

- Rahul Gandhi,
Former Congress president

‘No’ for crop insurance; ‘yes’ for blame game!

The risk of crop loss due to weather-related incidents like heavy rainfall, especially untimely rain, floods, and hailstorms, is an unfortunate and routine occurrence in our state, just like anywhere else in the country or the world. In the last nine months alone, we have seen untimely rains and hailstorms causing catastrophic losses to farmers in the state. Besides the recent downpours and hailstorms destroying crops in Khammam, Mahabubabad, and Warangal districts, River Godavari was in spate twice - in July and September last year, due to untimely heavy rainfall. The one in July was so sudden and devastating that our Chief Minister resorted to conspiracy theories involving foreign powers and cloud bursts to divert attention from the state

government's administrative failure. For a state which relies heavily on agriculture, and with scientists warning that climate change will only make natural calamities more frequent and unpredictable, crop insurance is not a luxury but a minimum necessity to provide financial security against ruinous losses to our farmers. The finding that Telangana ranked fourth in the country for suicides by farmers and daily wage labourers in 2020, according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, only adds urgency to the need. Despite every logic dictating the need, the Telangana government adamantly refuses to offer crop insurance to our farmers. Instead, it discontinued the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana with no alternative. Whenever the Bharatiya

The Telangana government adamantly refuses to offer crop insurance to our farmers. Instead, it discontinued the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana with no alternative. Whenever the BJP in the state demands the implementation of Fasal Bima to provide security to our farmers, the government argues that the Gujarat govt too had discontinued the scheme, though the Gujarat govt has introduced Mukhyamantri Kisan Sahay Yojana

Janata Party in the state demands the implementation of Fasal Bima to provide security to our farmers, the government argues that the BJP-headed Gujarat govt too had discontinued the scheme - leaving out the crucial detail that the Gujarat government has introduced an alternative called the Mukhyamantri Kisan Sahay Yojana, which simplifies and broadens coverage. With no crop insurance scheme in place, the Telangana farmer is at the mercy of those in power and the financial

solvency of the public exchequer for any compensation when disasters strike. And unfortunately, our Chief Minister's compassion is driven more by politics and elections than farmers' losses. 'Maximum politics and minimum governance' has been the hallmark of his administration. So, for example, when there were no elections in sight, and farmers incurred heavy losses due to the incessant rains in September and October 2020, the government offered no assistance. The farmers had to



KISHORE POREDDY

approach the Telangana High Court for relief. Instead, the government tried to blame the Center, saying it did not release any funds. The HC had to come down heavily on the state and ordered it to compensate the farmers - including tenant farmers - and to provide crop insurance.

"Substantial amounts were available with the state government under the SDRF to provide relief to farmers who suffered crop losses caused by heavy rains in September and October 2020. Such funds included sums made available by the Union of India amounting to Rs 977 crore on April 1, 2020, itself and Rs 449 crore was released to the state government under the SDRF during 2020-21 (Central share), with Rs 149.67 crore being the state's share. The amount was credited to the account of the state government during 2020-21. So, it cannot blame the Union of India for not providing funds to it for the said purpose," the High Court bench remarked, debunking the state's excuse. State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), mentioned by the HC in its order, is designed to be the last resort and a sup-

plementary source of relief like a top-up. Lacking crop insurance, SDRF has become Telangana's first and only resort to compensate farmers. For the record, every state's SDRF is funded by the Central and that state's governments in the ratio of 75:25, except in the case of North-Eastern States, where the Center provides 90 per cent of the fund. Even when the state had to bear only one-fourth of the cost, the Chief Minister did not see any benefit from compensating the farmers in a non-election year. In contrast, the Chief Minister quickly announced relief when Hyderabad faced floods just before the GHMC elections and to farmers who lost their crops over the last week. In both instances, three things were recurrent. Upcoming elections, SDRF funds, and the blame game that

the Center has not released any funds - hiding that the Central government provided 75 per cent of the funds in SRDF. As usual, the Chief Minister broke his promise to the GHMC voters after the elections were over, just like promises made during the Huzurabad and Munugode elections concerning Dalit Bandhu and Sheep Distribution Schemes. My only hope is that the Chief Minister, keeping his maximum politics model aside, delivers his promise quickly and fairly. That he does not, for political gains, involve his party MLAs in beneficiary identification as he did in Dalit Bandhu and Two Bedroom schemes. The farmers are in too much pain and do not deserve another ordeal.

(The author is BJP TS spokesperson)

Nadda coming to Telangana on March 31

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP President JP Nadda is coming to Telangana on March 31. He will inaugurate the Sangareddy BJP office on that day. Nadda would also inaugurate six other district BJP offices virtually on the same day. He will address a public meeting being held in Sangareddy on the same day.

Intensifying its moves, the BJP's leaders are coming to Telangana frequently hoping that the BJP can come to power in Telangana.

The BJP got permission from the High Court to conduct its Nirudyoga Maha Dharna on March 25 at the Indira Park as the police refused to give permission.

Revanth to file complaint with ED, CBI on TSPSC leak

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC President Revanth Reddy said that he will file a complaint with the Enforcement Directorate and the CBI Director regarding the TSPSC leak.

He said that the Congress has decided to stage protests in all district headquarters on March 27 and has decided to meet the students of all universities from April 1 onwards. During the second week of April, the party is planning to organise a Nirudyoga Nirasana Deeksha, he said.

Revanth said that due to these programmes he is postponing his Yatra till April 6. Speaking to the media on

Friday at his residence after the police kept him under house arrest to prevent him from attending a Nirudyoga Nirasana Deeksha at the Osmania University, Revanth said that the government prevented him from attending the OU programme due to its dictatorial policy.

The BRS government kept me under house arrest by deploying hundreds of policemen around my house, Revanth said. Condemning the BRS government, he said that it detaining protesters illegally to hide its criminal activities.

He said that Kakatiya University Prof. Vinayaka Reddy had approached the

High Court regarding the appointment of TSPSC members violating rules. The High Court Judge expressed shock over it and has asked the government to file a counter on it.

But the government is requesting adjournments without filing a counter affidavit, he said and added that the TSPSC leak took place as the government gave a chance to ineligible candidates.

He said that the SIT did not investigate the fact that the TSPSC had conducted a Group-I exam even after the scheduled time was over for 90 candidates at the Lalaguda SFS High School. Big guys are behind the TSPSC leak and so the government hid its failures.

"We made a specific allegation. There is something behind handing over the case to the SIT. An investigation by the SIT will weaken the case," he said.

The SIT should have investigated TSPSC Confidential Section Officer Shankara Laxmi but it declared her a witness. The SIT should have filed corruption cases against the culprits but it didn't do it and is trying to protect the culprits.

The government must include ACB officials in SIT. IT Minister KT Ramarao is directly linked to the TSPSC leak. The appointment of TSPSC members in 2021 took place against rules, he said.

Hyd police bust loan scam in Delhi; 4 held

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The cybercrime police of the Hyderabad commissionerate have arrested four accused persons and have served 10 persons with 41(A) in Fake Loan scam.

The accused has been allegedly calling people across India and offering loans on the pretext of providing loan by impersonating reputed loan companies like Reliance Capital Finance Services and scammed approximately Rs 3 crore.

The arrested suspects are Tarun Ojha (31), Guru Charan Singh (26), Yogendra Singh Badoria (29) and Shahadat Ansari and (25). The 10 tele-callers who were calling the victims were issued with a notice under in front of the police as station, a preventive measure.

The accused were booked under Cr. No. 2447/2022 & Cr. No. 191/2023 of Cyber Crime Police Station, DD. The police seized 17 mobile phones, 7 laptops and one CPU from the crime scene.

Cybercrime deputy commissioner of police (DSP), Sneha Mehra held a press meeting on Friday and revealed details of the scam. She said the accused had colluded among themselves and hatched a plan to cheat the public people on the pretext of providing loans impersonating the reputed loan companies. DSP Sneha Mehra said, "They are running the loan fraud call center in the name of Magic Trip India in premises at Govindpur, Delhi. They used to collect Bank accounts and SIM cards registered in the name of some unknown persons with fake addresses and cheated the loan seekers across India, by collecting various fees, taxes along with 31 installments in advance, for their loan process by sending fake loan approved letters. We have also got copies of fake Loan Documents circulated by them to win the trust of the victims. 6. It is estimated that they would have cheated 27 victims to a tune of Rs 5 crore all over India."

No question of giving info to SIT, declares Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP President Bandi Sanjay Kumar has sent a letter to the SIT in response to its notices issued to him asking him to appear before it on March 24.

In his letter, Sanjay said that he did not receive any notice from the SIT's office. He said that he is busy attending the Parliament session and that he came to know about SIT's notices only through the media.

"I also gather from media reports that I have been asked to furnish information authenticating certain statements I reportedly made in the context of the TSPSC leak. I would like to inform you that right from the day when the news of the paper scam broke out I had maintained that we don't have confidence in the SIT's investigation as it is directly under the Government of Telangana.

Hyd witnesses more than 50% transactions in above 100,000 sq ft segment

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

According to Knight Frank India, leading international property consultancy, 53% of the office area transactions were recorded in spaces measuring 100,000 sq ft or more in Hyderabad. An estimated 25% were witnessed in spaces below 50,000 sq ft and 22% were in spaces between 50,000 to 100,000 sq ft.

Amongst the three office configuration categories, Hyderabad witnessed cumulative deals of 120 in the year 2022. About 83 deals were recorded in below 50,000 sqft office spaces, 22 were in spaces between 50,000-100,000 sqft and 15 were in

the spaces above 100,000 sqft.

The transactions for office spaces above 100,000 sqft remained high in the IT office locations of Hyderabad, Pune, and Bengaluru in the calendar year 2022 (CY22). An estimated 53% of office area transacted were for spaces measuring 100,000 sqft or more in Hyderabad and Pune, while it was 51% in Bengaluru.

Shishir Bajjal, Chairman & Managing Director, Knight Frank India said, "Office leasing volumes in 2022 recorded at over 51 million sqft, which was historically the second best.

SC to hear plea by 14 oppn parties on 'misuse' of central agencies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to list for hearing on April 5 a plea by 14 opposition parties, led by the Congress, alleging arbitrary use of central probe agencies against political opponents. A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud took note of the submissions of senior advocate AM Singhvi, appearing for the opposition parties such as the DMK, RJD, Bharat Rashtira Samiti, Trinamool Congress, NCP, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, JD(U), CPI(M), Communist Party of India, Samajwadi Party and J&K National Conference, and said the plea would be taken up for hearing on April 5.

Hyderabad has overtaken Silicon Valley: SA envoy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

South African Deputy High Commissioner Cedric Crowley said that Hyderabad is good at ICT (Information, Communications Technology) and that ties must be developed between Telangana and South Africa.

The SA official addressed a gathering at an interactive session on trade and investment opportunities in South Africa at the Federation of Telangana Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) office at Red Hills here on Thursday.

South African Deputy High Commissioner Cedric Crowley said that Hyderabad has surpassed even US's Silicon Valley and called for collaboration in defence, art and culture, agriculture and other areas. He also spoke

about India's relationship with South Africa.

"Your Mahatma is our Mahatma as well. You gave us a barrister, we gave you Mahatma Gandhi. Our relationship is historical. You gave the world zero, which made computing possible. What you invested is coming back to you. My visit is significant in restarting our relationship. Let us explore each other's potential. The relationship must be a win-win for both countries. We have natural resources and you have natural talent. We have some commonalities," he said.

Crowley reminded everyone that tech Giant Elon Musk was born in Pretoria in South Africa. He appreciated the way the world is watching India's UPI (Unified Payment Interface) and also thanked India for supplying vaccines.



The Kavitha-led Bharat Jagruthi has been demanding the tabling and passing of the

Women's Reservation Bill. After BRS, opposition parties, women's organisations and civil society organisations supported the protest at Jantar Mantar on March 10 in New Delhi and a round table discussion with MPs from opposition parties, activists and students on March 15.

The Bharat Jagruthi will launch country-wide programmes soon. It will soon launch a miss call campaign. The BRS will also organise round table discussions on the Women's Reservation Bill in colleges and universities.

Kavitha has been actively demanding that the BJP government at the Centre should ensure passage of the Women's Reservation Bill as it has a majority in the LS.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Sukla Paksha

Tithi: Chaturthi: Mar 24 05:00 PM to Mar 25 04:23 PM

Panchami: Mar 25 04:23 PM to Mar 26 04:33 PM

Nakshatram:

Bharani: Mar 24 01:22 PM to Mar 25 01:19 PM

Krithika: Mar 25 01:19 PM to Mar 26 02:01 PM

Rahukalam:

9:21 AM to 10:51 AM

Yamagandam:

1:52 PM to 3:23 PM

Variyam:

01:40 AM to 03:18 AM

Gulika:

6:20 AM to 7:50 AM

Amritakalam:

08:31 AM to 10:07 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham:

11:58 AM to 12:46 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy

Temp: 33°

Humidity: 57%

Sunrise: 6:17 AM

Sunset: 6:28 PM

Updated: MARCH 24, 2023 5:00 PM

Rahul disqualified from...

Continued from page 1

The court in Surat sentenced on Thursday Gandhi to two years in jail in a defamation case, filed on a complaint by BJP MLA Purnesh Modi for his alleged remark, "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?" Following his disqualification, Gandhi would not be able to contest elections for eight years unless a higher court stays his conviction and sentence.

Hours before the notification was issued, Gandhi attended Lok Sabha proceedings in the morning session. Before the proceedings commenced, he also participated in a meeting of party MPs in the Parliament complex.

Incidentally, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government, in 2013, had attempted to circumvent a Supreme Court ruling to set

aside an RP Act provision under which a person sentenced to imprisonment of two years or more shall be disqualified "from the date of such conviction" and remain disqualified for another six years after serving time.

Gandhi himself had opposed the ordinance at that time and tore the ordinance in a press conference as a token of protest.

Reacting to Gandhi's disqualification, the Congress said it was "a black day for Indian democracy" and asserted that the battle will be fought both "legally and politically". Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the BJP made all efforts to get him disqualified as he was speaking the truth.

"He has been removed from the House for speaking the truth, fighting for the Constitution and for people's rights," Kharge alleged.

Black day for Indian...

Continued from page 1

He said that Modi government, in an attempt to protect the biggest con of corporate history, is harassing and troubling the leaders of the opposition parties.

Minister KT Rama Rao took to Twitter to condemn the disqualification and said, "Disqualification of Rahul Gandhi is a blatant misinterpretation of Constitution. The hastiness showed in this issue is highly undemocratic." He shared a picture which read, "I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to death your right to say it."

Minister Harish Rao said that disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from Parliament is dictatorship and arrogance of the BJP. "Democracy is under threat. Constitutional rights are under threat," Minister Harish Rao said. MLC Kavitha said that revoking the membership of Rahul Gandhi, despite knowing that he has a chance to appeal in the upper courts, is a blot on democracy. "This is a larger part of Modi's mission of diverting people's attention from his failures, corrupt friends and suppressing the opposition," she

said.

State Planning Board Vice-Chairman Boinapally Vinod Kumar asked if the BJP forgot Kerala High Court's order suspending the conviction and sentence of Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal. Kerala High Court's order rendered inoperative the disqualification of the Lakshadweep MP notified by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, a day after the verdict was delivered by a sessions court in Kavaratti. Vinod Kumar said that the BJP government approached the Supreme Court against the stay given by the Kerala High Court last month, but the Supreme Court upheld the stay given by the Kerala High Court and gave its verdict this month. Despite the Kerala HC order and a subsequent Law Ministry recommendation that he be reinstated, the LS Secretariat is yet to issue an order reinstating him, he added.

Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy on Friday hauled Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the coals for muffling the voice of the dissident. "The Modi's dictatorship is at its peak now," he pointed out while speaking to the media here.

Electricity staff protest demanding PRC

Demanding pay revision, the employees of Telangana power utilities on Friday staged a massive protest, throwing traffic out of gear in parts of central Hyderabad. Hundreds of employees gathered in front of Vidyuth Soudha, the headquarters of Telangana Power Generation Corporation and Telangana Transmission Corporation, in Hyderabad. The protest brought traffic to a standstill on the busy roads around Vidyuth Soudha. Employees of power utilities from various parts of the State descended on Hyderabad in response to the call for 'Chalo Vidyuth Soudha' by the Joint Action Committee of various unions of the employees. They were demanding wage revision and resolution of the issues of artisan workers. Holding flags of their respective employees' unions and raising slogans, the protesters demanded that the government immediately announce pay revision due from April last year. The protest led to

tension and roadblock. Police officials were trying to persuade employees to call off the protest. Vehicular traffic came to a halt on the busy Khairatabad-Punjagutta road to a standstill. About a four kilometer long traffic jam was seen in the area. The protest also caused massive traffic jams at Ravindra Bharathi and Lakdi Ka Pul areas. There were traffic

snarls in Masab Tank and Mahaveer Hospital areas. Leaders of the employees' unions said they were forced to stage the protest as power distribution companies failed to resolve their demands despite several rounds of talks. The protest was organised to press as many as 29 demands of the employees, with the main demand being wage revision.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and published by B Krishna Prasad for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., Phone: 040-23322341, Hyderabad Office: F-502, Diamond Block, Lumbini Rockdale, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500 082. Telangana. Printed at Sree Seshasai Enterprises, Plot No.19, IDA Balanagar , Hyderabad-500037, Medchal -Malkajgiri District, Telangana. Executive Editor: Vijay Prakash Singh. Resident Editor: B Krishna Prasad, AIR SURCHARGE of Rs 2.00.

HARITHA HARAM PROGRAMME

Find lands to plant saplings, CS tells officials

CS tells officials

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary of Telangana Santhi Kumari directed officials to identify suitable lands belonging to the irrigation department and plant saplings on a large scale to ensure the success of Haritha Haram programme.

