of all Central universities including the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) through the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) has reopened and will be available till 9 pm on May

31. The NTA reopened the portal after representations from candidates. MANUU is offering admissions into the undergraduate regular courses BA, BA Hons (Journalism & Mass Communication), B.Com, B.Sc. (MPC, MPSC, ZBC), B.Voc (Medical Imaging Technology and Medical Laboratory Technology), and B.Tech.

Admissions to Computer Science (direct & lateral entry

into the 2nd year of B.Tech (CS) for polytechnic diploma holders) will also be done through CUET for the academic session 2022-23. The CUET conducted by NTA is a Computer Based Test (CBT).

In addition to new registrations, candidates who have already registered but were unable to submit or complete their application forms can also log in using their application number and password

and complete their application process. MANUU officials said that candidates will have to fill out an online application form available on the CUET official website manuu.edu.in.

The last date for online submission of applications for entrance based regular Post Graduate, PhD and other courses at MANUU is June 1, 2022. Admissions are open for various Post Graduate, certificate and diploma courses too.

AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR BUILDERS/DEVELOPERS/COMPANIES/INDIVIDUALS TO OWN PRIME LAND PARCELS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF APARTMENTS/MULTIPURPOSE COMPLEXES/ OFFICE COMPLEXES/INDIVIDUAL HOUSES WITHIN ORR

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA AUCTIONS 34 PRIME PLOTS IN 09.5 ACRES AT TURKAYAMJAL

TURKAYAMJAL

S.No	Plot Sizes (In Sq.Yards)	No. of Plots
1.	600-700	14
2.	701-800	10
3.	800-850	5
4.	900-1060	5
Total		34
Upset Price per Sq. Yard		Rs. 40,000/-
EMD amount Per Plot		Rs. 5,00,000/-

All plots are suitable for Stilt + 5 Floors.

E-AUCTION SCHEDULE

Date of Notification	31-05-2022
Last Date and Time for Registration	27.06.2022 upto 5.00 pm
Registration Fee	Rs. 1,180/- inclusive of GST (non refundable)
Last date for EMD Payment	28.06.2022 upto 5.00 pm
Pre-Bid Meeting	04.06.2022 & 16-06-2022 at 11.00 am at site
	30.06.2022
Date and Time of e-AUCTION	Session-I: 9 am - 12.00 Noon Session-II : 2 pm - 5.00 pm
Minimum Bid Increment	Rs. 500/- per sq. yard or multiples thereof

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Layout development for Multipurpose Use Zone
- Ideal for construction of Apartments, Offices, Commercial Complexes
- For the interested individuals / agencies for construction of their own House / Apartment / Building for various uses.
- Different sizes suitable for all sectors and communities
- Proposed infrastructure facilities such as Black topped roads with footpaths and central medians
- Water supply distribution network with overhead tanks
- Underground sewage system, Storm water drainage system
- Electrical power supply and street lighting
- The infrastructure works will be completed within 18 months.

FEATURES

- Adjacent to Nagarjuna Sagar State Highway(SH-19)
- Close to the Developed Residential Colonies / Gated Communities such as Vanasthalipuram, BN Reddy Nagar and Hasthinapuram abutting to the upcoming Gated Villa Communities.
- Well connected to NH-65 at Hayath nagar (5 km).
- The ORR Exit-12 at Bonguluru (Nagarjuna Sagar Highway) within 1.5 km.
- Social Infrastructure near to the layout :-
 - Ramoji Film City (16 km)
 - TCS Adibatla (5.6 km)
 - Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (25 km)
 - Wonderla Amusement Park (9.9 km)
 - Mahavir Harina Vanasthali Deer Park (13 km)
- Sloka International School (850 m)
- Indus Valley International Public School (2.3 km)
- Kamineni Multi Speciality Hospital (14 km)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BID

- Any individual or group of individuals (Citizen of India above the age of 18 years), Company (Private/ Public/ Limited Liability Partnership), Proprietary Firms, Partnership Firms/ LLP, Trusts, Registered Societies, Financial Institutions, Banks, NBFC, Real Estate Funds, Public & Semi-public Undertakings of State Govt. or Central Govt., Govt. Departments, Joint Venture Consortium.
- The bidder must be eligible to build/ own commercial/ multi-purpose properties in India and must be competent to enter into contract.
- FDI upto 100% is permitted on automatic route as per DIP - GoI.
- Foreign companies which have established a branch office or other place of business in India, in accordance with RBI, GoI / FEMA / FERA regulations, can acquire any immovable property in India, which is necessary for or incidental to carrying on such activity" *<https://www.mea.gov.in/images/pdf/acquisition-and-transfer-of-immovable-property-in-india.pdf>

Contact No for Site Visit: **HMDA:7601046438/7601063358**

For further details: log on to: **www.auctions.hmda.gov.in**
www.mstcecommerce.com
www.mstcindia.co.in

For Detailed Brochure, Please scan the QR code

Auction undertaken by HMDA on behalf of Government of Telangana

For further details and queries Contact :
HMDA: 7601046438/7601063358, MSTC: 040-23301039, 9177067332, 8464073640 on all working days

Issued By: Commissioner, I & PH Department, Government of Telangana

Stop Palle Pragathi tamasha, release funds: Forum for Good Governance

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Pointing out that Palle Pragathi violates the Constitutional mandate of gram panchayats' self-governance, the Forum for Good Governance (FGG) has demanded the immediate release of funds before more sarpanches resort to extreme measures.

In a letter to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao the FGG said, "Release funds to gram panchayats as recommended by the State Finance Commission. Clear all pending bills for works executed till the fourth round of 'Palle Pragathi'. Allow the gram sabha and gram panchayat to function independently. Stop this tamasha of 'Palle Pragathi'. It is nothing but usurping the powers of gram panchayats."

M. Padmanabha Reddy, the Secretary of FGG said, "Unfortunately in Telangana, panchayats are not allowed to function as institutions of self-governance. Funds are not released as recommended by the State Finance Commission. It is evident that despite the directive in Article 40 pan-



chayats continue to cling to the government for financial assistance." He said the government had introduced the programme 'Palle Pragathi', and that already four rounds have been completed and the fifth round is likely to commence on June 3.

"Palle Pragathi is a programme imposed from the top on gram panchayats violating the Constitutional mandate that gram panchayats must function as a self-governance institution. In the last four rounds, the sarpanches under pressure from officials have executed works expecting funds from the government. They borrowed lakhs at high rates of interest. Months

passed by, but the bills were not paid. In many districts, sarpanches are under heavy pressure to repay loans. Some have committed suicide due to this. Some have started begging and some are working as daily wage labourers," he said.

"Unfortunately, the government is not responding to the ground situation. The works routinely executed by gram panchayats have been given the new name Palle Pragathi without any budgetary support," he added.

Article 243G of the Constitution endows gram panchayats with enough authority to enable them to function as

institutions of self-government with powers to prepare plans for economic development and social justice and to implement schemes pertaining to 29 subjects (listed in the 11th Schedule).

For assistance and effective functioning of gram panchayats, Article 243A allows a grama sabha to exercise powers and functions at the village level as the legislature may provide. Further, the 73rd Constitutional Amendment has elevated the status of panchayats from a statutory body to a Constitutional body. Article 243-I provides for the constitution of a State Finance Commission to review the finances of panchayats and make recommendations regarding the distribution of net tax between the state government and panchayats and the measures needed to improve the finances of panchayats.

In this way, the Constitution provides ample provisions to gram panchayats regarding finances and authority to execute schemes for the overall development of the village.

BSF jawan from Telangana commits suicide in Punjab

PNS ■ WARANGAL

A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan, who hailed from the district, committed suicide by shooting with his service weapon at the cantonment in Fazika city in Punjab on Friday. He came from Marripalli village under Duggondi mandal in the district. According to reports reaching here, Kanneboyana Ramulu Yadav (30) shot himself with his service weapons. His colleagues were startled when they heard the sound of gunfire and rushed to help him. The BSF, after investigating into the incident, concluded that the jawan had committed suicide.

The parents of the jawan said that they had been informed of the sad news by an official. Ramulu, who was posted earlier in Jammu and Kashmir, was transferred to Punjab three months ago. He took his wife and children to the cantonment area recently. A pall of gloom descended on the village following the suicide of Ramulu. His parents are daily wage earners.

Ramulu was the only son Rajulu and Komuravva.

Green India Challenge, Save Soil organise music concert

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Green India Challenge and the Save Soil Movement on Saturday came together to host the live music concert, Matti Kosam Manam, in Hyderabad.

J. Santosh Kumar Garu, Member of Parliament, who has been a vocal supporter of the Save Soil Movement was the chief guest.

He wholeheartedly extended support saying, "We will support Save Soil and Sadhguru in every way. Our government is always in line with this cause."

The chief guest along with Save Soil volunteers planted saplings on the occasion.

The MP has been a strong supporter of the movement, and on earlier occasions, he had highlighted the close relationship between soil and saplings to demonstrate the similarity between the Save Soil movement and the Green India Challenge, a movement launched by him.

The performances of celebrity singers like Ram



The cultural extravaganza saw ladies playing bathukamma, a festival of Telangana. The audience gathered and thumped to the tune of the now-viral Save Soil song.

Miriya, Mangli, Sri Lalitha, Sahithi Chaganti, Ramya Behara, and Sandeep struck a chord with the people.

The cultural extravaganza saw ladies playing bathukamma, a festival of Telangana. The audience gathered and thumped to the tune of the now-viral Save Soil song.

The peppy beats of the artists ensured that the crowd took the message of the Save Soil movement in their hearts.

Award-winning farmer

Nagaratnam Naidu Garu, Padmasri Venkateswara Rao Garu and Raitihunestam also graced the event.

Save Soil is a global movement launched by Sadhguru, to address the soil crisis by bringing together people from around the world to stand up for soil health, and for supporting leaders of all nations to institute national policies and actions for increasing the organic content in cultivable soil.

Three electrocuted while pulling chariot in Nalgonda district

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Three persons were electrocuted and two others injured at Kethupally under Nampally mandal in the district when an iron chariot of a temple came in contact with live wire. The tragedy happened when a group of people were pulling the chariot which came in contact with the live wire, the police said. Three of those pulling the

chariot died instantaneously and two others were injured. The deceased were Rajaboina Yadaiah(35), Pogaku Mohanaiah(40) of Kethupally village, and Dasari Anjaneyulu (30) of Makkapally village under Gurrampode Mandal.

According to police, rathostavim was organised in the village on the occasion of Sri Rama Navam on April 10 and chariot was left under a neem

tree. The temple priests decided to move it to a safe place at Sri Rama temple in view of unseasonal rains.

A group of villagers volunteered to move the chariot to a shed at the temple. When they were pulling the chariot, it came in contact with 11 kv live wire, leading to the tragedy. The injured were ferried to Nalgonda government hospital. Police registered the case and inquiring,



Nagarkurnool Collector P Uday Kumar welcoming SC judge Justice U U Lalit in Mahabubnagar district on Saturday

District Collector, principal judge welcome SC judge

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

District Collector P Uday Kumar, Mahabubnagar principal judge Premavati and others on Saturday extended warm welcome to the Supreme Court judge, Justice UU Lalit, who along with his family stayed for a while in Harita Hotel at Mannarun en route to Mallikarjuna Swamy temple in Srisailem. The SC judge inspected a guard of honour presented by the police department. The

district collector presented a memento of Amrabad Tiger Reserve to the visiting dignitary. Later, the justice along with his family members proceeded to Srisailem. Atchampet junior civil judge Upadhay Vijayakumar, Kalwakurthy additional judge Sampati Chandana Rao, Atchampet RDO Pandu Naik, Amrabad CI Adireddy and others were among those who extended welcome to the SC judge.

Police arrest Teenmar Mallanna

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Police on Saturday arrested Teenmar Mallanna at Arepally village in the district.

A posse of policemen arrived at Pochamma temple at the village and took Mallanna into custody. He was present at a meeting held to press the demand for withdrawal of GO 80 issued by the government for pooling the land for outer ring road. The police whisked him away.

The police said he had been addressing the meeting when the police arrived there. The police had to arrest him because outsiders were not allowed to participate in the meetig.

Officials asked to speed up paddy procurement

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

District in-charge Collector Hanumantha Rao on Saturday directed the officials at paddy procurement centres to speed up procurement process.

