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HYDERABAD, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer



'ACTING FOR
ME IS
RECOLLECTING
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RAINS DRENCH DELHI FOR 2ND DAY ON TROT; MORE LIKELY

An incessant spell of light to moderate rain drenched Delhi for the second consecutive day on Thursday, leading to waterlogging in some areas and affecting traffic movement on key roads across the city. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) also issued a 'yellow alert', cautioning people about moderate rain at most places in the city. The fresh spells of rains just before the withdrawal of monsoon from the National Capital Region will help cover the large deficit (46 per cent till September 22 morning) to some extent. It would also keep the air clean and the temperature in check. The city recorded a minimum temperature of 23.8 degrees Celsius and a maximum temperature of 28 degrees Celsius, seven notches below normal.

VACCINATION OF ENTIRE POPULATION MUST FOR CHINA TO COME OUT OF COVID-19

Vaccination is the key for China to come out of the dreaded zero COVID-19 policy, the country's top health authority said on Thursday, urging about 10 per cent of the population yet to be vaccinated to get the jobs for a safe exit out of the pandemic. China is currently bogged down with recurring spikes of COVID-19 virus in different cities prompting health officials to enforce lockdowns disrupting the lives and economy. While the rest of the world eased rules to live with COVID-19 as it became an endemic of sorts, China continued with the dynamic zero COVID-19 policy struggling to control the relapse of cases in almost all parts of the country. Thirty three cities were under lockdown at one time this month seriously disrupting production and supply chains.

EWS ROW: RESERVATION HAS SOCIAL, FINANCIAL CONNOTATIONS SC

Observing that poverty is not a "permanent thing", the Supreme Court said on Thursday the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among upper castes could be promoted through various affirmative actions at the "threshold level" like giving them scholarships instead of 10 per cent quotas in government jobs and educational institutions. It said the term reservation has different connotations such as social and financial empowerment and is meant for the classes that have been oppressed for centuries. A five judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit said reservation has been given to those stigmatised for centuries due to their caste and vocations and the EWS among forward classes could have been given facilities like scholarship and free education.

32 INDIANS TRAPPED IN MYANMAR'S MYAWADDY AREA RESCUED

As many as 32 Indians trapped in Myanmar's Myawaddy area after falling prey to an international racket promising jobs in Thailand have been rescued and efforts are on to help others, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday. Myawaddy area in southeastern Myanmar's Kayin state bordering Thailand is not fully under the control of the Myanmar government and certain ethnic armed groups hold sway over it. Asked about the Indians trapped there, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "Some fraudulent IT companies appear to be engaged in digital scamming and forged crypto activities."

Thousands scramble for tickets at Gymkhana

7 cricket fans injured in a stampede-like situation



DEEPIKA PASHAM
■ HYDERABAD

At least seven persons had to be hospitalized on Thursday as thousands of cricket fans scrambled for tickets for the upcoming India vs Australia ICC T20 World Cup match, leading to a stampede-like situation at Gymkhana grounds. Due to inadequate facilities at the ticket counters, people jostled, pushed away, and jumped on one another amid the chaos.

Some 20 people were caught in the melee. Seven of them were admitted to

Yashoda Hospital. Two of them were discharged after first-aid, while the rest are undergoing treatment. The police identified those discharged as Sujatha and Sai Kishore. Earlier, a photo of the girl being carried in an ambulance went viral as she had fainted in the rush. Two of those injured are policemen. They are constables Srikanth and Srinath. Both suffered fractures.

Cricket fans told The Pioneer: "The window was closed within minutes. This is the online era and we have been eagerly opening

the Paytm application for several days now. Since we were not getting confirmed tickets, we rushed to the Association office hoping to get at least one ticket."

HCA could not coordinate things, says Srinivas Goud

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Srinivas Goud, the Minister of Prohibition, Excise and Sports, has called for a meeting with officials of the Hyderabad Cricket Association, the Rachakonda Police and Sandeep Kumar Sultania, the Secretary of PR&RD and the Department of Youth Advancement, Tourism and Culture, to probe the incidents involving cricket fans at the Gymkhana Grounds.

After consulting officials, the minister said that due to the minimal number of members on its board the HCA could not coordinate facilities.

"It is sad that cricket fans were injured at the Gymkhana Grounds but at the meeting, we



found that the HCA does not have adequate staff. So I told them that if they had approached the government no such problem would have occurred. The treatment costs of the injured will be met by the government," the minister said.

On whether he will take

action against those who are selling tickets illegally as sale windows are getting closed within minutes, the minister said, "Give us details of those individuals and we will order investigations."

No ticket sold illegally, says HCA prez Azharuddin

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Cricket Association has disappointed cricket fans ahead of the big match being held after several years.

The Rachakonda police interacted with HCA president Mohammad Azharuddin

recently while inspecting the Uppal Stadium but no official or board member spoke about the shortage of hands to the police. However, when questions were asked about irregularities Azharuddin said, "It is all negative news. I have done everything according to the rules. No tick-

et is being sold illegally. I have not come to the meeting with data on how many tickets were sold but I will ensure that the list is submitted to Minister Srinivas Goud and the Rachakonda Police."

WhatsApp, Zoom, Skype may soon need telecom licence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Apps like Whatsapp, Zoom, Skype and Google Duo which provide calling and messaging services may soon require licences to operate in the country, according to the draft telecommunication bill 2022. The draft bill has included OTT Apps as part of the telecommunication service. "For provision of Telecommunication Services and Telecommunication Networks, an entity shall have to obtain a license," the draft bill released on Wednesday evening said. The government in the



bill has proposed a provision to waive fees and penalty of telecom and internet service providers.

The ministry has also proposed a provision for the refund of fees in case a telecom or internet provider surrenders his license. "Seeking your views on the draft Indian Telecom Bill 2022," Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a post on a social media platform in which he also shared the link of the

draft bill. The last date for public comment on the draft is October 20. According to the draft, the central government may, "waive in part or full any fee, including entry fees, license fees, registrations fees or any other fees or charges, interest, additional charges or penalty" for any licence holder or registered entity under the telecom rules. The bill proposes to exempt "press messages that are intended to be published in India" of correspondents accredited to the central or state government from interception. However, the exemption.

Three cases registered on HCA President

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Begumpet Police have registered three cases against Azharuddin HCA President and HCA administrators

Police have registered a case with the complaints of Aditi Alia and SI Pramod.

The police have registered a case under various sections of the IPC Sections 337, 420 and City Police Act.

Complaints were on allegations of selling tickets in block along with management of tickets.

IF REFORMS ARE INTRODUCED

Power tariff will change like petrol prices

KTR calls out BJP's attempt to corporatise agriculture

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said that if the new electricity sector reforms suggested by the Central Government are implemented, power tariffs will become volatile and prices will change every day like petrol and diesel prices.

He said that like the way petrol prices surged, power tariffs too will increase if private companies start distributing power.

"Like petrol prices which surge every other day, charges for power



too will increase if private companies start distributing power. The prices will not stabilise. If the Central Government has its way and

if the power Bill becomes an Act, the worst affected State in the country will be Telangana," he added.

KTR stressed the impact of the debilitating move on farmers, Dalits, girijans, washermen, weavers, barbers, and others if the Central Electricity Bill turns into an Act.

He said that while farmers will lose free power, SCs, STs, poultry farmers, washermen, barbers, weavers, and others will have to say goodbye to power subsidies.

Mega crackdown on PFI

106 functionaries arrested in NIA's raids in 15 states

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Multi-agency teams spearheaded by the NIA arrested 106 functionaries of the radical Islamic outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) on Thursday in near simultaneous raids at 93 locations in 15 states for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country, officials said.

Officials described the mega crackdown as the "largest-ever investigation process till date" against the

PFI. Kerala, where the PFI has some strong pockets, accounted for the maximum number of 22 arrests, officials said, adding that its chairman O M A Salam was among those arrested.

The arrests were made by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the police forces of the states concerned. The PFI, formed in 2006, claims to strive for a neo-social movement ostensibly for the

empowerment of marginalised sections of India, and is often accused by law enforcement agencies of promoting radical Islam.

Maharashtra and Karnataka accounted for 20 arrests each, Tamil Nadu (10), Assam (9), Uttar Pradesh (8), Andhra Pradesh (5), Madhya Pradesh (4), Puducherry and Delhi (3 each) and Rajasthan (2).

Details of all the arrested functionaries were not immediately available.

TO MAKE PROFITS

Hyd Metro needs to double passengers

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Metro needs to double its ridership to start making profits. Currently, the Metro has a ridership of around 3.5 lakh to 4 lakh. This needs to increase to 8 lakh to 9 lakh to make the project profitable. "Currently the seven-day average is 3.70 lakh but on Saturdays and Sundays, it goes down. Last month the average was 3.50 lakh with spikes



of up to 4 lakh. This September, every Monday we were crossing 4.14 lakh. This month we are looking at 3.65 lakh to 3.70 lakh. We are seeing an incremental average. Until the ridership touches 8 lakh we will be losing money," an official said. The L&THRL needs to look at a lot of changes including demographic change and must increase coaches to reach the 8 lakh figure.

'Keep national project status to Tunga and Bhadra Projects in abeyance'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government wrote to the Union Ministry of Jalshakti pointing out that the Project Appraisal (South) Directorate of the CWC, while granting clearances to the Upper Tunga and Upper Bhadra Project, did not examine interstate aspects regarding the allocations made by KWDI-I and subsequent developments during the proceedings before KWDI-II.

Telangana requested to keep in abeyance all the clearances accorded to Upper Tunga and Upper Bhadra projects with immediate effect. Telangana called for an examination of all the inter-state aspects



and tribunal reports in detail before considering clearance for these major projects. In the letter, Rajat Kumar wrote, "The general en bloc liberty in the utilization of Krishna waters is not applicable to K-8 sub-basin in toto, as utilizations in K-8 sub-basin are subjected to several restrictions explicitly mandated in Clause-IX of KWDI- I Award.

TS WANTS PANEL TO STUDY POLAVARAM BACKWATERS AFRESH

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has written to the Union Ministry of Jalshakti requesting it to set up a committee consisting of a technical team comprising Chief Engineers from all riparian States and from the CWC and the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) for conducting backwater studies afresh on the Polavaram

project. Rajat Kumar, the Special CS, Irrigation, in a letter requested Pankaj Kumar, IAS, Secretary, Union Department of Water Resources, to intervene for an immediate positive response in addressing all Telangana concerns in right earnest and arrange protection as necessary for a fresh backwater study being done by a neutral agency involving all stakeholders.

Washing machine politics of BJP

In our country, misuse of power by the Centre for political gains is not something new. Previously, during the Congress rule, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was referred to as the 'Congress Bureau of Investigation'. However, for the first time in the history of Indian politics, 'CBI, EC, ED, IT' etc' are being brutally misused at all levels with no hesitation. If the Centre continues to misuse all these esteemed institutions like this for BJP leaders' personal and illicit gains, then where should one go to seek refuge? Since 2014 -- the year when Modi assumed power -- these once esteemed central agencies have investigated 609 politically related cases; of which, more than 575 of them pertain to BJP's opponents. Isn't this one fact enough to convey how BJP is using these agencies to harass, suppress and stifle the voice of Opposition in the country?

Till date, the Enforcement Directorate has lodged 5,500 money laundering cases and in only 23 of them it has secured conviction. The percentage is not even 1%. This clearly explains how 'ED' is used as 'tool' to operate against political opponents to suppress their voice. There has been a four-fold jump in the number of ED cases over the last eight years. Ninety-five per cent of those accused/raised by CBI/ED are from opposition parties.

Thirty-four ministers in the Union Cabinet have self-declared that they have long-pending criminal cases against them. The cases include murder, robbery, forgery & what not! But why these so-called national agencies do not act against them? Let's leave alone action. Why isn't there an acknowledgment on the pending cases? This clearly communicates that joining BJP will make them have a shield against all the criminal cases. The present Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswas Sarma is a classic example of 'Washing machine politics of the BJP'. He was once accused of taking bribes and termed as 'corrupt to the core' when he was in INC by Amit Shah himself. But once he joined BJP, he got a clean chit. In Karnataka, the Contractors Association have written to Prime Minister about the '40% commission culture', but no CBI/ED cases have been filed so far. Even schools have written to Modi about the commission!

India has lost Rs 100 cr to bank frauds every day over the past 7 years says RBI, but no CBI/ED cases. In 2020, Gautam Adani's net worth was just about \$9bn. Today, Adani's net worth is \$150 bn. A rise of 1,500% in less than 3 years. Usually, the share price rises by increase in revenues or profits. While, the meteoric rise in Adani group companies' share price is fuelled by tons and tons of debt. There are a lot of irregularities and slippages of rules, but there absolutely is no enquiry against him. You know why? Not to forget, the same Modi had opposed misuse of CBI/ED before 2014 when he was CM. And now, he is the one to misuse it to the hilt.

In Punjab, CBI was used against the commission agents who had supported the farmers' agitation; in Rajasthan, against the brother of Ashok Gehlot's brother Agrasen Gehlot's residence; in Kerala, the agency was used against CPI-M leaders; in Chhattisgarh, against merchants who had spoken against BJP; in Jharkhand, against former Jharkhand Sports Minister Bandhu Tirkey; and in West Bengal, against a plethora of TMC leaders.

All in all, every single instance mentioned above was to suppress agitations like farmers protest or exactly when they wanted to topple the government or just before the elections like in West Bengal.

& # 3 9 ; Conspiracy, Revenge, Sensational' - this is how the BJP government works. Apart from misuse of CBI/ED, they have tried everything possible to belittle the work of the Opposition in the country. The phones of journalists, lawyers, politicians, human rights activists and other eminent personalities known to be vocal against the government are put under critical surveillance through a military-grade spyware developed by the Israel-based NSO. However, in digital media, a few genuinely independent journalists and digital websites are continuously letting people know the truth, unlike the mainstream Modi media. Central agencies in India are now "puppets" & "parrots" of the Modi. The ultimate motto of Modi is to turn India into a kingdom and rule it like Hitler. It is never too late to send him back to where he belongs.

(The author is chairman of Telangana State Renewable Energy Development Corporation Ltd)



BJP spent over Rs 340 cr on poll campaign in 5 states

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party spent over Rs 340 crore in the assembly polls in five states held earlier this year, while the Congress shelled out more than ? 194 crore for its campaigning in these states, according to the election expenditure reports of the two parties.

According to the report filed by the BJP and put in public domain by the Election Commission, the party spent more than Rs 340 crore on its campaigns for the Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Goa and Punjab assembly elections held early this year.

The BJP's spending report showed that it spent over Rs 221 crore in Uttar Pradesh, over Rs 23 crore in Manipur, Rs 43.67 crore in Uttarakhand, more than Rs 36 crore in Punjab and Rs 19 crore in Goa. According to the report filed by the Congress, it spent over Rs 194 crore for campaigning and related expenditure in the five states.

Tell GRMB to clear Kaleshwaram one TMC works: TS to Centre

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has written to the Central Government asking it to instruct the GRMB to complete the appraisal process expeditiously, as any delay in granting clearances will cause irreversible damage to the interests of Telangana.

In his letter, Rajat Kumar, the Special CS, Irrigation, told Pankaj Kumar, the Secretary of the Union Department of Water Resources, that the GRMB has stopped granting statutory clearances for the additional one TMC work of the Kaleshwaram Irrigation Project citing the Supreme Court order in the Special Leave Appeal to maintain status quo.

Rajat said the Supreme Court order dated July 27, 2022, pertains to only main-



taining the status quo on the works component, and not to the process of granting clearances.

"This is to inform that the



Y SATHISH REDDY

special leave petition filed in the Supreme Court says that the additional one TMC works are being carried out without obtaining statutory clearances.

The Government of Telangana has already represented that the additional one TMC component is not a new project and that it is part and parcel of the

Kaleshwaram Project for which all statutory clearances have been obtained," Rajat added.

Rajat reminded that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had personally met the Union Minister of Jal Shakti on September 7, 2021, and requested him to delete the project from the list of unapproved projects in the Gazette notification dated July 15, 2021.

"Subsequently the matter was comprehensively discussed with the Ministry and the required information sought by the CWC was submitted by the state," Rajat said. "Finally, the matter has been referred to the GRMB with the recommendations of the CWC for their comments. At this stage stopping the process by the GRMB will not only unnecessarily delay the project, but will also serve to strengthen the case of the petitioners," he added.

The Munugode by-poll is going to dethrone the KCR government, Telangana BJP President Bandi Sanjay Kumar said. KCR's drama will end and his shop will get closed after the Munugode by-poll, Sanjay warned.

"I am ready to fight with you... the BJP is ready to show its strength even if it comes together with AIMIM. Do you want the kingdom of the poor or do you want the kingdom of Gadis...Think if the BJP comes to power we will continue all welfare schemes that benefit the people," Sanjay said.

Addressing the concluding meeting of the Praja Sangrama Yatra's 4th phase held at Pedda Amberpet on Thursday, Sanjay said the BJP will turn Ibrahimpatnam into Veerapatnam.

'Munugode by-poll will topple KCR govt'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Men like Owaisi trying to destroy India: Niranjan Jyothi

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that she has information that forced religious conversions are taking place in Hyderabad, the Union Minister of State for Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjan Jyothi, said that venomous snakes like AIMIM Chief Asaduddin Owaisi are trying to destroy India's culture and portray the BJP as a communal party. Addressing Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar's Praja

Sangrama Yatra's 4th phase concluding meeting held at Pedda Amberpet on Thursday night, Niranjan Jyothi said that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had demolished the houses of politicians who had looted public money. "We will destroy the houses of those who loot public funds in Telangana with bulldozers after coming to power here," she warned.

Niranjan Jyothi said that evil forces have united against Modi in the country. They are trying to divide the nation.

Before 2014, there was fear of terrorists in Hyderabad. With the arrival of the Modi government at the Centre, law and order have been brought under control in Hyderabad, she said.