A video conference was held with the District Collectors on Haritha Haaram, Palle Pragati, Kanti Velugu, Woman's Health, Prevention of fire accidents in summer, conduct of Class X exams and allocation of house plots on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, the CS said that a plan should be prepared for Bruhath Prakhruithi Vanaalu in suitable forest lands. The Collectors were also advised to prepare the Haritha Haaram action plan by the end of April.

The Collectors were asked to take proper precautions to avoid hailstorms and fire accidents during the current summer season. She said that the prevention of fire accidents should not be left only to the fire department and all government departments and people should participate. Referring to the two recent fire accidents in Hyderabad, she emphasised that people should

be made aware of the precautionary measures to be taken immediately in case of fire accidents. The need to conduct a fire safety audit on the places where there is a possibility of fire was also highlighted.

As around 4.94 lakh students are appearing for the Class X board exams to be held from April 4 to 13, the Chief Secretary ordered to make elaborate arrangements for the conduct of the exams. She noted that instead of 11

papers in the past, there will be only six papers for these exams which will start at 9.30 am. The police department should work in coordination with other departments in conducting the examinations properly. So far, 86.50 lakh people have undergone eye examinations and reading glasses have been distributed to 14.23 lakh people as part of the Kanti Velugu programme. Distribution of prescription glasses to 10.73 lakh people is going on, she said. The Women's Health programme launched on the occasion of International Women's Day is getting good response, she said, and directed the Collectors to visit Kanti Velugu and Women's Health camps in the districts.

Stray dog attacks boy in Cantonment area

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A X Class boy was attacked by a street dog in Cantonment area on Friday morning. The boy escaped with minor injuries. The parents of children in different wards say that the only way out for them is to knock the doors of the Secunderabad Cantonment Board to save them.

The boy was smart enough to get away from the dog after it attacked. The incident occurred in Ganesh Nagar of West Marredpally.

Ajay, one of the parents said, "Our streets are full of many dogs in the school zone every day.

I was present there to drop my son off at the school bus stop which is the same place where the incident happened.

Between 7am and 8am, many school buses stop at the same landmark. There are about six to seven stray dogs every morning."

Another parent said, "There is a rise in stray dogs. We anticipate serious action as parents keep an alert every day.

The dog which attacked the kid is still at the same location in the afternoon.

It is an infected dog but where do we go? We can only be after the SCB for sending dog squads and we are waiting for it." If teams visit continuously from morning then the dogs can be caught."

Govt primary school gets additional classrooms

PNS ■ PATANCHERU

Pattancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy said that the state government was allocation more funds for strengthening government education al institutions.

He said the old school buildings in Patancheru constituency were being dismantled and new buildings constructed in their place. He inaugurated the newly constructed additional classrooms for the government primary school at a cost of Rs 25 lakh with the funding by the JK Pennar company on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said basic amenities were provided in all schools as part of Mana Uru Mana Badi programme. He said free education was being provided in Patancheru from KG to PG. He said government schools were able to compete with private schools in view of the decisions taken by the government.

Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Vijay Kumar, Corporator Mettu Kumar Yadav, Mandal Education Officer Rathod and JK Pennar company's Vice-President Sarvana Marthan dan were among those who participated.

Pargaien selected as envoy of Panorama

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Mohan Chandra Pargaien, senior IFS officer from Telangana, is one of the 14 global Panorama ambassadors selected for the year 2023.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal officer of Telangana Forest Conservation Act Mohan is listed among practitioners, policy influencers and academics who fully support the Panorama initiatives. They form an important link in the community and contribute by way of connecting, learning , sharing ideas, discussing , debating and working together.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohan said, "Being an ambassador for this prestigious platform can help you reach globally and convey the good practices of your area to a bigger audience . In addition, you also

get an opportunity and get exposure to various good initiatives taken up by individuals, governments and institutions globally in the area of environmental conservation, biodiversity, climate change and related issues."

Pargaien has been actively contributing in the area of environmental awareness and showcasing the green initiatives of Telangana Government, specially its flagship programme Haritha Haram at various platforms across the globe.

He is an active Member of IUCN-CEM. He was also instrumental in getting a place for Hyderabad among the Tree Cities of the World 2021 by FAO and the Arbor Day Foundation. His blog on Resilience and better life with urban forests in Hyderabad in World Forestry Congress South Korea was among the top three blogs.



SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED (TSSPDCL)



NORTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED (TSNPDCL)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Retail Supply Tariffs and Cross Subsidy Surcharge for FY 2023-24

- Pursuant to the ARR/Tariff filings made by the two (2) Distribution Licensees viz., Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TSSPDCL) and Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TSNPDCL) for determination of Retail Supply Tariffs and Cross Subsidy Surcharge for FY 2023-24, the Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission has determined the Retail Supply Tariffs and Cross Subsidy Surcharge for FY 2023-24 applicable throughout the Telangana State for different categories of consumers, as indicated in Schedule-1 and Schedule-2 of this Notice.
- The Retail Supply Tariffs for FY 2023-24 have been determined by the Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission after taking into consideration the subsidy commitment of Government of Telangana (GoTS) for certain categories of consumers u/s 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003 and the directions of the Government of Telangana u/s 108 of the Electricity Act, 2003 to maintain uniform tariffs across the State.
- The Retail Supply Tariffs shall also apply to the consumers of the Cooperative Electric Supply Society, Sircilla in the State.
- The Retail Supply Tariffs and Cross Subsidy Surcharge shall come into effect from 01.04.2023 and will be in force upto 31.03.2024, unless amended by the Commission.

CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited
Place : Hyderabad, Date : 25-03-2023

CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited
Place : Hanumakonda, Date : 25-03-2023

SCHEDULE-1 RETAIL SUPPLY TARIFF SCHEDULE FOR FY 2023-24			
Category	Fixed/Demand Charge		Energy Charge
	Unit	Rs./Unit/month	(Rs./kWh/ Rs./kVAh)
Low Tension			
LT-I: Domestic			
LT-I(A): Upto 100 Units/Month			
0-50	kW	10	1.95
51-100	kW	10	3.10
LT-I(B)(i): Above 100 Units/ Month & up to 200 Units/ Month			
0-100	kW	10	3.40
101-200	kW	10	4.80
LT-I(B)(ii): Above 200 Units/Month			
0-200	kW	10	5.10
201-300	kW	10	7.70
301-400	kW	10	9.00
401-800	kW	10	9.50
Above 800 units	kW	10	10.00
LT-II: Non-Domestic/Commercial			
LT-II(A): Upto 50 Units/Month			
0-50	kW	60	7.00
LT-II(B): Above 50 Units/Month			
0-100	kW	70	8.50
101-300	kW	70	9.90
301-500	kW	70	10.40
Above 500	kW	70	11.00
LT-II(C): Advertisement Hoardings			
	kW	70	13.00
LT-II(D): Haircutting Salons consuming upto 200 units/month			
0-50	kW	60	5.30
51-100	kW	60	6.60
101-200	kW	60	7.50
LT-III: Industry			
Industries	kW	75	7.70
Seasonal Industries (offseason)	kW	75	8.40
Pisciculture/Prawn culture	kW	36	6.20
Sugarcane crushing	kW	36	6.20
Poultry farms	kW	65	7.00
Mushroom, Rabbit, Sheep and Goat farms	kW	75	7.30
<i>For Rice Mills under LT-III Industry, the upper limit of Contract Load shall be 93 kW/125 HP; For the remaining consumers under LT-III Industry, the upper limit of Contract Load shall be 75 kW/100 HP.</i>			
LT-IV: Cottage Industries			
LT-IV(A): Cottage Industries	kW	20kW subject to a minimum of Rs.30/month	4.00
LT-IV(B): Agro Based Activities			
	kW	20kW subject to a minimum of Rs.30/month	4.00
<i>For LT-IV(B) Agro Based Activity, the upper limit of Connected Load for Sheep farming, Goat farming, and Dairy farming activities shall be 15 HP; For the remaining consumers under LT-IV(B) Agro Based activity, the upper limit of Connected Load shall be 10 HP.</i>			
LT-V: Agriculture			
LT-V(A): Agriculture (DSM Measures mandatory)			
Corporate Farmers	HP		2.50
Other than Corporate Farmers	HP		0.00
LT-V(B): Others			
Horticulture Nurseries with CL upto 15 HP	HP	20	4.00
LT-VI: Street Lighting & PWS			
LT-VI(A): Street Lighting			
Panchayats	kW	32	7.10
Municipalities	kW	32	7.60
Municipal Corporations	kW	32	8.10
LT-VI(B): PWS Schemes			
Panchayats	HP	32/HP subject to a minimum of Rs.50/month	6.00
Municipalities	HP	32/HP subject to a minimum of Rs.100/month	7.10
Municipal Corporations	HP	32/HP subject to a minimum of Rs.100/month	7.60
LT-VII: General			
LT-VII(A): General Purpose	kW	21	8.30
LT-VII(B): Wholly Religious Places			
Load upto 2 kW	kW	30	5.00
Load above 2 kW	kW	30	5.00
LT-VIII: Temporary Supply	kW	21	12.00
<i>For LT-VIII Temporary Supply, the consumer shall be required to deposit in advance the estimated consumption charges along with other charges as stipulated in the Tariff Order.</i>			
LT-IX: EV Charging Station			
	kW	50	6.00
High Tension			
HT-I(A): Industry General			
11kV	kVA	475	7.65
33kV	kVA	475	7.15
132 kV and above	kVA	475	6.65
HT-I(A): Lights and Fans			
11kV			7.65
33kV			7.15
132 kV and above			6.65
HT-I(A): Poultry Farms			
11kV	kVA	475	7.65
33kV	kVA	475	7.15
HT-I(A): Industrial Colonies			
11kV			7.30
33kV			7.30
132 kV and above			7.30
HT-I(A): Seasonal Industries			
11kV	kVA	475	8.60
33kV	kVA	475	7.90
132 kV and above	kVA	475	7.70
HT-I(A): Optional Category with Load Up to 150 kVA			
11kV	kVA	100	8.00
HT-I(B): Ferro Alloy Units			
11kV	kVA	475	7.65
33kV	kVA	475	7.15
132 kV and above	kVA	475	6.65
<i>No stipulation of Guaranteed off-take for HT-I(B) Ferro Alloy Units</i>			
HT-II(A): OTHERS			
11kV	kVA	475	8.80
33kV	kVA	475	8.00
132 kV and above	kVA	475	7.80
HT-II(B): Wholly Religious Places (new category)			
11kV	kVA	260	5.00
33kV	kVA	260	5.00
132 kV and above	kVA	260	5.00
HT-III AIRPORTS, BUS STATIONS AND RAILWAY STATIONS			
11kV	kVA	475	8.50
33kV	kVA	475	7.85
132 kV and above	kVA	475	7.45
HT-IV(A) IRRIGATION AND AGRICULTURE			
11kV	kVA	275	6.30
33kV	kVA	275	6.30
132 kV and above	kVA	275	6.30
HT-IV(B) CP Water Supply Schemes			
11kV	kVA		6.10
33kV	kVA		6.10
132 kV and above	kVA		6.10

Category		Fixed / Demand Charge		Energy Charge
	Unit		Rs./Unit/month	(Rs./kWh/ Rs./kVAh)
HT-V(A) Railway Traction		kVA	475	5.05
HT-V(B) HMR		kVA	475	4.95
HT-VI Townships & Residential Colonies				
11kV		kVA	260	7.30
33kV		kVA	260	7.30
132 kV and above		kVA	260	7.30
HT-VII: Temporary				
11kV		kVA	500	11.80
33kV		kVA	500	11.00
132 kV and above		kVA	500	10.80
For HT-VII Temporary Supply, the consumer shall be required to deposit in advance the estimated consumption charges along with other charges as stipulated in the Tariff Order.				
HT-VIII: RESCO				
11kV				4.84
HT-IX: EV Charging Station				
11kV		kVA	100	6.00
33kV		kVA	100	6.00
132 kV and above		kVA	100	6.00
Terms & Conditions				
1) Time of Day (TOD) Tariffs/Incentive:				
Applicability:				
The following Time of Day (TOD) Tariffs/Incentives are applicable for categories viz.,				
i) HT-I(A) Industry General.				
ii) HT-I(A) Poultry Farms.				
iii) HT-II(A) Others.				
iv) HT-II(B) Wholly Religious Places.				
v) HT-III Airports, Bus Stations and Railway Stations.				
vi) HT-IX EV Charging Station.				
Description		During the Period		ToD Tariff over Retail Supply Energy Charges for FY 2023-24
Time of Day (TOD) Tariff		6 am to 10 am and 6 pm to 10 pm		Plus Re. 1/unit
Time of Day (TOD) Incentive		10 pm to 6 am		Less Re. 1/unit
2) Tariff for HMWSSB:				
The Commission is in receipt of GoTS direction u/s 108 of the Electricity Act, 2003 vide letter No.630/Power.I/2022, dated 06.03.2023 as				
"to extend the concessional tariff under Category V (B) to all the pumping stations of HMWSSB, as was extended in the earlier years on par with the concessional tariff extended to HMRL whichever is earlier."				
As such, the applicability tariff of HMWSSB for FY 2023-24 will be on par with the tariff of HMRL subject to the subvention commitment being agreed to and extended from time to time by the Government of Telangana.				
3) Fuel Surcharge/Cost Adjustment (FSA/FCA) as per Regulation No.1 of 2023.				
4) The tariffs are exclusive of Electricity Duty and is payable as per the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Duty Act as adopted by the Government of Telangana.				
5) Voltage Surcharge: The voltage surcharge withdrawal stands continued even for FY 2023-24.				
6) Additional Charges for Maximum Demand exceeding the Contracted Demand				
In case, in any month the Recorded Maximum Demand (RMD) of the consumer exceeds his Contracted Demand with the Licensee, the consumer shall pay the following charges on excess demand recorded and on the entire energy consumed.				
RMD over CMD		Demand charges on excess demand		Energy charges on full energy
100 to 120%		2 times of normal charge		Normal
Above 120% and up to 200%		2 times of normal charge		1.15 times of normal charge
More than 200%		2 times of normal charge		1.20 times of normal charge
In case of HT-V(A) and HT-V(B): Railway Traction and HMR, the energy charges shall be computed at 1.05 times of normal charges on the entire consumption, if RMD exceeds 120% of Contracted Demand.				
7) Minimum Charges				
Category			Rates for FY 2023-24	
LT-categories				
LT-I(A)	Domestic	Contracted Load of 1000 Watts and below		
LT-I(B)(i)		Single Phase		Rs.25/month
LT-I(B)(ii)		Contracted Load of above 1000 Watts		
		Single Phase		Rs.50/month
LT-II(A) & II(B)	Non-Domestic / Commercial	Three Phase		Rs.150/month
LT-II(C)		Single Phase		Rs.65/month
LT-II(D)		Three Phase		Rs.200/month
		Advertisement Hoardings		Rs.300/month
LT-VI(A)	Street Lighting	Single Phase		Rs.65/month
		Three Phase		Rs.200/month
LT-VII(A)	General Purpose	Panchayats		Rs.2/point/month
		Municipalities and Municipal Corporations		Rs.6/point/month
LT-VIII	Temporary Supply	Single Phase		Rs.50/month
		Three Phase		Rs.150/month
LT-IX	EV Charging station	Rs. 125 per kW or part thereof of the contracted load for first 30 days or part thereof and for every subsequent period of 15 days or part thereof a charge of Rs. 75 per kW.		
		Single Phase		Rs.65/month
		Three Phase		Rs.200/month
HT Categories				
Billing Demand			Billing Demand shall be maximum demand recorded during the month or 80% of the contracted demand whichever is higher except HT-IV(A) and HT-VI	
			For HT-IV(A) (Lift Irrigation), during the operational months July to November, Billing Demand shall be maximum demand recorded during the month or 80% of the contracted demand whichever is higher and, during the non-operational months December to June, Billing Demand shall be maximum demand recorded during the month or 25% of the contracted demand whichever is higher.	
			For HT-VI (Township and Residential Colonies), the billing demand is Actual Demand Recorded.	
Minimum Energy Charges				
HT-I(A)	Industry-General	50 kVAh per kVA of billing demand per month		
HT-I(B)	Ferro Alloy units	50 kVAh per kVA of billing demand per month		
HT-II(A)	Others	25 kVAh per kVA of billing demand per month		
HT-II(B)	Wholly Religious Places	25 kVAh per kVA of billing demand per month		
HT-III	Airports, Bus Stations and Railway Stations	50 kVAh per kVA of billing demand per month		
HT-V(A) & V(B)	Railway Traction & HMR	32 kVAh per kVA of Contracted Demand per month		
HT-VI	Townships & Residential Colonies	Billing Demand shall be Actual Recorded Demand. 25 kVAh per kVA of contracted demand per month.		
HT-IX	EV Charging station	25 kVAh per kVA of contracted demand per month.		
8) Customer Charges				
Consumer Category				Rs./month
Low Tension				
LT-I: Domestic (Units/month)				
0-50				40
51-100				70
101-200				90

Congress spits fire at BJP for disqualifying Rahul

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress spit fire on the BJP for disqualifying WYNAD MP Rahul Gandhi from the Lok Sabha after a Surat court sentenced Rahul to two years imprisonment.

TPCC President Revanth Reddy said the BJP disqualified Rahul to ensure that a discussion on the Adani scam is not held in Parliament. He said the nation is undergoing an undeclared emergency and that Prime Minister Modi is behaving like a medieval king.

The Surat court gave 30 days to file an appeal in a higher court and also granted bail to Rahul Gandhi.