The in-charge Collector made a surprise visit to paddy procurement centres at Baswapur and Arepally and interacted with the farmers. He advised the farmers to

cover the paddy brought to the procurement centres with tarpaulin in view of unseasonal rains.

He suggested to the officials that they may take the services of the tractors in the villages to transport the procured paddy to the rice mills if they faced any problem from the transporters.

The Collector was accompanied by Revenue official J Chandra Reddy and others.



Siddipet District in-charge Collector Hanumantha Rao interacting with farmers at Baswapur in Siddipet district on Saturday

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Revenue (Land Acquisition) Department ADILABAD (FORM-VI) (Preliminary Notification) Under Section 11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 (Central Act 20/2013) and state rule 19 (1). Collector's File No. G1/1947/2017 Date: 04.2022 RDO's File No. B1845/2017										10	99a	Pratr	0.07	Rangineni Gangadhar Rao, S/o. Mukund Rao	Own		
										11	99a/2	96a/3	0.12	Pratr	0.02	Muluri Pachanna S/o. Pentanna	Own
										12	99a/4			Pratr	0.03	Konda Kattappa W/o. Vittal	Own
										13	99a/4			Pratr	0.03	Bhondari Sarathob S/o. Desanna	Own
										14	99a/4			Pratr	0.04	Seeram Pochkka S/o. Sannappa	Own
										15	99a/2	93a	0.10	Pratr	0.03	Yegannamma Rangaswathi Reddy, S/o. Lathi Reddy	Own
										16	99a/3			Pratr	0.04	Bhondari Lakshmi W/o. Noreyya	Own
										17	99a/3			Pratr	0.03	Indurani Kameswala W/o. Preethi	Own
										18	99a/2	94/2	0.10	Pratr	1.18	Somani Sivulu S/o. Alaga (This Sy.No. Missing as another Person)	Own
										19	99a/255	4/2	0.12	Pratr	0.02	Konda Sanyal S/o. Shunappa	Own
										20	99a/4			Pratr	0.02	Peylaga Bhannamma S/o. Ramesh	Own
										21	99a/4			Pratr	0.14	Theerapathi Laxmamma S/o. Ramesh	Own
										22	99a/4			Pratr	0.03	Perla Ungamma S/o. Rajanna	Own
										23	99a/2			Pratr	0.02	Konduri Srinivas S/o. Sannappa	Own
										24	99a/2	99a/1	0.05	Pratr	0.04	Pavuluri Shunamma S/o. Hanumanth Rao	Own
										25	99a/3	0.25		Pratr	0.05	Peylaga Ramulu S/o. Shunappa	Own
										26	99a/2			Pratr	0.01	Peylaga Shannappa S/o. Shunappa	Own
										27	99a/2			Pratr	0.05	Ammu Ponnappa S/o. Chinnai Ponnappa	Own
										28	99a/1			Pratr	0.01	Ammu Venkatesamma W/o. Vittal	Own
										29	99a/2			Pratr	0.09	Bhondari Desanna R/o. Ramulu	Own
										30	99a/2			Pratr	0.06	Ammu Lakshmi W/o. Ramesh	Own
										31	99a/2			Pratr	0.05	Konda Nanjanna S/o. Ganganna	Own
										32	99a/1	0.05		Pratr	0.04	Konda Raksha Bai W/o. Shunappa	Own
										33	99a/1	0.21		Pratr	0.06	Sankari Uppanna S/o. Ganganna	Own
										34	104	3/4	0.04	Pratr	0.04	Gangapurna Vilas S/o. Karthanna	Own
										35	105	1/5		Pratr	0.04	Nemani Rama Rao S/o. Ramesh Rao	Own
										36	107	1/6	0.19	Pratr	0.19	GS Bio-Tech (Director Saranya)	Own
										37	109	109a	0.20	Pratr	0.10	Sankarasa Seti Raja S/o. Prakash	Own
										38	109a			Pratr	0.12	Kurumuri Ganganna W/o. Noreyya	Own
										39	110	110a/1	0.09	Pratr	0.10	Kurumuri Sachin S/o. Sagarreddy	Own
										40	111	111a/1	0.08	Pratr	0.08	Perunnala Devatha W/o. Narayana	Own
										41	112	112/1	0.12	Pratr	0.12		Own
										42	113	113a/1	0.21	Pratr	0.21		Own
										43	113a			Pratr	0.04	Bajjanki Rohith S/o. Karthavasu	Own
										44	113a			Pratr	0.04	Bajjanki Siddarth S/o. Mani	Own
										45	113a			Pratr	0.05	Venkat Kumar Jain S/o. Bhawan Lal	Own
										46	117	117a	0.05	Pratr	0.05	GS Bio-Tech	Own
										47	118	118a	0.11	Pratr	0.11	Nallamela Narsing S/o. Preethi	Own
										48	125	125/2	0.10	Pratr	0.10	Alakonda Purna W/o. Ravi	Own
										49	126	126a	0.16	Pratr	0.07	Nallamela Dattu S/o. Preethi	Own
										50	126a			Pratr	0.01	Nallamela Anshu S/o. Narsing	Own
										51	126a			Pratr	0.06	Bhennala Ram Bai W/o. Noreyya Rao	Own
										52	126a			Pratr	0.02	GS Bio-Tech	Own
										53	126a			Pratr	0.02	Korru Jayesh S/o. Narayana	Own
										54	126a			Pratr	0.02	Korru Jayesh S/o. Narayana	Own
										55	126a			Pratr	0.02	Korru Jayesh S/o. Narayana	Own
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ROLE OF RIVERS AS CONNECTORS

‘Focus of discussion must be on water cooperation’

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

Stressing on the role of rivers as connectors, India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami on Saturday said all economic and political contexts of a river system along with its historical and cultural dimensions need to be taken into consideration for formulating policies surrounding it.

The focus of discussion on rivers should shift from "hydro diplomacy" to "water cooperation", he said.

"The notion of a river as a separator has been in focus for long but the role of a river as a connector is more fundamental," Doraiswami said.

He was speaking at a session on 'Rivers of the Bay of Bengal: Connecting the Blue Economy, the Mountain Economy and the Plains Economy' as part of 'NADI 3: Asian Confluence River Conclave 2022' here.

We tend to look at rivers sanguinely, rather we should



view it more comprehensively. A more holistic approach is needed rather than a mere technocratic or political approach, he said at the two-day conclave starting from Saturday.

The senior diplomat said rivers have different contexts and dimensions and "all these aspects need to be taken into

rather than dividing them into different basins and dealing with the aspects in isolation.

Notably, India and Bangladesh share 54 common rivers.

Former Bangladesh's High Commissioner to India Syed Muazzem Ali had in 2019 said the subject of water sharing during the lean season has been an important issue.

The Teesta deal was set to be signed during the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Bangladesh in September 2011, but was postponed at the last minute due to objections raised by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

She opposed the pact maintaining that people in her region would "not get a single drop".

The conclave is an international ministerial-level river conference to articulate a collective vision of cooperation in the Bay of Bengal and the South-East Asian region.

consideration for formulating policies surrounding it".

From political context to economic and historical and cultural dimensions to its role in the sustenance of human life, a single river system fulfils different roles, he said.

Doraiswami also highlighted importance of management of river systems in totality

Prez Kovind: India home to world's most affordable health care facilities

PNS ■ BHOPAL



President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday said India is providing the most affordable medical facilities in the world and

people from abroad, especially the neighbouring nations, visit the hospitals in the country to avail the health care services.

He also said that India is fast emerging as a medical tourism hub.

"India has the cheapest medical facilities in the world and in the hospitals, especially in Delhi, people from neighbouring countries are found getting treatment more than the local patients," Kovind said after inaugurating 'Arogya Manthan', a conference on the topic 'One Nation, One Health System' organised by RSS-backed Arogya Bharati here.

Referring to the coronavirus pandemic, Kovind said a disease started plaguing the

humanity two-and-a-half years back. "Only one or two per cent people remained unaffected by it," he said.

He praised the country's sci-

entists and doctors for their efforts in developing a vaccine against COVID-19 that saved the lives of people.