She asked why AIMIM was feeling the pain when the houses of terrorists were bulldozed. She said that in 2016, the Centre had launched the Prime Minister Awas Yojana scheme. Did KCR give double bedroom houses to the poor in Telangana? The Modi government has sanctioned 2,40,000 houses in Telangana for the poor.

'Appoint those who worked for KTPS 6th phase as artisans'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Chief Revanth Reddy has written an open letter to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao regarding the government's failure to appoint workers involved in the construction of KTPS 6th phase as artisans.

He said that KCR had deceived electricity employees although it was their hard work that made the power sector self-sufficient. Revanth recalled that KTPS had assured the workers who had worked from 2008 to 2013 for constructing KTPS 6th phase

that it will appoint them in the company as artisans.

He said that it is unforgivable that the government did not keep its word to the workers even though the construction of the 6th phase was completed.

Moreover, Telangana Genco CMD Devulapalli Prabhakar Rao assured workers who had worked for KTPS 6th phase that they will appoint the workers as artisans during the work on the 7th phase.

The CMD had reiterated the same during the plebscite held for 7th phase works, Revanth recalled.

KCR likely to face new problem in national politics

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

TRS supremo Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is going to face a new problem.

In a setback to KCR, NCP President Sharad Pawar said he and some other leaders are ready to join hands with the Congress to defeat the BJP in the next general election.

In these circumstances, if KCR is particular about defeating the BJP in the next general elections he has to join hands with the Congress, going by the latest statement

of NCP President Sharad Pawar.

From the beginning, KCR has been urging to unite all opposition parties against the BJP and the Congress. But Pawar said that in national interests West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is ready to bury her differences with the Congress and forge an alliance of opposition parties ahead of the 2024 general elections. Pawar also said that he and some other leaders from other states including Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and J&K Chief

Minister Farooq Abdulla were not averse to joining hands with the Congress to forge a front against the BJP.

KCR is expecting that all these leaders will join hands against the BJP as per his proposal to unite all opposition parties against the BJP and the Congress. But Pawar says that these parties are ready to join hands with the Congress against the BJP.

The ruling party of Tamil Nadu, the DMK, will also join this new front as it already has an alliance with the Congress.

Thousands scramble...

Continued from page 1

Another angry cricket fan Roshan said: "We made our friends stand in the queue so that one of us can buy the tickets. But none of us could get the tickets so far. The match is on Sunday. If officials announce how many tickets are available and when the counter will be closed, then we can adjust. But the situation has been bad from day 1."

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹225
Without Skin	₹235
Broiler at Farm	₹200

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	477
HYDERABAD	484
VISAKHAPATNAM	477
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.84
(IN VIGYANAGRAM)	

No ticket sold illegally...

Continued from page 1

We have a press conference on Friday and everybody will get to know them."

"We will take advice from officials. We have to conduct the match and make sure the state's image is not affected. We are doing our best. We have given a clear statement of Thursday's schedule to the police. I apologise for today's

incident. We have made arrangements for the match," Azharuddin said.

On the SC allowing HCA Board members to continue working the president said, "Show me the document. I have no information regarding it. Since the match is being held after many years lakhs are coming. We have to work tirelessly to hold the event. Everybody cannot be

accommodated in one stadium."

The contract for selling tickets has been given to PayTm. Although officials have not revealed data, sources said the stadium capacity is 34,000. HCA gets 4,600 tickets, and the public will have 29,400. The highest ticket price is Rs 10,000 and the starting ticket price is Rs 850.

HCA could not...

Continued from page 1

HCA has been permitted to organise the cricket match after many years and let us all maintain discipline so that we get three matches every year."

He later added that the government will not tolerate the tarnishing of Telangana's image and that it should be remembered that the TS govern-

ment had given 23 acres for the Uppal Stadium.

The minister also ordered to create WhatsApp groups of lining teams who will act immediately if any irregularities are detected.

"We have the capability to ex any work within 24 hours and we will make sure that everything is done peacefully," he added.

TICKET TO CHAOS

Continued from page 1

The Uppal Cricket Stadium has a capacity of 55,000. About 38,000 tickets of the 55,000 have been given out much before the match resulting in only a mere 17,000 tickets available for sale to the public. The HCA has sold around 2,000 tickets offline on September 22 (Thursday on the day stampede took place) at the Gymkhana Grounds and has announced that it will

Power tariff will...

Continued from page 1

"Telangana is a state where farmers cultivate lands relying on power. The State has 26 lakh pump sets. What would be the fate of farmers if free power is not supplied?" asked Minister KTR.

Addressing a press conference held in Rajanna Sircilla on Thursday, Minister KTR spoke about the Central Government's attempts to

privatize the power and agriculture sectors, and its disastrous impact on farmers and others. He cited examples of the Central Government's push to benefit private players.

KTR reiterated Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's stand against reforms in the agriculture and power sectors, and the government's resolution in the Assembly against the Power Bill.

Hyd Metro needs...

Continued from page 1

"For getting 8 lakh passengers we need new coaches. This needs additional funding. With the current coaches and capabilities, we can manage up to 6 lakh riders. We can reach 6 lakh riders in another three years," the official said.

Responding to complaints of overcrowding during peak hours, the official said, "We still have capacity. Even during peak hours it is touching only 70 per cent. But at 70 per cent the peak looks too crowded. We are looking at short trips."

Officials said that the Green Line (JBS to Falaknuma) is underutilised compared to the Blue (Raidurg to Nagole) and Red (Miyapur to LB Nagar) lines.

The officials said that it has nothing to do with increasing coaches but it is a question of increasing the frequency. The Red Line connecting Miyapur to LB Nagar is crowded.

L&THMRL is shifting trains from Green Line to Red Line

to address the issue.

"On the Green Line we are well within the concession time with a maximum gap of 15 minutes. We are operating trains every 9 to 10 minutes on the Green Line and using those trains in the Blue and Red Lines," officials said.

L&T is also studying if they can come up with offers to let people travel in non-peak hours.

The official said the way to handle the current situation is spacing out. "If we are doing 1,033 trips now we can go up to 1,100 trips and space it out in non-peak hours. Morning 6 am to 8 am and afternoon 12 am to 5 pm are non-peak. We are thinking of offers for travel during off-peak hours. We may offer some discount for that," the official said.

With the current ridership, L&THMRL is continuing to suffer losses. The Telangana government has assured to come to the rescue.

Senior officials declined to comment on how far there is progress on financial assistance.

CELEBRATE 1M RIDES IN LAST MILE CONNECTIVITY

Svida, HMRL sign MoU to scale up services

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

Svida Mobility Pvt Ltd, an urban mobility services start-up, has signed an MoU with L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Limited (L&TMRHL), with plans to scale up their feeder vehicle services by enhancing the first and last mile connectivity of MRHL.

This MoU was signed and exchanged on Thursday, during an event organised to celebrate the 1 million rides milestone of Svida in the presence of NVS Reddy, MD, HMRL, and KVB Reddy, MD & CEO, L&TMRHL, along with Siddharth Ravi, CEO, Svida Mobility Pvt Ltd, Jignesh P Bellani, Director and Co-Founder, Svida.

Svida has been working with L&T Metro Rail in Hyderabad since May 2019 to solve first-mile and last-mile connectivity

challenges. As an L&TMRHL authorised feeder service provider since 2019, Svida mobility has served over 10 lakh citizen rides, with commuters from various locations in the city to metro stations and vice-versa. Pre-pandemic, Svida mobility used to operate 121 shuttles across 47 routes from 25 metro stations serving more than 8,000 citizens per day. The access to affordable and reliable metro feeder services is expected to improve the ease of transportation for urban commuters in the city and also increasing the ridership of the Metro Rail. Currently, Svida is operational on five metro stations i.e., Miyapur, LB Nagar, Raidurg, Mettuguda, and Uppal and serves more than 3,000 commuters per day. Svida offers services via a robust AI-enabled tech platform, to help the booking of feeder vehicles.

Svida's app also tracks the



NVS Reddy and KVB Reddy of the L&TMRHL exchange documents with Siddharth Ravi and Jignesh P Bellani of Svida Mobility Pvt Ltd on Thursday

movement of vehicles and provides ETA to commuters, which enables them to plan their commute. It is targeted towards daily metro commuters and the tariff starts from Rs 25. Speaking on the occasion, NVS Reddy said, "First and last mile connectivity is one of the important catalysts for increasing ridership. It's indeed heartening to note that our passen-

gers are using Svida services to keep the metro as their preferred mode of city commute. We are progressively working with various service providers to build a robust feeder network across Hyderabad Metro Rail for passenger convenience." KVB Reddy said, "We value our partnership with Svida and hence our MoU will go a long way in helping

increase ridership with the utmost convenience to the passengers across our metro rail network."

Having scaled down their services due to the Covid pandemic as Metro services were impacted; on scaling up successfully of Svida's services, Siddharth Ravi said, "This MoU strengthens our long-term commitment to the metro passengers for providing them with easy, affordable and seamless first mile & last mile connectivity. We have crossed the one million ride mark through Svida and are now poised for new landmarks." On sustaining its operations and scaling up of Svida Mobility Pvt Ltd, Jignesh P Bellani said, "One million in Hyderabad is the first mile stone. We aim to grow nationwide now and achieve the 10 million mark soon and be the last mile experts of India in human logistics."

HMRL warns 'gully leaders' of jail for pasting posters

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Irked by leaders pasting posters on Metro pillars, HMRL MD NVS Reddy gave a strict warning to local leaders. He said, "As Hyderabad, we are all proud that our city is a clean city. Unfortunately, some of the people - gully leaders, in the name of national leaders and in name of state leaders, started pasting posters everywhere. Normally, whenever any other MD used to come to Hyderabad, be it Chennai or Bengaluru, they used to ask me, how come you are able to maintain it in Hyderabad, we haven't seen any poster. You go and look at Chennai, how horrible, or Bengaluru how horrible it looks like. The menace has started in Hyderabad". He added, "Gully leaders are also pasting posters at their wish."

TS tops Swachh Survekshan Grameen rankings

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, Telangana has been ranked first in the Swachh Survekshan Grameen rankings in the large states category. The Ministry of Jal Shakti's National Jal Jeevan Mission announced the award wherein Telangana also got 12 awards, with Nizamabad and Bhadrachalam districts being ranked first and second respectively in the overall top districts category in the South Zone.

SBM-G Mission Director Vikas Sheel, in a letter to Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, said the awards would be presented on October 2 during the Swachh Bharat Diwas celebrations in New Delhi.

Minister E Dayakar Rao said effective implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission lead to the state getting the coveted awards and said, "All the credit goes to Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu and MAUD Minister KT Rama Rao."



Seven arrested for trafficking humans

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an inter-state human-trafficking racket, Uppal police arrested seven traffickers and remanded them to judicial custody on Thursday.

Out of the seven organisers, now with a view to prevent them from indulging in immoral trafficking, Mahesh M Bhagwat, Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda, invoked PD Act against four offenders and lodged them in Central Prison, Cherlapally. The accused Brista Khatun arrived in India long back from Bangladesh and settled in Kolkatta. She came in to acquaintance with kingpin of this racket Satish Rajak of Mumbai. In greed of money, she, along with him, started prostitution. In due

course, she became acquaintance with many traffickers from other states. With her glib talk, she induced a number of women, including minor girls, and in association with the kingpin Satish Rajak, started running brothel houses with them. In July, the accused Brista Khatun and Satish Rajak brought a woman, aged about 23 years and her minor sister aged about 16 years from Bangladesh to Hyderabad. The accused Deepak Chand and his associate Prakash kept them in a rented portion in Ramanthapur and were running a brothel house.

On receipt of information from the elderly woman, Uppal police had been to Karat town in Maharashtra and rescued the minor victim girl from a lodge.

Prachara Ratham flagged off to create awareness on RTC services

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has come out with a new bus namely Prachara Ratham. This bus will create awareness on the services of the TSRTC.

TSRTC Managing Director VC Sajjanar, said, "TSRTC has been working with the aim of serving passengers for decades. In order to support popularise RTC services, schemes, services and transportation facilities provided by the organisation are being taken to the masses through art groups. Popularity is important for the development of the RTC and the cooperation of all is necessary for the expansion of services."

For a safe and risk-free journey, he requested people to use RTC services. He said that the



TSRTC Managing Director VC Sajjanar flags off a Prachara Ratham in Hyderabad on Thursday

art troupes will travel to all areas in a specially designed vehicle to attract the passengers by highlighting the concessions, schemes, services and transport facilities provided by the company.

He explained that in Greater Hyderabad and Karimnagar zones, these groups will create more awareness about the services of the organisation with their games and songs on the

campaign chariot in the streets, bus stops, main intersections and shopping malls. With the hope of having a better future, appropriate measures are being taken to strengthen the public transport system, he said.

Chief Operating Officer Dr Ravinder, Greater Hyderabad Zone Executive Director Yadagiri, RM, Deputy RM and other officials participated in the programme.

Focus on innovation, CS tells cooperative banks

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar presided over a meeting of the high-level committee to monitor the Health of co-operative credit institutions at BRKR Bhavan on Thursday. The functioning of the State Cooperative Bank and the District Cooperative Banks was reviewed during the meeting.

Chief Secretary said that as the State is achieving rapid progress in all sectors, there is a huge potential for the rural cooperative institutions to increase their volume of business. He asked the bankers to focus on innovation in improving the financial health of the cooperative banks. The total business of Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank Limited (TSCAB) was 22.8 per cent more this year compared to last year. The total business done this year was Rs 16,276.71 crore compared to last year's business



Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar presides over a meeting of the high-level committee to monitor the health of co-operative credit institutions on Thursday

of Rs 13,245 crore. There has been a 25.41 per cent growth in the share capital of TSCAB in the year 2021-22. Reserves have increased from Rs 556.53 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 615 crore in 2021-22, which is a growth of 10.64 per cent. Deposits have increased from Rs 5,466.41 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 6,941.95 crore, which is a growth of 26.99 per cent. Borrowings increased by 15.67 per cent to Rs 6,261.80 crore, while investments

increased by 40.27 per cent to Rs 2,058.52 crore.

The operating profit of the TSCAB stood at Rs 100.89 crore as on March 31, 2022, which is an increase of 69.90 per cent compared to last year profit of Rs 59.38 crore. Similarly, there has been a 66.82 per cent increase in the net profit which stood at Rs 77.29 crore. Telangana also stood in the forefront in the computerisation of Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies in the country.

12 central medical stores to be set up in TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Health, Medical and Family Welfare department sanctioned Rs 43.2 crore to the Telangana State Medical Services Infrastructure Development Corporation (TSMISIDC) for the establishment of 12 central medical stores across the state.

In a Government Order issued by Health Secretary SAM Rizvi, it was stated that, "The government, after examination of the matter, hereby accords administrative sanction for an amount of Rs 43.2 crore towards establishment of 12 central medical stores at Rs 3.6 crore per store."

"The stores will come up at two teaching hospitals in Siddipet and Suryapet, nine district hospitals in Wanaparthy, Mahabubabad, Jagtial, Bhupalpally, Kothagudem, Nagarkurnool, Bhongir and Gadwal, and one area hospital in Vikarabad."

JAWAHARNAGAR SLUMS

Kids drop out due to lack of Aadhaar

DEEPIKA PASHAM
■ HYDERABAD

The Jawaharnagar pool with a 100 slums has been witnessing rise in child dropouts from education due to not obtaining Aadhaar cards. With no help, they are turning into child labourers.

The families are settlers in the areas. The families are waiting for many years but unable to get Aadhaar cards for their kids, which is necessary in government schools. To obtain this card, documents have no supporting documents such as date of birth certificate and transfer certificate.

Karuna (name changed), a woman from one of the migrated families from Karimnagar, said, "One of my sons has no admission for two years now. My son should have been in the Class VIII, but now he will be admitted to Class VI because he has no Aadhaar card." The woman has



been visiting MeeSeva centres in Balaji Nagar, Jemigadda and Alwal, but found no help.

She then kept approaching the last school for obtaining a transfer certificate for the child.

Another migrated family from Karnataka has three children. They are never enrolled into the school as they have no documents. The elder son is 15-year-old and disabled, but is still working as a labourer. This family has no documents such as date of birth, income, caste and Aadhaar card. Their parents have lost hopes and

their kids have dropped out from school.

Another family from Rajasthan has children who have not been enrolled in Anganwadi or Government schools as they have no documents. The father of the children said, "It has been 10 years since we have shifted here. I have paid Rs 3,000 for obtaining an Aadhaar card but the fraudsters never responded to us." Another Muslim family has made their child a permanent labourer. The mother, being domestic violence victim, has not taken the documents. The child is the breadwinner for the whole family.

Child Rights and You (CRY) has made ends meet while interacting with families and asking them to enroll children in government schools. They have also got 14 Aadhaar cards to children from the 262 registered children they have in the data. Now, they have 35 child labourers who have

dropped out from school and working as labourers.

Hima Bindu, a child rights worker in the Jawaharnagar slums said, "As we closely work with the grassroot communities, it's sometimes extremely difficult to mobilise some of them into the formal schooling. For example, we work with the Pittala community and none of them have any documents. Facilitating Aadhaar enrollments is a Herculean task. This again brings 'access' in question, and needs systemic intervention."

"The Jawaharnagar slums are full of migrants, and because they don't have supportive documents, a strong convergence between UIDAI, Education Dept and WD&CW may be required, and a long term roadmap to address field realities is needed," said Chennaiah Badugu, Senior Manager at Child Rights & You.

Advertisement for 'Mangal' (మాంగళ) featuring a woman in a saree and a building. Text includes: 'నేడే మహా శుభారంభం 23 సెప్టెంబర్', 'కేథరీన్ ట్రెస్', 'చేతుల మీదుగా', 'మాంగళ ఫాపింగ్ మార్ట్', 'ఉమెన్ | మెన్ | కిడ్స్', 'టెలిఫోన్ భవన్ దగ్గర, నాగర్ కర్నూల్'.