The action against Rahul Gandhi is nothing but vengeance as Rahul had spoken about the BJP's failures during his Bharat Jodo Yatra.

CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka described the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi as an attack on democracy. It's a conspiracy against democracy, secularism and socialism, he added.

Condemning the disqualification of Rahul from the Lok Sabha, Telangana Congress in-charge Manikrao Thakre said that these are dark days for democracy and for Parliament. The nation is now under dictatorship, he said. "We will face it judicially and constitutionally. We do not fear Modi or the BJP"

he said.

Former MP V. Hanumantha Rao said that this had never happened in the past although political leaders have criticized each other. The Congress will fight Rahul's disqualification, he said.

Former MP Madhu Yashki Goud made it clear that the Congress will fight Rahul's disqualification legally and politically.

Former MP Dr Mallu Ravi said that the action against Rahul goes against natural justice and is an act of political vendetta.

Former MP Ponnamp Prabhakar said that Prime Minister Modi is behaving like Roman Emperor Nero.

Former Minister Manthani MLA D. Sridhar Babu said that Modi is afraid of Rahul and so had disqualified him.

Congress MLA T. Jagga Reddy said the BJP disqualified Rahul using the Surat court verdict as Rahul has been questioning the Centre on important public issues.

Black day: Seethakka

MLA Seethakka described the disqualification of Rahul as a conspiracy hatched by the political heirs of Godse to ensure that the voice of the Nehru-Gandhi family is not heard.

Senior TPCC Vice-President G. Niranjan said that the disqualification of Rahul is aimed at eliminating the opposition.



Congress MLA Sithakka on Friday strongly condemned the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi as Lok Sabha member and termed it a "black day" for the country. It was a conspiracy hatched by "Godse's heirs" to stifle Rahul Gandhi's voice.

She pointed out that Rahul Gandhi was disqualified from Lok Sabha because he questioned Modi on his relationship with Adani. Rahul Gandhi also raised the issue of "looting the country." She expressed the fear that the Modi government has posed a grave danger to democracy. She also said that Rahul Gandhi's comments in London were distorted.

"While the Gandhi family fought for the freedom of the country, Godse's descendants, who are now sitting on the throne, are conspiring to prevent Gandhi's voice from being heard in Parliament.

The country is witnessing a new low in democracy, said TPCC leader Gandra

Satyanarayana Rao, while condemning the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi as a member of Lok Sabha. It was part of the BJP's conspiracy to silence the opposition, he said.

The Congress activists, led by Satyanarayana Rao, burnt an effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Congress activists staged a protest against the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi as a member of Lok Sabha. The BJP-led Central government has been foisting false cases on the opposition leader for questioning its misdeeds.

Gandhi's image shored up

Stating it as a 'black day' in the history of democracy, the Congress MP from Bhongir Komatireddy Venkat Reddy described the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi as a Lok Sabha member as nothing but a conspiracy of BJP.

Venkat Reddy said that Rahul Gandhi's image shored up with the Bharat Jodo Yatra as he exposed the public issues and the failures of the BJP government. This disqualification is nothing but misuse of the Constitution only, he alleged.

While tweeting on Rahul Gandhi's disqualification on Friday, Venkat Reddy said that the act of the Centre is certainly a hasty one. It is not correct on the part of the Centre to hatch conspiracies if questioned about the Centre's failures.

5,000 dogs to be vaccinated in 3 days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A free pet vaccination was launched on Friday which is set to cover 5,000 dogs in the city over the course of the next three days. Actress Varalakshmi Sarath Kumar flagged off the HDRF pet vaccination drive which saw many pets participation.

Dr Sree Reddy, founder HDRF said, "We plan to vaccinate 5,000 dogs in the next three days. This initiative will be ongoing with the help of municipal authorities and our well-wishers. We have arranged two mobile vans which will go around the city to vaccinate animals as per requests we receive. I urge people to use this opportunity and call this number for vaccination 9100873829."

Varalakshmi Sarathkumar said, "It's amazing to see this pet-friendly initiative by the HDRF. We need to take care of all living beings with care and empathy. This vaccination drive will help make animals healthy and disease-free, besides reduce health hazards if they stray sometimes."



It is in Cong DNA to denigrate courts, insult OBCs: Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



BJP Telangana unit President Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Friday demanded an unconditional apology from Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for making derogatory comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for which he was convicted by a Gujarat court.

Speaking to the media at the Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi, Sanjay said by saying that all those with the surname "Modi" were thieves, Rahul had not only insulted the Prime Minister but also all OBC communities.

"He should admit his mistake and immediately apologise unconditionally to Modi as well as OBC communities," the BJP leader demanded.

He said it was in the Congress's DNA to treat OBCs with contempt, denigrate courts and violate the law.

"Right from Indira Gandhi to Rahul Gandhi, Congress leaders have been mocking the judiciary. When a court delivers a judgement they attribute motives to the judge instead of honouring the judge-

ment. This is nothing but insulting the judiciary," he said.

Calling upon OBCs to register their protest against Rahul Gandhi for blaming the Prime Minister, Sanjay said there was no change in the attitude of the Congress leader despite receiving a rap from the Supreme Court for his "Chowkidar Chor Hai," comment.

"Rahul doesn't know what he speaks. He denigrated even Parliament by saying that it was his misfortune that he had become an MP. His own party workers are saying that the party has plunged into a crisis due to Rahul Gandhi, who has turned out to be a bad omen for the Congress," he said.

Sanjay said it was shameful on the part of Rahul to insult

Indian democracy on foreign soil. "At least now, he has to obey the court judgement. Otherwise, the nation will not acknowledge him as a citizen of this country," he said.

Referring to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's statement that the Centre had not extended any financial assistance to TS farmers, Sanjay said it was KCR who had denied assistance to farmers.

During 2016-17, the Centre had released Rs 916 crore as financial assistance to Telangana farmers, but the KCR government did not spend even Rs 700 crore out of it, he pointed out.

"The Chief Minister has not been sending any reports to the Centre seeking fresh financial assistance for calamity-hit farmers as he is afraid that the Centre would ask for the accounts of the previous assistance," he said.

Telangana BJP affairs in-charge Tarun Chugh said that the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from Lok Sabha is a warning to persons who insulted the society in the name of freedom of speech.

ACB traps District Education Officer

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Anti-Corruption Bureau officials allegedly caught District Education Officer (DEO), Nampally Rajesh and a senior Assistant, Ramakrishna, red-handed while accepting a bribe from the management of a private school.

According to ACB officials, a trap was laid and the DEO was caught red-handed while he was accepting Rs 50,000 bribe for issuing a no-objection certificate to a private school.



When the management of the private school approached the DEO, he allegedly demanded Rs 1 lakh bribe for issuing a no-objection certificate.

The private school management lodged a complaint with the ACB and it led to the officials catching the DEO, it was said.

Nutrition security is equal to food security: WPPS chief

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Wheat Products Promotion Society (WPPS) chairman Ajay Goyal said that it is important to prioritise nutrition security in India as much as food security, as he addressed the seminar on Wheat and wheat products for health and wellness in Hyderabad. The seminar was hosted by WPPS, in collaboration with co-organisers, co-sponsors, knowledge partners, associate partners and industry

supporters on Friday.

Ajay Goyal said, "Wheat-based foods have the potential to be a major source of both macro and micro nutrients. The wheat industry in India is diverse and dynamic. It is crucial that we work together to ensure that wheat-based foods meet the changing needs of consumers for nutrition, health, and convenience."

"Malnutrition is an area of concern for the country in both macro and micro nutrients. Macro needs can be met



with food sources. However, there is a need to stress on micronutrients too. Food security will overtime include nutrition security. Research is going on increasing the concentration of micronutrients in staple food crops. In the future,

closer linkages must be forged between the agricultural community, the nutrition and health communities, and government policymakers to ensure that agricultural policies meet nutrition and health goals," he added.

During the seminar, experts discussed the importance of wheat and wheat products for health and wellness. The day's sessions were designed by the committee with emphasis on the importance of wheat in the food basket, its potential for employment and entrepreneurship at the local levels, and its role in achieving nutrition security in the country.

The WPPS is an apex organization representing all stakeholders in wheat and wheat-based foods.

Govt to help self-help groups market products in big way

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

The State government will promote products manufactured by women self-help groups in the State, said Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud on Friday.

The Minister was inaugurating the 'Nabard Maha Gramameela' here.

Speaking on the occasion, the government ensured that the products manufactured by women self-help groups are marketed on Amazon and Flipkart. The government facilitated the sale of products manufactured by self-help groups online not only in the country but also abroad without the need to stir out of their homes.

The State government, Srinivas Goud said, had extended Rs 308 crore financial aid to the women self-help groups in Mahabubnagar district alone to encourage them in manufacturing a wide range of products. In



Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud inaugurating NABARD sponsored exhibition in Mahabubnagar on Friday

fact, the government had provided Rs 1,000 crore to women self-help groups during the last eight years. He expressed his happiness over the NABARD holding an exhibition to help the women self-help groups to showcase their products.

The Minister said that he intends to ensure that inequalities are removed. Telangana is known for communal harmony and peaceful co-

existence. He promised to extend his cooperation to the women self-help groups if they came forward to establish units in the IT corridor at Divitipalle.

He also said that he would help the women self-help group secure investments between Rs 5 and Rs 6 crore for establishing units. He also assured the women self-help groups that stalls would be opened at Silparamama, which would be inaugurated soon.

As many as 14 lakh people used to migrate from the district to far-off places in search of livelihood in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. Now, there was no migration of people from the district, he said. The Lithium Battery Manufacturing company would be established soon and it would provide employment to 10,000 people. Five more companies too would establish their units and they would provide 30,000 jobs, Srinivas Goud said.

MNJ Cancer Institute to support patients from marginalised sections

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Mehdi Nawaj Jung (MNJ) Institute of Oncology, Regional Cancer Hospital in Lakdikapul received a range of modern equipment to support and provide crucial healthcare for women cancer patients from the marginalised communities. The equipment was provided by Cigniti Technologies, an IT company, as part of its CSR initiative called Project Cignificance, on Friday.

As part of the initiative, MNJ's Gynecology unit was furnished with essential medical equipment like ICU beds, ventilators, multi-channel monitors, infusion pumps, ultrasound portable, Colposcope, air-conditioners, among others. This equipment allows the institute to offer more advanced care and medical attention to the patients. The facility will now be able to provide medical attention to at least 1,000 marginalised patients annually.

The facility was inaugurated by Raghu Krovvidy, CDO at Cigniti Technologies, in the presence of Sairam Vadam, CMO at Cigniti Technologies, and Midhun Pingili,



Senior Director of Marketing at Cigniti Technologies. Mayur Patnala, Founder and CEO of Nirmaan Organisation, and Dr Jayalatha, Director of MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Hospital were also present.

Cigniti collaborated with Nirmaan Organisation to reduce the stress on the existing public healthcare system caused by the increase in gynecology-related cases, such as delivery cases in mother and child hospitals and tertiary hospitals.

This assistance is set to deliver better healthcare, minimise gynecology referrals to private/tertiary hospitals, and offer a green channel for women on a walk-in basis to decrease the waiting period.

TS bags four awards in TB control from the Centre


PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Four districts of Telangana have been recognised and awarded for showing significant progress in controlling Tuberculosis (TB), in a national-level programme held by the Central government on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day on Friday.

Telangana stands third best performing state in this regard. Health Minister Harish Rao appreciated the medical teams of the districts on the occasion and said that the government will continue to make progress and eradicate TB completely by 2025.

The award-winning districts include Nizamabad for reducing TB rate 60 per cent (Gold), Bhadrachari-Kothagudem and Hanamkonda for reducing by 40 per cent (Silver) and Khammam which reduced it by 20 per cent (bronze).

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA										
O/o THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, SANGAREDDY										
FORM-VII										
(See Sub-Rule (1) of rule-25 and Section-19(1) of the Act-30/2013)										
DECLARATION										
No. G1/132/2022					Date: 06.03.2023					
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector that a total of about Ac.5.12 gts land is required in Borancha Village Manoor Mandal and of Narayankhed Division for public purpose, namely, "Formation of Approach Channel (Besswesters Lift Irrigation Scheme) in Sangareddy District".										
Therefore declaration made for a piece of land admeasuring, more or less Ac.5.12 gts of standard measurement under acquisition for the above said project in Borancha village of Manoor Mandal, Narayankhed Division District: Sangareddy whose detailed description is as following:										
District: Sangareddy			Mandal: Manoor			Village: Borancha				
Sl. No.	Type of Title Land	Area Under Acquisition (Acres)	Name & Address of person interested	Boundaries				Structures	Remarks	
				East	West	North	South			
1	178/ w/2	Patta Dry	0.300	Molla Karim S/o. Gajpur Sab	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land		
2	178/ w/3	Patta Dry	1.300	Molla Sharifuddin S/o. Moinuddin	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Non-irrigated Mangroves Area	
3	178/ w/3	Patta Dry	0.370	Molla Karim S/o. Gajpur Sab	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Pipe Line	
4	178/ w/1/1	Patta Dry	0.205	Bandeli Ayub S/o. Munier Ahmed	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Way Line	
5	178/ w/1/2	Patta Dry	0.205	Bandeli Basir S/o. Munier Ahmed	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Way Line	
6	178/ w/1/3	Patta Dry	0.205	Bandeli Javed S/o. Munier Ahmed	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Way Line	
7	178/ w/1/4	Patta Dry	0.205	Bandeli Sajid S/o. Munier Ahmed	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Way Line	
Total			4.370							
8	182/ w/1	Patta Dry	0.150	Ahmad Bee W/o. Gajpur Sab	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Own Land	Non-irrigated Mangroves Area	
Total			0.150							
Grand Total			4.520							

<div>GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA</div>									
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, SANGAREDDY									
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION									
FORM-VI									
(see sub rule 1) of rule -19 and section -11(1) of the Act-30/2013)					Dated:10.03.2023				
No. G2/2419/2018									
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector that a total of about Ac.5-2080 gts & 2,504 Sq. Yards of land in Irtapur, Muthangi & Karandoor Villages, Patancheru Mandal, is required for public purpose, namely, "Construction of Four Lane Carriage way from IDA Pashanaleem Industrial Park to Outer Ring Road (i.e., at Patancheru/Shankarpally Road Junction) From Km 0.0 To 4.5 in Sangareddy District" the notification issued U/s 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.									
The Government proposed the project: "Construction of Four Lane Carriage way from IDA Pashanaleem Industrial Park to Outer Ring Road (i.e., at Patancheru/Shankarpally Road Junction) From Km 0.0 To 4.5 in Sangareddy District" from the application of the provisions of Chapter-II and, Chapter-III of the RFLTA, 1980 Act, 2013. Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in Irtapur, Muthangi & Karandoor villages of Patancheru Mandal, Sangareddy District a piece of land measuring more or less Ac.5-2080 gts & 2,504 Sq. Yards whose details description is as following, is under acquisition.									
SCHEDULE									
Village: Irtapur			Mandal: Patancheru			District: Sangareddy			
Sl. No.	Type of Title Land	Area Under Acquisition (Acres)	Name & address of person interested	Boundaries					
				N	S	E	W		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	350/ 2	Patta Plot 195	20 Sq. Yards	M/s Bangalore Layout	Plot 196				Plot
2	350/ 2	Patta Plot 222	15 Sq. Yards	M/s Bangalore Layout		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
3	350/ 2	Patta Plot 229	300 Sq. Yards	M/s Bangalore Layout			Plot	Plot	Plot
4	350/ 2	Patta Plot 190	50 Sq. Yards	M/s Surya Vamsi Layout	Plot 191	Plot 189	Plot 189	Road	
5	350/ 2	Patta Plot 197	75 Sq. Yards	M/s Surya Vamsi Layout	Plot 186	Plot 186	Road	Plot 186	
6	350/ 2	Patta Plot 218	45 Sq. Yards	M/s Surya Vamsi Layout		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
7	350/ 2	Patta Plot 212	64 Sq. Yards	M/s Surya Vamsi Layout		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
8	350/ 2	Patta Plot 215	212 Sq. Yards	M/s Surya Vamsi Layout		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
9	401/ 1	Patta Land Ac.60/ 3		M/s Surya Vamsi Layout	Site No 401P	Site No 401P	Site No 401P	Site No 401P	
10	408/ 1	Patta Land Plot 566	20 Sq. Yards	M/s Surya Vamsi Layout		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
11	413/ 1	Patta Plot 734	200 Sq. Yards	M/s Surya Vamsi Layout	Plot 735	Plot 735			Plot
12	410/ 2	Patta Plot 787	10 Sq. Yards	M/s Surya Vamsi Layout		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
13	415/ 1	Patta Plot 279	20 Sq. Yards	M/s Surya Vamsi Layout		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
14	480/ 2	Patta Plot 1/P	80 Sq. Yards	Shankar		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
15	480/ 2	Patta Plot 1/P	40 Sq. Yards			Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
16	480/ 2	Patta Plot 2/P	40 Sq. Yards	Rathod Gopal		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
17	480/ 2	Patta Plot 3/P	82 Sq. Yards	Dasharathi		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
18	480/ 2	Patta Plot 3	120 Sq. Yards	Lakshmi		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
19	480/ 2	Patta Plot 4	120 Sq. Yards	Arunthi So Late Moulana Saib		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
20	480/ 2	Patta Plot 5	118 Sq. Yards			Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
21	480/ 2	Patta Plot 6	111 Sq. Yards	Ananthi Chari		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
22	480/ 2	Patta Plot 7	110 Sq. Yards	Mallesh		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
23	480/ 2	Patta Plot 8	181 Sq. Yards	A. Siddharth		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
24	480/ 2	Patta Plot 9	181 Sq. Yards	K. Raja		Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
25	486/ 3	Assig ned land	Ac.30/ 3		Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	
26	486/ 3	Assig ned land	75 Sq. Yards	Dr Anitha	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	
27	486/ 3	Assig ned land	70 Sq. Yards		Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	