"Hundred years back, when

a pandemic broke out, it killed crores of people at one go. But the situation has now changed with the development of vaccines," the president added.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Revenue (Land Acquisition) Department District Collector, Janagan FORM-VII (Declaration) (Under Section 19 (1) of Central Act 36/2013 and Sub-rule (1) of Rule 25 Janagan District Collector File No. G3/974/2018 Date: 05-05-2022 RDO of Janagan File No. C/943/2018 Date: 15-09-2021 Gazette No. JNLA/7112022 Date: 23-05-2022)																
The Government of Telangana/Janagan District Collector has decided to acquire 13431.84 square yards in Charla Thanda Village along with 62 residential houses and Satyanarayanaapuram Village along with 28 residential houses under the limits of Khilashapur Revenue Village of Raghunadhapalli Mandal of Janagan Division for public purpose since they are going to be inundated by J Chokla Rao Devadula Lift-Irrigation Scheme because they are located within the 100 metres radius from the project.																
A declaration has been issued to acquire 13431.30 square yards as mentioned in the following declaration. The land to be acquired include 62 residential houses in Charla Thanda and 28 houses in Satyanarayanaapuram Village of Khilashapur Revenue Village of Raghunadhapalli Mandal of Janagan Division of Janagan District because the Villages are going to be inundated by J Chokla Rao Devadula LI scheme because of they are located in a radius of 100 metres from the project. The displaced areas are identified as per the standard specifications mentioned in the below schedule.																
SCHEDULE Village: Charla Thanda Mandal: Raghunadhapalli District: Janagan																
S.No.	Sy.No.	Total Area	House/House Site / Vacant Site	Owner / Name of Interested Person & Address	East	West	North	South	Structure Type and Details							
1	1216	204	Misra Lacha S/o. Beekya	Road	Vacant Site	Road	Bhukya Kishan House	Penku House								
2	1216	200	Bhukya Kishan S/o. Saku	Road	Bhukya Dharma House	Moloth Lacha House	Bhukya Punthi House	Pakka Kacha House								
3	1216	270	Bhukya Punthi S/o. Saku	Road	Bhukya Deva House	Bhukya Hira House	Bhukya Kishan House	Pakka Kacha House								
4	1216	127	Bhukya Dharma S/o. Saku	Bhukya Kishan House	Bhukya Bhaskar House	Vacant Site	Bhukya Deva House	Penku House								
5	1216	195	Bhukya Deva S/o. Saku	Bhukya Punthi House	Bhukya Ravi House	Bhukya Dharma House	Bhukya Hussain House	Penku House								
6	1216	107	Bhukya Bhaskar S/o. Dharma	Bhukya Dharma House	Bhukya Vacant Site	Vacant Site	Bhukya Ravi House	Pakka Kacha House								
7	1216	202	Bhukya Ravi S/o. Deva	Bhukya Deva House	Vacant Site	Bhukya Bhaskar House	Bhukya Kishan House	Pakka Kacha House								
8	1216	272	Bhukya Hussain S/o. Deva	Bhukya Punthi House	Vacant Site	Bhukya Ravi House	Bhukya Ramosh House	Pakka Kacha House								
9	1216	266	Bhukya Eeriy S/o. Seeyu	Road	Vacant Site	Bhukya Hussain House	Vacant Site	Penku House								
10	1216	335	Jatobth Shankar S/o. Dama	Road	Vacant Site	Vacant Site	Bhukya Thulcha House	Pakka Kacha House								
11	1216	344	Bhukya Tulcha S/o. Issa	Road	Vacant Site	Bhukya Sankar House	Zatobth Sundar House	Pakka Kacha House								
12	1216	295	Jatobth Sunder S/o. Harja	Road	Vacant Site	Bhukya Thulcha House	Road	Pakka Kacha House								
13	1216	260	Gugulothu Vijay S/o. Boya	Vacant Site	Vacant Site	Vacant Site	Pakka Kacha House	Penku House								
14	1216	128	Zatobth Sankar S/o. Dama	Zatobth Jabbar House	Road	Nirmala House	Zatobth Raju House	Penku House								
15	1216	66	Jatobth Jabbar S/o. Dama	Zatobth Devli House	Zatobth Sankar House	Zatobth Baham House	Gugulothu Kamal House	Penku House								
16	1216	65	Gugulothu Pandya S/o. Bhema	Road	Zatobth Bhishu House	Road	Gugulothu Devli House	Penku House								
17	1216	67	Gugulothu Devli S/o. Boya	Gugulothu Jamol House	Zatobth Jabbar House	Gugulothu Kamal House	Gugulothu Pandya House	Penku House								
18	1216	173	Gugulothu Kamal S/o. Harila	Zatobth Sankar House	Zatobth Sankar House	Zatobth Devli House	Pakka Kishan House	Penku House								
19	1216	174	Gugulothu Raju S/o. Harila	Gugulothu Kishan House	Road	Zatobth Sankar House	Road	Penku House								
20	1216	66	Gugulothu Kishan S/o. Harila	Magid	Gugulothu Raju House	Gugulothu Kamal House	Road	Penku House								
21	1216	116	Gugulothu Ramesh S/o. Boya	Zatobth Jamli House	Zatobth Jabbar House	Gugulothu Pandya House	Gugulothu Kamal House	Sheet House								
22	1216	93	Jatobth Balaram S/o. Kowla	Gugulothu Pandya House	Zatobth Pandya House	Zatobth Jabbar House	Vacant Site	Penku House								
23	1216	102	Jatobth Neema S/o. Kowla	Balaram House	Road	Zatobth Sankar House	Zatobth Bhishu House	Pakka Kacha House								
24	1216	173	Jatobth Bhishu S/o. Harja	Vacant Site	Road	Gugulothu Kashi House	Nirmala House	Kacha House								
25	1216	160	Magid	Vacant Site	Gugulothu Kishan House	Gugulothu Zamil House	Road	Sheet House								
26	1216	139	Gugulothu Karumanna W/o. Lakshman	Vacant Site	Road	Gugulothu Sankar House	Vacant Site	Sheet House								
27	1216	176	Gugulothu Jamli S/o. Raghu	Vacant Site	Gugulothu Ramesh House	Bancho Dama House	Magid	Sheet House								
28	1216	294	Gugulothu Hari S/o. Saku	Vacant Site	Road	Gugulothu Mohi House	Road	Sheet House								
29	1216	226	Gugulothu Sampu S/o. Boya	Bhukya Yatagiri House	Road	Vacant Site	Vacant Site	Sheet House								
30	1216	275	Bhukya Yatagiri S/o. Bhema Raju	Bhanoth Nanku House	Gugulothu Nanku House	Vacant Site	Road	Sheet House								
31	1216	320	Bhanoth Senu S/o. Dharma	Vacant Site	Bhukya Yatagiri House	Vacant Site	Road	Sheet House								
32	1216	371	Bhukya Ram Chandru S/o. Seeyu	Bhukya Nanku House	Road	Bhukya Jaka Maku House	Road	Pakka Kacha Sheet House								
33	1216	190	Bhukya Zaimel S/o. Seeyu	Bhukya Hunpa House	Road	Bhukya Rama Chenchu House	Bhukya Jagmal House	Pakka Kacha House								
34	1216	190	Bhukya Jagmal S/o. Seeyu	Vacant Site	Road	Bhukya Jagmal House	Vacant Site	Pakka Kacha House								
35	1216	148	Bhukya Issa S/o. Seeyu	Vacant Site	Road	Vacant Site	Vacant Site	Pakka Kacha House								
36	1216	77	Bhukya Nanku S/o. Lal Singh	Vacant Site	Bhukya Rama Chenchu House	Road	Bhukya Hunpa House	Sheet House								
37	1216	133	Bhukya Hunpa S/o. Lal Singh	Vacant Site	Bhukya Jagmal House	Bhukya Nanku House	Vacant Site	Sheet House								
38	1216	342	Gugulothu	Vacant	Vacant	Road	Gugulothu	Sheet								
Total 3508 Grand 134 Total 31.3																
ABSTRACT																
Sl.No.	Village	Plinth Area	Open Area	Total Area	No. of Houses											
1	Charla Thanda	2658.855	7284.585	9923.4	62											
2	Satyanarayana Puram	980.650	2527.350	3508.000	28											
Total		3639.505	9792.335	13431.8	90											
The declaration has been issued as no objections were received within the stipulated time under Section 15(1) of the Act following issue of the preliminary notification.																
For the rehabilitation and resettlement of the displaced persons the following land in Khilashapur Village of Raghunadhapalli Mandal of Janagan district has been identified.																
Sl.No.	Survey No.	Area of Land Ac. Guntas	specifications													
1	1213	4.71	For Charla Thanda													
2	1252	1.02														
Total		5.73														
1	1252	1.02								For Satyanarayana Puram						
2	1253	1.02														
3	1157	0.36														
Total		3.40														
Mineral of coal, iron-ore, shale or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.																
The plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer and Revenue Divisional Officer, Janagan during working hours on any working day.																
Sd/- Tahsildar, Raghunadhapalli Mandal.			Sd/- Revenue Divisional Officer, Janagan.			Sd/- Additional Collector, Janagan Dist.										
DIPR RO.No. 223/LA-PP/Advs/Pub/2022-23																

INDIA CORNER

Maha: Woman held for cheating investors of over Rs 1 crore



The Thane police in Maharashtra have arrested a 53-year-old woman from Pune for allegedly cheating investors of over Rs 1.8 crore, an officials said on Saturday. Acting on a tip-off, the economic offences wing (EOW) of the Thane crime branch arrested Shradha

Srikant Palande from Dehu Road of Pune earlier this week, assistant police inspector Jagdish Panhale said. An offence under section 420 (cheating) and other relevant provisions of the IPC and MPIDA was registered with the Kasarwadavali police station against Shradha and her husband Srikant Pandurang Palande, who had been on the run for eight months, he said. The couple had set up a consultancy and lured investors by promising them lucrative returns for investing in Forex trading. The duo took money from investors and failed to pay interest and return the principal amount, the official said.

NCB arrests 8, seizes 35 kg heroin in pan-India drug bust



New Delhi, May 28 (PTI) The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Saturday claimed to have unearthed a "major" pan-India heroin trafficking network with the arrest of eight people and seizure of about 35 kg of narcotics. The operation

began on May 24 after the federal anti-drug agency first intercepted two women passengers who landed in Bengaluru from Zimbabwe and about 7 kg of heroin was seized from them, according to an NCB statement. Their questioning led NCB officials to various other links -- a Nigerian national identified as the "kingpin" of the network and other operatives staying in Delhi and Itarsi in Madhya Pradesh. In this operation, 34.89 kg of high-grade heroin has been seized and eight people arrested, the NCB said.

Five members of family found dead in well in Jaipur



The bodies of five members of a family, including a newborn baby, were found in a well in the Dudu area here on Saturday with the police suspecting it to be a case of suicide. They used to live in Meeno ka Mohalla. They had left home on the pretext of going to a market on May 25,

the police said. After they failed to return home, their family members put up missing posters at different locations and lodged a missing complaint with the police, they said. "The bodies have been fished out and post-mortem examination is underway, SHO, Dudu, Chetaram said. The deceased were identified as sisters Kali Devi (27), Mamta Meena (23) and Kamlesh Meena (20), and Harshit (4) and a 20-day-old baby. The three sisters were married to the same family. There are allegations that they were being harassed by their in-laws, the police said, adding that an investigation is underway.

Nurses' strike affects Mumbai's JJ Hosp; most outfits stay away



The strike call given by a union of nurses attached to government-run hospitals in Maharashtra evoked mixed response on the first day on Saturday with most of the other outfits in the sector maintaining a distance from the stir. However, officials admitted that some hospitals did face problems, including postponement of some surgeries. While surgeries like insertion of stents were postponed in state-run JJ Hospital, which was considerably affected, there was little impact of the strike call by the Maharashtra State Nurses Association on other facilities like St George, Cama and Alibless and Gokuldas Tejpal, they said. They added that most of the nurses who are part of MSNA are from JJ Hospital, due to which the premier facility in Byculla was affected much more than others. Speaking to PTI, Sumritra Tote, MSNA general secretary, said, "We had called a strike on May 27 and 28. However, there has been no concrete assurance from the state government, and, hence, we have decided to continue our strike further."

‘Working towards making coastal security impenetrable by using new technologies’

PNS ■ DWARKA (GUJARAT)

The Union government is working towards making coastal security strong and impenetrable by using new technologies, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday.

He was speaking during a visit to the National Academy of Coastal Policing (NACP) in Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district.

The academy, located near the coastal town of Okha and run by the Border Security Force (BSF), was conceptualised in 2018 as the country's first school to train police and paramilitary forces personnel in various aspects of coastal security.

The home minister appreciated the efforts taken by the BSF Gujarat Frontier and NACP to establish the institution in an area with adverse weather conditions and geographical challenges, the BSF said in a release.



"Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are working towards making coastal security strong and impenetrable by using new technologies. We are seriously assessing the challenges to coastal security to address maritime threats," Shah said during his interaction with officials.

He expressed confidence that in future the academy would provide intensive and high-level training to the marine police of various coastal states in the country and make a significant contribution to the security of coastal areas.

Gujarat BSF's Inspector General G S Malik informed the home minister that 427 personnel from nine coastal states, including Gujarat and Maharashtra, and four Union Territories along with officers of the Customs, BSF and CISF have been given training at the academy in the last six months.

MCD staff to face suspension if found absent on 3 days: Order

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after coming into existence, the reunified Municipal Corporation of Delhi has issued an order saying civic employees found absent from work for three days shall be suspended.

The order issued on May 26 by the office of the deputy commissioner of the Civil Line Zone also said one day's salary would be deducted from the account of employees found absent without prior permission.

"In order to ensure that public services are delivered timely without delay, it is directed that henceforth, all officers or officials shall be present in the office from 9 am sharp," the order read.

There have been reports in

a section of the media about employees coming to office late. In the past, media reports have alleged that there are several "ghost" employees in the municipal corporations.

"Further, if any employee is found absent on three occasions, the said defaulting officer/official will be suspended immediately and necessary action shall be initiated against him/her," the order said.

The Civil Lines DC Office order also states that all office employees shall mark their attendance in the NIC (MCD) Smart App. The attendance record in the app shall be taken as the "single source of truth" for verifying the presence of officers/officials in office, it added.

From nightmare to freedom: Push of a button changes lives

PNS ■ BALSIRING (JHARKHAND)

The push of a button meant a different kind of freedom for Savitri Tigga, 11, of Hulhundu on the outskirts of Ranchi, barely 20 km from the tribal state's capital.

As Savitri (name changed) inserted a rupee coin and pressed the button of the newly-installed vending machine in her village, her face lit up as it dispensed a sanitary napkin.

Despite the proximity to the mining boom town of Ranchi, Savitri, till now, had little or no knowledge of how to cope with a menstrual cycle, turning her already burdened childhood into a nightmare, as she bled in the solitary confines of her hut, bewildered by the changes which were happening to her body.

Sangini, an initiative taken by the Old Boys' Association of the famed Netarhat Vidyalaya, has set up vending machines to dispense sanitary pads, in 50 desperately poor villages in Jharkhand and neighbouring Bihar to help girls have a healthier life with uninter-



rupted schooling.

"I can now afford to buy these napkins... I can study now... I can buy my pencils and erasers as well. I will not leave my studies," Savitri told this reporter, holding her napkin shyly in her hand.

Lack of understanding of menstrual hygiene and lack of access to simple necessities such as a sanitary pad in their villages is one of the main reasons for girls to drop out of schools in Jharkhand, where some 42.16 per cent of the population live below the poverty line.

Seema Toppo, 12, Neeta Tigga, 15, Sani Horo, 12, Neelmani Kongari, 14, and

Anju Oraon, 14, (names changed) all narrated similar horror stories of how their mothers and they used sand, ash, rags and plastic to deal with menstruation, often contracting infection.

Most of the girls said they used to prefer living in the confines of their huts during the menstrual cycle period out of embarrassment, losing out on school and normal life in the process. Most did not know of sanitary napkins, and those who did could not afford a trip to a town chemist or the price of a napkin.

The brainchild behind the Sangini initiative, NOBA GSR (Netarhat Old Boys' Association Global Social Responsibility) advisory member Om Prakash Choudhary told PTI: "Late last year a college-going girl who still studies at BHU in Varanasi had come to NOBA GSR and requested for a donation so that she could distribute sanitary napkins in slum areas."

