

Telugu CMs face complex issues in sharing of assets

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

After 10 years of Andhra Pradesh State bifurcation there are several issues which are not resolved between the two Telugu states. Now all eyes are on the two Telugu Chief Ministers who are known as 'guru and chela'. To resolve the long-pending issues between the two states, who will compromise; the guru or the chela? It is not easy to resolve these issues because they are linked with the people's sentiments of the respective Telugu states.

For example, since several years controversy is going on the Polavaram project and sharing of Godavari waters. In the combined Andhra Pradesh State, the problem was between the Telangana and Seemandhra. After Andhra Pradesh bifurcation the problem has become between the two Telugu states. The main



controversy in the Polavaram project was its high and submerged area under this project in Khammam district of Telangana State. In 2014, the Central government merged seven villages of Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh which will effect with the construction of Polavaram project. At that time, the Prime Minister was Narendra Modi and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister was N Chandrababu Naidu and Interestingly, now also both are in the same position. Only the change is at that time chief minister of



Telangana was K Chandrasekhar Rao of the BRS and now it is A Revanth Reddy of the Congress.

KCR, till his last minute as the chief minister of Telangana, fought to bring back those seven villages to Telangana which were merged in Andhra Pradesh. Now if Chief Minister Revanth Reddy compromises on this issue, the BRS will start allegations that Revanth has compromised with Andhra Pradesh at the cost of Telangana interests and the sentiment of Telangana people. If Chandrababu compromises

in handing over these seven villages to Telangana, again the problem will start in completing the Polavaram project and Chandrababu will face the anger of Andhra Pradesh people who have given the mandate to him in record level. In the height of the Polavaram project and sharing of Godavari waters also both the Chief Ministers will face the same problem.

After Polavaram project, another major issue is sharing of the assets of the RTC. The RTC has more valuable assets including lands in and around Hyderabad city. The Telangana government under the BRS refused to share the assets of RTC, claiming that they belong of Telangana State only and AP has no right to demand sharing of these assets. Andhra Pradesh's argument was that these assets were developed by the combined Andhra Pradesh State government.

Rethink auctioning coal mines: Sridhar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Stating that it is not 'proper' for the Centre to say that it will allot new coal mines to private parties, IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu asked the Union Minister of Coals and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, to rethink the auctioning of coal mines.

He said that the privatisation of public sector firms is not 'correct' and demanded that the Centre should produce coal and other minerals through Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). Speaking to the media at the Assembly Media Hall on Thursday, Sridhar said that SCCL is generating profits and functioning well due to its workers. He said that coal production is increasing every year.

Sridhar said the BJP government is engaging in double speak by saying that it will not privatise SCCL and at the same time taking steps to privatise it.

TG to Centre: Allot SCCL coal blocks without auction

BJP & BRS denied coal mines to SCCL: Bhatti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government urged the Centre to allocate all coal blocks near the SCCL to the state-run mining company without conducting an auction.

Alleging that the BJP and the BRS prevented SCCL from getting coal mines, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said the state government would make a request to Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy regarding this. There are also plans to meet Prime Minister Modi with an all-party delegation, he added.

Coal is now being mined from around 40 mines and around 22 coal mines will have to be closed down by 2032-33 as the coal there would get exhausted by then, he said.

There are estimates that coal production would fall to 17.28 million tons by 2060 from the 70 million tons at present, he added. SCCL has to acquire new coal mines, he said.

Bhatti's comments urging allotment of coal to the SCCL came a day before the auction-



ing of coal mines by the Centre here on June 21 for commercial mining.

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is jointly owned by the Government of Telangana and

the Centre in the ratio 51:49. Bhatti, who spoke to reporters at Khammam on Thursday said that soon after the Congress government assumed office in December 2023, he had met the then Union Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi with a request that all coal blocks near SCCL should be allotted to it without an auction.

The SCCL, a major PSU of Telangana, employs 42,000 people directly and another 26,000 through outsourcing and provides livelihood to 50,000 people, he said.

KTR warns private firms against taking part in auction of coal mines

BRS working president KTR accused both the BJP and the Congress and their Central and state governments of undermining SCCL by deciding to auction the coal mines in Telangana instead of allotting them directly to SCCL. Addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan on Thursday, KTR criticized the Congress government for taking part in the coal mine auctions instead of demanding direct coal allotment to SCCL. KTR also said that even if private companies participate in the auction and get mining rights, the BRS would cancel those leases if it came to power after four and a half years.



Modi govt cannot conduct exams without leaks, frauds: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the cancellation of the UGC-NET exam, the Congress on Thursday said every year he conducts a 'grand tamasha' of what he calls 'Pareeksha pe Charcha' and yet his government cannot even conduct an examination without "leaks and frauds".

The opposition party also asked the prime minister if he would "leak pe speak".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asked what kind of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' is this, where the question paper gets leaked every day.

"How the Modi government has ruined the country's education and recruitment system -- Paper leaks, fraud and gross irregularities in NEET, UGC-NET, CUET (Common University Entrance Test) have

now been exposed. The much-publicised NRA - National Recruitment Agency is completely defunct," Kharge said in a post in Hindi on X.

In August 2020, Modi announced the NRA with great fanfare, Kharge said.

"With a lot of hype, he said - 'NRA will prove to be a boon for crores of youth. Through the Common Eligibility Test, it will eliminate multiple exams and save precious time as well as resources. This will also give a big boost to transparency'. For government jobs, the Modi government had claimed that the NRA will conduct a single recruitment exam for all jobs. Four years have passed, National Recruitment Agency (NRA) has not conducted a single exam yet," he said.

A fund of Rs 1,517.57 crore was provided to NRA for three years but only Rs 20 crore was spent till December 2022, he said.

Education Minister must resign, demands Yechury

Amid continuing protests against the discrepancies in the NEET and furor over UGC-NET exam cancellation, Communist Party of India (Marxist) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury on Thursday demanded the scrapping of the National Testing Agency and resignation of the Union Education Minister.

"Solidarity with our students - India's future - in their struggle to safeguard their academic standards from being destroyed by this ND alliance government led by (Narendra) Modi," Yechury said in a post on X.

2 Mahila Shakti canteens to be inaugurated at Secretariat today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two Mahila Shakti Canteens are being inaugurated at the Secretariat on Friday at 2 pm. The Mahila Shakti initiative is spearheaded by Dr Dhanasari Anasuya Seethakka, the Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Women & Child Welfare and the Chief Secretary, Shanti Kumari.

During a review meeting with DRDOs, Seethakka unveiled a five-year loan plan aimed at financially empowering women's groups through the Mahila Shakti programme.

The government is facilitating loans for women's groups to establish Aadhaar centres, Mee Seva centres, poultry and dairy businesses, canteens and start-ups.

Seethakka said Mahila Shakti Canteens will be established in places like tourist centres, government offices and highways.

Addressing the issue of

food adulteration, Seethakka said the public is now apprehensive of eating out.

Meanwhile, a team from SERP visited Bihar to study the 'Didi Ki Rasoi' initiative, which was started in 2018 to provide food and beverages in government institutions.

This initiative is run by Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) and supported by the Kudumbashree organisation of Kerala and the Institute of Hotel Management.

There are currently 199 'Didi Ki Rasoi' canteens operating in medical institutions, SC/ST residential schools, registry offices, banks, colleges and the secretariat.

Each unit of 'Didi Ki Rasoi' costs Rs 25 lakh and is funded by a Rs 23.40 lakh NRLM grant and Rs 1.60 lakh from beneficiaries.

The initiative has proved viable with annual profits per canteen of Rs 7.50 lakh (model-1) and Rs 12 lakh (model-2).

Delhi getting more water than agreed: Haryana Minister

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana minister Abhe Singh Yadav on Thursday said the water scarcity in Delhi was solely due to 'internal mismanagement' by the AAP dispensation.

Yadav dismissed as "baseless" and "beyond facts" the Delhi government's allegation that the BJP-ruled state is not providing the national capital with the required share of water, as he asserted that Haryana is currently supplying 1,050 cusecs of water to Delhi, exceeding the mandated allocation of 719 cusecs.

Yadav, the Minister of State for Irrigation and Water Resources, while speaking in Delhi, said Haryana does not

politicise water issues, viewing water as a fundamental necessity.

The minister underscored that ensuring water supply to the national capital is a collective responsibility, one which Haryana fulfils without short-fall.

Yadav, according to an official statement, said that in response to AAP government's petition filed before the Supreme Court recently, the Haryana government submitted data on its water supply to Delhi contact point, Bawana.

"The data covers the period from May 23 to June 12, 2024, revealing that Haryana consistently released 1,050 cusecs of water at Munak Head for Delhi.

Family histor...

Continued from page 1

Using statistical methods of analysis, the researchers found an increased presence of both kinds of disorders in the immediate and extended family members of the children with autism.

"Among neurodevelopmental disorders, the most frequently reported condition was speech delay requiring therapy (64 per cent), followed by attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (41 per cent) and intellectual disability (11 per cent)," the authors wrote.

"Among neuropsychiatric disorders, the most common were anxiety disorders (44 per cent), depression (43 per cent), bipolar disorder (17 per cent) and schizophrenia (8 per cent)," they wrote.