28-486/ 3		Assig ned land	Plot 256	57 Sq. Yards	Narsim Begum	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P
29-486/ 3		Assig ned land	Plot 258	48 Sq. Yards		Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P
30-486/ 3		Assig ned land	Plot 259	15 Sq. Yards	G Durgamma	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P
31-486/ 3		Assig ned land	Plot 252	5 Sq. Yards		Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P
32-486/ 3		Assig ned land	Ac.8/ 000/ 0		Sonalika	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P
33-486/ 4		Assig ned land	Ac.0.08/ 90.0		E Shankarash	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P
34-486/ 4		Assig ned land	Ac.0.08/ 90.0		E Venkiah	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P
35-486/ 4		Assig ned land	Ac.0.08/ 90.0		E Sagarika	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P
36-486/ 4		Assig ned land	Ac.1.21/ 00.0		M Nagaraja	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P	Site No 486P
Total					Ac.3-1786.6ts and 2,464 Sq. Yards				

37-370/ LU		Land	Ac.0.116/ 90.0	G Sathyanna W/o Maliah	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	
38-370/ AE2 /1		Land	Ac.0.13/ 00.0	M Saritha W/o Ramulu	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	
39-370/ RU /1		Land	Ac.0.08/ 90.0	Kanjika Chinnu Maliah W/o Sargama	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	
40-370/ RU		Land	Ac.0.08/ 90.0	Kanjika Basanna W/o Ramiah	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	
41-370/ RU /2		Land	Ac.0.08/ 90.0	Kanjika Pedda Maliah S/o Venkiah	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	
42-370/ U1		Land	Ac.0.15/ 90.0	Kalamolla Maliahanna W/o Veniah	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	
43-370/ U2		Land	Ac.0.87/ 58.0	Yadanna W/o Krishnaiah	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	
44-370/ AA1		Land	Ac.0.83/ 58.0	Radhakollu Janganna W/o Maliah	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	
45-370/ AA2		Land	Ac.0.84/ 08.0	Radhakollu Shivamma W/o Veniah	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	Site No 370P	
Total					Ac.2-9308.0ts				

46-29/ Patta land		Plot 295/ A	100 Sq. Yards	Gade Krishanrao W/o Bhupali	Plot 298	Plot 300A	Open Land		
Total					180 Sq. Yards				
Grand Total					Ac.5-2080.6ts and 2,504 Sq. Yards				

Trees		Structures	
Variety	No of Trees	Type of Structures	No of Structures
--		NIL	

This notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30/2013), to all whom it may concern. A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Sangareddy: 66 Revenue Divisional Office, Sangareddy on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana/Collector is pleased to authorise Revenue Divisional Office, Sangareddy and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the Sub-soil and do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Sec. 12 of the said Act.

Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e., sale/ purchase etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector. Objection of the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided U/s 15 of the Act, before the District Collector, Sangareddy. The State Government has decided not to carry out the Social Impact Assessment Study, vide G.O.Ms.No.18, Transport, Roads: 86 Buildings (R.I.), Department dated: 13.08.2019 and the same was published in the Telangana State Gazette vide No.182 dated: 09.09.2019.

Gts/sidar Patancheru Mandal	Revenue Divisional Officer Sangareddy	Addl Collector Sangre District	District Collector Sangreddy District
-----------------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------------

DIPR No. 1294/LA/PP-Pub/2022-23

INDIA CORNER

Women with mental illness twice at risk of developing cervical cancer: Study

Women with mental illness, neuropsychiatric disability, or substance abuse run more than twice the risk of developing cervical cancer, as they are less likely to go for gynaecological smear tests, according to a study published in The Lancet Public Health. The researchers at Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, stressed the importance of proactively approaching these women as a preventative measure against cervical cancer. The observational study included over four million women born between 1940 and 1995. In the women, the researchers compared women diagnosed by a specialist with mental illness, neuropsychiatric disability, or substance abuse with women without such diagnoses. They then calculated the risk of cervical cancer and precancerous cervical lesions, including their participation in screening programs for cervical cancer.



India to pitch for access to research among G20 countries: Prof Sood

India will make a pitch for interlinking of national archives of G-20 countries to make available scientific papers published by researchers free-of-cost when chief scientific advisors of the multilateral platform meet at Ramnagar in Uttarakhand next week. Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India Prof Ajay Kumar Sood will chair the G20- Chief Scientific Advisors' Roundtable, the first such initiative taken by the grouping, that will also deliberate on better response to future pandemics, tapping into traditional systems of medicine and setting up of a mechanism for continuous global science and technology policy dialogue. The idea is to have a national archive which is effective and have interoperability of the archives." Prof Sood told PTI in an interview. Sood said author publication charges in peer-reviewed scientific journals have become exorbitant and so has access to published research papers.



NIA charge-sheets gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi, Goldy Brar, 12 others

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a fresh charge sheet against jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar, the alleged masterminds in the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, and a dozen others, charging them with criminal conspiracy to unleash a wave of terror and carry out targeted killings of high-profile people. The prosecution complaint has been filed against these gangsters who, the federal anti-terror agency said, had 'links' with the proscribed Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and several other pro-Khalistan terrorist outfits. The charge sheet came in the second of the three terror-gangster nexus cases that are being investigated by the NIA. "All the 14 accused have been charged with criminal conspiracy to unleash a wave of terror and carry out targeted killings of well-known social and religious leaders, movie stars, singers and businessmen."



Corrupt Cong wants to make K'taka its ATM: Amit Shah

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the Congress is degenerating across the country, and has now set its eyes on Karnataka to make the state its ATM and fill its coffers at the national level. Speaking in the poll-bound State, he appealed to people of Karnataka not to give a "half and incomplete government", and to form a BJP government with full majority and thereby strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. "Congress party is degenerating across the country, the Congress people don't have any state with them that can fill the Congress' central treasury, they want an ATM.... They want Karnataka to become Congress' ATM, and the corrupt Congress' eyes are now set on Karnataka," Shah said. Addressing a beneficiaries' meet organised by Karnataka



Highlighting that the Modi government banned Popular Font of India (PFI), Shah said, "Siddara - maiah's Congress government (earlier), used to withdraw cases against PFI"

Cooperative department and other departments, he asked people whether they will form a BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in Karnataka or a Congress government with Rahul Gandhi at the helm. "Wherever the Congress has formed the government, their history is corruption, humiliation of Dalits, OBCs and Adivasis, and strengthening anti-national forces," he alleged.

Bommai, veteran BJP leader B S Yediyurappa, Karnataka Co-Operation Minister S T Somashekar among others were present at the event. Highlighting that the Modi government banned Popular Font of India (PFI), Shah said, "Siddaramaiah's Congress government (earlier), used to withdraw cases against PFI, but Narendra Modi government by banning PFI has secured the entire South India, and also the entire country."

Claiming credit for the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, he said, the Congress party was "delaying, obstructing and misleading" for 70 years, but Modi has laid the foundation for the temple and it will be ready very soon. He also said that PM Modi, by abrogating Article 370, has put a bridge on terrorism in the entire country. "Modi's mission is to make the entire country prosperous, take forward every state including Karnataka."

TMC raises voice against Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from LS

PNS ■ KOLKATA



Trinamool Congress Friday raised its voice against the disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from Lok Sabha terming it a "new low" for the country's constitutional democracy. Party supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday without naming Gandhi, stood by him and said Opposition leaders are being discredited for their speeches. "In PM Modi's New India, Opposition leaders have become the prime target of BJP ! While BJP leaders with criminal antecedents are inducted into the cabinet,

and BJP, recently claimed that the saffron camp is trying to make a hero out of Rahul Gandhi to divert attention from burning issues by stalling Parliament proceedings over his recent remarks in the UK. During his interactions in the UK in February, Gandhi alleged that the structures of Indian democracy are under attack and there is a "full-scale assault" on the country's institutions. Opposition leaders are disqualified for their speeches," Banerjee, who is also the TMC supremo, tweeted. "Today, we have witnessed a new low for our constitutional democracy," she said. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi was disqualified from Lok Sabha on Friday, a day after a Surat court convicted him in a 2019 criminal defamation case. TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee tweeted "Democratic India is an Oxymoron now. #ripdemocracy." TMC leader in Rajya Sabha, Derek O'Brien said Gandhi's disqualification from Lok Sabha is the lowest in India's parliamentary democracy. "BJP is desperate to silence the voice of the opposition. This is the lowest in parliamentary democracy since 1950. BJP, shame on you," he said. The Lok Sabha secretariat announcing Gandhi's disqualification said that it was effective from March 23, the day of his conviction by the Surat court. TMC, which last week announced that it will maintain equidistance from both Congress

Amritpal tried to incite Sikhs through speeches: Officials

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Khalistan sympathiser Amritpal Singh, before escaping a Punjab Police crackdown on his outfit and supporters, attended five events in 10 days, and in these, he tried to radicalise Sikhs, coaxing 800-1,000 individuals to remain prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice, officials said. The radical preacher's brazen activities evinced his methodical efforts to undermine the fabric of society, they claimed and added that he during his speeches and sermons alleged that the government was leaving no stone unturned in its quest to disarm Sikhs by revoking their weapons licences. Amritpal Singh, who took over as 'Waris Punjab De' chief after its founder actor-activist Deep Sindhia's death last year, is on the run after police launched a massive crackdown on March 18 in the state and arrested several of his supporters. It began weeks after the preacher and his

supporters stormed the Ajnala police station near Amritsar on February 23 to secure the release of an arrested associate. The episode raised fears over the possibility of the return of Khalistani militancy to Punjab that borders Pakistan. The officials said the preacher allegedly implored youngsters to unify for securing "Khalsa rule" for the coming generations of Punjab, proclaiming that the division within the Sikh Panth made them "vulnerable to the enemy's onslaught". The Ajnala incident had reignited fears of a resurgence of Khalistani militancy in the state, they said and pointed out that Amritpal Singh had ulterior motives to sully the peaceful ambience of Punjab, and this was exemplified by the abduction and assault on Barinder Singh. Barinder Singh, in his complaint, had told police that Amritpal Singh's associates had abducted him from Ajnala and took him to an unknown place where he was brutally thrashed.



Under PM Modi, attempt is being made to destroy country: Kejriwal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched an attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday and said under his leadership, an attempt is being made to destroy the country. In a speech in the Delhi Assembly, he also accused Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena of obstructing the work of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government. "I want to tell BJP people that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, an attempt is being made to destroy the country. Those who want to destroy the country should be in BJP and those who want to save the country should leave BJP," he said. There was an uproar in the Assembly when Kejriwal spoke about the prime minister. Referring to the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from Lok Sabha, Kejriwal targeted the central government and said "they are scared".

Oppn holds protest march alleging 'danger to democracy'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 30 opposition MPs, including those from the Congress, were detained on Friday as they took out a protest march from Parliament House, alleging that democracy is in "danger" and demanding a JPC probe into the Adani issue. Prominent leaders, including K C Venugopal, Adhir Chowdhury, K Suresh, Manickam

Tagore, Imran Pratapgarhi and Mohammed Javed, were stopped by the police and detained at Vijay Chowk here for violating prohibitory orders, the opposition said. "Over 30 MPs from opposition parties had to be detained for violation of Section 144 (prohibitory orders)," a senior Delhi Police officer said. The Delhi Police said those

detained have been taken to a nearby police station. Earlier addressing the media at Vijay Chowk, several leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, also raised the issue of Rahul Gandhi's conviction in a 2019 criminal defamation case by a Surat court and alleged that the government was targeting the opposition with cases to suppress their voices.

Maha: Crime more rampant than development: Ajit Pawar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party leader Ajit Pawar on Friday attacked the Eknath Shinde government in Maharashtra and said crime was more rampant in its rule than development. Initiating a debate in the Assembly on the Opposition sponsored last-week resolution on the state's law and order, Pawar, who is the Leader of Opposition, said the "double

engine" government was making compromises to stay in power. The Bharatiya Janata Party refers to governments of the party or its allies in the states as "double engine" dispensations, meaning development was being carried out through efforts of the respective state as well as the Centre. Pawar said farmers were distressed due to natural calamities and lack of minimum support price for crops, while unem-

ployment and crime, especially against women, were on the rise, but the government was busy pressuring and harassing political rivals. On the pretext of "love jihad", there is an attempt to vitiate the law and order situation in the state, the NCP leader alleged. "Love jihad" is a term used by right-wing outfits to allege Muslim men were converting Hindu women by luring them into marriages.

Lookback into disqualified MPs and MLAs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi who was suspended from Lok Sabha following his conviction in a criminal defamation case joins an ignominious list of members of Parliament and assemblies who faced similar action in the past. According to the Representation of the People Act, a person sentenced to imprisonment of two years or more shall be disqualified "from the date of such conviction" and remain disqualified for another six years after serving time. Here are some of the lawmakers suspended upon conviction and sentencing in criminal cases: **Lalu Prasad** The RJD supremo was disqualified from the Lok Sabha after his conviction in the fodder scam case in September 2013. He was an MP from Saran in Bihar. **J Jayalalithaa** AIADMK supremo J Jayalalithaa was disqualified from the Tamil

Nadu Assembly in September 2014 after she was sentenced to four years in jail in a disproportionate assets case. She was the chief minister of Tamil Nadu at the time of her disqualification and had to resign from the post. **P P Mohammed Faizal** Lakshadweep MP P P Mohammed Faisal of the Nationalist Congress Party stood automatically disqualified after he was sentenced to 10 years in jail in January 2023 in connection with an attempt to murder case. However, the Kerala High Court later suspended his conviction and sentence. According to the MP, the Lok Sabha Secretariat is yet to issue a notification revoking his disqualification. **Azam Khan** Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan was disqualified from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly in October 2022 after a court sentenced him to three years in jail in a 2019 hate speech case. He represented Rampur Sadar in the Assembly.

Anil Kumar Sahni RJD MLA Anil Kumar Sahni was disqualified from the Bihar Assembly in October 2022 after he was sentenced to three years in jail in a case of fraud. He represented the Kurhani assembly seat. He was held guilty of attempting to avail travel allowance in 2012 using forged Air India e-tickets without having undertaken the journeys. Sahni, who was a JD(U) Rajya Sabha MP at the time of the attempted fraud, had submitted claims of Rs 23.71 lakh. **Vikram Singh Saini** BJP MLA Vikram Singh Saini was disqualified from the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly with effect from October 2022 after he was sentenced to two years of imprisonment in a 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots case. Saini was an MLA from Khatauli in Muzaffarnagar. **Pradeep Chaudhary** Congress MLA Pradeep Chaudhary was disqualified from the Haryana Assembly in January

2021 after he was sentenced to a three-year jail term in an assault case. He was an MLA from Kalka. **Kuldeep Singh Sengar** Kuldeep Singh Sengar was disqualified from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly in February 2020 following his conviction in a rape case. Sengar, who was elected from the Bangarmau constituency in Unnao, was earlier expelled by the BJP. **Abdullah Azam Khan** Samajwadi Party MLA Abdullah Azam Khan was disqualified from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly in February 2023, days after a court sentenced him to two-year imprisonment in a 15-year-old case. He represented Suar in Rampur district in the Assembly. The case against Abdullah Azam Khan, the son of Azam Khan, pertained to a dharana on a highway after his cavalcade was stopped by police for checking following an attack on a CRPF camp in Rampur on December 31, 2007.