"She did it for three months and we supported her. Later we realised that actually, this model is neither scalable nor sustainable."

Godfrey Phillips India Q4 profit up 9% to Rs 103.88 cr, income up 2.84%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cigarette maker Godfrey Phillips India Ltd on Saturday reported a 9.07 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 103.88 crore for the January-March quarter of 2021-22. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 95.24 crore during the January-March quarter of the previous fiscal, Godfrey Phillips India said in a regulatory filing. Its total income was up 2.84 per cent to Rs 877.77 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs 853.48 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. Godfrey Phillips' total expenses were at Rs 737.72 crore, up 1.38 per cent in Q4 FY2021-22, as against Rs 727.61 crore in the year-ago quarter. Its revenue from cigarettes, tobacco and related products was at Rs 769.10 crore, up 2.61 per cent, as compared with Rs 749.51 crore a year ago. While revenue from retail and related products was marginally down to Rs 83.20 crore as against Rs 83.52 crore in the fourth quarter last fiscal, it said. Godfrey Phillips operates the convenience store chain 24Seven.

India is fast-tracking FTAs with UK, EU: Patel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is fast-tracking negotiations for proposed free trade agreements with certain developed countries like the UK as well as with the European Union, and maybe by this year end, the government would be able to give a final shape to few of these pacts, minister of state for commerce and industry Anupriya Patel said on Friday.

She also expressed hope that the trade pact with Australia would be operationalised "very soon".

India has already implemented a trade agreement with the UAE, and "we are fast-tracking our FTAs (Free Trade Agreements) with lot of other developed countries like the UK, and the EU and maybe by this year end, we would be able to give a final shape to few of these," she said while launching the Indian Business Portal of exporters' body FIEO here.

The minister added that these agreements will create better opportunities for domestic businesses.

The portal is a B2B digital marketplace to empower SME (Small and Medium

The Minister said that the portal will address issues like digitising exporters, supporting MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) and encouraging greater exports of products made in India.



Enterprise) exporters, artisans and farmers to identify new markets for their products and grow their sales globally.

The minister said that the portal will address issues like digitising exporters, supporting MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) and encouraging greater exports of products made in India.

It is witnessed during the pandemic that online platforms such as e-commerce have shown immense potential

in supporting millions of businesses to sustain themselves, she said.

Speaking at the function, Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Director General of Foreign Trade, said that tech-enabled governance will play a key role in determining India's growth and competitiveness.

A Sakthivel, president, FIEO (Federation of Indian Export Organisations), said that the platform will empower SME exporters to identify new mar-

kets for their products and grow their sales with new buyers. Khalid Khan, vice president, FIEO, said that the portal would act as an international trade hub for Indian exporters and foreign buyers.

"The portal focuses on empowering MSMEs to leverage e-commerce and drive Indian exports to help us address the prime minister's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'vocal for local,'" Khan said.

Centre to develop framework to check fake reviews on e-commerce websites

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Saturday said it will develop a framework to keep a check on fake reviews posted on e-commerce websites to protect consumer interest.

The consumer affairs ministry along with the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) held a virtual meeting on Friday with stakeholders, including e-commerce entities, to discuss the magnitude of fake reviews on their platforms.

Fake reviews mislead consumers into buying online products and services.

According to an official statement, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) will develop these frameworks after studying the present mechanism being followed by the e-commerce entities in India and best practices available globally.

Consumer forums, law universities, lawyers, FICCI, CII and consumer rights activists, among others, participated in the meeting to discuss the magnitude of the problem and roadmap ahead for fake reviews on websites.

Since e-commerce involves



a virtual shopping experience without any opportunity to physically view or examine the product, consumers heavily rely on reviews posted on platforms to see the opinion and experience of users who have already purchased the good or service.

"Traceability by ensuring the authenticity of the reviewer and the associated liability of the platform are the two key issues here. Also e-commerce players must disclose as to how they choose the most relevant reviews' for display in a fair and transparent manner," Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said.

All stakeholders agreed that the issue deserves to be monitored closely and appropriate

framework governing the fake reviews should be developed for protection of consumer interest, the statement said.

Stakeholders from e-commerce companies claimed they have frameworks in place by which they monitor fake reviews and would be pleased to take part in developing a legal framework on the issue, it added.

Nidhi Khare, additional secretary and Anupam Mishra, joint secretary in the Department of Consumer Affairs also attended the meeting.

Manisha Kapoor, CEO, ASCI highlighted the categories of fake and misleading reviews and their impact on consumer interest.

Pradhan visits BP's Global Business Services Centre in Pune

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday visited BP's Global Business Services Centre in Pune as he looked to get the first-hand experience of digitisation efforts by the UK oil major.

During his visit, Pradhan interacted with leadership and employees at the centre, bp said in a statement.

Varsha Singh, Vice-

President and Head, bp India Pune centre, said, "It was a privilege to host Minister Pradhan at our Pune centre today. We are delighted that he interacted with our employees and was present with us to see the centre we set up in the middle of the pandemic."

"The centre draws upon digital talent and skills which are critical in solving complex business problems for bp globally as it pivots itself from an international oil company to an international energy company."



Adani group's drone division exploring two revenue models

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Adani Group's commercial drones division is exploring two revenue models -- dealer-based and service-based -- while keeping its primary focus on the agriculture sector, a top official of the conglomerate said on Saturday.

In a dealer-based model, the equipment is sold directly to the customer. In a service-based model, the equipment is provided for various services for a fee in partnership with a local entrepreneur or an institution. The tractor industry uses both these sales models.

"We are exploring both models -- dealer-based model and service-based model. Depending on the market response, we will

take our decisions," Rangarajan Vijayaraghavan, Vice President, Strategy and Chairman's Office, Adani Group, told PTI in an interview, a day after the conglomerate announced acquiring 50 per cent equity stake in drone start-up Aeronautics.

He said the Adani Group is considering multiple areas in the commercial drone sector and "one of the primary areas of focus" is agriculture. "This is in line with the prime minister's vision of use of drone technology to improve farmers' livelihood. With our commitment to nation building, we have been deeply inspired by the prime minister's vision and

we believe there is a significant opportunity in the market," he mentioned.

In the service-based model, the Adani Group will provide drones for services such as pesticide spray for a fee in partnership with a local entrepreneur or an institution, which in this case will be pesticide companies, he mentioned. He said the agriculture sector gets a unique benefit when a drone is used -- the combination of the pesticide deployment as well as the reduction in water and labour requirements provides cost as well as convenience advantage to the farmer. "We are hopeful that we will be able to leverage that (benefit) in the days to come," he added.

The Adani Group had announced on Friday acquiring 50 per cent equity stake in agricultural drone start-up General Aeronautics for an undisclosed amount.

M&M Q4 profit zooms to Rs 1,192 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mahindra & Mahindra on Saturday reported nearly five-fold jump in standalone profit at Rs 1,192 crore for quarter ended March 31, 2022. The company had posted a profit of Rs 245 crore for the year-ago period, it said in a statement. Revenue grew 28 per cent to Rs 17,124 crore in the period under review as compared with Rs 13,356 crore in March quarter 2020-21, it said.

Tesla won't manufacture in India unless allowed to sell, service cars: Musk

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

American electric carmaker Tesla, which has been seeking reduction in import duties to sell its vehicles in India, will not manufacture its products locally unless it is allowed to first sell and service its cars in the country, company founder and chief executive Elon Musk has said.

In a tweet responding to a user asking about Tesla setting up a manufacturing plant in India, he said, "Tesla will not put a manufacturing plant in any location where we are not allowed first to sell & service cars."



Last month, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari had said if Tesla was ready to manufacture its electric vehicles in

India then there was 'no problem' but the company must not import cars from China.

In August last year, Musk had said Tesla may set up a manufacturing unit in India if it first succeeds with imported vehicles in the country.

He had said Tesla wanted to launch its vehicles in India "but import duties are the highest in the world by far of any large country".

Currently, India imposes 100 per cent import duty on fully imported cars with CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight) value more than USD 40,000 and 60 per cent on those costing less than the amount.

Venus Remedies registers 9.22 pc growth in sales

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Pharma company Venus Remedies on Saturday said it has registered a 9.22 per cent increase in annual sales in 2021-22 in comparison to sales in 2020-21.

"Aided by concerted efforts to build on its export orders, supply chain, distribution network and product portfolio, the annual sales of Venus Remedies grew from Rs 548.12 crore in FY2020-21 to Rs 598.65 crore this fiscal

(2021-22)," the company said in a statement here.

The Panchkula-based company also reported a 16.81 per cent increase in operating profit, which went up from Rs 53.78 crore last fiscal to Rs 62.82 crore in 2021-22.

Saransh Chaudhary, president, Global Critical Care, Venus Remedies Ltd, said, "Embarking on product diversification with the launch of a full-fledged consumer health-care division, we expanded the scope of our business to make

MONEY MATTERS

Amul makes foray into organic food industry



A dairy major GCMMF, which markets its products under Amul brand, on Saturday announced entry into organic food market with the launch of organic wheat flour. The first product launched in this portfolio is 'Amul Organic Whole Wheat Atta', Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) said in a statement. Further, Amul will be launching products like moong daal, tur daal, chana daal and basmati rice in its organic portfolio. The production of Amul organic atta is being done at state-of-the-art processing facility, Tribhuvan Das Patel Mogar Food Complex. The product goes through a thorough procedure of lab testing multiple times to make sure that the product is as per organic standard laid down by Government of India, it said. R S Sodhi, MD, GCMMF, said the cooperative is in the process of developing a pool of organic farmers and replicate their existing milk model in the organic sourcing. This will increase the income of organic farmers and will lead to overall democratisation of the organic food industry. Currently, the major challenge for the farmers is unavailability of market linkage for organic products and high cost of organic testing facilities, the statement said. Therefore, along with creation of market linkage for organic farmers, Amul is in process of setting up organic testing laboratories at 5 locations across India.

Sebi levies Rs 25 lakh fine on 2 entities for fraudulent trading



Markets regulator Sebi on Friday imposed penalties totalling Rs 25 lakh on two entities for indulging in manipulative trading activities in the shares of Ponni Sugars Erode Ltd (PSEL). A fine of Rs 15 lakh has been imposed on Gandiv Investment Pvt Ltd and Rs 10 lakh on Pat Financial Consultants Pvt Ltd. The order came after Sebi conducted an investigation into the shares of PSEL during the period from November 2012 to October 2014. It was found that three entities -- Gandiv Investment, Pat Financial and an individual -- had indulged in manipulation of the price of the shares. The individual passed away recently. In an order, Sebi said the entities flouted the PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) regulations. Separately, the watchdog levied a fine of Rs 7 lakh on an individual -- Ajay Chauhan (proprietor of Drift Financial Services) -- for violating norms. The individual had promised high returns to investors despite being fully aware that all the investments made in the securities market are subject to market risk and such returns cannot be assured, according to the regulator. Through such acts, the individual violated the PFUTP regulations and provisions of code of conduct for investment advisers. In another order, the market regulator imposed a penalty of Rs 5.50 lakh on Sykes and Ray Equities (I) Ltd for misutilisation of client securities.