Prime accused confesses to arranging question papers for four candidates

PNS ■ PATNA

In a startling revelation in the NEET paper leak case, prime accused Sikander Prasad Yadwendu in his confessional statement admitted to having arranged question papers for four exam aspirants to "prepare" them a day before the test and demanded Rs 40 lakh from each candidate.

According to sources in the Economic Offences Unit (EOU) of Bihar police, Yadwendu's confessional statement, recorded under Section 161 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc) on May 5, also detailed his contacts with Nitish Kumar and Amit Anand, allegedly known for leaking prestigious exam

papers such as NEET.

Yadwendu claimed that he demanded Rs 40 lakh from each aspirant, including his nephew Anurag Yadav, for providing the leaked question paper on May 4, a day before the exam.

Yadwendu, a junior engineer at Bihar's Danapur Town Council, said, "I contacted Nitish and Amit and told them that I have four candidates—Ayush Kumar, Anurag Yadav, Abhishek Kumar, and Shivanandan Kumar."

Yadwendu claimed that Nitish and Amit charged Rs 32 lakh per candidate and assured him of providing the question paper in advance.

On May 4, all four candidates were called to a guest

house where Nitish and Anand helped them "prepare" using the leaked paper, Yadwendu claimed.

The candidates later confessed that the same questions appeared in the actual exam on May 5.

Yadav was preparing for NEET-UG in Kota, Rajasthan.

In his confessional statement, Yadav said, "My uncle spoke to me when I was in Kota and told me he had access to the question paper. I came to Patna, and my uncle introduced me to two people -- Amit and Nitish -- who provided me with the question paper and answer key. They helped me prepare the questions overnight."

Ex-SIB chief...

Continued from page 1

Responding swiftly, the police rectified the errors and re-filed the corrected charge sheet on Wednesday.

The police are determined to secure Prabhakar's arrest and gather evidence in the phone-tapping case.

The focus now shifts back to the Nampally court. The court's decision on Friday on whether Prabhakar would be granted bail is eagerly awaited by the public.

As the legal battle intensifies, both Prabhakar and the police remain vigilant and each step is closely watched by the public. The outcome of the hearing will be crucial and is likely to set the stage for legal and political moves.

34 people die in...

Continued from page 1

Stalin, who held a meeting to review the situation, announced setting up of a one-man commission to be led by retired Madras High Court Judge B Gokuldas to make recommendations to the government on measures to be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents and also look into the reasons for the deaths.

Four people linked to the sale of the poisonous arrack have been arrested so far, Stalin said and declared Rs 10 lakh assistance to each of the families of the deceased. Also, he announced Rs 50,000 assistance to those who are being treated in hospitals.

The state Home Secretary and Director General of Police will submit a report on the

hooch tragedy following inspection.

The CM assured tough action against those who provided methanol for making the spurious concoction that became poisonous.

The entire Karunapuram, which has witnessed the deaths, including that of two women and one transgender, wore a gloomy look.

Heart-wrenching scenes, including that of a sobbing young girl, anxious relatives awaiting a medical update on their near and dear ones and women wailing in the streets were witnessed in this non-descript locality. Leader of Opposition (LoP), Edappadi K Palaniswami visited the affected people, including three children who have apparently lost both their parents.

Reconnect with public: Jagan to partymen



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former chief minister and YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy encouraged party members to remain positive and confident as they reconnect with the public. He emphasised that their recent electoral loss was neither fair nor just. He urged members to remember that every household had benefited from the YSRCP's welfare agenda over the past five years.

Speaking at the YSRCP's extended meeting, attended by former ministers, MPs, and MLAs, YS Jagan expressed

optimism about the party's future. He believes that the party will regain power with greater strength in the 2029 Assembly elections, as people will eventually see through Chandrababu's alleged deceptions.

Reviewing the party's performance in the recent elections, the YSRCP chief highlighted that the party retained 60 per cent of its vote share, losing only 10 per cent compared to 2019. He expressed confidence that this 10 per cent would soon recognise the deceptive tactics of TDP leader Chandrababu.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha

Tithi: Chaturdashi: Jun 20 07:50 AM to Jun 21 07:32 AM

Purnima: Jun 21 07:32 AM to Jun 22 06:37 AM

Nakshatram: Jyeshtha: Jun 20 06:10 PM to Jun 21 06:18 PM

Moola: Jun 21 06:18 PM to Jun 22 05:54 PM

Rahukalam: 10:40 AM to 12:18 PM

Yamagandam: 3:33 PM to 5:11 PM

Varjyam: 04:20 PM to 05:54 PM

Gulika: 7:24 AM to 9:02 AM

Amritakalam: 09:27 AM to 11:04 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:51 AM to 12:44 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms

Temp: 33°C

Humidity: 63%

Sunrise: 5:43 AM

Sunset: 6:53 PM

Updated: June 20, 2024 5:00 PM

Delhi court grants...

Continued from page 1

The judge ordered Kejriwal's release on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh but imposed certain conditions before granting him the relief, including that he will not try to hamper the investigation or influence the witnesses.

The judge also directed Kejriwal to appear before the court whenever required and to cooperate with the investigation.

The judge had reserved the order earlier during the day after hearing the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which sought to link Kejriwal to the alleged proceeds of crime and co-accused, and the defence that claimed the prosecution has no evidence to nail the AAP leader.

Kejriwal's lawyers are likely to submit the bail bond before the court tomorrow, after which he would be released from Tihar jail.

One the other hand, the ED is also likely to challenge the bail order before a higher court in the coming days.

However, the grant of regular bail to the AAP national convener will give his Aam Aadmi Party and its allies a stick to beat the Modi government with as, according to Section 45 of the stringent Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), bail can be granted only if the judge is prima facie satisfied that the accused has not committed the offence and that he is unlikely to commit any offence while on bail.

ED raids...

Continued from page 1

MLA Kotta Prabhakar Reddy regarding an alleged scam involving Rs 300 crore in mining operations carried out in Patancheru.

They are accused of carrying on illegal mining and a crusher business on government-assigned lands.

Despite closure orders issued by the Telangana PCB on 10.03.2023 against the Santhosh Sand and Granite Supply Company, it continued illegal mining on a government-assigned land in survey No: 738 of Lakdaram Village in the Patancheru Mandal of Sangareddy District, said the complainant.

Madhusudan was arrested by the police in March for illegal excess mining in the Lakdaram village of Patancheru mandal in Sangareddy district.

PM to lead Yoga Day...

Continued from page 1

The roads leading to SKICC have been sealed, they said.

The sanitisation operation at the SKICC was concluded on Tuesday and the background security check of all officials of the SKICC, security personnel and others on duty, and the sportspersons who will attend has been conducted, they said. As part of the security measures, the Srinagar Police declared the city a 'Temporary Red Zone' for the operation of drones and quadcopters.

"Srinagar city has been declared as 'Temporary Red Zone' for the operation of drones and quadcopters as per provisions of Rule 24(2) of Drone Rules, 2021 with immediate effect," the Srinagar

Police said on X on June 18.

All unauthorised drone operations in the "red zone" are liable to being penalised according to provisions of the drone rules, the police said. Ahead of the main function on Friday, a series of yoga events have been held over the past three days at many places in the city and elsewhere in the valley, the officials said.

A yoga event was held near the iconic clock tower at the Lal Chowk city centre here while a mega yoga camp was held at Polo Ground on Wednesday, they said.

Another event was also held at the SKICC here, the officials said, adding similar events were held at many places in the Valley to mark the celebrations for the 10th IYD.

‘Isolated incidents...

Continued from page 1

"Let us have faith in our systems and no irregularities or malpractices will be tolerated by the government," he said.

The NEET examination was held on May 5 across 4,750 centres and around 24 lakh candidates appeared for it. The results were expected to be declared on June 14 but were announced on June 4, saying the evaluation of the answer sheets got completed earlier. As many as 67 stu-

dents scored a perfect 720, unprecedented in the NTA's history, with six from a centre in Haryana's Faridabad figuring in the list, raising suspicions about irregularities. It has been alleged that grace marks contributed to 67 students sharing the top rank.

The NEET-UG examination is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country.



Private school managements fleecing parents in Siddipet Dist

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Private schools in the most developed district of Siddipet in Telangana have been collecting exorbitant fees from parents to admit their wards. Thanks to the government officials turning a blind eye, the private school managements continued to fleece the parents unhindered.

The private schools managements have been looting the parents according to their whims and fancies in the name of fees, school uniform, text-books and regard education as a commercial proposition. They have been collecting fees at the rate of Rs 60,000 for admission to nursery classes.

In the name of International schools, Techno schools, IIT Olympiad, the private schools have been collecting more fees. Some private schools have set up counters to sell notebooks, textbooks. Some schools have a tieup with a particular book shop and the students are advised to buy the books from there. They insist that the students should buy uniforms, carry bags, masks from the

FEE STRUCTURE FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025	
Admission Fee-5000	
Class	NET FEE
NURSERY	32000
LKG	34000
UKG	36000
I	40000
II	42000
III	44000
IV	46000
V	48000
VI	52000
VII	57000
VIII	62000
IX	64000
Local Transport -18000	
Non-Local Transport-26000	

outlet prescribed by the management. The schools have

been collecting bus fees additionally.

There is no control over the very high tuition fees being collected by private school. No matter bringing any number of GOs by the government to discourage schools from this practice, there was no use.