Slew of initiatives to eliminate TB

PNS ■ VARANASI

India's ideology of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam" is giving the modern world an integrated vision and solutions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday as he launched a series of initiatives to eliminate tuberculosis. Addressing the 'One World

TB Summit' on World TB Day, Modi said the country is working to eliminate tuberculosis by 2025 as against the global target of 2030. "India's image reflects in its ideology of 'Vasudev Kutumbkam' (whole world one family). This old thought is giving the modern world an integrated vision and solutions," he said.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
4th Floor Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad
Public Notification U/s. 15 (3) of HMDA Act, 2000
(Government Memo. No. 13958/Pig.(I)/2022, Dt:23-02-2023)
In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2000 (Act No. 8 of 2000), it is proposed to make the following draft variation to the land use envisaged in the notified Metropolitan Development Plan MDP-2021 issued vide G.O.Ms.No.288/MA&UD, Dt:03-04-2020. The site in plot nos:117, 118, 120, 122, in Sy. Nos. 356 of Nagaram (V) - Keesara (M) & Medchal-Malkajgiri Dist., total extent of 994.84 Sq. Mtrs., and the net plot area of 866.97 Sq.mts, which is presently earmarked as public & semi public use as per the notified Metropolitan Development Plan MDP-2021 issued vide G.O.Ms.No.288/MA&UD, Dt:03-04-2020, is now proposed to be designated as Commercial use zone. The details of the above are available in websites <http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/> and <http://hmda.gov.in/>. Objections / Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections / suggestions in writing either to the M.C. HMDA or to the Special Chief Secretary, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice.
Sd/- For Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA
DPR No.1432-PPVCL-AGENCY/NDVT/2022-23, Dt:24-03-2023

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LAND ACQUISITION) DEPARTMENT DISTRICT COLLECTOR, JANGAON PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION FORM-VI (See Sub-rule (1) of rule-19 and Section-11 (1) of the Act-30/2013) Rc. No. C/55/2022 Date: 25.01.2023 Dist Collr. File No. G29/11/2022 Date: 21.01.2023 Gazette No. JN/LA/04/2023 Date: 21.02.2023									
Whereas it appears to the District Collector, Jangaon that a total of Ac. 8.06 1/2 gts of land is required in the limits of Regula Village of Kodakandla Mandal of Jangaon District for public purpose, namely acquisition of land for the purpose of excavation of 14L of 7L Distributory of Nashikl Main Canal from Nashikl Tank to Patikurthy Tank for Embankment of Canals under JCR DLP, Phase-II Package-VI. As per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act No. 30 of 2013, the District Collector (appropriate Government) declares that the proposed acquisition is comes under exempted category as defined under 0(2) & 10(4) of the said act and as such the provisions of Chapter-II and Chapter-III of the Act shall not apply to this case. Total (Nil) families are likely to be displace due to the land acquisition. The Adst. Collector is appointed as Administrator for the purpose of Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the affected families. Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in Regula village of Kodakandla Mandal of Jangaon District a piece of land measuring, more or less Ac. 8.06 1/2 gts of standard measurement, whose detailed description is as following, is under acquisition.									
SCHEDULE 14L of 7L Distributory of Nashikl Main Canal. Village: Regula, Mandal: Kodakandla, District: Jangaon									
Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Nature of Land	Class	Extent	Name of the Enjoyer	Remarks			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
1	192	Endowment	Dry	0.1425	Endowment land				
				Total	0.1425				
2	191	Endowment	Dry	1.26	Endowment land				
3	191			0.003	Road(BT) Govt.				
				Total	1.263				
4	184	Endowment	Dry	0.03	Endowment land				
5	184			0.0125	Road(BT) Govt.				
				Total	0.0425				
6	190	Endowment	Dry	1.1675	Endowment land				
7	190			0.0025	Road(BT) Govt.				
				Total	1.17				
8	189	Endowment	Dry	0.17	Endowment land				
				Total	0.17				
9	185	Endowment	Dry	0.06	Endowment land,				
				Total	0.06				
10	186	Endowment	Dry	1.2525	Endowment land				
				Total	1.2525				
11	187	Ceiling	Dry	0.16	Gugulthi Sajin S/o Mangga Gugulthi Randhir S/o Mangga Gugulthi Sonamya S/o Rajya Gugulthi Ram Singh S/o Rajya				
12	187	Ceiling	Dry	0.135	Gugulthi Venu S/o Chaitru				
13	187	Ceiling	Dry	0.065	Gugulthi Venkanna S/o Dhunta				
14	187	Ceiling	Dry	0.14	Badraba Prabhakar S/o Somiah				
15	187	Ceiling	Dry	0.1325	Madhural Venkiah S/O				
16	187			0.06	Road (BT) Govt.				
17	187	Ceiling	Dry	0.045	Gugulthi Sonamya S/o Chaitru, G. Venu S/o Chaitru, G. Srinu S/o Dhunta, G. Sonamya S/o Dhunta, G. Venkanna S/o Dhunta				
				Total	1.3375				
18	205	Patna	Dry	0.06	Gugulthi Sonamya S/o Chaitru, G. Venu S/o Chaitru, G. Srinu S/o Dhunta, G. Sonamya S/o Dhunta, G. Venkanna S/o Dhunta				
19	205	Patna	Dry	0.145	Gugulthi Jai Ram S/o Dheepa Gugulthi Venkanna S/o Dheepa				
				Total	0.225				
				Grand Total	8.065				
Trees / Structures									
Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Extent	Name of the Enjoyer	Trees	Structures	Remarks			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
1	191	1.26	Endowment land	..	Pipe Line				
2	190	1.1675	Endowment land	..	300 Pipe Line-4				
3	188	1.2525	Endowment land	Taddy - 6, Banana - 1, Neem - 1					
4	187	0.16	Gugulthi Sajin S/o Mangga Gugulthi Randhir S/o Mangga Gugulthi Sonamya S/o Rajya Gugulthi Ram Singh S/o Rajya	Teak - 30					
This notification is made under the provisions of section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act 2013 Act No.30/2013 to all whom it may concern. A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector & Special Deputy Collector, L.A. R&R, Irrigation Projects, unit-I Jangaon on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana (Collector-sun-Appropriate Government) is pleased to authorize officer Special Deputy Collector, L.A. R&R, Irrigation Projects, Unit-I Jangaon and his staff L.A. to enter upon and survey land take levels of any land dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act. Objection to the acquisition if any may be filed by the person interested with in 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided U/s 15 of the Act before District Collector/ Special Deputy Collector, L.A. R&R, Irrigation Projects, Unit-I Jangaon. Sd/- Special Dy. Collector, Sd/- Addl. Collector, Sd/- Dist. Collector, L.A. R&R Unit-I, Irrigation (Revenue) Jangaon. Projects, Jangaon. DPR No. 1311/LA/PP-Jung-2023-23									

Inconsistent

ONDC is making a foray into the city transport sector but its very existence is problematic

Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) has entered the city transport sector by tying up with a Bengaluru-based ride-hailing company. The objective is to check the market dominance of aggregators like Uber and Ola. ONDC, a Government-run protocol on the lines of UPI, is also reportedly negotiating with more companies in the sector in several other cities. While well-intended, there are fundamental flaws in the idea of ONDC. When it was launched in September last year, it was claimed that it would check the monopoly of global e-commerce giants like Amazon and Walmart. “After UPI, another game changing idea to democratise commerce - ONDC soft launch today to select consumers, sellers and logistics providers. Get ready for a world of choice, convenience and transparency,” Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal tweeted the day ONDC was launched. But isn’t checking monopolistic practices the duty of the Competition



Commission of India (CCI)? The Competition Act, 2002, was passed by Parliament in 2002, to which the President accorded assent in January 2003. It was subsequently amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007. In accordance with the provisions of the Amendment Act, the Competition Commission of India and the Competition Appellate Tribunal were established. The CCI is now fully functional with a Chairperson and six members, according to the CCI’s website. The provisions of the Competition Act relating to anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position were notified on May 20, 2009.

“It is the statutory duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants, in markets in India as provided in the Preamble as well as Section 18 of the Act,” says the CCI website. The commission is also mandated to give its opinion on competition issues to government or statutory authority and to undertake competition advocacy for creating awareness of competition law, it adds. Against this backdrop, the very idea of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry setting up a body for the same purpose is duplication of work. Besides, it also militates against the principle Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated more than once: the government has no business to be in business. It is in pursuance of this principle that the Government has been privatising public sector undertakings. But, by launching ONDC, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry will be ensuring government interference in the economy — something that is not in tune with the Modi Government reformist agenda. On the face of it, ONDC’s new forays may seem impressive but in reality these don’t appear to be consistent with the newly emerging policy framework. Instead of zealously promoting ONDC, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry should focus on boosting manufacturing.

PICTALK



Women in traditional dresses celebrate Zangtri as part of three-day Navreh (Kashmiri New Year) festival PTI

Are you contributing to electronic waste?

E-waste is a growing concern not only in India but also globally. With the launch of newer devices, our greed leads us to buy the latest ones

Christian Lous Lange says “technology is an effective servant but a dangerous master”. There is no denying everyone is addicted to technology in some way or another. Everyone has seen the transition from a wired telephone to the first cell phones followed by the latest, lighter and better version of cell phones. However, have we ever thought that today’s technology will be obsolete someday? Today, technology has affected almost every aspect from advancements in education, medicine or transport to easy access to socialization, food, healthcare and productivity.

Every year, big tech companies come up with new versions of their devices. This leads to the market to shift to its updated version. As a result, many individuals replace their phones or gadgets with new ones, causing a lot of E-waste. Today, almost 10 billion people have smartphones, and in 3-4 years without access to repair these devices will add to an enormous amount of e-waste that already exists.

Though buying latest gadgets keeps an individual



updated, in the long run their constant use will affect our planet’s health severely. According to a research, India is the 3rd largest E-waste producer after China and the USA. E-waste or electronic waste is the fastest growing waste stream in the world. It includes discarded electronic devices such as mobile phones, tablets, notepads, computers, radios and televisions. Computer devices account for nearly 70% of e-waste, followed by the telecom sector, medical equipment and electrical equipment.

Unfortunately, these devices end up in landfills, where they release hazardous gases into the atmosphere. The toxic components so released affect human health in terms of skin irritation, lung infections, kidney problems, nausea and others. They also contribute to soil contamination, polluting the envi-

ronment and most importantly harm and threat to wildlife. According to a recent study, E-waste has reached alarming levels with 5.3 billion phones thrown away every year. Since the last 5 years, waste has grown by 21% and is expected to reach 74.2 MT by 2030. If not recycled or disposed of properly, heavy metals in e-waste emit toxic substances causing serious environmental concern.

At the individual level, there are several solutions that can help reduce e-waste such as considering repairing a smartphone instead of buying a new one or preferring to donate old devices such as laptops, computers or notepads to schools or charitable organisations that can find a use for the product. Educating high-school students about e-waste’s harmful effects has a greater impact on stopping its spread. Adopting changes in technology such as cloud computing and the internet of things can even help with dematerialization. In India, many e-waste recycling startups such as Cashify, Attero recycling, Namu E-waste, Binbag and many more have come up

with the objective of conserving resources by adopting economical and responsible disposal techniques of e-waste.

These startups are working day and night to create opportunities to transfer waste into socially and industrially beneficial raw materials such as valuable metals, plastics and glass. They are using simple, cost-efficient and environmentally friendly technologies suitable for Indian conditions. As climate change effects grow, it becomes the responsibility of its citizens to help the planet and prevent e-waste issues. Also, with the 5G revolution, it is imperative to recycle old smartphones. It is important to understand that a difference can only be made at the individual level.

E-waste is a growing concern not only in India but also globally, as the moment electronic devices get introduced, an individual’s greed leads them to buy the latest one while the old ones take space in the cupboard drawers. We need a safe channel for recycling obsolete equipment.

(The writer is a teacher at a reputed school in Delhi)



SAKSHI SETHI

Myanmar nightmare continues unabated

It’s been more than two years since the coup, yet the low-intensity civil war raging on in our neighbouring country is set to last for a long time

More than two years have passed since the coup in Myanmar on February 1, 2021, which prevented the elected members of the National League for Democracy, which had won 396 seats out of 476 in the Lower House of Parliament in the country’s November 2020 elections, from assuming office. The junta that perpetrated the coup arrested Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, NLD-leader and iconic symbol of the country’s struggle for democracy, and leaders of her party. It unleashed a vicious repression campaign.

The Government continues to face growing countrywide resistance with murderous violence. Volker Türk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, told the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on March 6, 2023, that, overall, the military’s airstrikes against civilian locations increased by 141 per cent in the second year of its takeover, and its shelling of communities, including hospitals schools and places of worship, by over 100 per cent. During the same period, incidents in which homes and neighbourhoods were set on fire rose by 380 per cent. This led to an estimated 1,200 per cent increase in the number of homes destroyed. He further stated that reports continued to be received daily, particularly from the Sagaing region, north-west of Mandalay, of ongoing incidents, with soldiers reportedly moving from village to village, looting and setting fire to homes and farms.

Türk cited his UN colleagues as saying 39,000 structures had been burned in villages and towns by the military since the coup. Overall, credible sources verified that at

FIRST COLUMN

NOW THE GOVT DECIDES WHAT WE EAT

Unlike the days of yore, Govts need to incentivise crops which suit modern life



SHUBHANG RATHI

In the early human civilisations, it was geography and weather that decided what crops were to be grown in any region. The same crop was consumed by the people of that area. Exports were tough and risky. But, in modern civilisation, Governments directly or indirectly control the food consumed.

Government subsidies are offered in various ways. It can be direct transfers to farmers by cash transfer (DBT) or by providing them with subsidized electricity, water, diesel, pesticides, fertilizer etc. Subsidies have also been provided in the form of MSP (minimum selling price) for certain agricultural products. Subsidies given to small and big enterprises are to set up export-oriented units or food processing units, cold storages, warehouses, or to set up SEZs or food parks to enhance the production of a particular cereal crop, fruit, vegetable, fish, meat products or certain packed products/processed food (dairy, apiculture) etc. By giving subsidies to farmers, the government incentivizes farmers to grow a particular crop, which can become a mass consumption item as government subsidies make it really cheap to produce and reduce the price of the products, and these crops when subsidized can change the dietary habits of not only millions but billions of people. A remarkable example of such action is the USA subsidizing corn and corn-related products which have flooded not only the American market but also the world market with products like corn flour, cornstarch, corn syrup etc. Another remarkable example is from India. Government subsidy on rice and sugarcane has made India one of the largest producers of this agricultural produce. It has also made India one of the biggest exporters of these both commodities and flooding not only the Indian market but also the world market with it. Also, the Indian government gives rice and sugar subsidised to public distribution centres.

Well, there is nothing wrong in giving incentives to farmers to produce more to get good rates for their produce, but in the case of India, the biggest problem that we are facing is, that both these crops are highly water-intensive crops and a country of 1.4 billion is already facing a lot of trouble with its groundwater and water irrigation. Exporting these crops is like exporting water from the country. Rice cultivation also produces a large amount of methane, which is a harmful greenhouse gas (GHG). Another problem is that both these crops are high in carbohydrates and combined with an unhealthy lifestyle can lead to diseases such as obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and other heart-related issues. Governments across the world should, before incentivising a certain crop, consider that incentivizing one crop can really impact the consumption patterns of the masses. It can have a detrimental effect on the health of millions of people.

Another remarkable example is from the industrialization period in Europe and America. Potatoes were made a mass-consumed vegetable as the labour working in the factories needed high calories and carbohydrates to function in the long shifts of the factories. This dietary habit continued even after the industrialization era ended. For the generations after that, potatoes still remained the go-to vegetable as it was a cheap vegetable and people ate it in the past, hence the generations copied the same eating habits even after changes in working and lifestyle.

Today's lifestyle requires less physical work and more mental effort, which requires crops and dietary habit changes. This change can benefit generations to come. For example, eyesight weakness and malnutrition are common problems children face these days. To curtail these problems vital vitamins like vitamin A and C-rich fruits and vegetables can be incentivized by the government. Less water-intensive cereals like Bajra, Jau, and Ragi can be incentivized to become part of the daily meal plan. The year 2023 has been declared the millet international year by the United Nations. This is "as it consumes 70% less water than rice and needs 40% less energy in processing and is climate-friendly and environmentally friendly."

(The writer is the Director of Rathi Public Schools)



Empower ‘Divyangs’ with skills, inclusion



DINESH SOOD

There is no dearth of opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, provided they are equipped with the right set of skills. The Govt is working in this direction



Divyangjan or persons with disabilities (PwDs) are a significant social group but are rarely provided with the right kind of opportunities, skills and platforms to showcase their talent and productive potential. It is unfortunately presumed that PwDs cannot make any meaningful contributions to our economy's growth, which is wrong. People with disabilities have immense potential to contribute significantly to the economy but they need skills that are best suited to them. It is an irony that PwDs, who account for more than 2 per cent of our total population, have not been allowed to be a part of mainstream discourse and pursuits aimed at empowerment through inclusion.

Unfortunately, the employability rate for PwDs is very low. It is estimated that only 36 per cent of India's 26 million PwDs are working. As per a report by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on PwDs, nearly 64 per cent of persons with disabilities in India don't have jobs. More disabled men than women have jobs. As per an assessment of market intelligence, Unearth Insight, only 34 lakh out of almost 3 crore PwDs are employed but 1.3 crores are employable. Most of them are employed in organised and unorganised sectors, government entities or self-employed. It is therefore necessary to ensure that most PwDs get gainful jobs but how?

In order to ensure that persons with disabilities lead a dignified life independently, they must be provided with high-quality education. This is so that they have the freedom to choose their careers and have equal employment opportunities. There are several examples where Divyang people have achieved impressive feats in many fields thanks to their indomitable courage, talent and determination. If provided with the right environment, opportunities and skills, they can excel in every field. Education, in particular skill-based education, is the key to empower-



AS PER A REPORT BY THE UNION MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION ON PwDs, NEARLY 64 PER CENT OF THEM DON'T HAVE JOBS. MORE DISABLED MEN THAN WOMEN HAVE JOBS

(The writer is a co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner with the National Skill Development Corporation)

ment for everyone, including those with disabilities.

There is no dearth of jobs for PwDs, provided they are equipped with the right soft and practical skills. Some of the most valuable soft job skills for adults with disabilities that employers look for: attention to detail; communication skills; conflict management skills; problem-solving skills; teamwork skills; time management skills; and enrichment and life skills. Similarly, some hard job skills for PwDs include accounting, engineering, technical writing, computer-related jobs, healthcare, career counseling, customer service, insurance agent, massage therapist, telemarketer, photographer in a wheelchair, desktop publisher, graphic designer, web developer, bank teller, receptionist, financial analyst, landscaper or groundskeeper.

National Education Policy 2020 also underlines the importance of enabling arrangements in providing equal opportunities for quality education for children with disabilities. The conversion of NCERT textbooks for Classes I to VI into Indian Sign Language for hearing-impaired children is complete. It is a crucial initiative to include hearing-impaired students in mainstream education. It is heartening indeed to note that the Government is taking several steps to empower Divyangjan. Inculcating self-confidence among Divyangjan is very important to empower them for which they need skills. There are talents and abilities in people with disabilities; in some cases, these are greater than those found in normal people. Inclusive growth, development and confidence must encompass PwD aspirations.

It is worth noting that the

Government enacted the Right to Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which came into effect on April 19, 2017. It provides for 4 per cent reservation in government jobs for disabilities. The Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, Accessible India Campaign, was launched by the Central Government on December 3, 2015. It provides universal accessibility for persons with disabilities so that they can live a meaningful life with dignity. Public buildings, transport systems and information and communication technology are included in this campaign. Keeping in view the problems related to accessibility faced by the masses, a mobile app has been developed to address accessibility problems in a quick and systematic manner.