Engineers India adopts new vision statement



State-owned consultancy firm Engineers India Ltd (EIL) on Saturday said it has adopted a new vision statement that aims at the company becoming a global leader offering total energy solutions. "The energy landscape in India and across the globe is changing at a swift pace and organizations across the globe are re-strategizing their business operations focused towards sustainability, climate change and energy transition," the firm said in a statement. EIL said since its inception it has always aligned corporate and business strategies with the energy ecosystem and aims to attain leadership position across the energy sector. "To strengthen our resolve and commitments towards futuristic goals, we at EIL, would now be driven by our new vision statement - 'To be a Global Leader offering Total Energy Solutions for a Sustainable Future'," the statement said. This new vision would steer EIL towards a growth and transition pathway, thus evolving the firm into a total energy consulting organisation with leadership position across all the pillars and constituents of the energy sector.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM-VI									
(See Sub-rule(1) of rule-19) and Section - 11(1) of the Act-30/2013)									
Collector/Joint Collector Preliminary Notification									
File No. G/1935/2022 Date: 17.05.2022									
Dist. Gazette No. 64/2022									
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana that a total of Ac.4.14pts of Patta land in Vennecharla Village of Peddakothapally Mandal, Nagarkurnool Division Nagarkurnool District, for public purpose, namely for formation of Yedula Pumping Station at Vennecharla Village of Peddakothapally Mandal.									
Therefore it is notified that for the above Govt. land for acquire for formation of Yedula Pumping Station at Vennecharla Village of Peddakothapally Mandal, under Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme of Vennecharla Village of Peddakothapally Mandal, Nagarkurnool Division Nagarkurnool District, a piece of land measuring, more or less Ac.4.14 Gts of standard measurement, whose detailed description is as mentioned below, is under acquisition.									
Sl. No.	Survey No.	Type of Land	Type of Acquisition	Area under Acquisition in Acres	Name & Address of person interested	Boundaries North South East West	Tree	Structure	Remarks
1	650/1	Dry	Patta	1.10	Telugu Meshona S/o Narasimha	650/101 650/102	Nil	Nil	13 Mango Trees
2	650/2	Dry	Patta	1.07	Telugu Chenna Ramulu S/o Yellash	650/101 650/102	Nil	Nil	Nil
3	650/3	Dry	Patta	0.085	Raja S/o Lajjar	650/101 650/102	Nil	Nil	Nil
4	650/4	Dry	Patta	0.085	Pruthi Raj S/o Lajjar	650/101 650/102	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	650/5	Dry	Patta	0.09	Devenappa Laxmi Kartham S/o Lajjar	650/101 650/102	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total				3.63					
6	642/1	Dry	Patta	1.03	Daga Narahani S/o Krishnak	642/650 642/651	Nil	Nil	Nil
7	642/2	Dry	Patta	0.06	Dyaga Pedda Balaswamy S/o Yellash	638/002 650/003	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total				4.14					
A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Nagarkurnool & Revenue Divisional Officer, Nagarkurnool on any working day during the working hours. The District Collector, Nagarkurnool is pleased to authorize the Revenue Divisional Officer, Nagarkurnool and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for formation of Vennecharla (Balaswamy) Reservoir at Vennecharla Village of Peddakothapally Mandal, under Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation at Vennecharla Village of Peddakothapally Mandal for their work as provided and specified in section 11(1) of the said Act.									
Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transactions or cause any transactions of land i.e., sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrance on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.									
Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the persons interested within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this Notification as provided under section 1(3) of the Act before the District Collector.									
Sd/- Special Deputy Collector LA/PUS Sd/- Joint Collector Sd/- Dist. Collector									
Unit-8 & Revenue Divisional Officer Nagarkurnool Nagarkurnool Nagarkurnool									
DPR No. 207/LA/PP-Pub/2022-23									

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM-VII						
(Under Section 19-1 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 (Central Act 30/2013) and state rule 25 (1))						
DECLARATION						
District Collector Lt No. G/38/2022				Date: 16.05.2022		
The Government of Telangana/District Collector Warangal has decided to acquire Ac.5-17 1/2 Guntas of land within the limits of Sapatrapalli of Veesapanganda mandal Warangapatti district for public purpose i.e. for excavation of OT 23-28 LMI KM 0.000 to KM 7.750 from Shankar Sannudam Balancing Reservoir (Additional Package No. 27) and hence issued a declaration.						
Therefore, a declaration has been issued to acquire Ac.5-17 1/2 Guntas of land within the limits of Sapatrapalli of Veesapanganda mandal Warangapatti district, for execution of the project, as shown in the following schedule:						
Sl. No.	Sur- vey No.	Patta Type	Type of Land	Area of land to be acquired	Name of the Pattadar/landowner	Nature of the trees/ number of trees nature of the structure/ Area in Square Yards
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				0.13	Yasanthi Balash S/o Balakrishna	(13) Mango Trees
1	183	Patta	Dry	0.13	Yasanthi Peda Gargash S/o Yasanthi Balakrishna	Nil
				0.04	Yasanthi Balaswamy S/o Balakrishna	Nil
2	187	Patta	Dry	0-0074	Ode Gargamma W/o Ramakrishna	(1) Mango Tree
3	188	Patta	Dry	0-16	Ome Venkatarama W/o Sheshiah	(5) Mango Trees (2) Teak Trees Well 12,000 x 7,000 x 3,500=788.00
4	189	Patta	Dry	0-26	Ome Abhak Kumar S/o Sheshiah	(25) Mango Trees
				0-26	Ome Hari Krishna S/o Sheshiah	RRC Tharu
5	190	Patta	Dry	0-33	P. Raja Goud S/o Palash Goud (Expired) Rajanna W/o Raja Goud	Nil
6	203	Patta	Dry	0-23	P. Raja Goud S/o Palash Goud (Expired) Rajanna W/o Raja Goud	Nil
7	190	Govt. Land	1-23	Govt. Land		Nil
Total				5.174		
The declaration has been issued as no objections were received within the stipulated time under Section 15 (1) of the Act following issue of the preliminary notification.						
Mines of coal, iron-ore, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.						
The plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Special Deputy Collector, Beema Project, RU/SP-2, Pebbair during working hours on any working day.						
Sd/- Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), RU/SP-2, Pebbair of Warangal		Sd/- Addl. Collector, Warangal		Sd/- Collector Warangal District DCPR No. 211/LA/PP-Pub/2022-23		

take our decisions," Rangarajan Vijayaraghavan, Vice President, Strategy and Chairman's Office, Adani Group, told PTI in an interview, a day after the conglomerate announced acquiring 50 per cent equity stake in drone start-up Aeronautics.



He said the Adani Group is considering multiple areas in the commercial drone sector and "one of the primary areas of focus" is agriculture. "This is in line with the prime minister's vision of use of drone technology to improve farmers' livelihood. With our commitment to nation building, we have been deeply inspired by the prime minister's vision and

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
'B' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
No. 09/DB/EE/GJRM/ CIRCLE-26 /GHMC/ 2022-23. Dated: 28-05-2022
Name of the Work: Remodelling of UGD. Estimate Amount: Rs. 10.70 Lakhs, Start Date & Time: 30.05.2022 03.00 PM, Last Date & Time for receipts of Bid: 06.06.2022 03.30 P.M., Name & Address of EE: Executive Engineer, Gajularamam Circle -26, GHMC 7995077953 (H.D). Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer R.O.No: 2377-PP/LA/ADVT/1/2822-23, Dt. 28.05.2022 Gajularamam Circle, GHMC.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT DISTRICT HEAD QUARTER HOSPITALS, KHAMAM
TENDER NOTICE Dated: 28-05-2022
Tenders are invited through e-procurement platform for the work providing the Integrated Hospital Facility Management services (IHMS) which includes the (1) Sanitation and Pest Control (2) Security Guards (3) Patient Care Services in their TVAP Hospitals in Khammam District. (4) A) District Hospital, Khammam -General, (B), Community Health Center, Sathupalli-General, (C), Community Health Center, Penaboli-General, (D), Community Health Center, Kalluru-General, (E), Community Health Center, Nelsankadapoli-General, (F), Community Health Center, Thumavayyapalem -General. The Details can be seen at the website: www.eprocurement.gov.in. SECTION- II: TENDER SCHEDULE: 3.1. Schedule of Dates for Tender Events: 1) Bid Notification: 28.05.2022, 2) Downloading of Bid documents: 30.05.2022, 3) Pre-Bid meeting: 03.06.2022, 4) Last Date/Time for seeking clarifications: 04.06.2022 @ 5.00pm, 5) Bid Submission Closing Date/Time: 04.06.2022 @ 3.00pm, 6) Technical Bid Opening

The lesson I've
learned the most often
in life is that you're
always going to know
more in the future than
you know now
— Taylor Swift



A PANDORA BOX

The ongoing Gyanvapi mosque dispute has led to similar petitions being filed in other temple-mosque cases, which would have larger implications for the country, writes **BISWAJEET BANERJEE**

On November 9, 2019, when the Supreme Court delivered a judgment on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Mosque dispute in Ayodhya, many thought this was the end of such contentious issue as the court in its order dwelled at length about the Places of Worship Act, 1991. But within a year, petitions were filed across the country with Gyanvapi mosque and Krishna Janmashtami- Shahi-Idgah cases hogging the limelight. Hindu organizations also filed petitions demanding they should be allowed to offer prayers at Quwwatul Islam mosque in the Qutub Minar premises in New Delhi, while another Hindu organization claimed Taj Mahal as Tajo Mahal temple of Lord Shiva and asked for the court's permission to offer prayers there

This was not limited only to Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, but in down South, too. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad volunteers demanded they should be allowed to offer prayers at the outskirts of Mangaluru after a Hindu temple-like architectural design was purportedly found there underneath the Juma Masjid on April 21 2022. The VHP claimed that the mosque was built atop Sri Ramanjaneya Bhajana Mandira. Prohibitory orders were imposed in the city after Hindu organizations said they will be organizing 'Tambula Prashne' at Sri Ramanjaneya Bhajana Mandira.

The police claim that the status quo should be maintained as the matter is already in the court and temporary injunctions have been issued to the president of the mosque as well as all the parties.

The legal battle is the latest instance of a growing phenomenon in which Hindu groups petitioning courts demanding land where mosques are located by claiming these belong to Hindus. They claim that these mosques were built after demolishing temples

A senior advocate appearing for the Varanasi mosque management committee informed the lower court that the ongoing dispute had led to "similar petitions" being filed in other temple-mosque cases, which would have "larger ramifications across the country". The statement signifies the petitions filed in different courts by Hindu plaintiffs against mosque committees across the state claiming

ownership right of land where the mosque stands now. Inevitably, such petitions claim that the said mosques were built atop Hindu temples and thus the right be restored to the rightful owner.

In the forefront is the Gyanvapi case of Varanasi. Historians claim that originally it was Lord Visweswar Temple. Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, a French merchant, described a cruciform structure of the temple complex with multistoried domed towers at the four ends and at the center. It was the most sacred shrine in the subcontinent after the Jagannath Temple at Puri. In September 1669, Moghul emperor Aurangzeb ordered the demolition of the temple and a mosque was constructed in place. Initially, the mosque was called Aamgir mosque – under the name of Aurangzeb but later it was called Gyan Vapi (Well of Knowledge). Scholars attribute political reasons rather than religious zealotry to be the primary motivation for Aurangzeb's demolition. Madhuri Desai — in her magnum opus on Banaras — opines that Aurangzeb's complex and often-contradictory policies can be "more accurately analyzed in the light of his personal compulsions and political agenda, rather than as expressions of religious bigotry."

Muslims, however, argue that the Gyanvapi was constructed much before Aurangzeb's reign. Syed Mohammed Yasin, Joint secretary of Anjuman Intizamia Masjid Committee, the organization responsible for the maintenance of the mosque, claims that the mosque was built in 12th Century and later Aurangzeb renovated it in the 17th century. "The mosque was not built by demolishing the temple," he said. He claims Akbar had renovated an adjacent Shiva temple as a mark of Hindu-Muslim unity. In fact, both the Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the Gyanvapi were constructed by Akbar in a true to his spirit of religious tolerance

Cut to present scenario: In August 2021, five women, belonging to Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh, filed a civil suit in the Varanasi civil court on the "Right to Worship", seeking daily access to the Shringaar Gauri temple, the Swayambhu Jyotirling, the Maa Ganga temple, and the Nandi temple to offer daily prayers. Shringar Gauri is a small temple at the western side of the mosque where till 1992 Hindus

SCHOLARS ATTRIBUTE
POLITICAL REASONS
RATHER THAN
RELIGIOUS ZEALOTRY
TO BE THE PRIMARY
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DESAI — IN HER
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were allowed to offer prayers. Ramatama Srivastava, a resident of Varanasi, said that he had gone there many times where a group of Hindu women could be seen offering prayers. But after the demolition of the Babri mosque in 1992, Hindus were not allowed there and the area was sealed.

Eight suits are currently pending before the Varanasi civil court, which on April 8 passed orders for videography and survey of the area by court commissioners. The survey and videography inside the mosque were carried out for three days after which the Hindu side claimed that a "shivling" was found from 'wazookhana', which is a small reservoir used by Muslim devotees to perform ritual ablutions before offering the namaz.

The lower court ordered the sealing of the premises, but the Supreme Court ordered that Muslims should not be prevented from offering prayers.