The parents are keen to send their wards to a private school even borrowing from friends or from moneylenders. Taking advantage of the parent's obsession, the private and corporate schools have been collecting heavy fees.

Private schools mushroomed all over the district violating the rules. The government is being criticized for awarding permission to these private schools in spite of them not adhering to infrastructural amenities.

With the reopening of the schools from June 12, admissions have begun in all schools.

Several students' unions have been demanding that the government take action against the unrecognised private schools as these schools did not have fire safety measures, playground and other amenities for

‘Modi govt unable to conduct even one exam properly’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre, saying it was unable to conduct even one exam properly and sought to know what steps it is taking to prevent question paper leaks in future. His statement comes a day after the Ministry of Education cancelled the UGC-NET following inputs that the integrity of the exam may have been compromised.

The Hyderabad MP in a post on social media platform 'X' said, "After the NEET exam, now the UGC-NET exam has also been cancelled because its paper was leaked. Security of the country is a big thing, the Modi government is not able to conduct even one exam properly."

Owaisi pointed to 41 cases of question paper leaks that have affected job seekers in 15 states. "A total of 1.4 crore youth had to write/take up these exams... Has paper leak become an excuse for not giving jobs?" he asked.

Collector makes surprise visit to govt hospital

PNS ■ NALGONDA

District Collector C Narayana Reddy on Wednesday made a surprise visit to the district headquarters government hospital and went round emergency, ICU, palliative care, female, surgical, post-operative and MCH wards in the hospital and interacted with patients and their attendants to get feedback on the hospital services. He ordered the suspension of two employees after for demanding money from patients, according to an officials media statement.

If the doctors abstain from their duties, stern action would be taken against them and the government would not hesitate to terminate the services of the doctors.

Shadnagar MLA Shankar launches National Deworming Day programme

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Emphasising the importance of hygiene, Shadnagar MLA Veerpalali Shankar inaugurated the National Deworming Day programme at Shadnagar Government Girls School on Thursday.

The event, part of a nationwide initiative, is aimed at combating parasitic worm infections among children.

Addressing the students, Shankar urged them to maintain personal and environmental cleanliness. "Children should always maintain cleanliness and ensure their surroundings are sanitary," he advised.

During the programme, Shankar administered Albendazole tablets to the students, marking the start of the deworming campaign. He



Shadnagar MLA Veerpalali Shankar administering Albendazole tablet to a student at Shadnagar Government Girls School on Thursday

stressed the significance of this initiative, which the Indian government organizes every six months, to control the spread of parasitic worms.

Deputy District Medical and Health Officer Dr Vijayalakshmi highlighted the three main types of worms—

tapeworms, roundworms, and hookworms—and explained how children contract these parasites through activities such as playing barefoot, eating without washing hands, and exposure to unclean environments.

She detailed the health issues

caused by these worms, including anaemia, malnutrition, and other gastrointestinal problems.

Dr. Vijayalakshmi emphasized the benefits of the deworming program, noting that taking albendazole tablets can significantly improve children's health by enhancing nutrient absorption, increasing concentration and learning abilities, and reducing the prevalence of worms in the community.

MLA Shankar reiterated the importance of health initiative, urging all children aged 1 to 19 to take the Albendazole tablets twice a year as prescribed. "Health is a great blessing. If children are healthy, they can study well, listen carefully to their teachers, and achieve higher levels in the future," he said.



National Backward Classes Welfare Association president R Krishna speaking at a rally in Hyderabad on Thursday

BC welfare Assn demands increase in Group posts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

President of National Backward Classes Welfare Association and members of Rajya Sabha R Krishniah demanded that the Telangana government increase the number of posts in Groups 1,2,3,4 and teachers' posts for 25 thousand unemployed people on Thursday during a massive dharna organized by five thousand unemployed people at Indira Park.

He demanded that over 503 posts be announced under the Group-1 service. But if the direct recruitment posts are calculated correctly, out of 1600, 783 posts are being filled under Group-2 service. In the case of Group III, out of 2200, 1383 posts have been announced which is more than three thousand while 8500 posts have been announced under the Group-4 service quota. In the case of teachers'

posts, about 11 thousand posts were announced.

According to the PRC report, a total of 25,000 teacher posts are vacant. No new posts have been sanctioned to municipalities and in newly formed districts and mandals.

“Bringing the youth into the government machinery through direct recruitment will lead to efficient and corruption-free governance.

The President of the Backward Classes Welfare Society Association demanded that posts under Group-1 Service have not been filled for the last 10 years. Under group-2 service there is no notification for six years. In the notification given earlier, the full-scale direct recruitment was replaced nominally instead of being replaced as per how many people have retired in Group 1 and Group 2 level posts. How many people received promotions and soon.

Medak MP-elect urges SCR GM to extend train service to Medak

PNS ■ MEDAK

MP-elect M Raghunandan Rao on Thursday held discussions with South Central Railway General Manager and urged him to take steps to build the road over bridge at Yedulanagupalli and extend the railway line till Peddapalli from Siddipeta and further extend it to Medak via Pathancheru and Akkannapeta.

He also urged the railway official to take steps to introduce a train to Tirupati from Meda via Siddipet. He sought railway halt to the Ajanta Express at Vadiyaram and Akkannapeta. The SCR GM



Medak-MP-elect M Raghunandan Rao meeting south Central Railway officials in Hyderabad on Thursday

responded positively to the request.

Later, the MP attended court to argue in support of

BJP activists who have been taken under custody by the police in connection with a group clash held in Medak.

TJUDA begins on-duty protest over unfulfilled demands

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Members of the Telangana Junior Doctors Association (TJUDA) on Thursday began an on-duty protest over unmet demands. The doctors attended their duties while sporting black ribbons on their attire.

TJUDA president Ch G Sai Sri Harsha said, "The TJUDA has been giving representations to authorities for the past six months; However, none of the demands have been fully met. The authorities have only sent proposals to the government regarding a few demands, but there has been no action taken to fulfil them."

TJUDA members from MGM Warangal, Osmania Medical College and other parts of



Telangana participated in the protest. The association has put forward eight demands including green channel for timely release of stipends; New building for the Osmania General Hospital; New hostel building for doctors; Revised honorarium for super-specialty senior residents; Security issues at various government hospitals; Inadequate infrastructure at government medical colleges; roads in Kakatiya Medical College and 15% reservation in NEET for prospectus.

It is to be noted that the association has announced an indefinite strike from June 24 if the demands are not met.