The Government has also set up the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) to promote hearing-impaired persons' empowerment and to create sign language in the country. The institute, among other things, is continuously preparing sign language dictionaries that have so far included more than 10,000 words. The Government is also implementing a Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID) project to create a National Database for Persons with Disabilities. So far, over 84 lakh UDID cards have been prepared in 713 districts of all states and Union Territories.

The Disability Sports Centre is being established at Gwalior and the National Institute of Mental Health and Rehabilitation at Sehore, both Madhya Pradesh. Divya Kala Shakti is organised to showcase Divyang youngsters and children's talent and skills. However, they need a dedicated

programme to equip them with employable or gainful skills. The process of skilling and creating job opportunities for crores of youth through Skill India Mission and Kaushal Rozgar Kendra cannot exclude PwDs. Their needs require a specific and targeted approach.

We have the Skill Council for Persons with Disability (SCPwD) as a national body to fulfill the mission of mainstreaming PwDs through skill training to enable them to earn a livelihood and lead a life of dignity in the mainstream society and in turn contribute to the growing economy of the country. Skill training is also imparted at accredited training centres through trained and certified trainers. Trainers are trained on NSQC-approved job roles aligned to a specific disability. Trainers are also certified in disability orientation and sensitisation.

As of now, we haven't been inclusive in our approach to skilling people in any way. A few sectors' artisans received some attention, while many classes of artisans such as carpenters, iron smiths, sculptors, masons and others that are an integral part of society have been adapting to the changing times to fulfil; the needs of society that were ignored.

PwDs were rarely discussed in relation to their skill set. Empowering every section of society is essential to our country's development journey. I totally agree with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's argument that they should get easy loans, skilling, technical support, digital empowerment, brand promotion, marketing and raw material. Development of traditional artisans and craftsmen while preserving their rich tradition must include PwDs.

Innovative approaches are galvanising livestock economy

A conclave in Hyderabad recently brought more than 100 startups, 50 CII members and the fast-growing livestock sector together

The livestock sector, besides contributing to the national economy, plays a key role in providing livelihood to 80 million rural households and is growing at a high and consistent rate in the country, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.93 per cent between 2014-15 to 2020-21 (at constant prices), which is much higher than the general agriculture sector.

India currently ranks third in unicorns and has a thriving startup ecosystem. It is estimated that 15 per cent of the world's agri-tech startups are based here. Modern technical breakthroughs have impacted almost every component of India's dairy and livestock value chain. This is due to Government initiatives to encourage investments, ease of



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

(The writer is Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying)

doing business and innovation.

Animal husbandry and dairying have more than 700 startups registered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. This proves that there is more room for technology deployment and monetisation of interventions in the related sectors.

Startup conclave

A recent startup conclave in Hyderabad on February 28 included showcasing of a 100 select startups, a pitch fest, a buyer-seller meet, and a workshop for startups to train the early-stage startups operating in the animal husbandry and dairying sector in pitching, building the main business pillars, and their story of impact. Beside more than 100 startups, 50 members from the Confederation of Indian

Industry also participated in the event, searching for creative solutions to the key issues facing the livestock sector.

Startups' exhibition

Startups showcased their goods and innovations, including cosmetics made of camel milk and donkey milk (they offer a mind-boggling rate of Rs 1,200 per kg of donkey milk to the owners of donkey farms), building products and panels made of cow dung, innovations in animal feed and insect feed, platforms for online livestock trade, platforms that connect farmers with embedded digital finance options, new yoghurt flavours, breed improvement technology for cattle, intelligent dairy automation solutions, and cold chain solutions. Startups benefited greatly from the expo as

it gave them access to investors, dairy cooperatives, and government partners.

Pitch fest & shoring capacity

A special pitching event with a panel of investors, including venture capitalists and angel investors, was organised for 10 startups. With innovative products and services, the startups represent the animal husbandry and dairy industries. These products and services include artificial insemination equipment, cattle reproduction solutions, traceability, heat detection, frozen semen thawing, veterinary care, nanotechnology, polymer chemistry, vaccines, and diagnostics, among others.

A concurrent workshop was held for early-stage startups to guide them in the art of pitching and developing

primary business pillars/story of impact, problem-solving, and government-e-marketplace. The speakers delved into investor psychology and expectations to help the audience understand what is required to have the highest chance of acquiring investment from a venture capital fund and PE and angel investors.

On the finer elements of pitching, term sheet preparation, legal rights, value, etc., the experts gave enlightening advice. The buyer-seller meeting was a fascinating session of the conclave that drew enthusiastic involvement from both sides. Of the prominent dairy cooperatives and enterprises participating in the event, ten start-ups delivered a sales pitch to market their products.

Technological advancements will lead to significant improvements in day-to-day operations and lower business costs. The Indian Government employs numerous cutting-edge breeding techniques in the animal husbandry industry to maximise local bovine herd production. Startups are crucial for making such a system self-sustaining.

The growth of startups has improved this ecosystem's development, organisation, and resilience, mostly to the benefit of its most significant stakeholder—the Indian farmers—who make up the agriculture sector, which includes the livestock industry and forms the backbone of the nation's economy.

Innovative approaches to

the problems of animal health, online marketplaces, improved supply chains, products with value-added, mobile apps, drones, and other investments are not only empowering producers or entrepreneurs but also improving the market, making resources more available, preventing waste, maximising profits, creating scalable businesses, and removing bottlenecks.

The support that the Government gives to startups shows the importance and impact of startups in the Indian economy. The livestock industry in India is poised to grow and will continue to be crucial in advancing our Hon'ble Prime Minister's goal of building an Aatmanirbhar (self-sufficient) India.

MONEY MATTERS

Xiaomi India teams up with United Way to upskill transgender community

Smart device maker Xiaomi India has joined hands with United Way India to upskill the transgender community through a skill development programme that will create employment opportunities for beneficiaries across Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru regions. According to a statement, the partnership aims to upskill 100 transgender persons with the knowledge of laptop, computer and mobile handset repair to enhance their employability and provide sustainable livelihood options to them. "With technology usage at an all-time high, this skill development programme is a gateway for the transgender community to secure jobs with leading mobile companies and pave the way for their entrepreneurial journey," the statement said. The selected individuals' training programme will span over four months and incorporate an experiential learning approach. It will cover different modules such as basic electronics, software and hardware, and hands-on practical training.



WINDFALL TAX

Vedanta deducts US\$ 91 mn from govt's profit to make up for tax paid

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In signs of protests against the 9-month-old windfall tax, mining mogul Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Ltd has withheld about USD 91 million from the share of profit due to government from its oil and gas fields, to make up for the additional tax outgo, according to sources and correspondence on the issue.

India first imposed windfall profit tax on July 1, 2022 joining a growing number of nations that tax super normal profits of energy companies. But the levy of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) on locally produced crude oil was seen by producers as violation of the contract which provides fiscal stability.

The SAED initially was Rs 23,250 per tonne (USD 40 per barrel) and in fortnightly revisions brought down to Rs 3,500 per tonne.

This is in addition to the 10-20 per cent royalty on price of oil and gas realised and an oil



cess of 20 per cent. On top, the government is also entitled to a pre-decided share of profit after expenses are deducted from revenue earned from sale of oil and gas.

Vedanta on January 31 and on February 20 informed the ministry of petroleum and natural gas that it has made a deduction of USD 85.35 million for SAED paid on its prolific Rajasthan block, RJ-ON-90/1, and another USD 5.50 million for block CB-OS/2 in Cambay basin.

This was being done with a

view to restore economic benefits as mentioned in the signed contracts under which it operates, the correspondence, reviewed by PTI, showed.

It argued that the contracts, called production sharing contract or PSC, provides for fiscal stability for the contracting parties. The PSC states that in the event of change of law or rule or regulation that results in adverse change to the expected economic benefits to any of the parties, the parties shall consult promptly

and make necessary revisions and adjustments to the contract in order to maintain such expected economic benefits to each of them.

The ministry however in a February 22 letter called the "unilateral" deduction as "wrongful" and asked the company to pay the short paid profit along with interest within 7 days. Vedanta has not complied with the direction.

Vedanta's Cairn Oil & Gas, which operates the two blocks, did not answer emails sent for comments. Emails sent to the oil ministry too remained unanswered.

Sources said the ministry was the view that arbitration was the dispute resolution mechanism provided in the PSC and Vedanta was contemplating on that. But arbitrations are costly and time consuming.

Also, they carry reputation risk for the government that needs to be considered especially in context of promotion of ease of doing business.

Ansell TN UNIT to focus on making surgical and life sciences products

Superior health and safety protection solutions provider Ansell has unveiled its Go Live Ansell Kovai, packing and irradiation operations in the country set up at an investment of about USD 80 million, a top official said on Friday. The facility at Perundurai in Erode district would initially focus on manufacturing surgical and life sciences products and industrial products later, company managing director and chief executive officer Neil Salmon said. In July 2021, Chief Minister M K Stalin had taken part in the foundation stone laying ceremony at the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIP-COT) industrial growth centre. The manufacturing unit has been designed with ability to take up capacity expansion in future, accommodate products of Ansell including glove line. Salmon told reporters here. On completion of the project, Ansell Kovai would be spread across 43,000 sq metres and would have a post processing building, warehouse, packaging facility among others.



Govt says 5,642 warehouse projects completed under WIF scheme so far

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Around 5,642 warehousing projects have been completed under the Warehouse Infrastructure Fund (WIF) scheme so far, Parliament was informed on Friday.

Under the Warehouse Infrastructure Fund (WIF) scheme, under the Ministry of Finance, about Rs 9,393.68 crore funds have been sanctioned till December 2022 for establishment of 7,953 warehouse projects spread across 21 states, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

The estimated storage capacity on completion of these projects will be 9.32 million tonnes, he said. Out of which, the cumulative disbursement of WIF loan till December 2022 was Rs 8,357 crore, against the sanctions. "As on date, 5,642 projects have been completed," the Minister said. Apart from the WIF scheme, Tomar said the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture facilitates medium-long-term debt financing for investment in viable projects relating to post-harvest management infrastructure through incentives and financial support.

CIL to supply higher quantities of coal to non-regulated sector

State-owned CIL on Friday said it is making all efforts to supply higher quantities of coal to the non-regulated sector (NRS) without affecting supplies to the power sector, through increased production. The statement comes days after the maharatna firm stated that it is gearing up to meet the demand of coal from the power sector amid early onset of summer and a pick up in the industrial demand for electricity. Stepping up on supplies, Coal India Ltd (CIL) is poised to post 16.6 per cent growth in coal despatch to its non-regulated sector customers in the fourth quarter of the ongoing fiscal, compared to the preceding quarter. Coal despatch to NRS customers has been averaging 3.67 lakh tonnes per day in the fourth quarter of the ongoing fiscal till date. CIL is likely to close the ongoing quarter with 33 million tonnes (MT) supply to this sector. It would mean 4.7 MT more coal to NRS, or a jump of 16.6 per cent, compared to 28.3 MT that the company supplied in the third quarter of the year, the coal behemoth said in a statement.



Lok Sabha passes Finance Bill

○ Tax benefits for debt mutual funds removed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Friday approved The Finance Bill 2023 with 64 official amendments including providing tax relief to some taxpayers opting for new tax regime, and removing long-term tax benefit for debt mutual funds to bring them at par with other interest earning instruments.

In a relief to taxpayers opting for deductions and exemption-free new tax regime, individuals earning marginally higher income than no-tax ceiling of Rs 7 lakh will continue to pay nil tax.

Under the new tax regime with effect from April 1, if a taxpayer has an annual income of Rs 7 lakh s/he pays no tax. But if s/he has income of Rs 7,00,100 s/he pays tax of Rs 25,010. Thus an additional income of Rs 100 leads to tax of Rs 25,010.

The amendment provides that the tax payable should not be more than the income that exceeds Rs 7 lakh. This means, an individual having income up to Rs 7,27,700 could stand to benefit from this marginal relief.



Other amendments include raising the tax rate on royalty and fee for technical services from 10 per cent to 20 per cent.

The Finance Bill, which includes tax proposals for the fiscal year beginning April 1, was passed without a discussion as parliament continued to remain stalled over demands for a probe into allegations against the Adani group.

Lok Sabha, which had on Thursday approved Rs 45 lakh-crore Budget for 2023-24 fiscal in just 9 minutes, passed the Finance Bill amid placards holding opposition MPs shouting slogans from the

well of the House.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the Bill and the 64 amendments which were all approved by voice vote.

These will now go to Rajya Sabha and will become law once the President gives assent.

From April 1, investments in debt mutual funds will be taxed as short-term capital gains, stripping investors of the long-term tax benefits that made such investments popular. Currently, investors in debt funds pay income tax on capital gains according to the income tax slab for a holding period of three years.

Farmers get Rs 514 as claim for every Rs 100 premium paid

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Friday informed Parliament that for every Rs 100 of premium paid by farmers under the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), they have received about Rs 514 as claims.

Since implementation of PMFBY in 2016, around 38 crore farmer applicants have been enrolled and over 12.37 crore (provisional) have received claims, he said in his written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

"During this period, nearly Rs 25,252 crore were paid by farmers as their share of premium against which claims of over Rs 1,30,015 crore (provisional) have been paid to them. Thus, for every 100 rupees of premium paid by farmers, they have received about Rs 514 as claims," the minister said.

SWELECT Energy's unit in Coimbatore goes on stream

PNS ■ COIMBATORE

SWELECT Energy Systems Ltd, formerly Numeric Power Systems, engaged in production of solar photo-voltaic module has launched its solar module manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu, the company said on Friday.

With the launch of the new facility at Sarkarsamakulam, located on the outskirts of the city, SWELECT supersedes its 140 MW facility established in 2013 in Bengaluru.

The production at the manufacturing unit would be scaled upto 595 MW from the initial 385 MW, managing director R Chellappan said here. The company, which holds five per cent market share, has installed about 3,800 solar roof tops, 6,000 water pumps, he told reporters.

According to company web-



site, it has a fully automated photovoltaic manufacturing unit at Dabaspet in Bengaluru. The company operates a 140 MW class one lakh dust-free clean room, world-class photo-voltaic solar technologies manufacturing plant with research and development facility.

SWELECT also boasts of a 'Balance of Systems' manufacturing unit in Salem offering complete range of electrical and mechanical balance of systems including solar power conditioning unit and module mounting structures, the company said.

Rupee falls 24 paise to close at 82.44 against US\$

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated by 24 paise to close at 82.44 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday weighed down by the strength of the American currency and massive selling in the domestic equity market.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened lower by 12 paise at 82.32 as the US dollar rebounded against global currencies.

During intra-day trade, the rupee touched a high of 82.20 and a low of 82.49 against the greenback.

The domestic unit finally settled at 82.44 (provisional) against the American currency, 24 paise lower against its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee settled at 82.20 against the US dollar.

According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the Indian rupee depreciated due to weak domestic markets and a positive Dollar. Sustained FII outflows also weighed on the domestic currency.

Dollar rose on safe-haven appeal amid weak Asian and European currencies and equities.

Dollar also gained on upbeat US current account deficit and new home sales data. Bank of England hiked interest rates by 25 bps to 4.25 per cent, the highest in 15 years, Choudhary said.

Govt approval to 45 companies/JVs operating in defence sector with foreign OEMs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has given approval to "45 companies/joint ventures" operating in the defence sector with foreign OEMs (original equipment manufacturers), the Parliament was informed on Friday. Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt said this in written response to a query in the Lok Sabha. "The government has given approval to 45 companies/JVs operating in defence sector with foreign OEMs," he said responding to a query on the number of foreign companies who have shown interest in manufacturing defence equipment under foreign direct investment in the country.

Further, the government has taken several policy initiatives in the past few years and brought reforms to encourage indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equip-

These initiatives, inter alia, include according priority to procurement of capital items from domestic sources under Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)-2020; notification of three Positive Indigenisation Lists (PILs) by the Department of Defence Production (DDP), MoD with a timeline beyond which they will only be procured from the domestic industry



ment in the country, thereby reducing dependency on imports in coming years, he said. "These initiatives, inter alia, include according priority to procurement of capital items from domestic sources under Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)-2020; notification of three Positive Indigenisation Lists (PILs) by the Department of Defence Production (DDP), MoD with a

timeline beyond which they will only be procured from the domestic industry," the minister said.

These three lists consist of total 3,738 items, out of which 2,786 items have been indigenised till February 2023. Simplification of industrial licensing process with longer validity period; liberalisation of FDI policy allowing 74 per cent FDI under automat-

ic route; simplification of make procedure; and launch of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme involving start-ups and MSMEs, are among the other moves, according to the response.

Other steps include implementation of Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India), Order 2017; launch of an indigenisation portal namely SRJIAN to facilitate indigenisation by Indian industry including MSMEs; reforms in offset policy with thrust on attracting investment and transfer of technology for defence manufacturing by assigning higher multipliers; establishment of two Defence Industrial Corridors one each in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, it said.

Bank fraud: ED attaches Rs 252 cr worth 'Ambience Tower' in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate Friday said it has attached a multi-storied commercial complex, worth more than Rs 252 crore, located in Delhi's Shalimar Bagh area in connection with a money laundering investigation linked to an alleged bank fraud case against the Ambience Group. The immovable property is named Ambience Tower and it



belongs to a company called Ambience Towers Pvt Ltd, a firm of the Ambience Group promoted by Raj Singh Gehlot, the agency said in a statement.

A provisional order, under the

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), was issued by the ED to attach the commercial building worth a total Rs 252.17 crore.

The money laundering case stems from an FIR and chargesheets filed by the Jammu and Kashmir anti-corruption bureau that found that a company named Aman Hospitality Pvt. Ltd, through its promoter director Gehlot, was sanctioned term loan facility of Rs 810 crore.