Besides, a separate application seeking an ASI survey through Ground Penetrating Radar are pending in the Allahabad High Court. The Supreme Court in its directives of May 20 said that the district judge will hear the issue of maintainability of the Right to Worship petitions.

Shahi Eidgah case, in Mathura, at least 10 suits were filed in the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple and the Shahi Idgah mosque dispute in 2020, even though a compromise was reached in two sections over the title suit in 1968, and the issue was settled by the civil court.

In its new petition, Ranjana Agnihotri, who claimed herself as the "next friend" of Bhagwan Shri Krishna Virajman, said that the 1968 compromise was achieved "through fraud". She said that the Shri Krishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan, which had agreed to the compromise, was not the owner of the disputed land. Instead, Shri Krishna Janmasthan Trust was the rightful owner of the land.

The civil court of Mathura dismissed the case in September 2020, but the petitioner challenged the order and moved a review petition. The District Judge on May 19, 2022, directed the civil judge to re-hear the matter. Another case has been filed demanding the appointment of a Court Commissioner and videography be carried out to ascertain whether the mosque has

Hindu religion signs, as is done in the Gyanvapi case.

Petitions are also filed in other places:

QUWWATUL MOSQUE, DELHI

Ranjana Agnihotri, also moved Delhi civil court in October 2021 seeking the restoration of Hindu and Jain temples demolished to build the Quwwatul Islam mosque in the Qutub Minar premises in Delhi. Early this month, volunteers of VHP also held a prayer meeting at the Qutub Minar premises and recited Hanuman Chalisa there. The petitioners claim that 27 Hindu and Jain temples were demolished by Qutubuddin Aibak to construct the Quwwatul Islam mosque. They say the walls of the mosques are adorned with symbols of Hindu gods and goddesses. The plea had called for the restoration of the temples.

The petition was dismissed by the civil judge in November 2021. The verdict was challenged in the court of the district judge and is currently pending.

TAJ MAHAL, AGRA

In May 2022, a PIL was moved in the Allahabad High Court by Rajneesh Singh who sought a "fact-finding commission" and survey of the Taj Mahal's premises. It had argued that there are "Hindu symbols" on the premises and sought orders from the court to open the 22 locked rooms in the basement of the mausoleum. The plea was thrown out by the Allahabad High Court. Singh was pulled up for "making a mockery of the PIL system". The controversy was first stirred by Purshottam Nagesh Oak, a historian, who in his book in 1989 named "Taj Mahal: The True Story" where he claimed that the Taj Mahal initially was a Shiva temple and a Rajput palace named Tejomahalaya, which Mughal emperor Shah Jahan seized and adopted as a tomb.

The argument was debunked by a number of historians, and even the Supreme Court in 2000 rejected a petition by Oak to declare that the Taj Mahal was constructed by a Hindu king. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in August 2017 said that Taj Mahal was not a temple but a tomb.

The writer is Political Editor of The Pioneer, Lucknow

BE ALERT BUT DON'T PANIC

An outbreak of monkeypox, which is related to smallpox, in around 20 countries has alerted public health officials. The virus can, however, be contained with vaccines that are already available in some countries, doctors say, asserting that there is no need to panic. The HEALTH PIONEER profiles the disease.



With the world still reeling from the effects of the covid-19 pandemic, the rise of a different disease called Monkeypox is putting many people on edge. It has taken into its grip atleast 20 nations. Over 200 cases have been reported so far.

Thankfully, India is spared for now. “But the only policy right now is to monitor the global scenario, step up the vigil and expand testing,” Dr Nivedita Gupta, head of virology at the ICMR told a news channel.

The Centre has already issued an alert to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the ICMR and asked them to keep a close watch on the situation evolving in relation to the monkeypox cases abroad. Among States, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have been at the forefront in asking their officials to keep a watch on airports and water borders.

ICMR scientist Gupta also made it clear that monkeypox will not spread like wildfire as had happened in the case of Coronavirus as “it’s not a new virus and has been in existence in some African regions and has caused sporadic outbreaks.”

The ICMR has designated the virus as exotic and all samples are being sent to the Pune lab for testing. “All viruses which don’t exist in India are labelled exotic and their samples are sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune, which is a BSL4 facility,” she said.

The facility ensures there are no chances of leakage of virus in India,

leading to an outbreak here. “This communication has been sent to all airports. All samples of incoming passengers will be sent to the NIV,” Gupta told the channel.

CAUSE: It is caused by a virus of the same name that is closely related to smallpox, which has now been eradicated from the planet. Both are members of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae.

HISTORY: It was first discovered in 1958 when outbreaks of a disease causing a pox were discovered in monkeys held in captivity for research. It was first seen in humans in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and it is now endemic in Central and West Africa.

In 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 4,594 suspected cases of monkeypox, including 171 deaths (case fatality ratio 3.7%).

SYMPTOMS: It starts with a headache and fever, the usual things that you deal with when you get a viral infection. Then, within a week or two, some people get a rash which develops into pustules. If you’re covered in these pustules, then you’d have the risk of bacterial infection and, in some cases, sepsis. That’s where the lethality can come from. Although symptoms often ease within a month, one in ten cases can be fatal. Children are particularly susceptible.

MONKEYPOX
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DOCTORS' SPEAK

Health experts say that one should not let their guard down but there is no need to panic. “We need to keep a surveillance on how it is evolving, and how many people are getting affected. Fortunately, it is not as severe as smallpox,” says Dr Jugal Kishore, head of the Community Department, Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi.

“There is a need to keep a watch on borders and international travelers and ensure that those having rash-like symptoms or reporting fever are kept in quarantine as per protocol.”

Dr Kishore adds that the virus can spread through touching or using clothes or towels of someone who is infected; touching monkeypox skin blisters; coughs or sneezing. Hence, health

hygiene is a must. Also, those venturing in wildlife should stop doing so for some time.

“We encourage you all to increase the surveillance of monkeypox to see where transmission levels are and understand where it is going,” the WHO’s director for Global Infectious Hazard Preparedness, Sylvie Briand, said at a conference recently.

Dr Faheem Younus, Chief Quality Officer and Chief of Infectious Diseases at the University of Maryland, says: “Monkeypox cases are concerning but the risk of this becoming a COVID like pandemic is zero% Why? This virus is not novel; is typically not deadly; is less contagious than Covid and has been around for 5 decades. Also, it can be prevented by a smallpox vaccine.”

WHO RECOMMENDATION: Given that rashes are seen in many other diseases such as chickenpox and measles, WHO recommends diagnosis when identification is necessary. This has to be with PCR testing.

TRANSMISSION: The virus generally spreads to people from infected wild animals such as rodents and primates, found in the rainforests of Central and West Africa, but human-to-human transmission can also occur. Similar to viruses like Ebola,

transmission only happens in close proximity by contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets or contaminated materials such as bedding or clothes.

TREATMENT: At present, there is no specific treatment. But there are antivirals licensed to combat orthopoxviruses, such as tecovirimat. The smallpox vaccine was key to eradicating smallpox decades ago, and this vaccine can be highly effective – 85% – in preventing monkeypox.

BEYOND THE STETHOSCOPE

When not pursuing their profession, a breed of doctors prefer to wear different hats to keep themselves fit and centered. The HEALTH PIONEER tries to catch up with them every week.



Dr. Himanshu Verma

The Long And Short Of Beard

According to Victorian writer Thomas S Gowing, “The absence of Beard is usually a sign of physical and moral weakness.” Letting it grow is “reverencing the Creator’s laws as above the dictates of man”.

Dr. Himanshu Verma, Head of Department of Nephrology and Renal Transplant at one of the country’s premier medical institutions, Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi who wears a well-groomed beard, agrees. A beard does draw attention. Most of the popular style icons like Ben Affleck and George Clooney too had once started growing one too.

For Dr Verma, keeping a beard is a symbol of manliness and, in fact, “It’s not about just Beards, it’s about Beards With Substance,” he stresses.

“Whether it is long or short, I always have a beard. Beard is an asset that can make most men look quite suave and masculine,” the 39-year-old doctor muses his childhood memories that connect him with Rambo-like characters equated with masculinity.

Dr Verma, a gold medalist in DM (Nephrology) from prestigious RML Hospital in Delhi finds a parallel in bearded scientists like Darwin and Aristotle known for their wisdom. He feels keeping a beard has several benefits. For instance, “it protects skin from the harmful Ultraviolet rays; it can add a layer of protection to your chin and neck; Your beard and moustache works as a filter that helps to keep allergens from entering your nose and mouth, thereby reducing chance of skin infections.”

Data says, the average man spends approximately 4.5 months in shaving. Imagine all the time you would save and invest it in overall men’s health. Hence, it is also a ‘way to show support to men’s health’, Dr Verma tries to make a point.

Hence, whenever he gets an opportunity, he takes out time to participate at various fundraisers like the global No Shave November movement, aka ‘Movember’, which creates awareness about the hazards of prostate cancer and other health issues in men. It was started in Australia in 2003 and now spread across the world.

Dr. Verma, the father of two sons, laments that men do not take care of their health. “Males usually give priority to their family and in the process neglect their own health. This leads to stress in them.

“Prostate cancer, unbalanced lipid profile and depression are some of the diseases that remain undiagnosed in men and ignorance of these ailments can be fatal,” points out Dr. Verma, himself an asthmatic since childhood.

“In fact, male depression needs to be addressed. Suicidal tendencies among them are becoming common. This can be prevented by emotional counseling,” he continues.

It’s not just that he loves keeping mane to highlight health issues, this 39-year-old soft-spoken medico is also an avid bike lover, a dancer and a model who walks down fashion ramps with an equal ease.

But this first generation doctor who is also the youngest HOD in the history of Nephrology in India, amidst a huge extended family of engineers hailing from Agra, remains committed to his patients as he says my motto is: “For patient’s care, I am there.” We are sure his friends and patients will agree with him.

—As told to Archana jyoti
(Medicos may write to us at healthp100@gmail.com)

■ **World No Tobacco Day (WNTD 22) is round the corner. You have been vocal against tobacco consumption for quite a long time.**

I have started my life from a small village in Haryana, born as a rheumatic arthritis kid. Hailing from a humble family and having a disability, everyday was a struggle for everything—physically, financially and mentally. Those were very difficult days. Doctors had dumped me, saying that I won’t survive long. But with the blessings and care of my mother and my strong will, I was able to be physically fit and played for the country. I feel bad when I see youth and kids around me addicted to smoking and chewing tobacco, unaware of its harmful impact. It pains me. We have got this precious life only for once. I want these kids and youth to not waste their life but help contribute to make India a strong nation.

■ **What is the reason that despite various efforts, we have failed to curb tobacco habits among people? Lakhs of youth continue to succumb to the hazardous items every year. Where are we faltering?**

At times political parties get influenced by the tobacco or liquor barons in anticipation of getting funds for their party activities. Also, celebrities too, do not think twice about the ill-effects their endorsement of harmful products can have on youth and kids.

The Government should take strong steps to check availability of these products while celebrities should introspect what they are promoting. So much money is spent on healthcare for people falling ill due to tobacco related diseases. It is important to implement and enforce the most effective tobacco control policies aimed at reducing the supply and demand for tobacco.

‘Tobacco is slow poison, killing our youth’

SANGRAM SINGH is a wrestler, actor, motivational speaker, philanthropist and health guru, who wears his heart on his sleeve. Recently in Delhi to support the anti-tobacco campaign, he shared his thoughts with ARCHANA JYOTI on the need for stringent COTPA law to protect youth and kids from falling prey to the deadly products.



Health is something that I hold very dear. I also do not support what I do not believe in. So how can I knowingly promote something that will risk people’s life? As a celebrity, it’s my responsibility towards people to not endorse anything that could be harmful to human health.

Everyone knows that toxic items

like tobacco, cigarettes, gutka and other harmful products like liquor, junk food products, and online games are like poison for the new generation. But still there are some celebrities who, for earning quick bucks, forget that their callousness and greed can kill many children and youth who take them as their idols. I want to ask these

It angers me that many celebrities do not think twice about the ill-effects of their endorsement of harmful tobacco products on the lives of youth and kids. They do not deserve Government awards like Padma Shri.

public celebrities, will they allow their kids to chew tobacco or cigarettes, gutka and other harmful products like liquor, junk food products etc?