KTR dares oppn parties to win ‘hearts and minds’ of people

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRICILLA

Minister for Municipal Administration K T Rama Rao on Wednesday dared his political rivals to win the hearts and minds of people instead of trying to sway the voters through allurements. He asked the Opposition parties to work for the welfare of the people rather than employing the tactics of deploying money and liquor.

Speaking at a meeting, shortly after distributing digital tabs to Intermediate students in government colleges at a function under a Gift A Smile programme, the Minister advised the TRS party activists and leaders to render service to the people. He said he had contested successfully for Sircilla constituency.

He had never distributed money or liquor to secure



Minister for Municipal Administration K T Rama Rao launching the distribution of Bathukamma saris at a function in Sircilla on Thursday

votes.

While addressing the students, Rama Rao promised to help the talented students in Sircilla in getting training in the fields they are interested in. The training is intended to help establish their own business. The T-Hub, which is aimed at encouraging young entrepreneurs' start-ups and

scaling up their operations, would help the students, he said.

Earlier, the Minister formally launched the distribution of Bathukamma saris. The distribution of saris was taken up to bring smiles on the faces of the women and provide employment for the weavers in Sircilla. The

schemes implemented by the government for the weavers helped them. The government has been spending Rs 300 crore every year on the Bathukamma sari project.

The government has been giving subsidy on yarn. The Minister promised to ensure that all eligible persons get Aasara pensions. He asked senior citizens not to get disheartened if they did not get secure pensions. He said he would see that every eligible person gets a pension. The government would soon launch the scheme of contributing Rs 3 lakh to the poor to build houses on their own lands. Sircilla District Collector Anurag Jayanti, Vemulawada MLA Chennamaneni Ramesh Babu, Zilla Parishad Chairperson N Aruna and others were present.

Narrow escape for schoolchildren as raft tips in stream

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

A group of schoolchildren had a miraculous escape when a country-made raft on which they were crossing Pedavagu stream near Andavelli village under Kaghaznagar mandal on Thursday.

There were four schoolchildren, two labourers and others on the raft when tipped.

The school bags and mobile phones were thrown into the stream. Fortunately, none were injured in the accident.

The people were forced to travel by country-made rafts as the bridge on the stream was damaged during the recent rains. People in 40 villages are forced to take a detour of 50 km to reach Kaghaznagar.

Govt to recruit 1,000 doctors by Dasara festival

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

The State government has decided to recruit 1000 doctors. The process will be completed by the Dasara festival and orders will be issued, according to Minister for Health T Harish Rao on Thursday.

The Minister was attending Medak Zilla Parishad general body meeting here. The meeting was presided over by Zilla Parishad Chairperson R Hemalatha.

The TRS government, Harish Rao said, has been giving top priority to education and health sectors. The government is committed to strengthening the healthcare delivery system. He expressed happiness over the increase in the number of institutional deliveries in government hospitals. The day is not far off when the private hospitals may fall on hard times with the government



Minister for Health T Harish Rao speaking at the Zilla Parishad general body meeting in Sangareddy on Thursday

hospitals ensuring best health-care delivery system, he felt.

A medical college has been allotted to the district, he said, and pointed out that a 40-bed hospital would be built. 'Complaints of lack of doctors or nurses should not be heard anywhere in the State,' he made it clear. There are 150 sub-centres in the district. A notification to fill the vacancies was issued. He promised to see that

the recruitment process would be completed by the Dasara festival. He directed the authorities of the Medical and Health Department to ensure that medicine stocks equivalent to three months' consumption are maintained in government hospitals. Harish Rao further said that the government had sanctioned a Backward Classes Women Degree Residential College.

Man slits wife's throat in broad daylight

PNS ■ MAHABUBABAD

In a shocking incident, a man slit his wife's throat in broad daylight at Advocates' Colony here on Thursday. The police suspected that the man had resorted to brutal murder of his wife as he suspected her fidelity.

The deceased was identified as 25-year-old Kalpana. She used to eke out a living by working as domestic help. The alleged culprit, according to police, is Bhaskar. He used to work in a meat shop.

Bhaskar attacked his wife when she was returning home after work. The police shifted the woman's body to Are Hospital for post-mortem. Bhaskar is still at large.

Need for nutritious food to keep anaemia at bay stressed

PNS ■ MEDAK

Telangana State Mahila Commission Chairperson Sunita Reddy on Thursday conducted 'Intinta Sambaralu' programme in Kagaz Maddur and Moosapet villages of Narsapur mandal of district and called for giving publicity on taking nutritious food with a missionary zeal.

She conducted the programme as part of the National Nutrition Month programme of the ICDS.

Expressing concern over many people contracting diseases for want of nutrition, she called for giving wide publicity on taking nutritious food with a missionary zeal to sensitise each and every one of its importance.

She appealed to expectant

and lactating mothers, children, teenage girls to see to it that they do not suffer from lack of nutrition. She suggested them to take green and leafy vegetables, vegetables, pulses, ragi, milk, eggs, jowar roti, meat and fish and food that is rich in fibre.

Under the Arogya Lakshmi programme, the government provides expectant and lactating mothers and children nutritious and balanced food through Anganwadi Centers.

For want of awareness on nutritious food, 65 per cent of the expectant mothers and 55 per cent of the lactating mothers are suffering from anaemia in the district. Teenage girls are also suffering from anaemia and growth-related problems, she observed.

Turmeric farmers assured of support

PNS ■ JAGTIAL

A delegation of farmers of Jagtial region, led by Nizamabad BJP Lok Sabha member Dharmapuri Aravind, on Thursday called on Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar at his office in Delhi and aired their problems in cultivation of mango, turmeric and other crops.

They submitted a memorandum to the Union Minister highlighting their demands.

The farmers said that Tomar assured the delegation of the necessary support to farmers in all aspects, especially in the turmeric price, from the Modi government.

The delegation comprises of farmers Pannala Tirupati Reddy, Rytu Joint Action Committee former president



Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar meeting Telangana farmers delegation in Delhi

Bandela Venkata Rajam, leaders of the JAC Aleti Jalandhar, Kottala Mohan Reddy, Aleti Raji Reddy, Kola Narayana, Vemula Karunakar, Gaddam Maipal Reddy, Katipalli Rajasekhara, Mekala Mallesh, Gopidi Srinivas, BJP Kisan Morcha Jagtial district president Gopal Reddy among others.

They submitted a memorandum to the Union Minister highlighting their demands

MLA urges doctors to render service to people

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Local MLA Marri Janardhan Reddy on Thursday appealed to medical officers and staff of the Palle Dawakhana to extend better healthcare to rural people.

With the TRS government coming to power in new state of Telangana, the health picture, from PHCs in villages to government hospitals in towns and cities, has been completely transformed, he said.

The government hospitals have become places to foster friendship, he said adding that people have been receiving

free medicines and treatment without having to spend from their pockets in the new state of Telangana.

Women who have undergone labour in government hospitals are being given KCR kits free of cost to pay interest to their health, he said.

Under Ammavodi, the government deposits Rs 13,000 in the name of girl child soon after the birth towards incentive. The government provides free medical services to the poor to undergo labour, he said appealing to women to undergo deliveries only in government hospitals.



Nagarkurnool MLA Marri Janardhan Reddy inaugurating Palle Dawakhana at Tudukurthi village in Nagarkurnool district on Thursday

J&K delegation lauds welfare schemes in Mahabubnagar dist

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

A delegation of people's representatives from Jammu and Kashmir, as part of its two-day tour of the district, visited KCR Urban Eco-Park here on Thursday and lauded the implementation of the welfare and development schemes in the district.

The delegation was welcomed by Zilla Parishad Chairperson Swarna Sudhakar Reddy, ZP Vice-Chairman K Yadaiah, District Forest Officer Satyanarayana, District Panchayat Officer Venkateswarlu, district tourism officials U Venkateswarlu, ZP



Jammu and Kashmir delegation being welcomed in Mahabubnagar on Thursday

CEO Jyoti at the KCR Urban Eco-Park and explained the delegation implementation of various schemes in the district. Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud explained the

delegation the development that took place in the district during the past eight years, besides explaining the delegation Panchayat Raj and Rural Development schemes.

DFO Satyanarayana made a power-point presentation on KCR Urban Eco-Park which is spread over an area of 2097 acres and described as the largest in the country. He told the delegation that the park would be developed further under the leadership of the district minister.

ZP CEO Jyoti explained the delegation the implementation of the Panchayat Raj policy and its programmes.

District Tourism Officer Venkateswarlu explained the delegation through a photo exhibition on how Mahabubnagar transformed now from previously.

Later, the delegation visited the butterfly park, coins park, deer park and adventure park, rainwater park and other parts of the Urban Eco-park.

Later the delegation members, who said they have been observing the implementation of the panchayat raj programmes for the last two days, appreciated the implementation of the programmes. Moreover, they could perceive how Mahabubnagar town was developed. They appreciated women's SHGs entering Guinness Book of World Records by developing greenery with the help of dropping over 2 crore seed balls.

Man burnt alive over family dispute

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

In a horrific incident, a 49-year-old man was burnt alive at his house in Indupiriyal village under Doultabad mandal in the district in the early hours of Thursday.

The villagers noticed thick fumes coming out of the victim's house and rushed there, only to find the badly burnt body of the man.

The deceased was identified as Hanmandlakadi Venkataiah. The tragic incident took place around 3 am on Thursday. The villagers alleged that his family members could have perpetrated the crime on him. According to initial reports, his wife, son-in-law Srihari and daughter Pranati allegedly strangled him to death and later doused the body in petrol and set it aflame. Later, the trio surrendered to the Doultabad police, it is learnt. Enquiries with the villagers revealed that Venkataiah had served imprisonment for the murder of his mother-in-law and he was released a few days ago. His addiction to alcohol was said to be a source of friction in the family. The family members used to have heated arguments with him daily.

HC stays construction of medical college

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

The High Court has issued a stay order on the construction of the medical college in Nagarkurnool. The court issued orders as farmers and landowners filed a petition in court. The farmers alleged that the contractor, who was entrusted with the construction of the college building, continued to conduct survey on the land. The government intended to acquire 33

acres. But, so far the authorities allotted 4 acres only for the construction of medical college building.

The farmers and landowners demanded that the government pay compensation as per the market value of their lands. They also demanded that the government provide one job for each house in the medical college. The construction of the college buildings has been taken up at Uyyalawada village.

‘Centre must review 20 per cent duty on rice exports’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The FTCCI has appealed to the Central Government to re-examine the 20 per cent duty on rice exports, support Indian rice exporters and protect India's international rice market to help farmers, exporters, governments and the country.

The duty on brown and white rice other than basmati and parboiled rice covers nearly 60 per cent of the country's exports. "With this duty, Indian rice shipments will become uncompetitive in the world market. Buyers will shift to Thailand and Vietnam," informed sources said.

"India accounts for more than 40 per cent of global rice shipments and competes with Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan and Myanmar in the world market.

The Government of India

imposed a 20 per cent duty on exports of various kinds of rice to discourage buyers from making purchases from the country and to secure domestic supplies after reduced planting due to lack of rains. This decision came after the Union Food Ministry recommended the levy to ensure sufficient rice stock for the Public Distribution System (PDS) and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)," the FTCCI said.

In the representation to the government, the FTCCI said that the reasoning given by the Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD) is that the export price of non-basmati rice is INR 28 to 29 per kg, which is higher than the domestic price. FTCCI said that this information is misleading and that the duty is based on incorrect data.



"The DFPD has assumed that all non-basmati rice variants put under the single HS Code (HS-10063090) sell for INR 28-29 per kg. But in reality, there are several non-basmati premium varieties that have a huge international market selling at 3-4 times higher than the variety quoted. A

blanket imposition of 20 per cent duty, irrespective of their variety, quality, standard, demand and price would cripple non-basmati exports from India," the FTCCI said.

"There are several hundred varieties of non-basmati rice in India. Some of them sell for a much higher price than bas-

mati rice. Some non-basmati variants sell for \$700 up to \$1,400 per metric ton. Levying a duty on these variants will prove very expensive. It will have many adverse outcomes for Team India in the long term," the Zoom said.

If the blanket duty is imposed, Indian rice exporters will not be able to capture new markets in premium non-basmati segments. The lack of price competitiveness with exporters from other countries will destroy them. Also, the farmers and exporters from rice surplus states like Telangana will be affected severely due to the closing of markets for their competitors from other countries.

Suggesting an alternative, the FTCCI said, "Since the shortage is envisaged for varieties of rice that are meant for PDS and PMGKAY, we suggest

imposing duty according to the export price of rice and a blanket duty on all non-basmati rice variants must be avoided. The goal of DFPD is understood. The target products are IR varieties which sell for \$300-400 per MT. Long grain, swarna etc. are some such varieties. Levying a duty only on these selected variants is reasonable," the FTCCI added.

India exports many other high-quality varieties of non-basmati rice like Sona Masoori, Wada kolam, Jeera Sambha fragrance rice, Ponni Rice, black rice, red rice, and many others. A blanket duty will make it impossible for Indian exporters to promote these indigenous varieties overseas.

The FTCCI recommended duty according to the target export price to meet DFPD's goals.

RRR vs Chhella: KTR says Gujarat is the epicentre of Modiverse

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Minister KT Rama Rao on Thursday brought up the issue of Telugu film RRR's loss to Gujarati film Chhella Show in the competition for India's official submission to the Oscars. KTR said in a tweet, "Not a single BJP joker from Telangana has the guts to demand what is rightfully ours. Ever ready to carry chappals of their Gujarati bosses, but can't summon the courage to demand Telangana's rights. Gujarat is the epicentre of Modiverse". In view of the recent happenings on twitter, KTR always replied to the tweet of Professor Nageshwar. The former MLC said, "Our RRR lost to Gujarati film Chhella Show in the race for Oscar. Our Kazipet denied coach factory. Gujarat gets a

In view of the recent happenings on twitter, KTR always replied to the tweet of Professor Nageshwar. The former MLC said, "Our RRR lost to Gujarati film Chhella Show in the race for Oscar"

locomotive factory. Our Hyderabad lost WHO centre to Jamnagar in Gujarat. Our Hyderabad International arbitration tribunal gets a competitor in GIFT city in Gujarat."

INDIA CORNER

Suicide of alumnus: Protest on NIT campus

The suicide of a former student of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) here recently has prompted supporters of the Students Federation of India (SFI) to stage a protest demonstration on the campus on Wednesday. The student of the Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Mohali in Punjab Agin S Dileep, a native of Cherthala in Kerala, had died by suicide in his hostel room on September 20. A suicide note of the 21-year old student accused the director of his previous college, the Kozhikode NIT, responsible for his extreme step. The note said he was mentally disturbed over the alleged problems faced at the NIT, during his days at the institute between 2018 and 2022. Media reports said the boy had allegedly blamed the NIT director professor Prasad Krishna for emotionally torturing him during his study there. The agitating students demanded that the NIT director step down and face the law.



Cash-rich BMC should spend money for public good: HC

The Bombay High Court on Thursday said the cash-rich Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) should spend money for the public good and do something for the citizens about pothole-riddled roads across the city. A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Madhav Jamdar directed BMC Commissioner Iqbal Chahal to meet them any day next week. The court was hearing a bunch of petitions on the condition of roads in Mumbai and other places of the state and the increasing number of deaths due to pothole-riddled roads. "We want Mr Chahal to come meet us on any day convenient to him next week. Till then, he has to, through his officers, get a survey done of the 20 worst roads in Mumbai," the court said. Chahal has to then give the court a roadmap specifying by when tenders would be called for repair work and by when the repair work would be completed. CJ Datta said that in 2020, when he came to Mumbai after his appointment as the Chief Justice here, he had refused to hear a petition on similar issues.



Police use water cannon to quell BJP workers protesting against AAP govt

Police on Thursday used a water cannon to prevent BJP workers from heading towards the residence of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann here after they tried to force their way through barricades while protesting against the AAP government. The Punjab BJP had announced to 'gherao' the official residence of the chief minister as it accused the six-month old Aam Aadmi Party government of failing on all fronts. Punjab BJP chief Ashwani Sharma and other senior party leaders including Jeevan Gupta and Subhash Sharma were participating in the protest. Police had put up barricades to stop the protesters from moving towards the chief minister's residence. When the BJP workers tried to force their way through barricades, police used a water cannon. Later, the BJP leaders were detained by police. Talking to reporters, Ashwani Sharma said the BJP will expose the AAP govt for having allegedly failed on all fronts in the state.



Indian mission in touch with UK

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

■ MEA on Leicester incidents

In the wake of incidents in Leicester and Birmingham involving violence targeting the Indian community, the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday said the Indian High Commission is in touch with the UK side to prevent further attacks and take action against perpetrators.

The Indian High Commission on Monday had strongly condemned violence against the Indian community and vandalism of Hindu premises in the eastern England city of Leicester and sought immediate action

against those involved.

The UK police said on Wednesday a "minor disorder" during a protest outside a Hindu temple in the city of Birmingham involving fire-works targeted at police officers has resulted in a man's arrest and stop and search powers being deployed.

Asked about the incidents, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi pointed to the statement issued by the high commission condemning the violence.

"Our high commission continues to be in touch with the UK side. We are in touch with diplomatic and security authorities to prevent further attacks and take action against perpetrators," he said.

During his meeting in New York with his British counterpart James Cleverly, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had raised this issue, he said.

Jaishankar had shared his concerns about the security and welfare of the Indian community in the UK with his British counterpart Cleverly

and welcomed his assurances on the same.

"A warm conversation with UK Foreign Secretary @JamesCleverly. Discussed taking forward Roadmap 2030. Appreciate his commitment to deepening our partnership," Jaishankar had tweeted Wednesday.

On Indians held in Myawaddy area in southeastern Myanmar, Bagchi said, "We're aware of IT companies recruiting Indian workers on pretext of jobs in Thailand who were then taken to Myanmar."