Individual taxpayers with income marginally over Rs 7L to get relief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to taxpayers opting for new tax regime, individuals earning marginally higher income than no-tax ceiling of Rs 7 lakh will pay tax only on the differential income after the government amended the Finance Bill.

The Finance Bill 2023, passed by the Lok Sabha on Friday, has proposed a margin-

al relief to taxpayers under new tax regime. Explaining the provision, the finance ministry said under the new tax regime with effect from April 1, if a taxpayer has annual income of Rs 7 lakh s/he pays no tax. But if s/he has income of Rs 7,00,100 s/he pays tax of Rs 25,010. Thus an additional income of Rs 100 leads to a tax of Rs 25,010.

Hence, marginal relief is

proposed to that so that the tax what one pays should not be more than the income that exceeds Rs 7 lakh (Rs 100 in this case), the ministry said.

ADDRESSING SHORTAGE OF FEEDSTOCK CRACKER IN PETROCHEM SECTOR

Need more pvt investments in petrochem sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Friday said there is a shortage of feedstock cracker in the petrochemicals sector and more private investments are required in the sector to reduce imports.

Addressing an ASSOCHAM-organised conclave on speciality chemicals, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Secretary Arun Baroka said with electric vehicles coming up and demand for petrol/diesel set to reduce,

automatically there will be more push for petrochemicals in future. "We know that there is a shortage of feedstock and it is estimated that we need one (feedstock)cracker every year till 2040 but that kind of investment is not coming now. There will be a shortfall in terms of the numbers of crackers which are required by the country. When there is a shortage, obviously we will be dependent on imports," he said.

An investment of Rs 18 lakh



crore is required for increasing feedstock cracker as estimated in a report by Indian Oil Ltd

and Engineers India Ltd. However, the government alone cannot make this kind of

investment, he said, and called for more private investments.

In order to attract investments, the government is providing an enabling environment. The concerned ministries are working together in a collaborative manner, he added.

In case of the agro-chemical sector, the secretary said the government is working on the issues raised by the industry. For instance, the concerns related to 'Deep Sea Discharge

Norms' has been taken up with the environment ministry.

The growth in speciality chemicals is higher than the average growth of chemicals sector. India is a net exporter of speciality chemicals and there is a huge potential to tap in this area, he said.

The secretary also stressed on collaboration between industry, government and academia to tap the potential in the speciality chemicals sector.



Gauthami



Dharma



Honey Rose



Lasya



Anusha and Harika

South Indian actress Honey Rose inaugurated the Gismat Jail Mandi Arabic restaurant at Madinaguda. The Mandi restaurant, which has an Arabic theme, offers a variety of flavors such as Juicy Mutton Mandi, Alfa Mandi and Arabic Fish.

Photos by- SV Chary



Anu sree



Madhy Bung



Srilekha

Celebs, models, and jewellery lovers graced the date announcement event of the exclusive bridal jewellery exhibition, by Brinda diamonds at Himayathnagar.



KL Deemed to be University, Hyderabad organised a blood donation camp at its campus in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS).

LISTINGS

ANIL AGARWAL FOUNDATION LAUNCHES A NUTRITION INITIATIVE


Anil Agarwal Foundation (AAF), the philanthropic arm of Vedanta launched its biggest nutritional program for children with multi-millet nutri-bar distribution in Varanasi in the presence of Anandiben Patel, Governor of Uttar Pradesh and Priya Agarwal Hebbur, Chairperson of Hindustan Zinc Ltd & Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Ltd. The launch was graced by S Rajalingam, District Magistrate, Varanasi, and Himanshu Nagpal, Chief Development Officer (CDO), Varanasi. The launch took place at the modernised anganwadi centre 'Nand Ghar' in Kashi Vidyapith, as an endeavor to make India malnutrition free. Under this pilot launch, AAF would distribute the nutri-bar targeting almost 50,000 children daily across 1400 Anganwadi centers including Nand Ghars across three focus blocks of Varanasi- Sewapuri, Arajiline, and Kashi Vidyapith. With this, AAF aims to bring a positive nutrition impact by addressing malnutrition concerns among children aged 3-6 years in Uttar Pradesh. As a part of its thematic intervention on right nourishment, Nand Ghar, the flagship social impact project of AAF working towards child and women development, collaborated with Indian Institute of Millet Research (Nutri-hub, IIMR) and Hyderabad based Tiroo Good.

HDFC BANK LAUNCHES REGALIA GOLD CREDIT CARD


HDFC Bank announced the launch of Regalia Gold Credit Card—a super-premium credit card with unparalleled features and benefits—in its Regalia range of credit cards. The card is packed with Best-in-Class Travel and Lifestyle benefits, allowing customers to redeem rewards for global travel and on a collection of premium brands via the exclusive Regalia Gold catalogue. It also offers cardholders complimentary airport lounge access globally, and premium milestone benefits. Regalia Gold is HDFC Bank's latest foray into the 'Super Premium Category'. The credit card will be available to high-income individuals and is designed exclusively to cater to the needs and requirements of travellers and lifestyle enthusiasts.

FUN

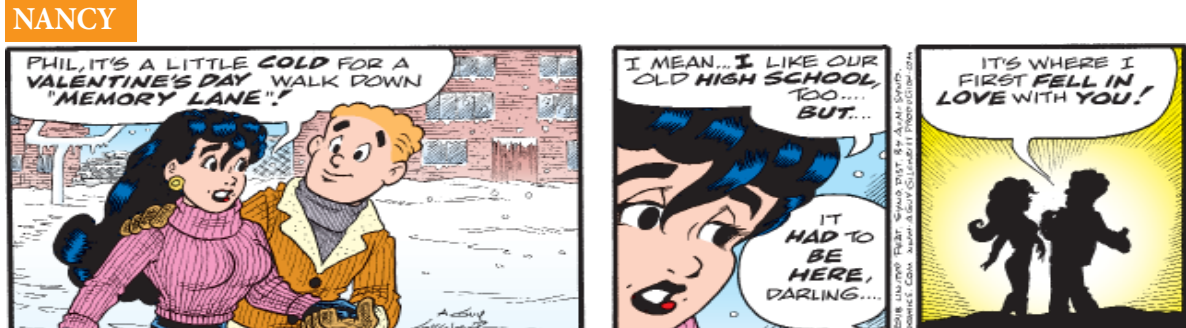
ARCHIE




GARFIELD




NANCY



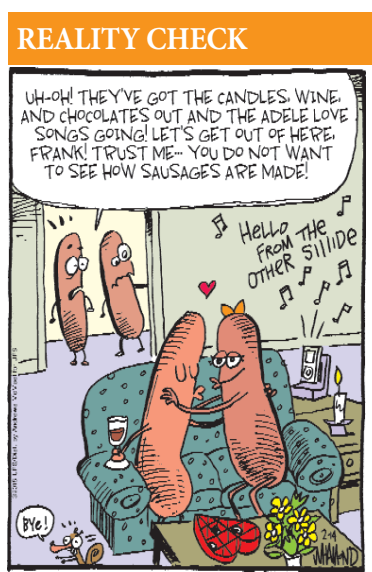
GINGER MEGGS




CALVIN AND HOBBS



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD

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

ACROSS

6 Words that ask you politely to come

8 Arm joint

10 The head of a city council

13 Very tall city buildings

14 From Ireland

17 These birds honk

19 A person who has seen something happen and can give evidence in court

DOWN

1 A round handle

2 The scene from a window

3 Do damage to

4 Very small

5 Took clothes off

SOLUTION

W	I	N	T	E	R
E	E	L	E	A	A
L	E	A	P	B	I
L	R	S	C	E	R
C	L	A	P	P	E
H	V	A	N	Y	T
O	R	E	K	N	O
D	R	O	S	S	E
D	R	O	S	S	E
E	D	M	E	L	F
N	E	E	D	B	R

‘FOR THE FIRST TIME, Brahmanandam was scared that someone would laugh at him’



IRRESPECTIVE OF THE MIXED REVIEWS FROM THE CRITICS, **RANGAMARTHANDA** HAS BEEN MUCH LOVED BY THE FAMILY AUDIENCE. FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF THE FILM, DIRECTOR KRISHNA VAMSI, INTERACTED WITH THE HYDERABADI MEDIA ON WHAT WENT ON WHILE MAKING OF THE FILM.

AMARTYA SMARAN

While Covid-19 shook up the world, it also gave us the space and time for about a little over two years to reflect upon ourselves. It was during the mostly mundane days of the Covid lockdown that popular director Krishna Vamsi took time for himself and started working on *Rangamarthanda*, the Telugu adaptation of Marathi film *Natsamrat*(2016). The film opened to mostly mixed reviews from critics on

March 22, but as luck would have it, the family audience took a liking to the film.

The filmmaker is best known for *Gulabi*(1995), *Ninne Pelladata*(1996), *Sindhooram*(1997), *Antahpuram*(1998), *Khadgam*(2002), *Rakhi*(2006), and *Chandamama*(2007). His recent flicks like *Govindudu Andarivadele*(2014) and *Nakshatram*(2017) garnered varied reactions from the audience and critics alike. Finally, after six long years, the director is back with *Rangamarthanda*, starring Prakash Raj, Brahmanandam and Ramya Krishna in the lead roles.

“When I first watched the original, it moved me. I was shocked to see that the film could move someone who’s as stoic as me,” said the *Chandamama* director talking about his latest directorial. “I usually don’t prefer remaking films but now that Prakash Raj asked to watch the film, I watched it. Tears rolled down my cheeks when I first watched the film. That was my reaction. I couldn’t figure out why I was crying in the first place. The last time I got so emotional was during the shoot of *Antahpuram*, where Prakash Raj slaps Soundarya in a scene. Then I understood, it was about family relationships. Relationships are no longer the same. People have become selfish and the bond we share with family is going for a toss. Family is a unit. If the families are intact, then the world will come in order. I loved that element and that’s how it came about and Prakash Raj said it’d be great if I could direct the

project.”

Rangamarthanda is centred around thespian Raghava Rao(Prakash Raj), who retires from stage life and decides to lead a peaceful life. However, the turbulence within his family intensifies after he writes his property in the name of his son Ranga Rao(Adarsh Balakrishna).

According to Krishna Vamsi, the actor’s part preceded the quintessential familial aspects in the original. Here, he says, he did quite the opposite while adapting the film in Telugu. “For me it was not about who I was directing. I really wanted to present this idea of people not paying attention to family relationships anymore.”

Now that we spoke to the director after the film’s release, we could sense that the legendary director regained his lost artistic confidence. Although critics have been complaining about certain portions of the film, the audience reacted well. And for a filmmaker who’s been giving his all to reinvent himself in one way or the other, the encouragement from the audience is all he needs.

“I don’t know if I changed as director, but the process did change me on a personal level to an extent,” mused the ace filmmaker pondering over how the film brought about a change in him. “As a director, we must keep learning. I always feel I could do a lot better. That’s by default. As a person, the process taught me how to be patient. Maybe because of my experience or

age, I felt like maybe I should make this film. In this film, you will not find villains. It’s not about one person being moralistic over the other. It’s about everyone having their flaws. If you take me, for example, my interaction with my mother is minimal. Ramya(his wife and popular actress) keeps scolding me, ‘At least tell her where you’re going!’ (haha). These things have changed. I wouldn’t say completely, but to an extent they did.”

Whilst the director was speaking in awe of Brahmanandam’s performance in the film, *The Pioneer* asked him to describe that one incident where Prakash Raj prompted a line without moving lips while the legendary comedian was momentarily blank.

“Oh! This is the famous scene at Mahaprasthanam burial ground,” enthused Krishna Vamsi. “The sheer volume of dialogues he delivered in this film outbeats every other film that he had been a part of. He is someone who’s been making people laugh for over four decades and when he performs in front of the camera, soon after the first take, the entire crew cheers for him and laughs. For the first time in his life, Brahmanandam was scared that someone would laugh at him. Because if someone would laugh, that’d mean the performance isn’t working.”

He further continued: “He was worried that somebody would laugh given his image. In the midst of all these things, he missed out saying, ‘Neenu durmagudini ra’ I said cut and told him that it’s important to say that line out in the next take. And Prakash Raj looks at him in the suggestion. Just three or four seconds before the exact moment where Brahmanandam was supposed to say the line, he prompted the line without moving his lips and Brahmanandam was quick to catch up and finished the shot.”

With *Rangamarthanda* doing reasonably well, the director is hopeful that the positive word of mouth would pull in more audiences into the theatres. His next film is titled *Annam* and for the first time in many years he’s coming up with his original story. “I signed another two films and I will make the announcement soon,” wrapped the *Rangamarthanda* helmer.

‘Real gold & diamonds worth 14 crores were used in *Shaakuntalam*’; revealed director Gunasekhar

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Director Gunasekhar is expecting his next film *Shaakuntalam* to be an out and out iconic film. Diving deep into the pulp of history and still not failing to show romance is an all likelihood for the old-timer of Tollywood.

With a biggie like Samantha, he once again wishes to create a cult following, and at the same time transport us to a different time and place. Tracking his glory with this new film on board, we get to know what went into making this period piece with and how!

While on one hand, you get to experience a mythological love story, on the other hand, the filmmaker’s visual wonder will make you go bonkers.

The post production activities have been completed and the story which is based on Kalidasa’s one of the extracts — to your surprise it’s made with 3D technology. Even the promotions are going on very well, and in full swing. It is known that the famous fashion designer Neeta Lulla is the one who made the outfits for both the leading stars of the movie. Byte by byte we will reveal to you what kind of research was done to make this magnum opus!

For example the designer herself revealed, “The shoulder pad that was worn by the lead actor alone weighed 3 kilos and then we needed jewellery in the form of armour. We took about 8 months to do all of this. And standing out was the queen’s look! We took a 30 meter dress for Samantha’s look. But something different happened on the sets of *Shaakuntalam*. The lead actress was infact feeling very happy after wearing her heavy jewellery. You know what? It’s mostly the jewellery that is making the character very beautiful in the movie. It brought even more beauty to Samantha on screen. Level by level the making of jewellery was becoming an extensive process for us and even for the actress. Prior to three days, we used to bring the jewellery and ensure that Samantha does not have to be troubled for anything since she is in her recovery process.”

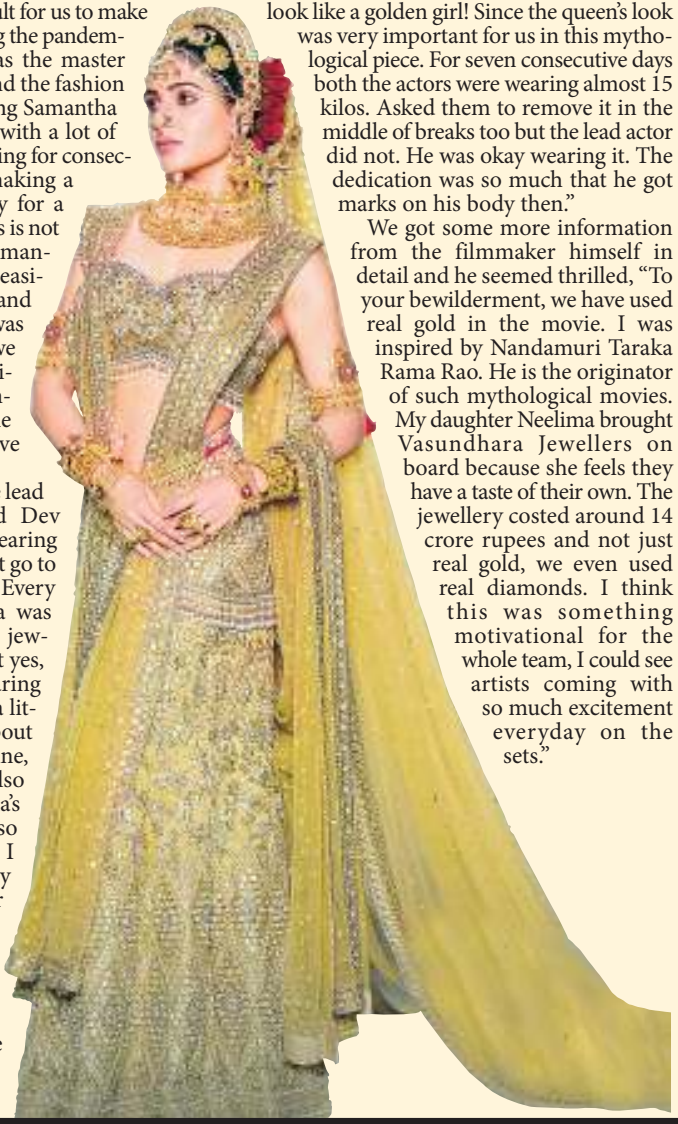
The jewellery that is made with the help of Vasundhara Jewellers team, had someone spe-

cial called Neha from there and she disclosed, “For the very first time, I was stunned to see our pieces fitting so well on the lead actor who is a male. Both the lead actors supported and cooperated with us a lot when it came to weightage. It was difficult for us to make them sit together during the pandemic but we did it. It was the master brain of the director and the fashion designer. I was watching Samantha wearing her jewellery with a lot of dedication, she was sitting for consecutive hours without making a scene. Doing jewellery for a period film or costumes is not an easy task. Machine manufacturing can still be easier but we were doing hand manufacturing which was very difficult because we never treated our business as something commercialised. This movie deserves to be a massive hit.”