The Telangana Gazette										Village: Chegonna, Mandal: Kusumanchi, District: Khanam										
PART -I EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY																				
District Gazette No.A3142/2024										Dated: 12.06.2024										
FORM - VI																				
(See Sub-Rule (1) of Rule-19 and Section -11 of the Act-30(2013))																				
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA																				
Office of the Special Deputy Collector (LA), IPT & Railways, Khanam																				
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION																				
District Collector, Khanam R/o No.G118559/2024 Dt. 11.06.2024																				
LAC/SDC (LA), IPT & Ry, Khanam R/o No.B/992024 Dt: 15.03.2024																				
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/District Collector that a total extent of Acs. 2.06 gts land is required in the Talacheruvu, Beerola, Meddipally and Kokeneni villages of Trunayalapakem Mandal total tree Mandals of extent Acs. 14.03 gts of Khanam District for public purpose, namely for excavation of canals under SRSP Stage-II project and the notification is issued under Section 11(1) of the Right Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013 and the Publication is Made as shown in the below schedule.																				
In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10A(b) in Chapter IIIA of the RFLTAARR (Telangana Amendment), 2016 (Act No.21 of 2017), the Government of Telangana vide G.O.Ms.No.53 Irrigation & CAD (LA/RM/A2), Dated 25.07.2017 hereby, exempt the Sri Rameswaram Project Stage-II from the application of the provisions of Chapter II and III of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.																				
Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in Kachijugudem, Anekodu, Kondapuram and Anampula villages of Khanam Rural Mandal, Pocharam, Chegonna, Kusumanchi, Jaelacheruvu, Mangipally villages of Kusumanchi Mandal and Talacheruvu, Beerola, Meddipally and Kokeneni villages of Trunayalapakem Mandal of Khanam District a piece of land measuring an extent of Acs. 14.03 gts of standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is under acquisition.																				
SCHEDULE																				
Village: Kachijugudem, Mandal: Khanam Rural, Dist: Khanam																				
Sl. No.	Area under acquisition (Ac. Gts.)	Type of Land	Type of Use	Name of the Proprietor	Name of the Engraver	Str. dist. as per the Survey	Boundaries													
1	477	477	Pata	Dry	0.09	Verla Sathkar	Verla Sathkar	Ni	E-476	W-476	N-476	S-476	1	477	477	Pata	Dry	0.09	Verla Sathkar	Verla Sathkar
2	386	386	Pata	Dry	0.38	Gudichu Upender Rao	Gudichu Upender Rao	Ni	E-386	W-386	N-386	S-386	2	386	386	Pata	Dry	0.38	Gudichu Upender Rao	Gudichu Upender Rao
3	380	380	Pata	Dry	0.04	Pendri Upender Reddy	Pendri Upender Reddy	Ni	E-380	W-380	N-380	S-380	3	380	380	Pata	Dry	0.04	Pendri Upender Reddy	Pendri Upender Reddy
4	381	381	Pata	Dry	0.04	Pendri Gunna Reddy	Pendri Gunna Reddy	Ni	E-381	W-381	N-381	S-381	4	381	381	Pata	Dry	0.04	Pendri Gunna Reddy	Pendri Gunna Reddy
Total Extent in Acs. Gts 1.00																				
Village: Anekodu, Mandal: Khanam Rural, District: Khanam																				
1	444	444	Govt. Land	0.10	Berudi Bari W/o Babu	Berudi Bari W/o Babu	Ni	E-449	W-449	N-442	S-444	1	444	444	Govt. Land	0.10	Berudi Bari W/o Babu	Berudi Bari W/o Babu	Ni	
Total Extent in Acs. Gts 0.10																				
Village: Kondapuram, Mandal: Khanam Rural, District: Khanam																				
1	109	109	Pata	Dry	0.10	Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah, Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah, Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah, Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah	Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah, Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah, Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah, Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah	Ni	E-114	W-108	N-110	S-115	1	109	109	Pata	Dry	0.10	Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah, Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah, Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah, Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah	Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah, Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah, Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah, Kaneti Srinivas S/o Nagiah
Total Extent in Acs. Gts 0.10																				
Village: Anampula, Mandal: Khanam Rural, District: Khanam																				
1	172	172	Pata	Dry	0.15	Mudreddy	Mudreddy	Ni	E-175	W-175	N-175	S-171	1	172	172	Pata	Dry	0.15	Mudreddy	Mudreddy
2	172	172	Pata	Dry	0.01	Thota Ramesh Babu	Thota Ramesh Babu	Ni	E-175	W-175	N-175	S-171	2	172	172	Pata	Dry	0.01	Thota Ramesh Babu	Thota Ramesh Babu
3	172	172	Pata	Dry	0.04	Thota Kanna Venkanna	Thota Kanna Venkanna	Ni	E-175	W-175	N-175	S-171	3	172	172	Pata	Dry	0.04	Thota Kanna Venkanna	Thota Kanna Venkanna
Total Extent in Acs. Gts 0.20																				
Village: Palkigudem, Mandal: Khanam Rural, District: Khanam																				
1	15	15	Pata	Dry	0.03	Mutha Venkateswara Rao	Mutha Venkateswara Rao	Ni	E-118	W-118	N-118	S-14	1	15	15	Pata	Dry	0.03	Mutha Venkateswara Rao	Mutha Venkateswara Rao
Total Extent in Acs. Gts 0.03																				
Village: Kusumanchi, Mandal: Kusumanchi, District: Khanam																				
1	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.01	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Ni	E-470	W-470	N-470	S-470	1	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.01	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy
2	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.01	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Ni	E-470	W-470	N-470	S-470	2	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.01	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy
3	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.01	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Ni	E-470	W-470	N-470	S-470	3	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.01	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy
4	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.01	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Ni	E-470	W-470	N-470	S-470	4	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.01	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy
5	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.07	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Ni	E-470	W-470	N-470	S-470	5	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.07	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy
6	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.19	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Ni	E-470	W-470	N-470	S-470	6	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.19	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy
7	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.09	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Ni	E-470	W-470	N-470	S-470	7	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.09	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy
8	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.08	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Ni	E-470	W-470	N-470	S-470	8	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.08	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy	Sarabudhi Narayana Reddy
9	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.06	Internal Road	Internal Road	Ni	E-470	W-470	N-470	S-470	9	470	470	Pata	Dry	0.06	Internal Road	Internal Road
10	549	549	Pata	Dry	0.08	Gunda Dhanmador Reddy S/o Veera Reddy	Gunda Dhanmador Reddy S/o Veera Reddy	Ni	E-543	W-543	N-549	S-549	10	549	549	Pata	Dry	0.08	Gunda Dhanmador Reddy S/o Veera Reddy	Gunda Dhanmador Reddy S/o Veera Reddy
11	549	590	Pata	Dry	0.11	Kalkichalam Lingiah S/o Laxmiah	Kalkichalam Lingiah S/o Laxmiah	Ni	E-561	W-566	N-491	S-498	11	549	590	Pata	Dry	0.11	Kalkichalam Lingiah S/o Laxmiah	Kalkichalam Lingiah S/o Laxmiah
12	591	590	Pata	Dry	0.18	Kalkichalam Lingiah S/o Laxmiah	Kalkichalam Lingiah S/o Laxmiah	Ni	E-561	W-561	N-596	S-596	12	591	590	Pata	Dry	0.18	Kalkichalam Lingiah S/o Laxmiah	Kalkichalam Lingiah S/o Laxmiah
Total Extent in Acs. Gts 2.10																				
Village: Pocharam, Mandal: Kusumanchi, District: Khanam																				
1	101	101	Pata	Dry	0.09	Nandyala Anil Reddy S/o Nagireddy	Nandyala Anil Reddy S/o Nagireddy	Ni	E-102	W-102	N-102	S-120	1	101	101	Pata	Dry	0.09	Nandyala Anil Reddy S/o Nagireddy	Nandyala Anil Reddy S/o Nagireddy
2	101	101	Pata	Dry	0.00	Nandyala Buchi Reddy S/o Nagireddy	Nandyala Buchi Reddy S/o Nagireddy	Ni	E-102	W-102	N-102	S-120	2	101	101	Pata	Dry	0.00	Nandyala Buchi Reddy S/o Nagireddy	Nandyala Buchi Reddy S/o Nagireddy
3	102	102	Pata	Dry	0.11	Nandyala Anil Reddy S/o Nagi Reddy	Nandyala Anil Reddy S/o Nagi Reddy	Ni	E-102	W-102	N-102	S-123	3	102	102	Pata	Dry	0.11	Nandyala Anil Reddy S/o Nagi Reddy	Nandyala Anil Reddy S/o Nagi Reddy
Total Extent in Acs. Gts 0.22																				
Village: Jilcheruvu, Mandal: Kusumanchi, District: Khanam																				
1	443	443	Pata	Dry	0.04	Rama Geetha W/o Srinivasa Rao	Rama Geetha W/o Srinivasa Rao	Ni	E-441	W-447	N-445	S-443	1	443	443	Pata	Dry	0.04	Rama Geetha W/o Srinivasa Rao	Rama Geetha W/o Srinivasa Rao
2	444	444	Pata	Dry	0.00	Rama Geetha W/o Srinivasa Rao	Rama Geetha W/o Srinivasa Rao	Ni	E-441	W-447	N-445	S-443	2	444	444	Pata	Dry	0.00	Rama Geetha W/o Srinivasa Rao	Rama Geetha W/o Srinivasa Rao
Total Extent in Acs. Gts 0.05																				
Village: Mangipally, Mandal: Kusumanchi, District: Khanam																				
1	361	361	Pata	Dry	0.26	Nalajala Meena W/o Nethu	Nalajala Meena W/o Nethu	Ni	E-362	W-368	N-362	S-365	1	361	361	Pata	Dry	0.26	Nalajala Meena W/o Nethu	Nalajala Meena W/o Nethu
2	362	362	Pata	Dry	0.18	Nalajala Rama Rao S/o Nagiah	Nalajala Rama Rao S/o Nagiah	Ni	E-361	W-361	N-361	S-365	2	362	362	Pata	Dry	0.18	Nalajala Rama Rao S/o Nagiah	Nalajala Rama Rao S/o Nagiah
Total Extent in Acs. Gts 1.34																				
This notification is made under the provision 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, Khanam/LAO and Special Deputy Collector(LA), IPT Railways, Khanam on any working day during the working hours.																				
The Government of Telangana/Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Officer and Special Deputy Collector(LA), IPT Railways, Khanam and His staff (Survey team) 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 Section -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.																				
Objections to 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 under Section-15 of the Act before District Collector, Khanam.																				
Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer/ Special Deputy Collector (LA), IPT & Railways, Khanam										Sd/- Add. Collector District Collector Khanam.										
DIPR No.74/LA/APP-Pub(2024)																				

INDIA CORNER

French journalist leaves India, claims MHA revoked work permit

French journalist Sebastien Farcis on Thursday claimed that he was "forced to leave" India after the Union Home Ministry refused to renew his permit. "After 13 years working as a correspondent in India, the authorities have denied me a permit to work as a journalist. I have thus been forced to leave the country," Farcis said on 'X'. Farcis was the South Asia correspondent for Radio France Internationale, Radio France, Libération and the Swiss and Belgian public radios. "On June 17, I was forced to leave India, a country where I had lived and worked as a journalist for 13 years, as a South Asia correspondent for Radio France Internationale, Radio France, Libération and the Swiss and Belgian public radios," Farcis said in a post on 'X' on Thursday. In February, French journalist Vanessa Dougnac left India after the government revoked her Overseas Citizen of India card.



Tripura: 30 girl students fall ill after having meal in hostel

At least 30 girl students fell ill after having a meal at a hostel run by an NGO in West Tripura district on Thursday, an official said. The state government ordered an inquiry into the suspected food poisoning of girl students of Bodhjung Higher Secondary School and Maharani Tulsibati School, West Tripura District Magistrate Vishal Kumar told reporters. The girl students of the two government schools resided in the NGO-hostel in Indranagar area and had the meal before going to their respective institutions. "Two girls first complained of stomach pain and soon, more students reported the same issue. The students were taken to GBP Hospital," he said. "Food samples were collected from the hostel for scrutiny. We will take appropriate steps if anything adverse is found in the food served to the girl students by the hostel authorities."