"Thanks to our efforts we have facilitated rescue of some of the people," he said.



SHIFTING OF VEDANTA-FOXCONN SEMICONDUCTOR PLANT TO GUJARAT

Oppn in Maha shedding 'crocodile tears'

PNS ■ PUNE

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday slammed the opposition parties in Maharashtra for "shedding crocodile tears" over shifting of a Vedanta-Foxconn semiconductor plant to Gujarat from the State, and accused them of creating hurdles for five big-ticket projects during their rule.

She was addressing a press conference near Pune on the sidelines of a programme.

A blame-game has started in Maharashtra following the



announcement last week that the joint venture semiconductor project of Indian conglomerate Vedanta and Taiwanese electronics giant Foxconn, proposed to be set up near Pune city earlier, will come up in Gujarat.

The Congress, Nationalist

Congress Party (NCP) and Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena have been targeting the Centre and the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government over the issue, saying that the Rs 1.54 lakh crore plant has been handed over to Gujarat ignoring the economic interest of the state where it was originally planned.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government formed by these three parties collapsed on June 29 this year, days after Eknath Shinde rebelled against the Sena leadership.

Asked about the opposition's criticism over the project shifting to Gujarat, Sitharaman said the current opposition means those who were in power in the state till four months back.

"Who were the people who stopped the bullet train project in Maharashtra; who were the people who stopped a Rs 65,000 crore Wadhwan project in Palghar district; who stopped the Nanar refinery project and who created hurdles for the Metro car shed project in Mumbai's Aarey Colony," she said.

PM Modi to visit Japan on Sep 27

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Japan on September 27 to attend the state funeral of former Japanese premier Shinzo Abe, who was fatally shot in July.

Abe, Japan's longest-serving prime minister, was shot dead on July 8 while delivering a campaign speech in western Japan ahead of the House of Councillors election on July 10.

Modi will visit Japan on September 27 to attend the state funeral, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

He will also separately meet Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida during the visit.

Modi had a close relationship with Abe. He had consoled the demise of his "dear friend" Abe and said the former Japanese premier dedicated his life to making the world a better place.

Freedom of expression non-negotiable asset of India: VP

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said freedom of expression is a "non-negotiable and uncompromising" asset of India, and any deviation from it will be a "compromise on the sovereignty and wholeness" of the country.

Inaugurating a folk festival 'Lokmanthan 2022' here, he also said the category of 'pseudo intellectuals' are on the rise in India and they need to be curtailed.

"Freedom of expression is the nectar of democracy. The freedom of expression in India is non-negotiable and we cannot compromise on it. If we depart from this, we will compromise with the sovereignty and wholeness of the country," Dhankhar said.

The legislature has an important role to play in democracy, he said, but expressed regret that nowadays issues are being dis-



cussed on the streets instead of on the floor of the Assembly.

"Another concerning trend that needs to be curtailed is the problem of pseudo intellectuals. Can public space be allowed to be dominated by this category of people with the help of media-created eclipses?" Dhankhar said.

He claimed that pseudo intellectuals pose a challenge to the country and are on the rise despite the world being "amazed

and stunned" by the good things and growth happening in India.

The Vice President also said that the role of intellectuals is very critical and they must engage in proactive dialogue, debate and discussion.

"They must reflect the challenges India is facing. They should play on the front foot with a straight bat. I cannot imagine how intellectuals remain silent seeing violation of human rights.

"If our intelligentsia decides to opt for silence in the current times, then this very important section of society is bound to be silenced forever. They must freely practice dialogue and deliberation so that societal morality and propriety are preserved," he added.

Dhankhar said that dialogue, debate and discussion are the soul of governance, and the entire ecosystem upliftment can be effected by drawing lessons from India's rich past.

Recent rains will save Kharif paddy crop

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Recent good rains in Jharkhand, Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh will save the paddy crop and arrest to some extent the anticipated loss in India's rice output in this Kharif season, according to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Director A K Singh.

In its first estimate, the Agriculture Ministry has pegged a 6 per cent drop in the rice production at 104.99 million tonnes in the Kharif season of the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), from over the year-ago period.



Paddy is the main Kharif (summer) crop, sowing of which had begun with the onset of the Southwest Monsoon in June and harvesting starts next month. Speaking to PTI, IARI Director A K Singh said the lag in paddy sowing due to poor rains in a few states has been a cause of concern.

Fortunately in the last few days, there have been good rains in eastern UP, Bihar and Jharkhand. This has come as a great relief to farmers as at this particular time water is required for the long-duration paddy varieties crop, he said.

The paddy crop is in the most active phase of growth and this rain will be very helpful, he said, and added, "This (rains) will in fact cool down the anticipated paddy crop loss of 10-15 per cent due to non-availability of rains and poor irrigation." The rice production loss will be arrested to some extent, which will be captured in the next crop estimate

by the ministry, he added.

Till last week, paddy coverage remained lower mainly in Jharkhand by 9.37 lakh hectares, followed by Madhya Pradesh (6.32 lakh hectares), West Bengal (3.65 lakh hectares), Uttar Pradesh (2.48 lakh hectares) and Bihar (1.97 lakh hectares) on account of poor rainfall.

The IARI Director said otherwise, the paddy prospects are bright in the northwestern states of Punjab, western Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Many states have started the harvest of early varieties of paddy like in Pusa-Basmati variety 1509 and 1692.

Sparks fly over 'PayCM' poster campaign in K'taka

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The "PayCM" issue made noise in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Thursday, as BJP accused the Congress of deliberately and unnecessarily using the Chief Minister for their false campaign to reap political gains.

The Congress, in its defence, asked the government to take action if there is anything illegal in it.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J C Madhuswamy said investigation is on and police are taking action in connection with the posters.

Posters with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's face on a QR code titled PayCM were spotted in a few places in Bengaluru on Wednesday, which was removed by authorities later in the day.

According to reports, scanning the QR code took users to the '40 per cent Sarkar' website launched by the Congress recently.



Raising the issue during the zero hour, BJP MLA Rajeev said the 'PayCM' posters were found in different parts of Bengaluru on Wednesday and a political party was behind it.

Stating that such political developments in the State were leading to a feeling that Karnataka is witnessing political degradation, he said, "PayCM posters with Chief Ministers photo...what evidence (on irregularity or corruption) do they have, if they have any evidence let them file a complaint, instead they used Chief Minister's photo."

As Rajeev initially did not mention as to who was behind it, Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri asked as to who used it, to which several BJP legislators said "Congress".

Intervening, Congress MLA Krishna Byre Gowda said, "Let Rajeev speak on the notice he has given, he has the right to do so, instead of that if he makes political speech, we will also have to speak".

'Centre's people-friendly policies made development holistic'

PNS ■ MADURAI

The people-friendly policies and initiatives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has made development holistic and rendered India the fastest growing economy, BJP national chief J P Nadda said here on Thursday.

Tamil Nadu is not lagging behind in development and it is also on the government's priority, he indicated and said 95 per cent of the work in establishing the AIIMS in Madurai has been completed and it would soon be dedicated by the Prime Minister.

About Rs 1,264 crore has been allotted for the AIIMS



project and additionally Rs 164 crore has been added to the outlay to establish an infectious disease block, he noted.

Also, the Centre would always be ready to facilitate the economic development of Tamil Nadu, Nadda assured while addressing eminent personalities from diverse fields

here during his visit to the State.

He regretted that Tamil Nadu government allotted 543 acres land as against 643.73 acres required for the international airport project here for which the Centre has allocated Rs 550 crore.

Negotiations are on with the state government to obtain the remaining portion of land, Nadda, who is scheduled to address a public meeting in Karaikudi this evening, said.

"Our policies have been pro-poor, pro-farmer, pro-women and pro-industries. The development under Modi government has taken place holistically," the BJP chief said.

SC to live-stream its constitution bench proceedings from Sep 27

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to enhance transparency and accessibility in its functioning, the Supreme Court has decided to live-stream its proceedings of all constitution bench hearings from September 27, exactly four years after a path-breaking verdict in this regard was delivered in 2018.

A unanimous decision was taken by the 30 judges of the apex court in the full court meeting headed by Chief Justice of India U U Lalit held on Tuesday evening to implement an apex court verdict of 2018 in the Swapnil Tripathi case.

On August 26, for the first time since its inception, the

Supreme Court had live-streamed its proceedings of a bench headed by then Chief Justice NV Ramana through a webcast portal.

It was ceremonial proceedings as Justice Ramana was to demit office on August 26.

Exactly four years back on September 26, 2018, the Supreme Court had taken a major leap in imparting transparency in the functioning of the judiciary by allowing live-streaming of court proceedings of cases of "constitutional and national importance", saying this openness was like "sunlight" which is the "best disinfectant".

It had said as a pilot project, only a specified category of cases that are of constitution-



al or national importance and are being argued before a constitution bench should be live-streamed.

The top court had said that

sensitive cases such as those dealing with matrimonial disputes or sexual assault should not be live-streamed.

Several important cases are to be heard by the five-judge constitution benches of the apex court next week including the validity of the 103rd constitution amendment granting a 10 per cent quota to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Citizenship Amendment Act and others.

Recently, activist-lawyer Indira Jaising, who had also filed a separate petition in 2018, seeking live streaming of the court proceedings has written a letter to CJI U U Lalit seeking implementation of the

2018 verdict and live broadcast of proceedings of constitution bench cases heard by the apex court.

According to sources, initially, the apex court may live stream the proceedings through 'YouTube' and would later host them on its server.

People would be able to access the proceedings of the apex court on their cell phones, laptops, and computers without any hassle.

On September 6, Justice DY Chandrachud, who is next in line to become chief justice of India and heads the E-Committee of the apex court while hearing a case recalled an incident when he had seen someone recording court proceedings on a cell phone.

"Yesterday, I saw someone using a mobile phone, perhaps recording what we were saying during the proceedings. Initially, I thought, how can he record the proceedings? But then, my thoughts changed. What's the big deal in it? It's an open court hearing.

"Nothing is confidential here", Justice Chandrachud had said.

Justice Chandrachud, who was also one of the authors of the 2018 verdict along with now-retired Justice AM Khanwilkar and then Chief Justice Dipak Misra said that there has to be a changed mindset and instead of taking a traditional view, judges have to adopt a view of today's time.

Curb hate speech

The SC has termed hate speech as ‘poison’ that is hurting the social fabric of the country

When public discourse gets perverted, as is the case in India, sloganeering is confused with eloquence and platitudes with wisdom—and now uncouth blabber as forceful argumentation. So, it is hardly surprising that the incidence of hate speech is on the rise. The Supreme Court is rightly worried about this unsavoury development. On Wednesday, it termed hate speech as “poison” that is hurting the social fabric of the country. The apex court also expressed dismay over the lack of a legal framework that could deter odious remarks in television debates. It directed the Centre to reply in two months whether it (the Centre) intends to bring a law to make hate speech a penal offence. TV news channels are using “hate and all such spicy things” to improve their ratings, the apex court pointed out. Wondering why the government is a “mute spectator,” the court asserted that it was the duty of TV anchors to stop the airing of hate speech. “Where is our nation headed to if



hate speech is what we are feeding on? Hate speech is completely poisoning our social fabric,” observed a Bench of justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy. They said this while hearing a number of petitions which sought guidelines to regulate hate speech.

A few days ago, Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur had also desired moderation in TV channel debates. He wanted to bring “back neutrality in news.” In fact, he went on to say that the biggest threat to the mainstream media is from mainstream media channels rather than new-age digital platforms. He was correct in his observation that if a news channel invites guests who are polarising, they would spread false narratives and who shout, thus damaging the credibility of the news channel. Unfortunately, the credibility of several news channels is very bad; they are widely regarded as sympathetic to one political party or the other. Debates on political topics suffer from not just the ill-mannered and semi-educated outbursts of various participants but also the irresponsible behaviour of anchors but also biases. Such TV programmes generate a lot of heat and dust but little light. Political parties, including that of Thakur’s, should act proactively to ensure that political debate doesn’t get further degraded. Action on the part of the media should also be oriented around self-regulation. News channels, the Press Club of India, the Press Council, and other organisations related to the media should come forward with guidelines to regulate the behaviour of news anchors and other media-persons. They should draw the red lines which journalists should never cross. There should also be interaction between the Government and the media for bringing sobriety and impartiality back to news. For the alternative, the rules set by the Government or the Supreme Court, is not very appealing. Such rules may curb hate speech but will also be detrimental for free speech. All stakeholders need to exercise caution.

PICTALK



A one-horned rhino inside the Burapahar Range of Kaziranga National Park, on World Rhino Day

Bye, Gajodhar Bhaiya!

Raju Srivastava is gone but will always be remembered for the laughter he spread

Raju Srivastava the king of comedy is no more. He breathed his last on September 21 in AIIMS Delhi. Raju had suffered a heart attack 41 days back when he was at a gym and ever since had been fighting but unfortunately, the death got the better of him. His untimely death has left his fans shocked and condolence messages have been pouring from across the country. Raju was a comedian with many firsts, he started his career by mimicking his idol Amitabh Bachchan and then graduated to small roles in Bollywood. His big break came when he appeared on a TV comedy show “Indian laughter challenge” in 2005. He didn’t win it but became an instant star. His jokes often involved common people from small towns in UP which were till then seen as ‘no no’ on mainstream television. His ‘Gajodhar bhaiya’ became a household name and his eastern UP colloquial language a rage. The USP of Raju was his knack to relate to the common man. He picked the incidents from the lives of the common man and narrated them in his inimitable style which made him larger than life comic star, the highest paid in the country.

Raju’s story is the story of many youths from humble backgrounds in small towns of north India who to chase their dreams reach Mumbai. Many are lost in oblivion while others struggle to make a mark. Raju belonged to the second category He took struggle in his stride and never gave up on his dreams. His laughter came from his understanding of human nature and dealing with the common

man. And that is why he is so relatable to each one of us. Raju’s untimely death at 58, leaves a void that would be hard to fill. He was one of the faces of early standup comics who made it to everyone’s heart. Though now stand up comedy is well established in the country and has gone through a metamorphosis with a lot of young comics trying their hand at it and enriching it in their own way, they owe it to Raju as he was the one who took comedy to the masses in the time when this genre didn’t exist in the country. Raju never hesitated to crack a joke on the VVIPs in the audience. Raju is often criticised for joining politics which was not really his cup of tea. It divided his fans and took away his neutrality but he was quick to understand and tried to distance himself from it. Raju Srivastava rest in peace, your jokes will live on.

Indians making it big in Australia

With its sheer determination and hard work, the Indian diaspora in Australia has carved a niche for itself in the Australian society



ASHUTOSH MISRA

They drive cabs in the wee hours, man 7/11 franchises, and gather scattered trolleys at supermarkets, amongst a long list of arduous tasks. But they also teach at schools and universities, lead mega engineering projects, save lives at hospitals and treat the sick at medical centres, manage the information technology in big companies, showcase the best of the cuisines at Indian restaurants, and own micro, medium, and large businesses in Australia. Indian diaspora has entered into business, politics, the judiciary, government, civil society, academia, science, the performing arts, and sporting codes. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 census 783,958 persons declared their ancestry as Indian constituting 3.1% of the Australian population. They constitute the second largest taxpayers and easily outnumber their Australian counterparts in stadiums during the Border-Gavaskar series.

20 years ago, not many may have anticipated their meteoric rise and role in ‘Advancing Australia Fair.’ A data-rich report prepared by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade entitled - ‘Australia’s Indian Diaspora: A National Asset: Mapping the Community’s Reach into the Australia-India Economic Relationship’ - quite timely encapsulates the rise of the diaspora, especially when bilateral relations have hit a historic high.

Australia’s rapidly transforming demography wherein one in four Australian has been born overseas, the Indian diaspora is now turning heads. Calling the diaspora ‘aspirational’, the report shows that a comparatively younger diaspora is vital for meeting Australia’s skills shortage, technological development, and exports. Largely concentrated (70%) in the states of Victoria and New South Wales, the diaspora has moved interstate into Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia. In any



developing suburb, the Indian family is a common sight. The DFAT report indicates the cumulative effect of a generally highly educated youthful, linguistically diverse, and growing community, plugged into networks of innovation, and well represented in business, across services and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) sectors with strong export potential. It is a key contributor to not only bilateral trade and investment but Australia’s international competitiveness.

According to the 2021 Orbis database of company information collated by Bureau van Dijk, a Moody’s Analytics Company - people of Indian heritage are employed in at least 996 Australian organizations of which an estimated 2,840 (13%) as directors and managers (12.5% women), constituting 3% of the Australian population. The report says that 964 of these 2,840 could potentially drive bilateral business and trade engagements in health, tourism, ICT, and resources, across companies with a gross \$250 billion annual turnover.

Surprisingly, in the flagship sector of education, and

AS OF 2021, NUMBERING OVER 780,000, INDIAN MIGRANTS HAVE OVERTAKEN CHINESE AND NEW ZEALAND BORN IMMIGRANTS. THEIR NUMBERS DOUBLED DURING 1996-2006, AND QUADRUPLED DURING 2006-2020

in agribusiness their role remains below par. But that may change rapidly as international education and student migration drive bilateral relationships. Indians were the largest source of skilled migrants in 2019-20 and the second largest source of international students in 2019-20 Australia. The DFAT report estimates that the diaspora’s role in senior academic positions roles at the lecturer level and above has increased from 1.75 per cent in 2016 to 1.92 per cent in 2020. Of the 721,000 Indians (2016 census) approximately 88% are of working age and 61% are in full-time and 27% in part-time employment making them the second highest tax-paying migrant community after the UK-born migrants, contributing over \$12 billion to the Australian economy.

As of 2021, numbering over 780,000 Indian migrants have overtaken Chinese and New Zealand-born immigrants. Their numbers doubled during 1996-2006, quadrupled during 2006-2020, and were Australia’s fastest growing large diaspora community in 2020. Australia’s Department of Home Affairs has even established a Global Talent Officer

for South Asia, eying India as a source of global talent.