It was the turn of the lead actor to butt in and Dev Mohan said, “After wearing this jewellery, I couldn’t go to the gym for a week. Every other day Neeta Lulla was coming with different jewellery to my home. But yes, whenever I was wearing some ornament I felt a little more confident about myself. More than mine, like most of us I was also waiting for shakuntala’s look and the vision is so beautiful to look at. I know how happy Samantha is. Whenever she was appearing on screen, I was forgetting to act. Wouldn’t lie, I was just staring at her. There are few scenes like that in the movie too.”

“Because we were making a film with the scope for fine jewellery we contacted Vasundhara Jewellers,” said producer Neelima Guna adding, “It took many sleepless nights for us to fulfill this dream. To make Samantha look like a golden girl! Since the queen’s look was very important for us in this mythological piece. For seven consecutive days both the actors were wearing almost 15 kilos. Asked them to remove it in the middle of breaks too but the lead actor did not. He was okay wearing it. The dedication was so much that he got marks on his body then.”

We got some more information from the filmmaker himself in detail and he seemed thrilled, “To your bewilderment, we have used real gold in the movie. I was inspired by Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao. He is the originator of such mythological movies. My daughter Neelima brought Vasundhara Jewellers on board because she feels they have a taste of their own. The jewellery costed around 14 crore rupees and not just real gold, we even used real diamonds. I think this was something motivational for the whole team, I could see artists coming with so much excitement everyday on the sets.”



Dr Naresh & Pavitra starrer Telugu-Kannada bilingual movie titled *Malli Pelli*

Navarasa Raya Dr. Naresh VK completes 50 golden years in the industry and the golden jubilee project was announced on Friday. Paired opposite Naresh in the movie is Pavitra Lokesh. The film is written and directed by mega maker MS Raju, while Naresh himself is producing it. Naresh revives the legendary production banner Vijaya Krishna Movies with this bilingual movie being made in Telugu and Kannada languages.

The film’s title, along with the first look and glimpse has been unveiled. *Malli Pelli* is the title of the movie billed to be a family entertainer. The first-look poster sees Naresh in traditional attire enjoying the process of Pavitra Lokesh making rangoli in front of their beautiful house.

The first-look poster is very pleasant and it assures the movie is going to be a complete family

entertainer. The glimpse is equally appealing as Naresh and Pavitra shared beautiful chemistry and the background score is captivating. The glimpse generates positive vibes.

Jayasudha and Sarathbabu play crucial roles in the movie which also features Vanitha Vijayakumar, Ananya Nagella, Roshan, Ravivarma, Annapoorna, Bhadram, Yukta, Praveen Yandamuri, and Madhoo.

Suresh Bobbili scores the music for the movie, while Arul Dev provides the background score. MN Bal Reddy handles the cinematography, where in Junaid Siddique is the editor of the movie. Ananta Sriram penned the lyrics and Bhaskar Mudavath is the production designer.

The makers have announced to release the movie this summer. Meanwhile, more details are awaited.



Venky, Nithiin & Rashmika’s #VNR Trio officially launched



There is always a special interest in movies in successful combinations. The craze will be multiplied if the films which have a big backing. *#VNR Trio*-Venky Kudumula, Nithiin, and Rashmika Mandanna are set to join forces again to deliver something bigger than their previous movie *Bheeshma*. Furthermore, the movie will be produced by the leading production house Mythri Movie Makers on a large scale. The makers created a lot of curiosity with the announcement video which was funny, yet promised this movie is going to be more entertaining and more adventurous. The crazy project in this deadly combination has been launched grandly on Friday by none other than megastar Chiranjeevi gracing it as a chief guest.

Megastar Chiranjeevi sounded the clapboard for the

muhurtham shot, while director Bobby switched on the camera. Gopichand Malineni directed the first shot. Hanu Raghavapudi and Buchibabu Sana handed over the script to the makers. Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar are the producers of the movie which will have a stellar cast in prominent roles and top-notch technicians taking care of different crafts. Nata Kireeti Rajendra Prasad and Vennela Kishore will be part of the movie.

GV Prakash Kumar scores the music, while Sai Sriram will crank the camera. Prawin Pudi is the editor and Raam Kumar is the art director. The other details of the movie will be revealed later.

Pawan Kalyan's #PKSDT to hit theaters on July 28, 2023

Powerstar Pawan Kalyan, who is currently busy shooting for numerous biggies and one of them is with the director Samuthirakani. Mega hero Sai Dharam Tej is also a part of the film. Tentatively titled *PKSDT*, the flick has made the headlines again. The makers of the movie have officially announced that the movie will be released in theaters on July 28, 2023. Scripted by Trivikram Srinivas, the movie has the soundtracks of Thaman. People Media Factory in association with Zee Studios produced this fictional comedy-drama on a massive scale. Keep browsing this page for more latest updates.



WPL GAME EQUILISER: BARCLAY

There is no reason for men and women's game to be viewed as different, says ICC chairman

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Women's cricket has distinguished itself with the introduction of the WPL and it should not be viewed differently from the men's game anymore, says ICC chairman Greg Barclay. He said the league will help uplift the women's game, thanks to the professionalism and money involved. The first edition of the tournament will conclude here on Sunday. "As I say, I think it will be a great uplift for the women's game and I am looking forward to see how this tournament plays out," Barclay told the BCCI. "Now, there is no reason for the two parts of the game, men and women, to be viewed as different. This is people playing cricket and they should be treated equally. "Secondly, the professionalism and the remuneration that is afforded the players I think that's something that's going to be really important, again, for the women's game," he added.



The Women's Premier League, which was a long time coming, finally began on March 4 this year amid much fanfare. "I think if you recognise the powerhouse that India is in terms of cricket, it's appropriate that they have launched the Women's Premier League. I know that Jay Shah (BCCI president) and his board and his team are really committed to making this one one of the biggest and best tournaments that it can possibly be. "I am sure that they will be successful in that respect. I am really pleased and very appreciate that this has happened," Barclay said. "I take my hat off to Jay and his team at the BCCI for the way they have approached this. That is exactly what I would have expected out of an Indian run competition, it's absolutely amazing. "Jay and his team are doing a wonderful job in leading the way in terms of getting the women's game to where it needs to be," he signed off. Barclay is serving his second term as the chair of the game's apex body.



'Hardik similar to Dhoni as captain'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Having watched both of them from close quarters, Gujarat Titans spinner R Sai Kishore feels that his franchise skipper Hardik Pandya is very similar to legendary MS Dhoni in terms of leadership traits. Sai Kishore, before joining Gujarat Titans, was with CSK for a couple of years. "Hardik and Mahi bhai (MS Dhoni) are pretty similar in the way they handle things, they both are pretty calm," Sai Kishore told the media during a virtual interaction session on Friday. "One thing that I really admire about Hardik is his ability to handle success and failure equally - that is something very unique about him. He is a level-headed guy and that works (for him)," he added. The 28-year-old said Gujarat Titans, who won the IPL last year in their debut season, will have to replicate their performances from last season in order to be successful. "The tag of being defending champions is up to us whether to take it or not. We played well last year and that is why we won. I think if we can do that (then) the tag won't matter much," he said. Sai Kishore said the new rule of having an 'Impact Player' in IPL will make it more manageable than what it was in domestic circuit. "It is more like the super-sub rule where we can either use a

bowler or a batsman. It is basically like playing with 12 people. We have already played with this (rule) in domestic (cricket). The only change is that we can use it till the 20th over, in domestic it was restricted to the 14th over. In 20 overs, it should be a lot easier to handle," he said. The Tamil Nadu left-arm spinner said he is eyeing a place in the Indian side via strong performances in the IPL. "Yes, there are a lot of left-arm spinners in India and this (IPL) is a very good opportunity but I would like to be here now in the present and play well for Gujarat. In the last five years, my skill-set has gone up and I want to keep improving. If it happens that I do very well in the IPL, I am going to play for India," he said. However, Sai Kishore admitted that he has to improve his batting to come into national reckoning. "It is a work in progress. I have done well in domestic (cricket) also. I know the areas where I am good at and areas where I need to work on. I am trying to put in hours into my batting and fielding," he said. "In the IPL and higher you go, you want to bat at the top. In Tamil Nadu, I have had the luxury of batting at the top in a few games. The death overs batting needs more work and attention. Finding a pattern or formula to score quick runs is what I am working on," Sai Kishore concluded.



David Warner will have point to prove in IPL, says Watson

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former Australia all-rounder and assistant coach of Delhi Capitals Shane Watson says the team's new captain David Warner will have a "point to prove" in the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League, starting on March 31. Warner, who joined Delhi Capitals ahead of the 2022 season, has been named captain for IPL 2023 due to Rishabh Pant being ruled out following a horrific car accident in December last year. Warner has captained Delhi franchise in the past, the then Delhi Daredevils, and has had a successful run as a skipper in IPL with the Sunrisers Hyderabad, leading them to their only title win in the 2016 edition. Warner had an overall successful stint with SRH, but his poor form with the bat and his subsequent fallout with the team management was followed by an undignified exit in the 2021 season. The leading run-scorer among all overseas players with 5,881 runs, Warner was removed as captain and was also benched permanently by the franchise and eventually released ahead of the 2022 mega auction. He also endured a poor tour of India recently, failing with the bat in the two Tests at Nagpur and Delhi and scoring 23 in the only ODI he played post recovery from a hairline fracture to his left elbow. "David Warner for me is just at the top of the order. He's going to continue to have a point to prove and everyone's going to be like riding off the back of him. He's always scored so many runs in the IPL. And to be an opening batter, and set the platform like he does is going to be very important," Watson told Star Sports. The former Australia vice-captain Watson backed Mitchell Marsh to continue with his devastating form with the bat that he displayed in the ODI series win for Australia against India. "(For) Mitchell Marsh, this is going to be another really big season for him. He's got incredible skill with the bat alone and how he's batting and takes the game on is going to play a really big part," Watson said. Watson picked South Africa's Rilee Rossouw as the trump card for Delhi Capitals in IPL 2023. "Well, one in particular is Rilee Rossouw, he's someone you know, I've played with him in the Pakistan Super League for Quetta Gladiators. And to see

how he has come back into international cricket and he's a world class hitter of the ball. "He can take down any bowler at any stage, in any conditions. So if he gets on a roll, he can just take the game away from the opposition," he explained. The Delhi Capitals assistant coach said his side has got all-round cover for the upcoming season. "There's a lot of very talented players. We've got some youngsters with the ball, fast bowlers, we've got (Kamlesh) Nagarkoti and Chetan Sakariya. And then we've got our spinners as well, like Axar (Patel) and Kuldeep Yadav. "Those two guys, to be able to have world class spinners bowling especially through the middle, to be able to try and get wickets and also keep the runs down, that's so critically important," he said. Watson backed the pair of Patel and Kuldeep to take advantage of a spin-friendly pitch in their homeground. "For sure, Delhi's normally, conventionally a lower, turning sort of wicket and we've got the bowlers to exploit that with our spinners alone. With Axar and also Kuldeep Yadav, but also with the batters that we've got, can really make the most of those conditions. It's a smaller ground as well," he said. Watson admitted the absence of Pant will be a huge miss for the side. "The biggest challenge for Delhi is just to be able to consistently put good performances together. You know, the Delhi Capitals have got a really, really skilful squad, and we do again this year. "Obviously Rishabh Pant not being a part of, not playing this tournament is going to be a huge, huge miss," Watson expressed. CSK's 2018 triumph tells you about leadership: Gavaskar praises Dhoni New Delhi, Mar 24 (PTI) Recalling an ageing Chennai Super Kings' remarkable triumph after returning to IPL from a two-year ban, batting great Sunil Gavaskar praised talisman Mahendra Singh Dhoni and said his ability to get the best out of his players makes him stand out. The upcoming edition of the IPL starts on March 31. Speaking on Star Sports Network, Gavaskar recalled the highlights of the illustrious IPL career of Captain Cool and how he has brought out the best in his team mates.

13 suspicious cricket matches were played across globe last year: Sportradar report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There were 13 competitive cricket matches that came under the cloud of suspicion in 2022, according to a review report published by Sportradar Integrity Services. Sportradar Integrity Services unit is an international team of qualified integrity experts who deliver analysis on irregular betting, match-fixing and other forms of corruption in sports. The 28-page report titled 'Betting, Corruption and Match-Fixing' states that in calendar year 2022, an unprecedented "1212 suspicious matches" were detected across 12 sporting disciplines in 92 countries. The company uses an application Universal Fraud Detection System (UFDS) to detect suspicious activity during matches. While football accounted for 775 matches, which possibly could have been corrupted, basketball is second in the list with 220 such games, and lawn tennis is third with 75 questionable games. Interestingly, among 12 sports, cricket only has 13 allegedly corrupt games and is sixth in the list. The report claims that 13 corrupt games could still be the highest for the sport in a single year. "Although a number of sports contin-



ue to display relatively low numbers of suspicious matches, 13 suspicious cricket matches is still the highest annual figure recorded by Sportradar Integrity Services, and handball and futsal also recorded their highest ever number of suspicious matches," the report stated. The PTI had sent a questionnaire to Sportradar to understand which format has been corrupted the most and whether it is international games or matches in the T20

leagues. However, a look at the report states that the company is not referring to any matches played in India as per the graphics depicted in the report. Therefore, one could ascertain that none of the 13 corrupt matches mentioned in the report has been played in India. Sportradar, in fact, had partnered with the BCCI's anti-corruption unit in 2020 to detect betting irregularities during IPL matches.

Myanmar face stiff challenge against Kyrgyz in Tri-Nation football trophy

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Myanmar will square off against the Kyrgyz Republic in their second match of the Tri-Nation International Football Tournament at the Khuman Lampak Stadium here on Saturday. The tournament sees international football being featured in the football-crazy state for the first time, as India play host to Myanmar and Kyrgyz Republic. The two outstation teams have already been in Imphal over the past week, where they have been training in preparation for the tournament. Myanmar had faced India in the opening match, which the hosts won 1-0. Myanmar head coach Michael Feichtenbeiner looked to ease the pressure off from his players' shoulders, as he chose to



focus on performance, rather than results. "Our target is to improve our performance first, and then to improve as a team. Only then can we reach something in terms of results. Of course, we want to get better results, that's the main target overall," said Feichtenbeiner in a release.

Feichtenbeiner showed a lot of respect for the opposition team when asked about the Kyrgyz Republic. "They have a strong line-up that will come to their advantage tomorrow. The last few matches were not as successful for us, but we want to change that and try our best," he said.

Kimmich praises Nagelsmann amid reports Bayern coach out



AP ■ FRANKFURT

Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich praised Julian Nagelsmann as an "outstanding" coach Friday amid reports that the 35-year-old manager is set to be fired and replaced by Thomas Tuchel. Both Kicker magazine and German tabloid Bild reported Thursday that Bayern was ending Nagelsmann's spell in charge following the team's 2-1 loss at Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga on Sunday. "I can only say that Julian Nagelsmann is an outstanding coach. Really, I've had a lot of coaches and a lot of top coaches and despite that

I'd say he's easily in the top three of my best coaches," Kimmich told reporters Friday as he prepares to captain Germany in a friendly against Peru on Saturday. "As things stand at the moment, you can surely understand that I can't say anything" about the reports, he added. Germany coach Hansi Flick, who was Nagelsmann's predecessor at Bayern, said he was "very surprised" to see reports saying Nagelsmann would be removed. Bayern's defeat to Leverkusen dropped Bayern to second place in the Bundesliga, one point behind Borussia Dortmund before the teams clash in Munich in the "Klassiker" on April 1. The Associated Press has asked Bayern for comment but the club has yet to make a statement about the situation. Kicker reported that Bayern is in touch with Tuchel and that the German coach is expected to join Friday or Saturday. Tuchel led Chelsea to the Champions League title in 2021 and previously coached Paris Saint-Germain — losing the 2020 Champions League final to Bayern — and Dortmund. Bayern faces Manchester City in the Champions League quarterfinals on April 11.

Sharath Kamal pulls out of Nationals due to back spasms

PTI ■ JAMMU

Back and calf issues have forced defending champion Achara Sharath Kamal to pull out of the men's singles event of the 84th UTT Inter-State Senior National Table Tennis Championships beginning here on Saturday. The last-minute pullout because of the recurring back and calf spasms that Sharath has suffered in the past two months have dealt a blow to the organisers and the local spectators. But his absence would help former national champion G. Sathiyam's cause as he eyes his second title. Sharath, a 10-time national champion, said he has to be cautious and continue the rehab programmes devised before the World Championships in Durban in May. "The Worlds in May last

week is my focus, and I want to prepare well for the big event. Most importantly, I don't want to aggravate the situation. I am going straight to rehab and concentrate just on the Durban Worlds," he said in a release. The PSPB paddler indulged in extra stretching before the quarters and semi-finals of the team championships to keep fit. He was in discomfort, but his commitment to the team's cause kept him going as he competed and won the matches without letting the cat out of the bag. As for the matches on the fifth day of the championships, the top 16 seeded players in the men's section and eight in the women's category will get into action from Saturday when the second stage draw, the knockout, begins. The women will play three rounds, while the men will play two. With the group topper



emerging as the qualifier for the knockout round, there will be a tough fight among the players in 78 groups (women) and 96 in men's singles, respectively. Meanwhile, the 16 men and eight women players will have a good day's rest before the battle for the title and the prize purse of Rs. 16 lakh gets hot. The top-ranked players in both sections are: **Men:** G. Sathiyam, Manush Shah, Harmmeet Desai, Manav Thakkar, Sanil Shetty, Anirban Ghosh, Sudhanshu Grover, Jeet Chandra, SFR Snehit, Soumyajit Ghosh, Anthony Amalraj, Ronit Bhanja, Payas Jain, Deepit R. Patil, Yashansh Malik and Subh Goel. **Women:** Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula, Reeth Rishya, Diya Chitale, Sutirtha Mukherjee, Anusha Kutumbale, Swastika Ghosh and Pra