Delhi water crisis: Atishi to sit on indefinite hunger strike from today

Delhi Water Minister Atishi said she will sit on an indefinite hunger strike at Bhogal in South Delhi from Friday noon to press on her demand for getting 100 million gallons of water per day from Haryana. At a press conference, Atishi said she will first visit Rajghat at 11 AM on Friday to pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi whose path of Satyagraha was the only option available as no water was provided to Delhi. "Delhi requires 1,005 MGD of water out of which 613 MGD comes from Haryana. Since the last two weeks, Haryana has reduced this to 513 MGD. The 100 MGD less water has caused around 28 lakh people in the city to crave for every drop of water," she said. The minister said Haryana has refused to release water and her letter to the Prime Minister also did not help so she was forced to sit on the hunger strike for the rightful share of Delhi's water and 28 lakh affected people in the city.



India, Australia, France to work for rules-based Indo-Pacific

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India, Australia and France have vowed to jointly work towards a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific amid China's growing muscle-flexing in the region. The overall situation in the Indo-Pacific came up for detailed deliberations at the third 'India-France-Australia trilateral focal points' meeting that took place in Delhi on Wednesday. "The three sides reviewed the progress made under the three pillars of trilateral cooperation: maritime safety and security, marine and environmental cooperation, and multilateral engagement," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. It said the meeting identified new proposals for furthering the trilateral cooperation, including under the



framework of the Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) mechanisms. "India, Australia and France reaffirmed their commitment to advancing their shared values and working together towards a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific," the MEA said in a statement. The IPOI is an open, inclusive, non-treaty based, global initiative that was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 14th East Asia Summit in

November 2019 to promote collaborative efforts among like-minded nations to better manage, conserve and secure the Indo-Pacific maritime domain. The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an inter-governmental organisation aimed at strengthening regional cooperation. The Indian side at the trilateral was led by Piyush Srivastava, joint secretary (Europe West) and Paramita Tripathi, joint secretary (Oceania and Indo-Pacific) at the MEA. The French side was headed by Benoît Guidé, Director (Asia and Oceania) in French foreign ministry. The Australian delegation was led by Sarah Storey, a first assistant secretary at Australian foreign ministry's South and Central Asia Division.

Lok Sabha results indicate people's mood: Pawar

PNS ■ PUNE

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday said the Opposition MVA alliance outperformed the ruling coalition in 155 assembly segments in Maharashtra in the Lok Sabha elections, and it indicated the people's "mood" as state polls are around the corner. Assembly elections are due in the state in October. The Maha Vikas Aghadi allies NCP (SP), Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress together contested all 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra and won 31, Pawar said, speaking to reporters here. "The outcome reflects the people's wishes...if you see (voting patterns in) assembly constituencies within these 31 seats, we secured victory in 155 assembly segments. The outcome reflects the mood of the people for assembly elections," he said.

Saini govt in 'minority', Haryana Cong tells governor

Seeks dissolution of Assembly

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A delegation of the Haryana Congress met Governor Bandaru Dattatreya here on Thursday, claiming the Nayab Singh Saini government is in the "minority" and demanded dissolution of the Assembly and holding fresh polls. A party delegation headed by Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda met the Governor at the Raj Bhavan here in the evening and submitted a memorandum to him. Later interacting with reporters, Hooda said, "The government does not have the moral right to stay in power... We have demanded that the House should be dissolved and fresh elections should be held." In the memorandum to Dattatreya, the opposition party claimed that if the present government lacks a majority in the House "unless it indulges in horse-trading or use of unconstitutional means". "To stop horse trading, which will bring a bad name to the state, the assembly should be



dissolved. This is what we have urged (the governor)," Hooda told reporters. He said in the 90-member Assembly, which currently has an effective strength of 87, BJP has 41 MLAs and has the support of the lone legislator of the Haryana Lokhit Party and Independent member Nayan Pal Rawat. "This makes it amply clear that the present government is in the minority. According to the Constitution and democratic norms, the BJP has no right to continue in the government."

People living in K'taka should learn Kannada: CM Siddaramaiah

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday urged people to take pride in speaking their mother tongue and said it is the responsibility of every Kannadiga to protect the Kannada language, land and water. He noted that people living in Karnataka should learn Kannada and stressed the need to create a "Kannada atmosphere" in the state. Speaking after performing 'bhoomi puja' for the construction of a 25-feet-tall bronze statue of Nada Devi Bhuvaneshwari on the premises of Vidhana Soudha here, the CM said speaking our mother tongue should be a matter

of pride. "A vow must be made that no language other than Kannada is spoken in the state. Kannadigas are generous. That is why there is an environment in Karnataka where even those who speak other languages can live without learning Kannada. The same situation cannot be seen in Tamil Nadu, Andhra and Kerala. They speak only in their mother tongue," he pointed out. Calling on Kannadigas to speak in their mother tongue, Siddaramaiah said there is no need to feel inferior about it. "We also have to speak in our mother tongue. That should make us proud..." he added.

Delhi sees 22 heat-related deaths in 24 hours

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A total of 22 fatalities due to suspected heat-related illnesses have been recorded at Delhi's RML and Safdarjung and LNJP hospitals in the last 24 hours, officials said on Thursday. Delhi has been battling searing heatwave conditions over the last few days. It got some relief on Thursday morning due to light rain. Hospitals in Delhi have seen a rise in the number of casualties and patients owing to heatstroke. According to officials at the Safdarjung Hospital, 33 patients suffering from heat-related illnesses were admitted. Of them 13 died in the last 24 hours, they said. The Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital received 22 patients with a suspected heatstroke in the last



24 hours out of which four have died, a hospital source said. The Delhi government-run LNJP Hospital has 17 patients admitted to its casualty ward while five patients succumbed in

the last 24 hours at the ward, an official source said. Meanwhile, at the city's main crematorium -- Nigambodh Ghat -- the number of cremations has seen a spike. Officials, however, could not confirm if the deaths were related to heatstrokes. On Wednesday, 142 corpses were brought to the Nigambodh Ghat for cremation, which is nearly 136 percentage points higher than the daily average of 50-60 bodies, Suman Gupta, general secretary of the Nigambodh Ghat Sanchalan Samiti, which manages operations at the crematorium, said. The number was higher on Tuesday as well when 97 bodies were cremated at the city's oldest and largest crematorium. "Usually, around 50-60 bodies are brought in here daily for cremation. The number has been higher in the last few days. Today, 35 cremations have taken place since morning and the number may go up by the end of the day," Gupta said.

Sensitivity and inclusivity deeply rooted in our culture : Prez

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu emphasized that sensitivity and inclusivity are the core values deeply rooted in India's culture and civilization and are measures for the progress of a society. Murmu visited the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities in New Delhi. She engaged with PwD children and students. She also toured the newly renovated Prosthesis and Orthosis Centre, where she interacted with patients and observed the advanced facilities aimed at enhancing the lives of those with physical disabilities. In her address to the gathering, President Murmu highlighted the importance of sensitivity and inclusivity in measuring the progress of a society. She emphasized that these values are deeply rooted in India's culture and civilization. "No physical condition can be a barrier to living a normal life when our efforts are inclusive and of sensitive to the needs of Divyangjan," she stated, underscoring the achievements of individuals such as athletes Deepa Malik, Arunima Sinha, and Avani Lekshara, and social worker K.S. Rajanna, who have exemplified how dedication and determination can overcome physical limitations.

NEET row: Rahul Gandhi doing petty politics, alleges BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of indulging in petty politics over alleged irregularities in NEET as it asserted that the Centre is looking into the matter "very sensitively" and justice will be done with every student who appeared for the medical entrance test. The ruling party also alleged that the Congress is trying to mislead the country by spreading lies on the issue "under a conspiracy" to discredit the government's efforts made to streamline the examination system and also to divert the "link" of its ally RJD with the prime accused arrested in connection with the NEET "paper leak" case in Bihar. The BJP's charges came after Gandhi on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the Centre over the alleged irregularities in NEET and cancellation of UGC-NET and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "psychologically col-

lapsed" post-elections and will struggle to run a government like this. Hitting back, BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi termed Gandhi's remarks as "sad" and said the Congress leader is playing politics on the issue as he has nothing to do with the future of the students. "The government is fully sensitive and alert with regard to the NEET exam. It is also committed to ensure that no student faces any injustice and strict action is taken against those involved (in paper leak)," he told a press conference at the BJP headquarters here. "But the opposition leader, Rahul Gandhi, who could not pass even with third division in his third attempt and got just 100 seats (in Lok Sabha polls) is trying to declare himself leader of the bright students," he charged, adding that after Gandhi's press conference it became clear that there is no "seriousness and maturity" in the character of the Congress.