A 2013 path-breaking research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America entitled, “Genome-wide data substantiate Holocene gene flow from India to Australia” established that a substantial gene flow occurred between the Indian populations and Australia well before European contact, 4,230 years ago. The study links changes in tool technology, food processing, and the appearance of dingoes in the Australian archaeological record to migration from India.

In sum, over 4,000 years ago Indians made Australia their home and now they “toil with hearts and hands to make this Commonwealth of ours renowned of all the lands”. As India rises as a Vishwa Guru, Indians assume their long-due place in Australian society.

(The author is the CEO, Institute for Australia India Engagement, Brisbane, National Sports Chair [Australia India Business Council] and Editor-in-Chief, India News Australia. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TIME FOR PEACE

Sir — It is not the time to war, world need peace and delight, these are the lines of PM Modi that are grabbing global headlines and repeated lip sing from the leaders of the different nation. On the side-lines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, in the bilateral dialogue with the Russian President Vladimir Putin, Narendra Modi has stated that we need we need global coordination not work for peaceful performance of this whole world.

It is good to see that even Russian President Vladimir V Putin, also agreed to the understanding of Indian PM, As we are in the Midst of tensed political narrative, thus we need corporation not war. We need dialogue not disturbances towards each other. Mr. Putin too understand the need of the hour, and tried to halt the tense situations by de-escalating the military forces to stop the war like situations. Ultimately we need global peace for happy world. But for that to happen we have to build pressure on our leaders to be more proactive for world peace and care about the issues like climate change, hunger and poverty rather than on the use of military to destroy peace and cause unimaginable sufferings on the humans. After all we are all humans and the planet is our only home where each one has equal right to live and flourish.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

DUSSEHRA RALLY

Sir — The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has denied permission to both the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena as well as the Shinde’s faction for holding Dussehra rally at the iconic Shivaji Park on 5 October As the Mumbai Police raised law and order concerns.

The Shivaji Park police in their feedback said the permission for the rally to any of the two factions could lead to a “serious problem of law and order in

Fair chance for guilty?



Supreme Court calls for providing accused a ‘meaningful’ hearing of their mitigating circumstances in death penalty cases. The

Supreme Court referred to a Constitution Bench the question of how to provide accused in death penalty cases a ‘meaningful, real and effective’ hearing of their mitigating circumstances before a trial judge. Instead of safeguarding human dignity and life of poor, marginalized, women and minorities and saving democracy from dictatorship, someone is pursuing unimportant tasks and creating work for themselves for nothing. Like in the West why they are thinking too much on human rights of the guilty and accused? What about the ones who died owing to the murderer’s recklessness, anger, ego etc? How many lives he destroyed? If there is no fear of one’s life and capital punishment, then crimes will surely increase. Rapists and murderers when they are released and garlanded, they are a threat to the society at large.

CK Subramony | Kozhikode

the sensitive Shivaji Park area”. The civic administration has sent letters to both factions of the parties about the decision. With this the open fight between Thackeray and Shinde faction getting bitter and bitter every day and may take ugly turn in coming days which will be very serious and dangerous for the citizens of the capital city Mumbai.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS

Sir — One of the long-standing challenges that India has been facing when it comes to safety and well-being of its people is the appalling fire safety standards prevalent in workplaces, public buildings and homes. The fire tragedy that occurred in a hotel in Telangana very recently and fire that broke out in a commercial building near the Mundka metro station in outer Delhi in May this year, are stark reminders of how fire safety norms are flouted by building owners with impunity. Buildings must be planned, designed and constructed to ensure that fire safety measures are in

place in strict accordance with National Building Code of India’s guidelines which regulate the building construction activities across the country.

Even though NBC makes these measures mandatory, the majority of multi-storey buildings continue to ignore and violate the safety norms, and often play with human lives. In fact, many buildings lack even basic fire safety systems, like fire extinguishers. Also, there is no statutory provision for regular verification of adherence to fire safety norms in multi-storey buildings.

To reduce fire accidents, First Safety Audit should be made mandatory across the country, and it must be entrusted to third-party agencies, who have the expertise in it. A comprehensive fire safety audit can address the inherent fire hazards associated with the day-to-day activities in an occupancy and recommend measures to reduce the potential fire accidents.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

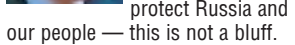
SOUND BITE

It would have been better had the Congress started its Bharat Jodo Yatra from Gujarat where elections are due later this year,



Election strategist —Prashant Kishor

If the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, we will without doubt use all available means to protect Russia and our people — this is not a bluff.



Russian President —Vladimir Putin

He (Raju) was my friend for 30 years. Big loss to his family, daughters, wife. He was a good husband, good father and a good friend.



Actor —Ravi Kishan

Such an important role, the keepers. This is where MS was so good.



Former cricket coach —Ravi Shastri

These speeches in media are unregulated. It’s (the anchors’) duty to see that hate speech doesn’t continue.



Supreme Court judge —KM Joseph

FIRST COLUMN

BANKS AS GROWTH CATALYSTS

If banks have to lend more, they must have resources



S KALYANASUNDARAM

Speaking at the 75th AGM of IBA on September 16, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that if India wishes to grow at a particular speed over the next 25 years, banks will have to play the role of a catalyst.

It is good that the importance of banks is recognised by the Finance Minister. But what is happening at the ground level is entirely different. The banks are made to bleed due to wrongful importance given to the borrowers at the cost of depositors who sacrifice their present consumption and enable banks to lend.

What is a catalyst? In chemistry, we call a catalyst a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change. But banks' borrowers extract everything from the banks and try to finish the 'catalyst'. Initially, corporate borrowers want maximum finance from banks. They want it at concessional rates of interest too. Then they default and want the banks to reschedule the payment obligation. They want further credit by threatening that otherwise the previous loan cannot be recovered. Finally, they want waiver of interest, write off, one-time-settlement etc. This process goes on and on and to keep the banks viable, banks pass on this cost to the depositors by way of real negative interest.



Recently, the RBI released a handbook on statistics on the Indian Economy. This contains a table showing Weighted Average Domestic Term Deposit Rate and it pertains to the end of the respective financial year. For the years from 2014-15 to 2020-21, the following are the WADTD Rates respectively in percentages 8.57, 7.73, 6.97, 6.67, 6.89, 6.38 and 5.28. The following are the annual consumer inflation rate during the same period, again in percentages: 4.91, 4.95, 3.30, 3.94, 3.73, 6.62 and 5.13. When we adjust for inflation the real interest the depositors got for their Term Deposit will be as follows: 3.66, 2.78, 3.67, 2.73, 3.16, 0.76 and 0.15 per cent of returns. This is the fate of persons who keep their savings with banks as fixed deposits. For persons who are leaving their surplus in a Savings Account, the real return will be negative. If this trend is not corrected, a day will come that the retail depositors will desert banks and there may not be any role of finance intermediation by banks.

If banks have to lend more, they must have resources. As per Financial Stability Report of RBI released in June 30, 2022, after reaching a high of 11.9 per cent in March 2021, aggregate deposit growth (y-o-y) of Scheduled Commercial Banks moderated gradually through 2021-22 reaching 9.9 per cent in March 2022 and further to 9.1 per cent by June 3, 2022. This should be a warning signal for policy makers. By paying pittance, you cannot expect depositors to patronise banks forever.

Banks have to mandatorily maintain a Cash Reserve Ratio of 4.5 per cent and Statutory Liquidity Ratio of 18 per cent of their deposits. When CRR can be in the form of cash holding or balance the RBI, it does not earn any interest for banks. The SLR is maintained by investment in permitted government securities, which earns low yield for the banks. In other words this is government borrowing from bank deposits and this in turn reduces the lending capacity of banks to others.

Banks are again mandated to lend to priority sectors like agriculture, small scale industries, etc., for which they charge a concessional rate of interest. Banks are targeted to provide 40 per cent of their credit to the priority sector with various sub targets for agriculture, etc.

(The author is a retired banker)

Equality remains an elusive dream

The fundamental right to equality stays on paper, for there exist several reasons for negation of the abiding dream of the Constitution



ISHANEE SHARMA

The idea of equality in India goes back to the days of the Vedic wisdom, which treated every individual as an embodiment of the divine spark. Equality as a spiritual and philosophical precept was founded on this theory of the divinity of humans. The Upanishads and the Dharmastras insisted that every individual should be given an equal opportunity to pursue the Purusharthas (the four-fold legitimate goals of life) without any arbitrary interference from any external agency, including the state, in order to enable him or her to realise his or her full personality.

Perhaps the notion of legal equality can be traced back to the natural law doctrine of the Stoics, which, in the name of universal reason, postulates equality of individuals, races and nations. However, only on a spiritual and philosophical plane it may be said that all people are equal, but in the actual world of material and social life it may not appear to be so.

There may exist natural inequalities as well as artificially created social inequalities and economic disparities among people and groups of people in society. In such a society, to pursue the principle of formal or legal equality, which insists that all people are to be treated equally by law, would be only to perpetuate the existing inequalities, for the same law for the ox and the lion is oppression. Therefore, the concept of equality to be meaningful and intelligible should essentially be a dynamic and relative concept, capable of accommodating the necessary equalisation strategies as permissible means to remove the existing social and economic inequalities and to secure the goal of equality and social justice.

While we celebrate the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, there still remains glaring inequalities in the society around us. The beloved dream of the makers of the Constitution is far from materialisation.

The adoption of our Constitution was also a declaration of a desire for a society where everyone would enjoy equal access to education, good health, freedom of speech and dissent, employment, and political participation.

Some people experience inequity from the beginning, because they are born blind, physically impaired, or mentally ill. We must be given exactly equal opportunity, intelligence, strength, health, and money if we were to be born equally.

Legality became a synonym for justice in the Athenian republic because it was derived from the Greek/Latin word aequalis, which meant the sameness of two objects in amount or value or as in the Islamic algebra, which is still in use today. It later came to be used interchangeably with the concept of liberty, which was first articulated by influential thinkers of the 18th and 19th centuries like John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, Friedrich Hegel, and later by Frenchmen like Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who



ANY VIBRANT SOCIETY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY REQUIRE THAT ALL HUMANS ARE TREATED EQUAL AND WITH DIGNITY. SUCH A CONVICTION WOULD OBVIOUSLY WARRANT A WISE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY ON THE GROUNDS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

(The author is a lawyer)



are known for the statement "Man is born free".

These concepts had a significant impact on our ancestors. It had a profound impact on the society, which was a colony of the British Empire. They battled against their oppressors after rising up in rebellion, won the war, and then went on to draft the clause that reads, "All men are created equal".

People who have lived in abject poverty are given hope when we say that there will be equality. However, if this hope is not realised, there will be strife between the "haves and have nots" in society. Additionally, according to Karl Marx, this disturbs society and may therefore spark a revolt. This is the fundamental idea of the disharmonic society that India has accepted, which implicitly includes the idea of conflict.

The overarching principle of equality is established in Article 14, which calls for equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws and forbids unjustified discrimination against individuals. It is acknowledged as a fundamental right in the Indian Constitution. No discrimination should exist on any grounds. The phrase "equal protection of the law" is a good one. Simply put, it means that everyone in comparable situations should be accorded the same rights and obligations. In essence, it means that everyone should be treated equally.

Equals and unequals cannot coexist on an equal footing or get equal treatment. The concept of equality before law does not mean absolute equality among human

beings which is not possible to achieve. It is a concept implying absence of any special privilege by reason of birth, creed or the like in favour of any individual, and also the equal subject of all individuals and classes to the ordinary law of the land. Equal protection of the laws does not postulate equal treatment of all persons without distinctions. What it postulates is the application of the same laws alike and without discrimination to all persons similarly situated. It denotes equality of treatment in equal circumstances.

The rule of law, in Dicey's opinion, is equality before the law. It means that no one is above the law and that ordinary courts have jurisdiction over everyone, regardless of status or circumstance. All people with identical circumstances must be treated equally in terms of the rights granted and obligations imposed by the law. There shouldn't be any distinction between one individual and another, and everyone should be subject to the same laws in the same circumstances. The rule is that similar things should be handled similarly rather than dissimilar things similarly.

In the case of Stephen's College v. University of Delhi, the court determined that the phrase "Equal protection of the laws" is now understood to be a positive obligation on the state to ensure equal protection of the law by enacting the necessary social and economic changes to ensure that everyone can enjoy equal protection of the law and nobody is denied such protection. The state violates its obligation to offer everyone the

same protection under the law if it ignores the existing inequality. Citizens of India and those who are not will get equal protection from the state.

The US Constitution's 14th Amendment serves as the foundation for the concept of "equal protection of the law". It stipulates that everyone in India should receive equal legal protection so they can exercise their legal rights without any exceptions or favouritism. This is a good idea since it suggests that the State has a responsibility to take steps to guarantee this right to all citizens. It makes the State responsible for taking all necessary actions to ensure that the promise of equal treatment of everyone is upheld. This rule states that like individuals should be treated similarly, yet it also states that unlike people shouldn't be treated similarly.

It hardly needs any mention that any vibrant society would undoubtedly require that all humans are treated equal and with dignity and that all must be supported to the fullest possible development. Such a conviction would obviously warrant a wise affirmative action policy on the grounds of social justice and equity. Here, one needs to know that while access could be ensured in a variety of ways, it is the equality of opportunity which is much more important than anything else as it requires the support of whole range of antecedent variables commencing from curriculum to pedagogy, differential inputs, assessment, remediation, feedback, attitude, institutional care, etc.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WHEN THE STUDENTS FACE THE WORLD, THEY WILL FACE THE GREAT DIVERSITY OF THE COUNTRY. SO THIS (HIJAB) CAN BE A CHANCE TO PREPARE THEM.
—KARNATAKA HIGH COURT JUDGE
SUDHANSHU DHULIA



IN A SCHOOL, HOW WILL YOU INCULCATE THE VALUES? THERE WILL BE MORE AND MORE CLAIMS AND WHERE WILL YOU DRAW THE LINE?
—ADVOCATE
VENKATARAMANI

New King of Britain has deep India connections

King Charles III understands the importance of India in achieving the world's climate action goals

Prince Charles, who held this title for a long time, acceded to the British throne after the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, last week. He has a robust Indian connection and has been familiar with Indians for decades. After his accession, he became Head of the Commonwealth, a group of 56 independent countries, representing 2.4 billion people, including India. India was a "jewel in the crown" of the British Empire.

To go back in history, the East India Company came to India in 1600 for trade, and by the 1800s, it had generated almost half of England's commerce. Soon India became a British colony. So, it is not surprising that several members of the British



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior journalist)

royal family visited India at various times.

Charles came to India 10 times as heir to the British throne, while his parents also visited thrice during the Queen's long reign. Charles indeed developed a warm relationship with India and its age-old traditions like Yoga, Ayurveda, and diversity. He once stated that "having had the pleasure of visiting India so many times, I've always been struck by her extraordinary diversity and the deep well of creativity, ingenuity and resilience upon which she draws. This is a source of great inspiration to me personally".

Charles has been a strong advocate for global environmental concerns and climate change. He understands the

importance of India in achieving the world's climate action goals. Over the decades, Charles developed close relations with many cities in India. They include Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Puri, and Punjab, apart from Delhi and Agra. He was comfortable with the Jaipur and Patiala royal families, who hosted him during his visits.

There were some embarrassing moments when the 16-year-old Bollywood actress Padmini Kolhapure gave him a peck on his cheek when he visited a Bollywood studio in 1980. The same year Charles had visited Haripur village in the Puri district, going through the bumpy roads in the heat and dust. He showed interest in coconut

plucking, basket weaving, and paddy harvesting.

Prince Charles and Princess Diana's first visit to the country revealed a strained marriage. The unhappy Diana sat alone outside the Taj Mahal on a bench in February 1992, while Charles was in Hyderabad. King Charles and his present Queen Camilla have a Bengaluru connection. Dr Issac Mathai has been the holistic physician of the Royal couple for the past 15 years. Another memorable event was his interaction with Mumbai's 'Dabbawallahs' in 2003. He was curious about how they ride bicycles, lift crates full of tiffins and provide them to many people with punctuality. He invited them for his second marriage

to Camilla Parker Bowles in 2005, where they presented a nine-yard Paithani saree for the bride and a kurta lehenga for the groom.

Charles even celebrated his 71st birthday with school children at the iconic Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai in November 2019.

The Jullianwallah bagh carnage in Punjab has popped up often, even during one of the Queen's visits. Before his tenth visit, to mollify the Sikhs, Charles sent good wishes to them across Britain and the Commonwealth on the 550th Birth Anniversary of the religion's founder Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Long-time patrons of the Asian Elephant Alliance, Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall wit-

nessed an official preview of the colourful elephant parade at the residence of the British High commissioner in Delhi in 2017. India has been changing since Independence with no fascination for colonialism. Colonial-era street names, redundant laws, and even flag symbols are changed. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi renamed the iconic Rajpath in Delhi to Kartavya path, claiming that "a new history has been created". The renovated avenue now has a statue of Subhash Chandra Bose in place of King George V.

Barely hours after the Queen's death, Indian social media made renewed calls to return the famous Koh-i-Noor, the 106-carat diamond discovered in India, which

has become part of the British crown jewels.

Charles hosted Modi in April 2018 at the Science Museum in London to establish a first-of-its-kind global network for evidence-based research on Yoga and Ayurveda. He spoke of his "great love for India" when he launched an emergency Covid appeal last year and helped raise millions for India.

Beyond his involvement with the Bharatiya Yuva Shikhi trust, an NGO set up by Lakshmi Venkatesan, daughter of former President R. Venkataraman, he also helped farmers through his British Asian Trust and his encouragement of practitioners of Indian traditional medicine in India and the UK.