■ **Activists have been seeking stringent COTPA Act such as ban on Point of Sale advertisement and on public designated smoking areas to curb tobacco consumption. What is your take on this?**

I am always on the same page on all the issues if it saves a life. The WHO data says that every year more than 8 million people die of tobacco consumption. The addiction continues to

rapidly increase among people of all age groups in India. We all know that it causes a range of deadly diseases related to the heart and respiration system and cancer.

In such a scenario, we definitely need to not only emphasize on creating awareness against tobacco hazards but also tighten the gaps in the COTPA Bill which is giving tobacco manufacturers a leverage to play around the system. I feel that to curb tobacco consumption amid kids, Point of Sale should be banned. After all, why are we allowing tobacco items to be sold amidst candies and toys meant for kids. We should also take steps to protect non-smokers by banning designated smoking zones in airports, restaurants and hotels.

■ **What is your message to youth who refuse to quit tobacco?**

My advice to them is that by consuming tobacco they are not only harming themselves but also their loved ones in their homes. Smoking kills you daily. Your lungs get damaged and stamina weakens.

We get only one life. It is upto tobacco users what type of life they want to choose: good and health life or a torturous death. They have to choose between the two. If I can, who was in a wheelchair for years, win the World Wrestling Championship, anybody can quit tobacco and lead a healthy life.

Can Quad restrain wayward China?

The May 24 face-to-face meeting of the Quad leaders is considered very crucial against the backdrop of the ongoing Ukraine war. All the four heads of the Governments — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US president Joe Biden, Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese — came together on a platform to display strength and sustainability of the group at a crucial juncture when the world is gradually emerging out of the monstrous Covid-19 pandemic and entering into nothing short of Third World War in Europe.

It must be said once again the global governance institutions, especially the UN and the US-led liberal West have miserably failed to stop the most devastating war in Ukraine. Undoubtedly, the centrality of the Quad summit was the Russian onslaught in Ukraine. The Quad summit is indicative of a new beginning as it has also witnessed the formation of two fresh initiatives: The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA).

The IPEF, launched by the US with 12 members on board now, is precisely its answer to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and its successor, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the TTP (CPTTP) and towards the China-led 15-country grouping called, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The IPMDA is aimed at building a “faster, wider and more accurate maritime picture of near real-time activities in partner’s waters”. Basically, it will directly facilitate the tracking of “dark shipping” across the Indo-Pacific region. These all seem to be a detailed preparation by the members of the Quad for preventing China-led initiatives both in the trade and security spheres in one of the busiest sea-communication lanes in the world.

The joint statement issued after the summit addressed the concerns emerging from the war in Ukraine. The statement underlined that the member countries “discussed respective responses to the conflict in Ukraine and the ongoing tragic humanitarian crisis and assessed its implica-



Leaders of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) from left to right, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, pose for photo at the entrance hall of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan in Tokyo on May 24

AP

tions for the Indo-Pacific region”. The Quad summit has also highlighted and discussed any possible Chinese military adventures in the Indo-Pacific after Europe experienced Russia’s bloodiest invasion of Ukraine.

How did the Quad originate? It all began as a loose partnership against the background of the tsunami in the Indian Ocean in 2004. In fact, all the four nations came together to offer humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. But today China complains that the group is intending to form an ‘Asian NATO’ simply to act against the Beijing’s interests in the region.

Is China threatened by the Quad grouping? The Quad had its first historic meeting in the year 2007. Then no one thought it would be another platform to counter China in the days to come. But afterwards, the forum went into oblivion for a decade or so. It

reemerged in November 2017. Its regrouping piqued Chinese interests. And the Communists in China seriously gauged that America was plotting a Cold War style strategic encirclement of China by taking two other Indo-Pacific nations — India and Australia — into the orbit. Initially, when then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe invited officials from India, Australia and the US to gather in Manila, the Xi Jinping regime was not much worried. Wang Yi, the Foreign Minister of China, had scoffed at the grouping: “They (the Quad nations) are like sea foam in the Pacific or Indian Ocean: They get some attention but will soon dissipate.”

Is there any urgent need to thwart China in the Indo-Pacific? Yes, of course. China’s growing expansionist policies particularly under the current President Xi Jinping is worrisome. His “China Dream” projects are nothing but to assert

Beijing’s soft and hard power around the world.

What role India must play in the group? For Delhi, multilateral forums like the Quad are of high importance. China’s growing encirclement and its recent aggressive actions against India are an immediate threat to the latter’s territorial integrity and sovereignty. Xi’s hidden agenda is all out in public now. India at the moment needs external balance. And in this regard, Quad is considered as the best alternative for the country.

How is the old Quad different from the new Quad that India joined in 2021? Yes, they are different in their own way, yet some of the concerns are almost identical. Indeed, India’s growing insecurity in the Indo-Pacific can be sensed when it joined the new Quad comprising Israel, the US and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last year. Like the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or the old

Quad among the US, Australia, Japan and India, this new economic forum also equally emphasised on trade, climate change, energy and maritime security.

Unlike the earlier group, the current one is not aimed at countering China. It is largely felt that the new one certainly lacks a shared objective, and its future trajectory seems to be uncertain. However, this grouping may facilitate India to pursue its foreign policy goals by aligning more with the UAE and Israel in the West Asian region.

And, this will offer Delhi another opportunity to engage more closely with Washington. Further, India sees West Asia strategically important. India depends heavily on its energy imports. Nearly 9 million Indian workers earn their livelihood from the Persian Gulf. Israel and the UAE can enhance India’s role in the region. What prompted the

US to ramp up ties for another Quad is the growing Chinese interest in Israel and the UAE.

But the same is not true for other members of the group. In the recent past, both Israel and the UAE amplified their commercial investments with China, particularly in the shipping sector. Therefore, Washington takes this opportunity to convince Israel and the UAE to come out of the Chinese net. Clearly America’s intention dovetails with India’s as the latter has been continuously fighting to wean off Chinese influence in a region wherein it wants to remain a potential player for long.

The Quad needs to consolidate further. The Indo-Pacific is heading for a serious crisis. China’s ever-expanding agenda accompanied by sheer aggression might destabilise the whole region. Most probably, this kind of a future scenario may drag the US for an all-out war against China.

Along these lines, Japan, Australia and India will certainly be involved in this quagmire. Though the Quad group has been formed to boost economic prosperity, geostrategic equilibrium and tranquility in the Indo-Pacific, it is clearly making an alliance that is directly targeting China today. And the latest IPEF will be an advanced economic platform again to target China-led development initiatives in the region. Hence, the Quad and its extended members are all forging together to ramp up support to stop Chinese expansion across the Indo-Pacific.

Beijing now knows it very well. Its full-blown preparations to encounter this alliance are underway. Inevitability of another global conflict in this part of the globe cannot be denied.

The road ahead for the Quad and its new avatars like the IPEF should be to minimise any possible countdown with China. Washington knows fully well that Xi is an over-ambitious leader like Russian President Vladimir Putin. Xi is going to stay in power for long and his third term, unlike his immediate predecessors, is most likely to be endorsed by the Communist Party of China in the coming months.

Moreover, he has already shuffled his cronies in such a manner that his grip on the Party and the throne will be completely safe for years from now. Looking at all these developments back home in China, the Quad group leaders and its allies in the IPEF must be cautious while dealing with Xi. Though the US-led IPEF is centrally aiming at strengthening economic ties and achieving shared goals, its anti-China tag may escalate the trade war between Washington and Beijing in future. After having a bitter experience with Putin, Biden needs to maintain more restraint, simply to avoid another catastrophe in the Indo-Pacific.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an international research journal)

It’s a tightrope walk for the grouping at a time when US-China trade war has reached a peak. After having a bitter experience with Putin, Biden may need to maintain more restraint, simply to avoid another catastrophe in the Indo-Pacific



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Down dragon’s deep-debt maze

China’s basic criteria behind the selection of BRI projects have been to consolidate its geostrategic position, to facilitate easy access to natural resources of the host state and its market for Chinese exports. To lure vulnerable small developing nations into its debt-trap strategy, Beijing offers a hefty loan which they won’t manage otherwise



There are two ways to conquer and enslave a nation. One is by the sword. Other is by debt.
— John Adams

Sri Lanka’s economic collapse and its unsustainable debt has brought the world’s spotlight back to China — the government’s biggest bilateral lender, owing at least 10 per cent of its external debt (non-inclusive of hidden loans). A real concern exists for nations like Pakistan and Nepal, among others, who might fall prey to a similar design.

China’s Belt and Road Initiative, for which 146 nations from Indo-Pacific, Africa, Europe, Latin America and Caribbeans have signed up, has resulted in several unsustainable debt-for-infrastructure deals, which further Beijing’s political, economic and geostrategic ambitions. It is the single largest lender globally, bigger than the World Bank, IMF and the Paris Club (industrialised nations grouping that lend to the developing nations), and has over 100 ports in 63 countries.

The debt-trap strategy
US-based research lab AidData has found that 42 low-to-middle income coun-

tries owe a debt bigger than 10 per cent of their GDP to China. BRI loan contract contains secrecy clauses: Amount and conditions attached are to be kept confidential from other creditors, IMF and citizens. Loans are systematically under-reported (to the tune of \$385 billion), debt-burdens kept off the nation’s balance-sheet through use of special-purpose, semi-private loans or loans to state-owned companies and banks — still enjoying government’s liability protection — amounting to 70 per cent of funding. China lent disproportionately to countries that performed poorly on conventional measures of credit worthiness, in contrast to other international lenders, but demanded far higher interest rates with shorter repayment periods and is more aggressive than its peers at positioning itself at the front of the repayment line via collateralisation. World’s 74 lowest income nations owe 37 per cent of their loans to Beijing. Many of the debtor states are in a situation where their debt is unsustainable.

Beijing’s basic criteria behind the selection of BRI projects have been to consolidate its geo-strategic position,

to facilitate easy access to natural resources of the host state and its market for Chinese exports. Some other features of BRI loan are: A hefty loan is advanced which small developing nations would not manage otherwise, use of corruption to make the leaders of borrowing nations willing and pliable, setting terms for hire of Chinese companies and workers for project execution, higher loan rates than peers with shorter (less than 10 years) loan repayment period. On loan-default, it seeks creation of equity in the project or demands new projects, thus tying the subject state into an interminable knot.

Dragon’s advocates
Expectedly, Beijing has pushed back against the allegations, denying existence of any bad motive and justifying that the loans were demanded by the debtor countries and were economically beneficial for them.

An interesting phenomenon has occurred recently, some publications have stood up in defence of Beijing, upholding the Chinese narrative. Last year US’ *The Atlantic* and UK’s *Chatham House* published reports calling Chinese

debt-trap a myth. The publications attempted a systematic refutation of any intention or liability on Beijing’s part, towards saddling nations with unsustainable debts or unviable projects, or of having any geostrategic ambition behind them. Indeed, they portrayed the dragon to be innocuous and uncoordinated, making poor economic choices. A leading newspaper in India recently published a piece on Chinese lending, titled, “Entrapment” or ‘ineptitude?’ along the same lines. A Chinese think tank, CISS, has acknowledged and thanked some of these think tanks — like *The Atlantic* — and media houses for “willing to communicate” with it by joint research or joint meetings and helping them establish “a brand and reputation”.

The right questions that need to be asked here are: Why is Beijing interested in loans for projects which are unviable and have no other takers? Do the debts given under BRI have the potential to function as tools to advance China’s geostrategic interests? To argue that such was not the intention of the dragon — or steps towards acquisition of the assets due to loan default have not yet been undertaken — is foolhardy.

Why would Beijing want to spook and warn the world, especially India and the West, so well in advance?

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar quipped, “We have seen projects which are commercially unsustainable; airports where aircraft don’t come, harbours where a ship doesn’t come” (Hambantota port and international airport, Gwadar is another example). The sole motive to undertake these ‘white elephant’ projects is to secure geostrategic advantage for Beijing: Chinese submarines docks at Sri Lankan ports and Chinese warships are pressed into the security of Gwadar. The whole structure of BRI debts is such that they become unsustainable - action is the biggest indicator of intention. Whether or not it causes an economic crisis in the host nation will depend on its economic management, however, unarguably, it provides Beijing a strong foothold in the nation which is exploited for furthering dragon’s ambitions.