'No complaints against UGC-NET; exam cancelled to safeguard students' interest'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the UGC-NET was cancelled, Education Ministry officials Thursday said no complaints were received about the exam but a suo motu action was taken on the basis of inputs available with them to protect students' interest. Education Ministry Joint Secretary Govind Jaiswal said the details of the inputs cannot be shared as the matter has been referred to the CBI and is currently under investigation. "No complaints were received before recurrence. "Walking is a low-cost, widely accessible and simple exercise that almost anyone can engage in, regardless of geographic location, age or socio-economic status," said senior author Mark Hancock, a professor of physiotherapy, adding that the findings could profoundly impact how low back pain is managed. "Our study has shown that this effective and accessible means of exercise has the potential to be successfully implemented at a much larger scale than other forms of exercise," said lead author Natasha Pocovi from Macquarie University. Physiotherapy sessions needing



but the inputs we received from agencies indicated that the integrity of the exam has been compromised. The action was taken suo

motu to safeguard interests of the students," he said. "A fresh date for the exam will be announced soon," Jaiswal told reporters. The ministry on Wednesday cancelled UGC-NET conducted by the National Testing Agency following inputs that the integrity of the examination may have been compromised. The decision by the Ministry comes amid a massive row on the medical entrance exam NEET over alleged irregularities, with the issue now before the Supreme Court.

Regular walk effective in relieving low back pain

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The simple exercise of walking is enough to bring relief to those having a history of low back pain, according to a research published in The Lancet journal. Following around 700 adults who had recovered from a recent episode of low back pain, researchers divided the participants into three groups - a personalised walking program, physiotherapy sessions over six months and no intervention. The team of researchers, including those at Macquarie University, Australia, found that the walking group experienced greater relief, with a longer pain-free period

before recurrence. "Walking is a low-cost, widely accessible and simple exercise that almost anyone can engage in, regardless of geographic location, age or socio-economic status," said senior author Mark Hancock, a professor of physiotherapy, adding that the findings could profoundly impact how low back pain is managed. "Our study has shown that this effective and accessible means of exercise has the potential to be successfully implemented at a much larger scale than other forms of exercise," said lead author Natasha Pocovi from Macquarie University. Physiotherapy sessions needing

close expert supervision and expensive equipment can make it 'much less accessible to the majority of patients,' said Hancock. However, the researchers were not exactly sure why walking was more effective in relieving pain, but they think it might be due to the gentle movements and strengthening of spine, along with its relaxing effects and the release of "feel-good" endorphins (happy hormones). "And of course, we also know that walking comes with many other health benefits, including cardiovascular health, bone density, healthy weight, and improved mental health," said Hancock.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE DEPARTMENT FORM-VI (See Sub-rule (1) of rule -19 And Section-11 (1) of the Act-36(2013) Collector/Additional Collector/ RDO Huzumagar PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION Dist. Collector Suryapet File No: G/57/2023; Dated: 14.06.2024 RDO Huzumagar File No: F/453/2023; Dated: 29.05.2024 Gazette No: 96/2024; Dated: 14.06.2024										
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector/ RDO Suryapet that a total land to an extent of Ac. 1.10 3/4 gts in survey number 237, 238, 249, 251, 270 & 271 situated at village Bothalapelem Palakaveedu Mandal, was requisitioned by Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division No.3 Huzumagar, Suryapet vide No: EE/1503/HZNR/TO/61 MDX 22-02-2023 to acquire for the formation of LRI Irrigation Scheme from Krishna River near Bothalapelem Village of Palakaveedu Mandal to Jaripad Branch Canal.										
The said land acquisition for the project is exempted from the Chapter II and chapter III of the LA Act 2013 i.e., social impact / assessment (SIA) and Food Security as per Section 10 (A) of Right to Fair compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement 2013, Telangana Amendment Act - 2016 (Act No.21 of 2017)										
It is notified that the above said land situated at Bothalapelem village of Palakaveedu Mandal of Suryapet District a piece of land measuring Ac. 1.10 3/4 Guntas of standard measurement, whose detailed description is as mentioned below, is under acquisition.										
SCHEDULE										
Village: Bothalapelem Mandal: Palakaveedu Dist: Suryapet										
S. No.	Sl. No.	Type of Land	Type of land	Extent	Name of the Paddar	Amubha- vadur name	Boundaries	East	West	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	237 /B/1	Patta	Wet	0.03	Anarapuru Naganma W/o Saidu	Anarapuru Naganma W/o Saidu	237 /270 /270 /238 /2	PVC Pipes		
	237 /1/0	Patta	Wet	0.01	Pisakarla Saritha W/o Marthani	Pisakarla Saritha W/o Marthani				
2	238 /AA1 /2	Patta	Wet	0.01	Maligreddy Panwen Reddy S/o Venkatesh Reddy	Maligreddy Panwen Reddy S/o Venkatesh Reddy	238 /251 /2	270 /251	PVC Pipes	
	238 /A	Patta	Wet	0.04	Devaragadda Jayitha W/o Mohan Rao	Devaragadda Jayitha W/o Mohan Rao				
3	249 /EE/2	Patta	Wet	0.08	Manneem Madhavi W/o Matla Reddy	Manneem Madhavi W/o Matla Reddy	249 /249 /251 /1	251 /1	251 /1	PVC Pipes
4	251 /EE	Patta	Wet	0.01	Maligreddy Koti Reddy S/o Nagi Reddy	Maligreddy Koti Reddy S/o Nagi Reddy	251 /1	270 /20	270 /2	PVC Pipes
	251 /1	Patta	Wet	0.03	Maligreddy Anithamma W/o Saidi Reddy	Maligreddy Anithamma W/o Saidi Reddy				
4	251 /1	Patta	Wet	0.02	Orntodu Anithamma W/o Venkat Reddy	Orntodu Anithamma W/o Venkat Reddy	238 /251 /2	270 /251	270 /251	PVC Pipes
	251 /E/1	Patta	Wet	0.02	Mallavaram Krishnamma W/o Adithy Reddy	Mallavaram Krishnamma W/o Adithy Reddy				
5	251 /AA/1	Patta	Wet	0.06	Maligreddy Jayitha W/o Venkat Reddy	Maligreddy Jayitha W/o Venkat Reddy	251 /1	270 /20	270 /2	PVC Pipes
5	270 /AA	Patta	Wet	0.02	Maligreddy Kaliraddi S/o Narayana Reddy	Maligreddy Kaliraddi S/o Narayana Reddy	237 /270 /21	271 /237	271 /237	PVC Pipes
	270 /A/2	Patta	Wet	0.03	Chanda Malleshwari W/o Srinu	Chanda Malleshwari W/o Srinu				
6	271 /E	Patta	Wet	0.02	Kandukuri Chama- reddy S/o Nannareddy	Kandukuri Chama- reddy S/o Nannareddy	271 /1 /1	271 /1	270 /2	PVC Pipes
Total Extent				1.10 3/4						
This notification is made under the provisions of Sec-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, (Act no.36(2013), to all whom it may concern.										
A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector Suryapet and the Revenue Divisional Office, Huzumagar any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector - cum - appropriate Government is pleased to authorised Revenue Divisional Officer Huzumagar and his staff and work men to enter upon and survey land, take level of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil and do all the other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 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 to the acquisition if any, may be filed by person interested within (40) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under Section 15 of the Act before the undersigned and District Collector Suryapet.										
Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer Huzumagar					Sd/- Addl. Collector, Dist. Collector, Suryapet					
DIPR No.71/A/PP-Pub/2024-25										

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Pacifying farmers

Cabinet approves MSP for 14 Kharif season crops amid rising farmer unrest, but is it enough?

In one of its first major decisions, the Modi Government has decided to assuage the farmers by increasing the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The Union Cabinet has approved the MSP for 14 Kharif season crops. This decision reflects the Government's attempt to ensure that farmers receive fair and remunerative prices for their produce, thereby helping them cope with rising input costs and inflation. Whether the farmers would welcome it, is doubtful. But it would indeed be some relief for the farmers. The approved MSP rates for Kharif crops indicate a substantial increase over the previous year. For instance, the MSP for paddy, the staple Kharif crop, has been raised by Rs100 per quintal, setting the new price at Rs 2,180 for the common variety and Rs 2,200 for the Grade A variety. Similarly, the MSP for maize has been increased by Rs 75 per quintal to Rs 2,130. These adjustments are part of a broader effort to cover a range of crops including cereals like rice and maize, pulses such as moong and tur and oilseeds like soybeans and groundnuts.



The recent surge in farmer protests underscores the presence of deeper systemic issues that extend beyond mere price support. High input costs, inadequate procurement infrastructure, mounting debt and the impacts of climate change are among the key factors driving farmer dissatisfaction. Many farmers struggle to access the benefits of the MSP due to insufficient procurement mechanisms and delays in payments. Moreover, the cost of essential inputs like seeds, fertiliser and pesticides has escalated, diminishing the net gains from the increased MSP. The pervasive issue of debt, compounded by crop failures

and unpredictable market prices, further exacerbates the financial instability of farmers. These factors underscore the need for interventions that go beyond MSP hikes to address the underlying challenges faced by farmers. While the MSP increase is a positive step, it alone is unlikely to resolve the multifaceted issues confronting the agricultural sector. Comprehensive reforms are essential to ensure sustainable improvements in the livelihoods of farmers. To achieve this, the Government must consider a holistic approach that includes enhancing agricultural infrastructure, improving access to credit and providing insurance against crop failures. Encouraging crop diversification and improving market access can also help mitigate risks associated with price volatility and reduce farmers' reliance on a few staple crops. Strengthening procurement systems to ensure timely procurement and fair pricing is crucial to making the MSP more effective. The Cabinet's approval of increased MSP for 14 Kharif crops, though inadequate, is a welcome development that reflects the Government's recognition of the pressing challenges faced by the agricultural sector. A concerted effort to implement systemic reforms alongside fair pricing mechanisms is essential for the advancement of India's farmers and the agricultural sector as a whole..