MONEY MATTERS

ED attaches Rs 147-cr assets of Chandigarh-based realty group

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it has attached assets worth more than Rs 147 crore of a Chandigarh-based real estate group which is alleged to have duped many investors of crores of rupees by promising them flats and plots.

The attached properties include commercial spaces, residential houses, agriculture lands and bank accounts belonging to Gupta Builders and Promoters Pvt Ltd (GBPPL), its directors Satish Gupta, Pardeep Gupta and their associates Anupam Gupta and Navraj Mittal, the ED said in a statement. The total worth of the attached assets is Rs 147.81 crore. The directors of GBPPL, in "connivance" with other persons, siphoned off money collected from homebuyers, the statement said. This money through web of "fraudulent" transactions was invested in various movable and immovable properties which are proceeds of crime and the same are provisionally attached, it said. The probe found that an aggregate amount of Rs 478 crore was collected by the company from buyers and they (company and promoters) "duped" innocent buyers by promising them to deliver flats, plots, and commercial spaces, it said.



Birla Estates buys 10 acre land in Bengaluru for housing project

Realty firm Birla Estates on Thursday said it has acquired 10 acres of land in Bengaluru and will develop a housing project with expected sales potential of Rs 900 crore. Birla Estates Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Century Textiles and Industries Ltd, said in a statement that it has acquired a 10-acre land parcel at Raja Rajeshwari Nagar, South Bengaluru. "The project has a development potential of 1 million square feet with a revenue potential of Rs 900 crore," it added.

K T Jithendran, CEO, Birla Estates, said this will be company's fourth project in Bengaluru at Raja Rajeshwari Nagar. "This outright acquisition is in line with our aggressive expansion plans across key markets of Bengaluru, MMR, Pune and NCR regions," he said. Currently, Birla Estates has five ongoing residential developments spread across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Bengaluru, and the National Capital Region (NCR) with new projects planned in each of these markets.



India exports first consignment of plant-based meat products to US

India has exported the first consignment of plant-based meat products from Nadiad in Kheda district of Gujarat to California, the commerce ministry said on Thursday. "With the growing popularity of vegan food products in developed countries, the plant-based food products have a huge export potential in the international market due to the high nutrient value of the vegan food products," it said. Due to its rich fiber and lesser cholesterol contents, vegan food products are becoming alternative food products across the globe. "The first shipment that was exported to the US from Nadiad has vegan food products like momos, mini samosas, patties, nuggets, spring rolls, burgers," it added. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Authority (APEDA) Chairman M Angamuthu said that they are working towards promotion of plant-based meat products without disturbing the conventional animal-based meat export market.



Telecom bill provides roadmap for industry restructuring, innovation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday said that the new telecom bill will provide a clear roadmap for industry restructuring and promote innovation.

While speaking at a Public Affairs Forum of India event, the minister said in the next one-and-a-half years to two years, the government should be able to completely revamp the entire digital regulatory framework which aims to balance the societal objectives, duties and rights of individuals, technology agnostic framework etc.

"Industry does go through

"That doesn't mean that we simply go around and copy whatever is best in the world. That means we have to aim at creating a digital legal framework, which the world should come and study. That's a very big objective, but it's possible," Vaishnaw said



various phases. Sometimes because of business environments, technology changes and various other factors. There is a need for restructuring. How do you put that in the bill so that the industry gets a very

clear roadmap?

"If restructuring has to happen then these are the things that have to be taken care of. These are the things which are my rights, so that kind of clear framework has been put in this

bill," Vaishnaw said.

He said that the digital world needs a comprehensive set of legislations and the Prime Minister has given the telecom ministry the target that India's digital legal framework regula-

tory framework should be globally benchmarked.

"That doesn't mean that we simply go around and copy whatever is best in the world. That means we have to aim at creating a digital legal framework, which the world should come and study. That's a very big objective, but it's possible," Vaishnaw said. According to the draft telecommunication bill 2022, Over-the-top players like Whatsapp, Zoom and Google Duo which provide calling and messaging services may require licences to operate in the country. The draft bill has included OTT as part of the telecommunication service.

No sure-fire way to regulate fintech sector, onus on operators : RBI

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Executive Director Ajay Choudhary on Thursday said there is no "sure-fire way" to regulate fintech players, and made it clear that the onus is on such entities to operate in a balanced way.

He said entities in the sector ought to have the right intent while coming out with offerings and robust governance for the orderly growth of the sector.

"There is no sure-fire way to regulate the fintechs in a manner that maximises their positive impact while simultaneously protecting the financial system and customers against the risks," Choudhary said speaking at the Global Fintech Fest here.



"If the goal is protecting and furthering the interest of customers and orderly development of the financial system then the actor of the great balancing act has to be the fintech sector itself," he said.

"I believe be in life or in business, balance comes from focusing on the right things. In my opinion it cannot come only from regulation.

Regulation can only be a supporting constituent while fintech themselves have to drive the great balancing act," he added.

Choudhary said he would prescribe the fintech players to focus on customer centricity and governance, and not look at the latter as merely compliance.

The comments come at a time when the RBI has been upping its focus on the fintech sector and its recently released guidelines on digital lending apps have caused a flutter with some entities expressing concerns.

Earlier, Choudhary said regulators' key role is to find a balance and added that sustainability is about balancing the needs of the future with the wants of today.

Sensex falls for 2nd day; down 337 points post Fed rate hike

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices fell on Thursday, mirroring weak global market trends following the US Federal Reserve's interest rate hike and hawkish stance.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 337.06 points or 0.57 per cent to settle at 59,119.72. During the day, it tanked 624 points or 1.04 per cent to 58,832.78. The NSE Nifty went lower by 88.55 points or 0.50 per cent to end at 17,629.80.

Among the 30-share Sensex pack, Power Grid, HDFC Bank, HDFC, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank and UltraTech Cement were the major laggards. On the other hand, Titan, Hindustan



Unilever, Asian Paints, Maruti and ITC were among the gainers. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

European bourses were trading in the red in mid-session deals. The US markets ended in the negative territory

on Wednesday.

"Fed turned more hawkish than anticipated increasing its rate forecast to 4.4 per cent by the end of 2022. The indication is that 125 bps more rate hikes can be expected in the next 2 policy meetings scheduled this year.

Six months jail term to former promoters of Fortis Healthcare

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday awarded six months jail term to former promoters of Fortis Healthcare Ltd, Malvinder Singh, and Shivinder Singh, in a case related to the sale of shares of Fortis to Malaysia-based IHH Healthcare.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit also awarded six months jail term to the former promoters of Fortis Healthcare who were earlier held guilty of contempt. The top court also ordered a forensic audit of the share sale in Fortis Healthcare Ltd. Everything goes back to the executing court, the CJ said. The former promoters of Fortis Healthcare Ltd were facing the court battle after a Japanese firm, Daiichi Sankyo, had challenged the Fortis-IHH share deal to recover the Rs 3,600 crore arbitra-

tration award that it had won before a Singapore tribunal against the Singh brothers.

The IHH-Fortis deal is stuck due to the legal fight between Daiichi and the former promoters of Fortis Healthcare. In 2018, when some Indian lenders sold the pledged shares of Fortis Healthcare to the Malaysia-based firm, Daiichi went to court alleging that the former promoters of Fortis had assured them that their shares in the Indian hospital chain will cover the arbitral award amount. Fortis Healthcare, in a statement, said, We understand that the proceedings before the Hon'ble Supreme Court have concluded with certain directions and the suo-motu contempt has been disposed of. We will go by the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and will be seeking legal advice regarding our future course of action.

Rs 36,999 crore cash credit limit sanctioned for paddy procurement

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday sanctioned the first instalment of the cash credit limit for Rs 36,999 crore for the month of October, for the forthcoming paddy procurement season.

The balance amount of Rs 7,500 crore for the month of November 2022 is expected to be released after the first instalment is consumed, chief minister Bhagwant Mann said, as per an official statement here. He said that the early sanction of the cash credit limit will ensure timely preparations for the forthcoming paddy procurement season and facilitate payments directly into the farmers accounts from October 1.



ICCS plans to hire over 7,000 people in next 12 months

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Business process outsourcing service provider ICCS on Thursday said it plans to hire over 7,000 people in the next 12 months across business verticals.

ICCS currently has delivery centres in eight locations and manages 15 million customer interactions every month with the support of over 6,600 executives, ICCS said in a statement.

The company will consider hiring 7,000 talent in a variety of areas, including customer support, operations, outbound and inbound support, market research, human resource, finance, marketing, customer satisfaction surveys among others.

ICCS, after generating Rs 115 crore in revenue in 2021 2022, now aims to reach Rs 175 crore by the end of this financial year.

Rupee tanks 90 paise to close at all-time low of 80.86 against US\$

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 90 paise to close at an all-time low of 80.86 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday after the US Federal Reserve's interest rate hike and its hawkish stance weighed on investor sentiments. Forex traders said the US Fed's rate hike and escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine sapped risk appetite. Moreover, the strength of the American currency in the overseas market, a muted trend in domestic equities, risk-off mood and firm crude oil prices weighed on the rupee.

India defends its decision to ban rice, wheat exports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has defended its decision to ban export of wheat and rice at a WTO meeting even as some member countries have flagged concerns over the country's stand, an official said.

At a meeting last week in Geneva, Senegal, the US and the European Union raised questions over this decision, stating it could have adverse implications on global markets. In May, India restricted export of wheat to enhance domestic availability. This month, it also banned export of broken rice and imposed a 20 per cent export duty on non-Basmati rice except for parboiled rice to boost domestic supplies amid a fall in area



under paddy crop in the current kharif season.

Defending its decision, India clarified that the ban on export of broken rice, which is used in poultry feed, follows a rise in the grain's exports in recent months which put pressure on the domestic market.

In the case of wheat, food

security concerns necessitated export curbs.

India has also stated that the measures are temporary in nature and under continuous monitoring, the official said.

Senegal, a major importer of India's broken rice and other rice products, urged India to keep trade open in these diffi-

cult times to ensure food sufficiency, the official added.

At the meeting, Thailand, Australia, Uruguay, the US, Australia, Canada, Brazil, New Zealand, Paraguay, and Japan requested for consultations with India regarding the use of the peace clause to protect its food programmes against action from trade disputes.

In April, India invoked the peace clause, for the third time, for exceeding the 10 per cent ceiling on support it offers to rice farmers. It informed the World Trade Organization that it has used the peace clause of the WTO to provide excess support measures to rice farmers for marketing year 2020-21 in order to meet the domestic food security needs of its poor population.

'Knowledge, innovation key words for industry'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Knowledge, innovation and sustainability are going to be the key words for the industry in the coming years and companies which will invest in research will become leaders, a top government official said on Thursday.

Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Anurag Jain said industry is going to be driven by knowledge, innovation and sustainability in the coming 25 years. "Only that particular company will become leader which invests in research, and innovation," he said at a function here.

MFIs' gross loan portfolio rises 23.5% to Rs 2.93 lakh cr 2022

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Micro lenders' gross loan portfolio (GLP) rose by 23.5 per cent to Rs 2,93,154 crore in the April-June quarter of 2022 compared to the year-ago period, a report said on Thursday.

The GLP grew 2.7 per cent during the June quarter compared to Rs 2.85 lakh crore at the end of the preceding March quarter, the report by industry lobby grouping and RBI-recognised self regulatory organization Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) said.

The body's chief executive and director Alok Misra said he expects a further strengthening of the portfolios in the coming quarters with a supportive operating and regulatory environment.

"After the announcement of harmonized regulations for microfinance in Mar'22, most institutions took some time in making policy changes and

adapting to the new guidelines, but the industry was still able to record a growth of 23.5 per cent in portfolio, he said, reflecting on the quarter gone by. Its chairperson Devesh Sachdev said the credit quality of post-Covid disbursements is at 95 per cent plus.

"During the remaining period of FY22-23, riding on robust branch expansion, pent up demand and conducive policy, the sector is poised for sustainable growth, Sachdev said.

Banks continue to hold the largest share in the GLP but the same has slipped to 38.4 per cent in June from 40 per cent in March, the report said, adding that dedicated NBFC-MFIs are the second largest provider of micro-credit with a 35 per cent share in GLP.

The small finance banks have a 16.9 per cent share in the GLP, while other NBFCs have a 8.8 per cent share, it said.

FICCI REPORT ON FIVE KEY INDUSTRIES

Rs 58,521 crore in taxes lost due to illicit trade in products

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The exchequer is estimated to have lost Rs 58,521 crore in taxes in 2019-20 due to illicit trade in goods in 5 key industries, including FMCG, mobile phone, tobacco products and alcohol, a Ficci report said on Thursday.

The report estimates the size of illicit markets in these industries at a little over Rs 2.60 lakh crore for the year 2019-20, with the FMCG industry accounting for 75 per cent of the total illicit value of goods in five key industries. "The estimated tax loss to the government due to illicit goods in these five key

industries is Rs 58,521 crore," said the report titled 'Illicit Markets: A Threat to Our National Interests' by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCAD). The two highly regulated and taxed industries, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages, account for nearly 49 per cent of the overall tax loss to the government due to illicit markets in these five key industries. The maximum number of jobs (7.94 lakh) were lost due to illicit trade in the FMCG packaged foods industry, followed by tobacco industry



(3.7 lakh), FMCG household and personal goods industry

(2.989 lakh), alcoholic beverages industry (97,000), and

mobile phone industry (35,000). The tax loss to the

government due to illicit trade in these five sectors stood at Rs 17,074 crore (FMCG packaged foods), Rs 15,262 crore (alcoholic beverages), Rs 13,331 crore (tobacco products), Rs 9,995 crore (FMCG household and personal goods), and Rs 2,859 crore (mobile phones).

"The impact of the illicit market of these key industries on the economy is pervasive and significant because of the backward linkages of these industries with other sectors of the economy resulting in a multiplier effect. Higher the multiplier, higher is its overall effect on the economy," the report said.

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Name of the Work : Providing Special arrangements at Hitex on the Eve of World Tourism Day Celebrations, Hyderabad-2022. Estimate Cost : Rs. 40.00 Lakhs. Downloading Start Date : 23.09.2022. Bids are invited on e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders. Further details can be seen www.tender.telangana.gov.in
GPR No. : 715-EPCL-AgencyAdvt/1/2022-2023 Sd/- Managing Director

TELANGANA STATE POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Telangana Undertaking)
PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION-14
Tenders for Civil works are invited for Tender Nos. T74 to T79/2022-23 dated 20-06-2022 for works:
Tender Nos. Works Situated in districts & Total ECPs (Rs. in Lakhs) respectively as follows: T74 & T75- Hyderabad-2-37.55; T76-Suryapet-1-118.70; T77-Rajanna, Sircilla-1-120.71; T78-Nagarkurnool-1-34.11; T79-Warangal-1-465.87. Schedule available in online from: 21-06-2022 onwards. Last date/time for submission of bids for Tender No. T74, T75, T77 and T78/2022-23, Dt. 28-09-2022/5.00PM (STN). Last date/time for submission of bids for Tender No. T76 & T79/2022-23, Dt. 07-10-2022/5.00PM. Further details can be seen at website @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in
B.O.No: 7086/PPADVT/1/2022-23, Dt. 22.09.2022 Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER

Newbie Pooja Pandey climbs the ladder of success

The Pioneer connects with debutant actress Pooja Pandey, who plays the leading lady in *Siya* and the newbie, takes us through some BTS of *Siya*, getting into the character of a 17-year-old rape survivor, among others.

TEJAL SINHA

Director Manish Mundra brings to screen the struggles faced by rape survivors in a subtle, yet powerful way through his recently released *Siya*, starring Vineet Kumar Singh and debutant Pooja Pandey.

Raw and as real as it gets, *Siya* is an uncompromising look at the harsh reality women around the world continue to face. A plight for justice, a fight for what's right, the film takes audiences through the journey of the protagonist who navigates a man's world. The story revolves around this uncompromising look at the harsh reality women around the world continue to face. A plight for justice, a fight for what's right, the film takes audiences through the journey of the protagonist who navigates a man's world. The story further takes us to the journey of this brave 17-year-old girl, who fights to get justice for a mishap that took place with her.

After connecting with Vineet Kumar Singh, we now talk to Pooja Pandey, the protagonist in the film. Taking us through all of the preparations that the debutant had made, she shares with us exclusively, and says, "Everything was going at such a fast speed that I did not get time to do the workshop. We had gone to this village, where my creative producer was born and brought up in the same place. I was staying at her house to understand the language, culture, and how the girls used to stay there and what the issues that they used to face." Pooja, who also happens to be the real-life sister of *Arjun Reddy* fame Shalini Pandey, further reveals that she had gone to some random places to talk to the girls about what problems they faced. She actually even tried to talk to the families too. But, she says, "They were a little shy or didn't want to talk about it, but whatever information I could get, I used it in my character. In between, I also watched videos of a few



very sensitive topic. She continues, "There have been many horrifying scenes. Joh ki mere live ghusna aur usse nikalna bahut hi mushkil raha hai. I

have seen the film in different screenings over 7 or 8 times and I was as emotional as I was when watching it for the first time. I'm still not out of character. I still get those goosebumps. This character has been relatable, and this is one of the reasons it was easy for me to play the character. Every girl goes through such instances at some point in their life. I even went through something too. I believe as an actor you put up your real life experiences in your character and that's how you feel and show them to the audience. " *Siya* has also marked the directorial debut of Manish Mundra, who has produced numerous Bollywood films like *Ankhor*

Chowdhury, and Bikash Bhattacharjee to name a few. Several of these artworks are appearing in an auction for the first time.

Talking about the upcoming auctions, Sneha Gautam, Vice President, Client Relations, AstaGuru Auction House states, "We are very happy to present these two extremely diverse and interesting collections of works in our upcoming 'Present Future' and 'Modern Treasures' auctions. The 'Present Future' auction represents prevalent art trends and gives an insight into the future of contemporary Indian art while the 'Modern Treasures' auction presents a wholesome view of the journey of Modern Indian Art, with works spanning multiple

The Metamorphosis of Indian Art with Modern and Contemporary Art Auctions

periods and genres.