Behind the scenes
In 2018, the *New York Times* reported the Sri Lankan officials stating that intelligence sharing was an integral part of Hambantota deal and

strategic possibility of the port location was also discussed from the beginning. It also reported about the millions of dollars that flew from the project fund to the Rajapakshas’ election campaign. It revealed an insistence on the Chinese side to hand over equity in the port and 15,000 acres of surrounding land, rather than allowing any easing of negotiating terms. Some Chinese companies have also faced ban in Bangladesh and the Philippines for engaging in corrupt practices.

Montenegro presents another example of Chinese strategy behind BRI where Beijing is funding and building an economically unviable highway — 78 per cent of Montenegro’s external debt is owed to China and in case of a default Beijing has a right to access Montenegrin land as collateral. Any arbitration would be conducted according to Chinese laws. Such strategies will be at play at all BRI sites.

Three years ago, IMF’s then Managing Director Christine Lagarde raised the same issue, stating that BRI should go only where it’s needed and where the debt it generates can be sustained.

Alternatives to BRI

One would have expected that BRI with 18 EU members and 20 Latin America and Caribbean nations would have sent shivers down the spine of Western world. But the Chinese, unlike the Russians, ace the art of subtle game play that the West blindly falls for. Washington’s Build Back Better World (B3W) and the EU Global Gateway, still in the launching phases, are too little too late; the analysts have already declared them incapable of competing with BRI.

Now there’s concern and debate in the BRI states about debts, however, if their common populace can continue to put consistent pressure on their governments about complete transparency over the loans, the situation can improve. International development banks and multilateral initiatives will also need to step up their game. Finally, IMF and World Bank will have to provide debt to needy nations while toning down the harsh conditions and dropping the imposition of Bretton Woods consensus, if they were to have a real choice to get out of Beijing’s deep-debt maze.

(The author is a foreign policy expert and a lawyer)

Nasal COVID-19 vaccines are spot on

PNS ■ CHARLOTTESVILLE (US)

Imagine inhaling just a few drops of liquid or mist to get protected from COVID-19.

That is the idea behind nasal COVID-19 vaccines, and they have been getting a lot of attention recently as a spray or liquid.

These nasal vaccines would be based on the same technology as normal vaccines given by injection.

But as Mayuresh Abhyankar, a University of Virginia researcher who studies infectious diseases and works on nasal vaccines, explains, vaccinating someone right where the coronavirus is likely to start its attack comes with many immunological benefits.

What are nasal vaccines?

Nasal vaccines are administered, as the name suggests, through the nose. More accurately called intranasal vaccines, these vaccines are liquids that can be given as a spray or through a dropper or syringe.

The most common nasal vaccine is FluMist, a nasal spray that uses inactivated

flu virus to protect against influenza.

An intranasal vaccine could be a weakened live virus similar to FluMist, a nucleic acid vaccine like mRNA coronavirus vaccines or a protein vaccine like Hepatitis B vaccines or the CorbeVax coronavirus vaccine.

Intranasal vaccines are best suited to protect against pathogens that enter through the nose, like the flu or the coronavirus.

By mimicking the first step of natural exposure to an airborne pathogen, these vaccines help train a person's immune system at the potential place of infection. Scientists have shown that the first immune response in the respiratory tract after a person is exposed to an airborne virus can influence how sick a person gets.

So in theory, intranasal vaccines could provide better protection than vaccines given through a shot in the arm.

How does the coronavirus infect people?

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, usually enters the body

through the nose and lands on the mucus membrane at the back of the nasal passage and in the throat. The virus then enters the cells it touches, replicates and spreads. Just underneath these cells of the mucus membrane are many types of immune cells that form what is called the mucosal immune system. Cells of the mucosal immune system are the first to identify invading coronavirus particles and start mounting a protective response.

In an unvaccinated individual, it takes about two weeks for these immune cells to build up a protective response after encountering the coronavirus.

By that time, the virus can easily have infected other body parts, like the lungs, which can lead to severe disease.

Nasal vaccines follow a lot of the same steps. When you inhale a nasal vaccine, the particles land on the mucus membrane in your nasal cavity or the back of your throat, enter the cells in those places and trigger an immune response. This process teaches the body about the coronavirus and allows it to deal with any future real

infections.

How are nasal and intramuscular vaccines different?

When you get a COVID-19 shot in your arm, the vaccine triggers a strong immune response in the cells near where you got the shot. It also causes your immune system to produce some coronavirus-specific antibodies and other immune cells in other locations throughout your body.

When the coronavirus begins infecting cells in a person's respiratory tract, the immune cells nearby will start mounting a defense.

Your body will also send anti-viral immune cells and antibodies from other locations to the site of infection.

But by the time enough coronavirus-specific immune cells gather around the infection site to stop the virus from replicating, the virus has likely already begun to spread throughout the body, making it difficult for the immune system to keep

up. Nasal vaccines mimic the virus in order to prepare the immune system against a virus, just like any other vaccine.

But importantly, they mimic the process of infection, too, and boost protective response within the mucosal immune system of the nose and throat. In simple terms, intranasal vaccines are like knowing there is going to be a break-in and putting your guards in the right location before the trouble

even starts.

The science bears this idea out. In a head-to-head comparison, AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine provided greater protection in hamsters that were vaccinated intranasally compared to those vaccinated intramuscularly.



Algerian dissidents: Victims of crackdown, or outlaws?

Mohamed Benhalima looks awry and frightened as he is tied off a plane at Algiers airport, handcuffed with a security officer's arm wrapped around him. A team from Algeria's Rapid Intervention Force then puts him in their vehicle and whisks him to an unknown destination. The video was posted online on March 24.

Three days later, Algerians watched on television as the 32-year-old confessed to involvement with an organisation that authorities have listed as an Islamist terrorist group plotting against the Algerian government. Once a faithful servant of his homeland as a non-commissioned army officer, Benhalima became a supporter of Algeria's pro-democracy movement, then a deserter who fled to Europe. Spain expelled him after Algeria issued a warrant for his arrest. The confession scene

was made public by Algeria's General Directorate of National Security, in what could be seen as a warning to other soldiers or citizens. Hundreds of Algerian citizens have been jailed for trying to keep alive the Hirak movement that held weekly pro-democracy protests starting in 2019, leading to the downfall of longtime Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. The marches were banned last year by the nation's army-backed government. Authorities then expanded their sweep, linking some Hirak supporters to two groups added to Algeria's terror list last year: Rachad, regarded as Islamist infiltrators whose leaders are in Europe, and MAK, a separatist movement in Kabylie, home of the Berbers. For the last two or three years, there have been thousands of legal cases against activists, said well-known lawyer Mustapha Bouchachi. Their only error is that they expressed their political opinions on social media and are fighting for a state of law. For authorities of the gas-rich North African nation, guaranteeing the stability of the state is at the heart of their actions. For human rights groups, Benhalima and others are victims of an unjust, antiquated system of

governance that views dissidents, or any critical voices, as criminals. They say that Algerian authorities use threats to national security to stifle free speech, including among journalists, and justify arrests. A campaign on social media, with the hashtag #PasUnCrime (not a crime) was launched May 19 by dozens of non-governmental organizations against repression of human rights. The U.S. State Department's 2021 report on human rights in Algeria cited a long list of problems, including arbitrary arrests and detentions and restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly and association. In March, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, asked Algeria to change direction to guarantee the right of its people to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. To be a human rights activist in Algeria has become very difficult, said Zaki Hannache, a Hirak militant recently temporarily released from prison. To be an activist who refuses the system is complicated. It even means sacrifices. Hannache, best known for keeping track of Hirak-related arrests, was arrested and jailed in February on a string of charges, including defending terrorist acts.



To a threatening soundtrack of air raid sirens and booming artillery, civilians are fleeing towns and cities in eastern Ukraine as Russian forces advance. Negotiating narrow apartment building staircases, volunteers carry the elderly and infirm in their arms, in stretchers or in wheelchairs to waiting minibuses, which then drive them to central staging areas and eventually to evacuation trains in other cities. The Russians are right over there, and they're closing in on this location, Mark Poppert, an American volunteer working with British charity RefugeeEaze, said during an evacuation in the town of Bakhmut on Friday. Bakhmut is a high-risk area right now, he said. We're trying to get as many people out as we can in case the Ukrainians have to fall back. He and other Ukrainian and foreign volunteers working with the Ukrainian charity Vostok SOS,

Fleeing the Russians: Evacuations are slow and arduous

which was coordinating the evacuation effort, were hoping to get about 100 people out of Bakhmut on Friday, Poppert said. A few hours earlier, the thud of artillery sounded and black smoke rose from the northern fringes of the town, which is in the Donetsk region in Ukraine's industrial east. Donetsk and the neighbouring region of Luhansk makes up the Donbas, where Moscow-backed separatists have controlled some territory for eight years. The evacuation process is painstaking, physically arduous and fraught with emotion. Many of the evacuees are elderly, ill or have serious mobility problems, meaning volunteers have to bundle them into soft stretchers and slowly negotiate their way through narrow corridors and down flights of stairs in apartment buildings. Most people have already fled Bakhmut: only around 30,000 remain from a pre-war population of 85,000. And more are leaving each day. Fighting has raged north of Bakhmut as Russian forces intensify their efforts to seize the key eastern cities of Sieverodonetsk and Lysychansk, 50 kilometers (30 miles) to the northeast. The two cities are the last areas under Ukrainian control in the Luhansk region. Northwest of Bakhmut in Donetsk, Russia-backed rebels said Friday they had taken over the town of Lyman, a large railway hub near the cities of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, both of which are still under Ukrainian control. On Thursday, smoke rising from the direction of Lyman could be seen clearly from Sloviansk. But even when faced with shelling, missiles and an advancing Russian army, leaving isn't easy. Svetlana Lvova, the 66-year-old manager for two apartment buildings in Bakhmut, huffed and rolled her eyes in exasperation upon hearing that yet another one of her residents was refusing to leave. I can't convince them to go, she said. I told them several times if something lands here, I will be carrying them injured to the same buses that have come to evacuate them now. She's tried to persuade the holdouts every way she can, she says, but nearly two dozen people just won't budge. They're more afraid to leave their homes and belongings for an uncertain future than to stay and face the bombs. She herself will stay in Bakhmut with her husband, she said. But not because they fear leaving their property. They are waiting for their son, who is still in Sieverodonetsk, to come home. I'm not going anywhere, she said. I have to know he is alive. That's why I'm staying here. Lvova plays the last video her son sent her, where he tells his mother that he is fine, and that they still have electricity in the city but no longer running water.

Hindustanis have blended with Singapore's multi-racial society

The Hindustani diaspora are now recognised as highly intersectional and have increasingly blended into Singapore's multi-racial society, according to a study presented on Saturday. In revealing that experience, the Sojourners and Settlers from the Gangetic Heartland: The Hindustani Diaspora in Singapore' investigates the foundations of a

diaspora in Singapore set by sepoy and convict pioneers in the early and mid-19th century. It also traces the growth of the diaspora led by transient circulators of the late 19th and early 20th century, including settlement patterns and aspects of their institutional development. The National University of Singapore (NUS) study in the form of a book notes



A lost era of cinema halls through eyes of lensmen

Two eminent photographers have come together to showcase human emotions attached to watching cinema in single-screen theatres, in most of which the curtains have been drawn forever. 'Curtain Closes', an ongoing exhibition of 29 photographs clicked by photojournalist Amit Dhar and commercial cameraperson Satyaki Ghosh, captures various cinema halls, their ambience, now faded-away analog projectors and the viewpoint of the audience. Photographs range from cine-goers' rush to buy tickets at the counters, standing up for the National Anthem to close-ups of elderly women watching films together and a tired lady waging taking a puff from his 'bidi' during intermission. The exhibition in Ballygunge area of Kolkata was inaugurated by auteur Satyajit Ray's filmmaker son Sandip on May 15 and it will conclude on May 29. Dhar's colour photographs, clicked over a period of time, are mostly of now shut single-screen theatres such as Rupbani, Bhabani, Mitra, Chaya names associated with icons such as Rabindranath Tagore, Abanindranath Tagore and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose among others. Ghosh's black-and-white photographs revolve around one particular cinema hall New Roshan Talkies in Kamathipura red-light area of Mumbai. He has captured the various moods of cine-goers, the ambience of the projection room, rejected film spools, old film prints among other aspects.