PICTALK



People use umbrellas to shield themselves during rains, in Kanyakumari

Forest fires are a grim environmental reality

The devastating wildfires highlight a pressing environmental crisis compounded by human negligence and systemic failures



ATUL SEHGAL



Raging wildlife fires in Uttarakhand have made headlines during the last month. These forest fires are a grim environmental reality and also a reflection of human faults in a society riddled with romanticism and unbridled freedom. Adding to this the situation of indiscipline and scant respect for the law, the disconcerting picture is complete. The incidents of resource-destroying wildlife forest fires in the green hilly State of Uttarakhand are due to three factors as obliquely indicated above. These are — faulty living paradigms resulting in environmental pollution, a growing culture of unrestrained freedom among the youth and a weak administrative system that is unable to enforce existing laws. Global warming due mainly to the huge use of hydrocarbon aviation fuels is the big reason for wild forest fires the likes of which are regularly observed in Australia and the USA. The forest fires of Uttarakhand were quite similar to the fires in these countries. The naturally growing *Chir Pine* trees in this State are stated to be susceptible to fires. However, the triggering cause of the fire is atmospheric warming due to vehicular and industrial pollution.

Uttarakhand has a vast belt of pollution causing the pharmaceutical industry of the modern allopathic school which makes extensive use of chemical raw materials. The other cause is mischief-mongering by delinquent youngsters as evident from the news that 3 persons hailing from Bihar were arrested for setting forest tracts in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on fire to get more social media views. Finally, flagrant violation of environmental protection laws of the land through illegal tree felling and construction practices constitutes the third reason. The sorry fact is that the media provides detailed coverage of such incidents but gives very empirical and glib explanations as to the causes of incidents. It doesn't provide any in-depth analytical reports on such incidents which will throw light holistically on their occurrence and prevention.

Wildfires are a regular phenomenon in Australia and the USA as well as in some European countries. And they are intriguing. Geologists and Meteorologists in those supposedly developed and well-

administered countries have neither complete nor correct explanations for these phenomena.

But it is not difficult or impossible to arrive at the actual complete, scientific explanations. And that is possible only through the application of the scientific principles expounded in Vedic Physics. Through Vedic Physics, we can understand and explain all phenomena in nature precisely and perfectly. This is because; Vedic Physics provides a holistic exposition of natural phenomena. Its ambit covers the five primordial elements—earth, water, fire, air and ether. This exposition goes from outwardly perceptible physical events to the innermost levels of subtle material existence. The Modern Physics of Western academia explains physical phenomena only to the extent of measurement of visible, audible or otherwise measurable physical phenomena. It has no concept of sub-nano material entities- mind (Anastasia) intellect (mahatva) and divinely originating rays (rashmiyan). Also, it has very little or virtually no understanding of ether.

Discourse of our Sanatan scientific literature dating back to 15000 years ago unfolds the mysteries of material nature comprehensively. Some of these texts are Aitreya Brahman and Shathpath Brahman. Picking out threads of core scientific precepts from these texts will enable us to refine our living paradigms and technologies in line with Vedic sciences. It will enable us to make environment-friendly construction practices and prevent natural disasters and catastrophic events like wildfires. The main reason behind the occurrence of wildfires is the production of excessive heat and disturbance of water balance in the environment due to excessive hydrocarbon burning. The primordial water element is the antidote to the primordial fire element. Vedic sciences provide all the solutions. Scientists of the Western, modern school have none. We must turn to our rich traditional Sanatan scientific literature of the yore to bring safety, stability and sustainability to the world before it is too late.

(The author is a management consultant; views are personal)



THE MAIN REASON BEHIND THE OCCURRENCE OF WILDFIRES IS THE PRODUCTION OF EXCESSIVE HEAT AND DISTURBANCE OF WATER BALANCE IN THE ENVIRONMENT DUE TO EXCESSIVE HYDROCARBON BURNING

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HEAT WAVE WORSENS

Madam — Apropos the news story "Sharp rise in heatstroke cases, casualties in hospitals as heat wave batters Delhi," published on June 20, this is my response. Delhi is grappling with a severe heat wave, leading to a surge in heatstroke cases and casualties. Hospitals like RML and Safdarjung are overwhelmed, with numerous patients on ventilators and several fatalities reported. The victims, mostly labourers without prior health conditions, are succumbing to extremely high body temperatures. The newly established heatstroke unit at RML utilises innovative cooling methods, highlighting the critical need for immediate treatment.

Daily life is further strained as the city faces record-breaking temperatures, with the warmest night in over a decade. Medical professionals emphasise public awareness about heat safety, urging hydration and avoiding peak sun hours. Moreover, the prolonged heat is exacerbating conditions like lupus, affecting vulnerable populations. This alarming situation underscores the urgent need for climate adaptation measures and robust public health responses to mitigate the deadly impact of rising temperatures in Delhi.

Anvi Singh | Jodhpur

PM MODI IN SRINAGAR

Madam — Apropos the news story "Two terrorists killed ahead of Modi's Srinagar visit," published on June 20, this is my response. As a regular reader of the newspaper, the recent developments in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit are noteworthy. Security forces have intensified their efforts, resulting in the elimination of two terrorists in Baramulla's Hadipora area. Despite the success, the operation also saw two security personnel injured, highlighting the ongoing risks. In a move to ensure utmost security, Srinagar has been declared a "red zone" with a ban on drone operations. Modi's visit marks his first to the region since his third term began, underscoring its significance.

Modi's diplomatic engagements



Apropos the news story "India's foreign policy under Modi 3.0," published on June 20, this is my response. In less than a week of assuming office as the Prime Minister for the world's largest democracy, Mr. Modi is back where he excels—on the global stage. His visit to Italy for the G7 meeting, coupled with several bilateral discussions, underscores his commitment to reinforcing India's international

presence. This trip marks Modi's first abroad after being re-elected for a third term, a testament to his enduring influence and the resilience of India's democratic process.

Despite not securing an outright majority, Modi's leadership is strengthened by a robust opposition, showcasing India's vibrant democracy amidst global democratic uncertainties. His experienced diplomatic team, led by seasoned External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, continues to navigate complex geopolitical landscapes. PM Modi's visit highlights India's strategic balancing act, especially regarding sensitive issues like the Ukraine conflict and Israel's security situation. As global dynamics evolve, India's role remains pivotal, further cemented by Modi's diplomatic engagements and the nation's unwavering democratic principles.

Aarohi Sharma | Jammu

Additionally, the Jammu and Kashmir Police have made progress in combating terrorism by arresting an accomplice involved in a recent attack on a pilgrim bus. This demonstrates a proactive approach to addressing security threats. The Prime Minister's schedule includes inaugurating development projects and participating in International Yoga Day, reflecting his commitment to promoting health and unity. The event promises to bring together thousands, emphasising the global impact of yoga.

Reyansh Tiwari | Tirupati

NAM FACES MYRIAD CHALLENGES

Madam — Apropos the news story "NAM faces challenges of neo-colonialism," published on June 20, this is my response. Churchill's warning that "those who forget history are condemned to repeat it" remains relevant. Reflecting on his 1948 speech, it's evident he criticised the colonial past while paradoxically supporting its continuation in Asia and Africa post-World War II. This paradox underlines the complex legacy of colonialism, still echoed

today. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), founded in 1955 with India as a key player, sought to protect nations' sovereignty from colonial influences. NAM became a significant force, advocating for neutrality and independence during the Cold War.

However, its relevance has waned post-Cold War as new forms of neo-colonialism—via economic and media control—emerge. Recent actions by France, maintaining economic dominance in African countries and interfering in geopolitical issues like Nagorno-Karabakh, highlight ongoing neo-colonialism. NAM's resurgence under Azerbaijan's leadership signals a renewed commitment to combating these modern threats. With Uganda set to lead NAM, it's crucial for member nations, including India, to unite against neo-colonialist pressures and uphold the movement's founding principles to ensure global sovereignty and peace.

Sohravy Patel | Rourkela

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Benefits of integrating offline and online channels

As offline and online channels converge, businesses must adapt to ensure a seamless customer journey across all touchpoints

Expertise in channel management—as indeed in other fields—can often be self-referential. The conversations on universal principles for the management of the offline channel typically have little or no intersection with those for the online channel. While a number of these principles—developed in their silos—are indeed extremely useful, the consumer is (still) a person. Even in B2B businesses, the key decision-maker is a person or a group of persons. It is the 'people-ness' of these people (consumers, customers) that creates a case for integrated thinking. Consistency of what a brand is saying is important essentially because of the much-cited phenomenon of short attention spans. However, consistency is not sufficient—condition to get some of the scarce attention that's essential at the very top of the funnel (attention-> interest-> decision-> action, or AIDA, the old marketing reliable).