The Indian art market is constantly expanding and witnessing new possibilities in terms of the influx of important works. So, we have finely curated the catalogues to bring works that are not only rare and unique but also shed a light on extremely important phases in the career of these artists. These auctions are a great opportunity for our collectors to add great aesthetic value to their art collection."

Nataraj Sharma's stunning work titled 'Swimmers Manual' is an oil on canvas work executed in 2018, spanning 9 feet. Nataraj's art practice offers incisive commentary about the complex relationship between humans, landscapes, and urbanisation. Executed with a unique visual code that adds new connotations to already familiar imagery, these large-scale works are dramatic, broody, quiescent, and defiant, all at the same time. The work has previously been part of the artist's solo exhibition titled 'Swimmer's Manual and Other Stories' at Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai organized by Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi, from April 8 to May 11, 2018. It also features on the cover of this auction's catalogue. It will be offered at an estimate of INR 30,00,000-35,00,000.

Dekhi, Masaan, Kadvi Hawa and many more to his credit. On sharing her experience working with the debutant director as well as her co-star, Vineet Kumar Singh, who plays the character of Mahender, who has also been fighting for *Siya* to get justice, she says, "It was a very good experience working with Manish Sir. I was familiar with Drishyam productions, but I had no idea who Manish Mundra was. I always wanted to work on the films that the production house is known for. There's this one thing about Sir that I liked; it was his first directorial debut, but it didn't look like his debut. He left his actors pretty free. Even though I was a newbie, he was also open to my advice for a few scenes. When it comes to working with Vineet, even after being such a big personality, he has been a very grounded person. He is just like you and me. He is a very humble person, with zero attitude towards being a star. He guided me throughout the shooting. He actually treated me like his own sister." Pooja is one of those who would love to work on performance-oriented films rather than anything else. She says content is what really matters. As of now, on the work front, the *Siya* actress is currently giving auditions but signs off, revealing, "Before *Siya*, there were many projects that I had rejected because I was not getting the roles similar to that of *Siya*."



A still from the film

SHIKHA DUGGAL

An interesting love story between a stand-up comedian, and the object of his affections, takes a turn when a ghost named Makhan Singh essayed by Jackie Shroff enters their love story, asking Srikant essayed by Pratik Gandhi, to honour a promise he had made to him as he was Makhan's grandfather in the previous birth.

What the veteran Jackie wanted is to let the movie sit in his fans' heart. "The purity of my character is what touched my soul. To me pure doesn't mean flawless but forgiving easily and never holding any grudges. I have never done that in my real life as well. To work with a new-age coming actor like Pratik Gandhi who became an overnight sensation, was still a learning. Though I have been here in the industry since so long. He's so very disciplined and so am I. And,

whenever the cameras weren't rolling I was incessant on teaching the cast about medicinal herbs (he giggled)."

So compelled to make a quality film looking at all the competition in the industry, Athiti Bhooto Bhava on Zee5, comes as a breather for him.

He continued, "The appealing moment was when I was told that I have to play a village soul. Couldn't have turned it down because there is passionate search and intense fulfillment to explore here. Even if I am living in the hustle bustle of Mumbai city. I am still the plain sailing man who was born as Jaikishan Kakubhai Shroff. And, when I fell in love with Ayesha, she taught me how love is eternal and that's what I am holding onto in this venture. Respect, flexibility and trust has held us together till date. I believe in saat janam wala ishq."

Because film is such a collaborative medium, it requires multiple artists with various talents all working together to make one cohesive product.

And, that's what happened on the sets. But, we tend to even know how love has changed

Over an exclusive interview with The Pioneer, the veteran actor Jackie Shroff, gets candid about working with new-age coming actor, a believer of 'Saat Janam ishq', and much more



MOVE TOWARDS A ZERO WASTE LIFESTYLE

Consider how many trash bags each family in your neighbourhood would dispose of in a single week? Try to imagine how many trash bags each household in the world disposes of each week.

Researchers from the World Bank, estimate that the amount of solid trash produced globally each day is at least 3.5 million tonnes which is ten times more than it was a century ago. The impact of a large amount of garbage being produced combined with the conspicuous consequences of pollution and deforestation called for a shift in attitudes, lifestyles, and behaviours.

A zero-waste lifestyle aims to send nothing to a landfill. This way of living uses sound judgement to reduce consumption to significantly reduce pollution, climate change, and global warming. Landfills are toxic in nature. Due to improper aeration for the decomposition of natural materials, they produce a significant amount of methane emissions. Toxins from electronics, cleaners, and other items that shouldn't be disposed of in landfills can pollute soil and leach into groundwater and the ocean. In fact, we're all aware that most of the trash doesn't even reach landfills and can be seen on roadsides and in water bodies.

The older generation has the most experience living zero-waste lifestyles. Recall how our parents used to reuse milk packets, jars, and other containers as well as how we'd always find one large bag filled with numerous small polythene bags waiting to be utilized. We

wouldn't have to worry as much about the waste we're producing if we adopted the little habits that our parents have been trying to instil in us since we were young children.

Our existing way of life is predicated on a linear economy, where we take resources out of the earth and then discard them after our needs have been met. The goal of the zero-waste lifestyle is to move us toward a circular economy where we lose sight of the idea of trash. We create a system that allows all resources to be entirely put back into the environment rather than disposing of used resources in the land. If we only consider what we use, consume, and wear, we can efficiently manage our waste. The majority of the products we mindlessly keep purchasing, believing that we are not adding to waste at the purchase level, were made with a lot of garbage.

The most excellent way to lessen this upstream waste is to avoid falling for marketing ploys and only make purchases when they are truly necessary. Thrifting and second-hand buying have also gained popularity as a way to lessen the environmental impact of our lifestyles. Another benefit is the money that is ultimately saved. Another method to become conscious of our waste is to observe what lands in our garbage bins. If the majority of our waste consists of polythene bags, fruit peels, and the like, we know that the next step is to learn how to reuse and repurpose plastic and use those fruit peels constructively for composting.

'I am still the plain sailing man, born as Jaikishan Kakubhai Shroff'



what's brewing?



● M. Prashanti



● Dr. S. Arun Kumar



● Sailaja Reddy



● Annapurna Gadepalli



● Madhu



● Indira



● Rimsha

PARTY

Photos by SV Chary



● Amina Amee



The 6th India Horeca Expo brings the food and hospitality fraternity together once a year, which helps, meet face-to-face and build key relationships with key buyers and decision makers in the hospitality and food service industry. The event will end on Saturday, September 24, at Hall No. 2, Hitec Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad.



● Sanjana



● Avnish and Priya



● Arvind Kumar, Mohammad Ali Baig, and Madhu Goud Yaskhi

The regal Coronation Hall of Falaknuma Palace witnessed Mohammad Ali Baig's bio-play 'Under an Oak Tree', written by Noor Baig and produced by Begum Razia Baig. Seen at the hi-tea were diplomats, top cops, bureaucrats, politicians, and the city's who's who.



● Orhan Yalman Okan, Anjani Kumar, and Gareth Owen



● Noor Baig



D. E. Shaw India Private Limited ("DESIS"), a part of the D. E. Shaw group announced the opening of an additional office in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. The inauguration of the new office coincided with the celebration of the firm's 25th anniversary of operations in Hyderabad and was commemorated at an on-site event attended by Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary of the Industries & Commerce (I&C) and Information Technology (IT) Departments of the Telangana government as the chief guest.

FUN

ARCHIE



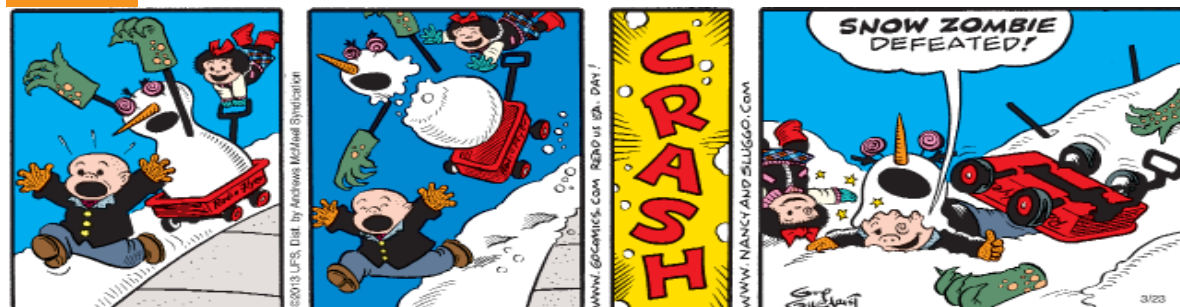
CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



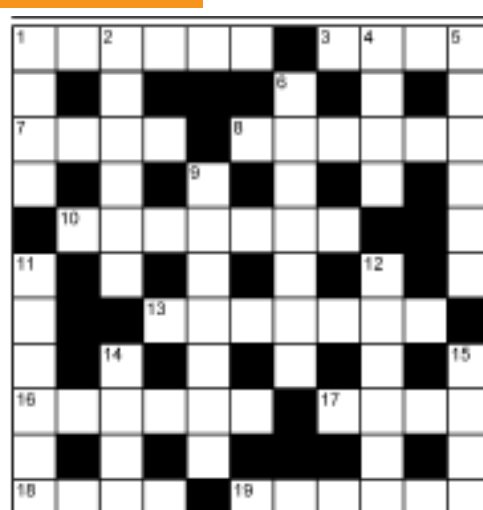
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 The least dangerous
- 3 Become larger
- 7 A great river in Egypt
- 8 A black symbol on playing cards
- 10 Alters
- 13 A bright red colour
- 16 An archer fires at this
- 17 Do a sketch
- 18 The capital city of Italy
- 19 Every twelve months

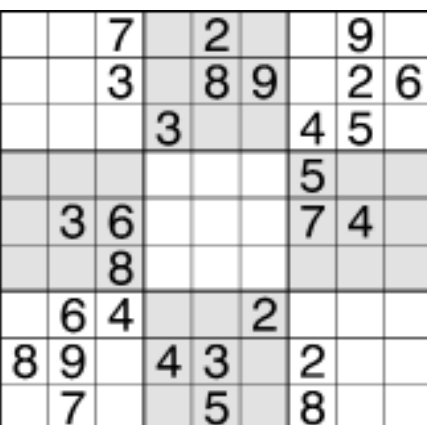
DOWN

- 1 Extremely dirty
- 2 Very impolite
- 5 Cleaned with soap and water
- 6 Comes into sight
- 9 Bumped
- 11 Quicker
- 12 Extreme fear
- 14 A percussion instrument
- 15 Absent

SOLUTION



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

‘Acting for me is recollecting memories’

Actor Naga Shaurya, who is all excited about his upcoming film *Krishna Vrinda Vihari*, talks about acting, working with legendary actress Raadhika Sarathkumar, and much more.

AMARTYA SMARAN

It was in 2014, when Srinivas Avasarala's *Oohalu Gusagusalade*, a smashing hit, was played to the audience, and turned out to be an instant crowd favourite. The film launched the careers of the lead actors, Naga Shaurya and Raashi Khanna.

Naga Shaurya, known for his charming looks and personality, is coming up with his new release, *Krishna Vrinda Vihari*, in theatres from today. The film has been bankrolled by his own production house, Ira Creations, and has been handled by director Anil V Krishna, cameraman Sai Sriram. It has music by Mahati Swara Sagar.

The film features Naga Shaurya, debutant Shirley Setia in the leading roles, while Radhika Sarathkumar, Vennela Kishore, Rahul Ramakrishna, Satya and Brahmaji will be seen in supporting roles.

The trailer promises a clean family entertainer with all the commercial elements that ought to be present in a good flick. The *Oh! Baby* actor will be seen playing an orthodox Brahmin boy, whose story revolves around Doctor Satya's (Vennela Kishore) coming back from a coma. In addition to that, the obstacles he faces in order to win over his love interest will cover the major portions of the movie.

Different actors approach their characters differently. There are many books on acting and various methods that have been built around the craft. The great acting teachers like Lee Strasberg, Sanford Meisner, and Stella Adler have each, come up with their own methods.

Even though the *Oohalu Gusagusalade* star didn't confirm which method he follows, it seemed like he has been inclined more towards using Lee Strasberg's technique of using emotional memory to slip into his characters.

During a press conference, in response to *The Pioneer's* question, he said, "Let's say someone loses their mother; a person gets cheated on by his/her lover; and lastly, he/she loses a friend. In all these situations, the common emotion is loss, but the way we cry and react to each of these situations changes. I feel, unknowingly, we all experience and observe some of these scenarios. When the director narrates a scene with a certain emotion, my ability to recollect those moments from my life that are relevant to the scene is what makes me an actor, and that's what I believe acting is."

The *Chalo* actor has had the opportunity of a lifetime to work with the legendary actress Radhika Sarathkumar. When asked about his experience working with her, he recalled, "There's a big sequence between Radhika Garu and Shirley in the movie. The scene was staged in a manner, where I was in the middle, and I had no dialogue to deliver. So, I had the opportunity to just stand there, and witness her acting prowess from such close proximity. I think it's a blessing to have worked with her, and it was truly a great experience."

The *Lakshya* actor devised a new promotional strategy for the film. You must have seen AP CM Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy setting out on a Pada Yatra, and more recently, Rahul Gandhi embarking

on a 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. The actor participated in a 7-day walkathon, stretching from Tirupati to Visakhapatnam, to promote his film and reach out to the audience. Perhaps, it is the first apolitical 'Pada Yatra' done by anyone.

Many stars like Allu Arjun, Jr. NTR, Nani, and Kamal Haasan have played the orthodox-Brahmin characters, and they've always managed to impress the audience. This time around, Naga Shaurya looks super confident that he will score a hit with *Krishna Vrinda Vihari*. No matter how big or small the film is in terms of budget, audiences these days are quick to reject movies that are low on content.

Whether the film works out at the box-office or not, is something that the actor needs to wait and see.



Captain Miller to bring the regional savour of Telugu audience

The National-Award winning superstar Dhanush's high-budget period film *Captain Miller* to be directed by Arun Matheswaran has been launched grandly with a pooja ceremony. Versatile actor Sundeep Kishan, who is playing a significant role, and the gorgeous Priyanka Mohan who will be seen opposite Dhanush have also graced the occasion. *Captain Miller* grabbed the attention with its spectacular first-look motion poster. The team is setting high

expectations, before starting the project, with massive announcements. The movie also features many noted actors in important roles.

With this amazing star cast combination, *Captain Miller* will have the regional flavour that savours the tastes of Telugu audiences as well. This is going to be the biggest budgeted film in Dhanush's career. This period film set against the backdrop of the 1930s-40s is presented by T.G. Thyagarajan of Sathya Jyothi Films and produced by Sendhil Thyagarajan and Arjun Thyagarajan. The film is co-produced by G. Saravanan and Sai Siddharth.

Madhan Karky who worked for films like *Baahubali* franchise, *RRR*, and *Pushpa* has penned dialogues for the Tamil version of the movie. The other technicians include GV Prakash Kumar scoring music, Shreyas Krishna handling cinematography, Nagooran taking care of editing, wherein T. Ramalingam is the art director. *Captain Miller* will be released simultaneously in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi.

Makers of Chay's next introduce their head technical team

Naga Chaitanya's upcoming project, tentatively titled *NC22*, marks his first Telugu-Tamil bilingual film. Actress Kriti Shetty will be playing the lead role, opposite Naga Chaitanya in this film. The film also marks director Venkat Prabhu's first Telugu film.

The film is being produced by Srinivasa Chitturi, under the banner of Srinivasa Silver Screen. Meanwhile, the music is being scored by the legendary music directors father and son Isaigani Ilayaraja and Yuvan Shankar Raja. Being the first film of both of them together, this combination is sure to



be a chartbuster album. *NC22* is one of the biggest films of Chay's career.

The makers recently announced that the film will start shooting on September 21, 2022. As mentioned earlier, the shooting started in Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad on massive sets.

The makers have announced that many famous actors and famous technicians are working in this

film. The technical team was introduced on Thursday.

The cinematography is handled by SR Kathir, dialogues have been penned by Abburi Ravi, and Venkat Rajan is onboard for editing. The highly talented Rajeevan was roped in for the production design.

Art director D.Satyanarayana who provides excellent art work has been selected for this film.

International action director Yannick Benn and Mahesh Mathew are also designing the action episodes to compose the crucial action sequences.

The latest updates given by the producers introducing the team has increased the expectations of the fans and the audience on the project.

The makers will soon announce other details related to the film.

‘Renaming the university cannot erase the fame he earned’

Grandson of former Chief Minister of AP, Jr NTR, the Telugu actor reacted to the latest controversy on health university. The actor issued a statement on replacing his grandfather's name NT Rama Rao from the health university with Y.S. Rajasekhra Reddy. He said removing NTR's name doesn't erase the fame and good deeds he did for the Telugu people.

Jr NTR issued a statement in Telugu,

which loosely translates into English, "Both NTR and YSR are great leaders who have gained immense popularity. The respect brought by such taking one's name and naming one's name does not raise the stature of YSR, it does not lower the stature of NTR. Renaming the university cannot erase the fame NTR earned, his stature in the history of the Telugu nation, and his memories in the hearts of the Telugu people."

Now chief Minister YS Jagan has renamed the health university formed by NT Rama Rao to his father and former CM the late Y.S. Rajasekhra Reddy. In 1986 NTR formed a separate health university to promote medical education in united Andhra Pradesh. After the death of NTR, the then chief minister Chandrababu Naidu named the university after the matinee idol-turned politician-CM. Now, the replacement of the name has trig-



gered a controversy in the state and the public. Jr NTR is regarded as a man of the masses, not just as an actor but a politician. Although he is the grandson of popular actor and former Andhra Chief Minister NT Rama Rao, and stated many times that he is not interested in joining politics, he never misses a moment to put his statement out in the public every time

when it comes to his family and the party his grandad formed, Telugu Desam.

After the grand success of SS Rajamouli's magnum opus *RRR*, Jr NTR is all over the news as he has joined the predicted list of Oscars 2022 under Best Actor category. Up next, he has joined hands with filmmaker Prashanth Neel for *NTR31*.



Krithi Shetty launches her own NGO Nishna

Krithi Shetty celebrated her birthday recently. The actress who made her debut just one and half years ago has made good money quickly. Six of her films hit the theaters in a short period.

While she scored a hat-trick of hits at the beginning of her career, she also scored three flops in a row recently. But she is thankful to her fans and the audiences for all the love and success.

She has now decided to do some charity work, and launched an NGO of her own, named Nishna after her parents.

"Have learnt so much about my

job and my life and I'm so happy to be announcing the beginning of a new journey my NGO - Nishna-feed the need Nishna (is a combination of my parents name) and also means bliss which I wish to bring to other people's lives...for the LONGEST time I've had this dream and I feel so grateful to have received so much support and love that I could afford to give it back...(sic)," she wrote.

Krithi Shetty also thanked her fans. "Thank you so much everyone and especially to all the fan pages who on the occasion of my birthday have donated, fed so many people all wonderful things have made me so proud...you are the best(sic)."

On the work front, she has Naga Chaitanya's 22nd film and Suriya's *Achaludu* on the sets.

Southern sensation Rashmika Mandanna, who is all set to make her Bollywood debut with *Good Bye* starring megastar Amitabh Bachchan, said that for her, dubbing in Hindi was a little challenging.

Rashmika Mandanna is playing the role of Tara Bhalla in the Vikas Bahl directorial. She is fierce, she is amusing and she also questions every stereotypical decision. She believes in logic but ends up understanding the importance of emotions.

The film also marks Rashmika's first time in dubbing an entire movie in Hindi.

She said, "Dubbing is a very difficult task for me, all the time and in

all the languages. It is the hardest thing that I have to do for a film. For me, dubbing in Hindi was a little challenging but at the same time, I also learnt a new language. I have one more language in my kitty."

Goodbye is a story that touches every emotional chord in your heart and makes you realise the importance of your loved ones along with the down-turns of life. Rashmika will also be sharing screen space with Neena

Gupta, Sunil Grover, Pavail Gulati, Ashish Vidyarthi, and Elli AvrRam in the film.

Produced by Ekta Kapoor's Balaji Motion Pictures in association with Good Co., *GoodBye* is all set for worldwide release in cinemas on October 7.

Rashmika Mandanna: Dubbing in Hindi was a little challenging



DO-OR-DIE GAME FOR INDIA

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Jasprit Bumrah's fitness status will be a matter of attention when an out of sorts Indian team will look at course correction options against Australia in the second T20 International and strive to keep the three-match series alive, here Friday.

Bumrah, who has been out of action since the end of England tour, skipped the Asia Cup due to back injury.

However, to everyone's surprise, the team management didn't play him during the high-scoring first T20I in Mohali, raising doubts whether he has still attained peak fitness or not.

To compound the team's worries, the 'three-and-a-half' pronged pace attack, including Hardik Pandya, conceded 150 runs in 14 overs.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the seasoned pro, has already been taken to cleaners. He has leaked 49 runs in the three penultimate overs (19th) that he bowled against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia.

In this backdrop, a fit and fiery Bumrah is a pre-requisite for India as the home bowlers are increasingly being found out on batting belters.

The worst part about the team is that with five more official T20Is left before the opening T20 World Cup game against Pakistan on October 23, the Indian team looks highly unsettled.

If the approach of top three was a problem going into the Asia Cup, the bigger worry has been the bowling which has been exposed in good batting conditions.

Yuzvendra Chahal, who has been India's go-to spinner in all conditions, isn't looking menacing anymore. He has been expensive in the last few games and he will have to find a way to trouble the batters on wickets which doesn't offer much purchase.

However, all-rounder Axar Patel, who



India vs Australia
Live from 7:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

was shoed in as a like-for-like replacement of injured Ravindra Jadeja, has once again proved his worth with a three-wicket haul on Tuesday.

India were also sloppy on the field, as they were guilty of dropping three catches, which drew criticism from former head coach Ravi Shastri.

In batting, India's aggressive approach reaped dividends as KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav took the team beyond the 200-mark after top order batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were dismissed early.

Designated finisher Dinesh Karthik didn't get much chance on Tuesday and is likely to be given extended game time with the management looking to keep all options open going into the world cup.

Australia, on the other hand, have looked like a well-oiled machine, despite the absence of key players such as David Warner, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis and Mitchell Marsh.

All-rounder Cameron Green nicely slipped into the shoes of Warner with a sizzling fifty at the top in only his second T20I, while Steven Smith and debutant Tim David also gave the team the required impetus with crucial cameos.

The experienced Matthew Wade too lived up to the finisher's role with a stellar 45 not out off 21 and India will have to pull up their socks to stop Australia from going on a rampage.

Australia, however, would hope for a more disciplined show from their bowling unit after the pace trio of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Green bled runs in Mohali.

The wicket at VCA stadium, however, will be different than the Mohali track. It is expected to be on the slower side, which will make bowlers' role more prominent in this game.

With dew setting in the evening, teams will prefer to chase than defend totals.

4 injured in rush to buy tickets in Hyderabad

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Four people got injured when a stampede-like situation prevailed on Thursday at the Gymkhana Grounds in the city, where thousands of cricket-lovers gathered to buy tickets for the India-Australia T20 match scheduled here for September 25.

The injured people, including two women, were hospitalised and were fine, police said.

The stampede-like situation took place as a large crowd tried to get in at once when it rained, they said.

Police said they faced a tough time in managing the situation.

About 15,000 people gathered at the ground and some of them said they arrived there early on Thursday.

Some of them alleged that tickets were sold in black.

Telangana Sports Minister V Srinivas Goud on Wednesday said tough action would be taken against those selling tickets in black.

Media reports said the rush for tickets is because Hyderabad is hosting an international match after over two years.



Experience of playing IPL in India helped to stay calm: Tim David

PTI ■ NAGPUR

The experience of playing in his IPL stint helped him to stay calm under pressure during the opening T20I, said big-hitting Singapore-born Australian Tim David on Thursday.

The 26-year-old made his IPL debut for Royal Challengers Bangalore in Sharjah against Chennai Super Kings last year. He was then bought by Mumbai Indians and played eight matches for the franchise this year.

"I think having had the experience of playing in India before and playing a fair bit of T20 cricket recently, I felt calm the other night because I knew that we're in a good position to be able to chase those runs," said David during a virtual press conference.

"And the way the pitch was playing so I think to get over the line, you know, that still has to happen. It doesn't just happen straight away. And that was some brilliant performances from our batsman, the chase that score down."

David scored a 14-ball 18 on debut and added 62 with Matthew Wade (45) to guide Australia to a four-wicket win in the first T20 on Tuesday.

"Having some good experience playing in India, I think finishing off games and understanding how it can go and how the pitches can play or when it kind of lights up in front of you, so you know, there can be an advantage batting second in Indian conditions."

"That was a good experience - that IPL - to draw on the other night out there in the middle," added David, who is 6 ft 5

inches tall."

Talking about his role in the Australian team, David said: "I think my role on the team here is to be batting in the middle order. So that means that I'm not going to be facing a lot of balls in matches."

"And I'm probably going to try and put the foot down with my batting first or if we're chasing, trying to finish off the game. So I've got to tick off my boxes of trying to play powerful shots, trying to clear the boundary and I think that's a big part of my training."

"So I try and get volume in the nets because, let's say, in a three-match series here I like face 20 balls...So I've got a lot of my work done in the nets. And be prepared to kind of be on for every ball."

"I think it's pretty straightforward. It's very similar to what I've been playing T20 cricket over the last year and 18 months so I guess I'm trying to bring my experiences that I've had so far and just take the game on and help the team win games."

Asked if he had ever thought that he would be playing the T20 World Cup for Australia, David said: "To be honest, I didn't give it very much thought. It's just it's kind of evolved naturally to be here at this stage. Yeah, I haven't thought about that too much."

"I just look to win a game which is in front of me and don't put any expectations on that."

"I just try and keep the game very simple. I don't look too far ahead of myself. I'm trying to stay pretty grounded and train harder than that and just improve as much as I can."

Absolutely nothing to worry about, Bumrah is ready: Surya

PTI ■ NAGPUR

India batter Suryakumar Yadav on Thursday played down concerns regarding Jasprit Bumrah's fitness, saying there is "absolutely nothing to worry about" and the pace spearhead is ready to return after recovering from his back injury.

Bumrah didn't feature in the opening T20I against Australia with the team management deciding to give the pacer a little more time since he was returning after recovering from a back injury.

The India pacer has been out of action since the end of the England tour and also skipped the Asia Cup due to the injury.

"Actually I am not aware of any such communication, it is not my department, you should not ask me about it (laughs), these are for physios and team management to answer."

"But in the team, the environment is good and all are first-class fit and ready for second T20I," Suryakumar said when asked about Bumrah's match fitness and also where Umesh Yadav fit in the scheme of things.

When he was probed further on Bumrah, Suryakumar said: "Absolutely, he is ready, nothing to worry."

India, sans Bumrah, put up a shoddy performance as they failed to defend 208 in the series opener, with the pacers going for 150 runs.

However, Suryakumar came out in defence of the bowlers.

"Actually after the last game, we didn't have any discussion but as you have seen last day the match went on long and there was also dew, and you also have to give credit to them, they kept attacking, we are trying our best," he said.

In his comeback match, Harshal Patel conceded 49 runs for no wicket, which included a 22-run 18th over.

Asked if Harshal's variations are becoming predictable, Suryakumar said: "He is very deceptive. I don't bat in net sessions much, but as much as I have played him and also Bhuv (Bhuvneshwar) bhai is also difficult to decipher..."

"But Harshal's slower balls and his different variations are really deceptive and he has just come from an injury, so this much benefit of doubt should be allowed."



In batting, India's aggressive approach reaped dividends as KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav took the team across the 200-mark after top order batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were dismissed early.

"Assessing the pitch is very important. Everyone is playing their role, they know their responsibility, what they have to do in different situations."

"The openers know their role really well and then it comes down to middle order how we need to set up the game of what they have to do so, and it was set up well by the finishers, everything is going on really well and we will look to do it again and again," he said.

Asked if any particular role has been assigned to him to attack the spinners in middle orders, Suryakumar quipped: "I have hit two sixes against fast bowlers also, so I should get a little credit for that, what say?"

"I'm very flexible, no particular role. Actually plan myself for every situation. I am flexible to bat in anywhere, whichever number I'm asked to bat, I know I just have to do my role and I am happy to do it."



Thakur, Sen star in India 'A' win in 1st ODI

PTI ■ CHENNAI

A superb performance by a medium-pacers Shardul Thakur (4 for 32) and Kuldeep Sen (3 for 30) helped set up a seven-wicket win for India 'A' against New Zealand 'A' in the first unofficial ODI here on Thursday.

Sent in to bat by India 'A' captain Sanju Samson, incisive bowling by Thakur and Sen had the visiting team in trouble from the start.

At one stage, the New Zealanders looked in danger of being bundled out for less than 100 but some rearguard action by Michael Rippon (61, 104 balls, 4 fours) and Joe Walker (36, 49 balls, 3 fours, 1 six) helped them post 167 in 40.2 overs.

The Sanju Samson-led team overhauled the target set by the Kiwis in 31.5 overs with the captain (31 not out, 1 four, 3 sixes) and Rajat Patidar (45, 41 balls, 7 fours) finishing the job.

There were also useful contributions from opener Ruturaj Gaikwad (41, 54 balls 3 fours, 2 sixes) and Rahul Tripathi (31, 40

balls, 4 fours).

Earlier, on a pitch offering pace and bounce for the bowlers, Thakur struck the first blow by casting Chad Bowes (10) with NZ 'A' at 14 in the third over. In his next over, he had Dane Cleaver (4) caught by Sen.

Sen got into the act by dismissing Joe Carter (1) and Rachin Ravindra (10) in the space of three balls to leave the Kiwis at 26 for 4.

In his next over, Sen dismissed Tom Bruce for a duck to leave the opposition in shambles at 27 for 5.

Captain Robert O'Donnell and Sean Solia got down to the job of resurrecting the innings and took the score to 51 before the latter was run out by Rishi Dhawan.

O'Donnell batted for 39 balls for his 21 before nicking one to 'keeper Samson. Logan Van Beek (1) fell to Kuldeep Yadav and NZ 'A' slumped to 74 for 8.

Rippon was joined by off-spinner Walker and the duo slowly but surely mounted a fight. Rippon was the more cautious of the two and gathered

runs and reached 50 from 82 balls. No.10 batter Walker hit the first six of the match in the 29th over, slogging Shahbaz Ahmed over mid-wicket.

The duo took the score past 150 and looked good for some more before Rajat Patidar's throw from the cover caught Walker short of his crease. The Rippon-Walker partnership for the ninth wicket yielded 89 runs and gave respectively to the total.

Rippon fell to Thakur for a well-compiled 61 as the Kiwis folded for 167.

Speaking after the game, Thakur, the star performer, said he was surprised to see New Zealand lose five wicket in the Powerplay. "Because of 9 AM start, there was something in the air which we were able to exploit," he added.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 'A' 167 all out in 40.2 overs (Michael Rippon 61, Joe Walker 36, Robert O'Donnell 22, Shardul Thakur 4 for 32, Kuldeep Sen 3 for 30) lost to India 'A' 170 for 3 in 31.5 overs (Rajat Patidar 45 not out, Ruturaj Gaikwad 41, Rahul Tripathi 31, Sanju Samson 29 not out).

IPL to return to its old home and away format in 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Premier League (IPL) will return to its original, pre-COVID-19 home-and-away format from the 2023 season, BCCI President Sourav Ganguly has conveyed to the board's affiliated state units.

The IPL has been held at only a few venues since the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 as the lucrative league unfolded behind close doors across three venues in UAE -- Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi.

In 2021 too, the tournament was held across four venues -- Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Chennai.

However, with the pandemic under control, the cash-rich league will return to its old format

in which each team plays one home and one away match.

"The next season of men's IPL will also go back to the home and away format with all ten teams playing their home matches at their designated venues," read a Ganguly's note to state units.

The note gave them a "snapshot" of the ongoing domestic season.

WOMEN IPL

The BCCI is also working to host the inaugural edition of the much-anticipated Women's IPL early next year.

It was reported that the tournament is likely to take place in March after the Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa.

"The BCCI is currently work-

ing on the much-awaited Women's IPL. We are expecting to start the first season early next year," Ganguly wrote in the letter dated September 20.

The Women's IPL is expected to raise the standard of women's cricket in India.

Besides the Women's IPL, the BCCI is also launching a girls under-15 ODI tournament.

"We are glad to introduce a girls U15 One Day tournament from this season. Women's cricket has seen phenomenal growth across the world and our national team has been performing well. This new tournament will create a pathway for our young girls to play at the national and international level," Ganguly wrote.

ICC CHAIRMANSHIP NOT IN MY HANDS: GANGULY

PTI ■ KOLKATA

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Thursday said the BICC chairmanship is "not in my hands", playing down strong speculation that the former India captain could head to Dubai. In July, the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board approved the process to elect the next chairman of the world body in November.

After the meeting in Birmingham, it was decided that with Greg Barclay ending his tenure this year, the election will be decided by a simple majority and the term of the Chair will be for a two-year period between December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2024.

Ganguly's name has been doing the rounds since then. But when asked about it, the elegant batter of yesterday just had this to say: "ICC chairmanship is not in my hands."

The ICC Board has decided that a two-thirds majority is no longer required to be elected as the chairman. According to the latest recommendations, the contestant bagging 51 per cent votes will be elected as the winner. In a 16-member board, the candidate needs just nine votes from the directors to get elected.

Indrajith, Gowtham take South past West's score

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

Baba Indrajith's scintillating hundred and Krishnappa Gowtham's rearguard 43 took South Zone past West Zone's first-innings total on an interesting second day of the Duleep Trophy final.

Indrajith's 118 off 125 balls, along with contributions from Manish Pandey (48) and Gowtham (43 off 55 balls), ensured that South finished the second day on 318 for seven -- 48 runs clear of West Zone's first innings score of 270.

The match did turn out to be interesting when South were in a spot at 243 for six, but all-rounders Gowtham and T Ravi Teja (26) added 63 for the seventh wicket in just 16.2 overs, and in the process, surpassed West's total.

However, with the final being a five-day affair South are



still some distance away from ensuring a healthy lead, which might not happen with only Teja remaining among the recognised batters.

He has R Sai Kishore (5/86 in 35.3 overs) for company, but

the left-arm spinner would be more happy that he could grab a fifth five-for and deny young Het Patel (98) a chance to get to the coveted three-figure mark.

Mayank Agarwal pounced his catch, but later, when he

came on to bat, he was caught in the slip cordon by Yashasvi Jaiswal off seamer Atit Seth's delivery.

Hanuma Vihari (25), whose Test batting slot is in line was then caught plumb in-front,

but Indrajith was more dominant during their stand of 61.

The Tamil Nadu right-hander played some gorgeous drives but was equally adept while working the deliveries pitched on his legs.

His 13th first-class hundred had 14 fours in it and the 105-run partnership for the fourth wicket, with the seasoned Pandey, put South in the driver's seat.

Pandey, who had quickly hit four fours and a couple of sixes, should have converted it into a big score but Tanush Kotian, the Mumbai off-spinner, castled him two short of fifty.

Brief Scores: West Zone 1st Innings 270 all out (Het Patel 98, R Sai Kishore 5/86). South Zone 1st Innings 318/7 (Baba Indrajith 118, Manish Pandey 48, Krishnappa Gowtham 43, Jaydev Unadkat 3/52, Atit Seth 3/51).