For instance, the individual seeking a new smartphone is probably going to visit a big retail outlet, where they might interact with a brand representative and try out a demo unit. They might come across an Instagram post highlighting a new model. If this person is inclined towards gathering information and may have also read some reviews online and watched a YouTube influencer comparing different models. A few years ago, the number of people who have both offline and online dimensions in their purchase decision might have been very small, but this cohort is quite salient now. The challenging aspect in this customer journey is that the last A in AIDA, 'action' (purchase) might happen offline or online. Therefore, segregated structures for offline and online channels are not sustainable in the long term. It is clearly in the brand's interest that offline and online channels are,



integrated. Individuals who have acquired expertise through experience on offline channels are not necessarily the ones best suited to build or develop online channels, but with time this will change. Online and offline channels sometimes end up being unintegrated because of the list (or checklist) approach to channel execution. In this approach channel management is essentially a set of activities to be completed in a particular order. While the list approach is a hallmark of the manager who is strong at execution, it is not ideal for capturing strategic thinking. The choice of a metaphor that represents strategic thinking is essential for the integration of offline and online channels. Interconnected funnels might be a good, safe choice of metaphor in case a manager is struggling to find the ideal one for her context. Structural adjustments and readjustments will continue to happen, but integrated channel thinking is inevitable, because of its direct impact on customer experience.



SUHAS MISRA

(The writer is Co-Founder of Channelplay; views are personal)

FIRST COLUMN

G7 SUMMIT AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH

The Summit acknowledged the critical role of the Global South



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE


The recent G7 meeting held in picturesque Apulia, Italy, had several pointers on the recent geopolitical shifts and changing equations between some of the most powerful nations in the world. Yes, the meme-worthy, Pictures of Stares, Namaskars and Parachute Landings, kept the social media alive and brought energy to an otherwise, boring round of meetings and dinners of world leaders, discussing topics of shared interest, the underlining points were not missed. First, the clear focus of the meeting, as highlighted in the joint communique was Ukraine to send some tough messages to China and other parties working covertly with Russia. In a not-so-veiled message and directly naming China the Joint Statement read “We will continue taking measures against actors in China and third countries that materially support Russia’s war machine, including financial institutions, consistent with our legal systems and other entities in China that facilitate Russia’s acquisition of items for its defense industrial base. We reiterate that entities, including financial institutions, that facilitate Russia’s acquisition of items or equipment for its defense industrial base are supporting actions that undermine the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine. Accordingly, we will impose restrictive measures consistent with our legal systems to prevent abuse and restrict access to our financial systems for targeted individuals and entities in third countries, including Chinese entities, that engage in this activity. “The message to China was, don’t keep playing with fire, as one day, it may singe you. It may be worth mentioning that the US has undertaken several export control measures to prevent the transfer of high-tech equipment to China, which have dual-purpose utilities, i.e. can be used for making precision weapons as well as cyber surveillance tools. China was the only large economy, (not so direct a party to the Russia-Ukraine war), which was absent from the G7 summit. Recently Chinese President Xi Jinping undertook a tour of several European countries to ease the tariff-related issues, imposed by several European nations, against Chinese electrical vehicles. While some nations in Europe are committed to the US-led vision of hard measures on China, several others are on the fringe, tilting towards China.



Meanwhile, this G7 summit, in a backhanded compliment of sorts, for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of inclusion of Global South countries in world affairs, reiterated the importance of African nations and pledged several measures to boost the economic prosperity of the region. The Joint Statement Stated “We endorse African countries’ call for greater voice in international bodies and welcome the AU’s participation in the G20 as a permanent member and the creation of a third Chair for sub-Saharan Africa at the IMF Executive Board in November. We reiterate our support for the G20 Compact with Africa, as a tool to increase private sector investments, promote structural reforms and local entrepreneurship support and enhance cooperation, including in the energy sector.” PM Modi who was also in Apulia, as a special invitee, in his brief outreach session addressed highlighted the preeminence of Global South countries. He said “The countries of the Global South are bearing the brunt of global uncertainties and tensions. India has considered it its responsibility to place the priorities and concerns of the countries of the Global South on the world stage. We have given high priority to Africa in these efforts. We are proud that the G-20, under India’s chairmanship, made the African Union a permanent member. India has been contributing to the economic and social development, stability and security of all African countries and will continue to do so.” A new world order with multiple voices opining on global matters, at a time when existing political structures are being challenged domestically, was one clear message from the G7 meeting in Italy. (The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

UGC set to revolutionise higher education in India

The University Grants Commission has introduced a transformative policy that is expected to align India with global educational practices



MANOJ VARGHESE

The University Grants Commission (UGC) in its recent decision has allowed Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), which offer programs in regular mode, to admit students twice a year, from the coming academic year. This option would be made available only in those HEIs that intend to increase their student intake and offer new programmes in emerging areas. Earlier, the UGC had decided in its 571st commission held on 25 July 2023 to permit biannual admissions under Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Online modes in January and July during an academic year. Last year, after the UGC had permitted two cycle admissions in a year for ODL and Online modes, in addition to

countries this biannual mode of admissions exists for the diploma, degree and post-graduation courses after the senior secondary education. It will enhance international collaborations and student exchanges from foreign countries. As a result, the global competitiveness will improve and will be in alignment with the global educational standards. The biannual university admissions will help students who missed an entrance owing to a delayed result or health reasons, as they do not have to wait for one another full year. Most of the institution heads have welcomed the step, owing to the official directive and secondly as the intake will bring in extra revenue to their institutes. Some of them want to

test the water by introducing it in some selected courses. On the other side, some of them expressed concern over the additional space, infrastructure and faculty required to handle this extra burden of students. Enhancing the quantity is good, but the cost of the quality is what some educational experts fear. Recently, a German IT professional was travelling from Delhi to Dehradun on a Shatabdi train. He was on his vacation trip to India after a six-month long professional hard work. He narrated how the Germans work, “When they work, they work and then spare a few months to upgrade their skills and also go in a hibernation mode of rest for reviving themselves.” Whereas, we Indians, either

work throughout the 12 months of spring, winter, rainy and summer seasons; or follow a lacklustre attitude and take a back seat. In India, many scholars pursue a doctorate for the sake of procuring a PhD degree after their post-graduation. Whereas, in European countries like Germany, students while pursuing their secondary education develop the flare for a particular vocational course and practice it on grounds. After a while, they return to learn more about that particular profession through higher studies. No doubt, many of them do their PhD in plumbing or automobiles and add value to their profession. In countries like Germany, education is a lifelong learning process and addresses the

ever-changing demands of the labour market. The learning is procured through adult education, professional development, recognising prior experience, flexible learning pathways and providing opportunities for seniors to pursue personal interests. The ongoing learning and training is imparted through Evening classes, Workshops, Vocational courses and Non-formal educational programs tailored to adults seeking to acquire new skills or qualifications. These educational opportunities are provided by diverse entities, including municipal and private institutions, religious organisations, trade unions, industry and commerce chambers, associations, political parties, businesses, Government agencies, academies, family education centres, vocational schools, as well as media outlets like radio and television. In India, the recently introduced vocational degree courses like BVoc and MVoc have failed to take off and get the desired results as expected. The adult mindset is different here, as they prefer a white-collar job. But the reality is different. One of the ITI pass out in the AC stream, Mr Khatri, an entrepreneur was recently awarded for his turnover of over Rs 10 crore per year. It is not the Degrees, but the determination and expertise in their profession, that makes a person successful. In most of the developed countries like the USA, Canada, Australia, the UK and Germany, college stu-

dents while pursuing their higher studies work and earn. The literacy campaign and the efforts to bring back the school dropouts in India have yielded good results. The missing link is the flare for a particular vocational course, hands-on training, experience in the respective field and the confidence to be of their own. A change in the mindset of senior secondary-level students towards their career perspective can make a difference. Adopting the worldwide model of universities is good, but engaging them after this biannual mode of education is what the policymakers need to ponder upon. (The writer is a former editor and former media advisor to the Delhi Government; views are personal)



The unseen burden of women’s unpaid labour

Globally, women spend significant time on unpaid care work, limiting their participation in the labour market and affecting economic stability



ARCHANA DATTA



In the early 60s when Canadian short story writer, Alice Munro, who died recently, earned some success, a newspaper ran a piece on her, which had a condescending headline the ‘housewife who finds time to write short stories’. The banter fell through Alice and she went on to win a Nobel in literature in 2013. While another Nobel winner in Economics in 2023, Claudia Goldin, explained in her research that a woman’s vocation is not always guided by her choice, but, more often by the ‘long-standing societal trends’, which build a ‘cult of domesticity’ around her, idealising her role as an unpaid caregiver. Not surprising that women spend almost 76.2 per cent of total hours, three times more than men, on unpaid care work (ILO). Of all regions, the Pacific and Asia present the worst scenario, with men performing the lowest share of unpaid care work (1 hour and 4 minutes). In 2018, 606 million working-age women expressed disappointment that they failed to enter the labour market because of the burden of unpaid care work, which was the case for only 41 million men. In terms of monetary value, women’s unpaid work may exceed up to 40 per cent of GDP in some countries (ILO). Social scientists contend that child-bearing, as well as the age and number of children, more than marriage, impede women’s entry into the labour market. Women (aged 25-54) face a wide disparity in labour force participation rate (LFPR), which remains only 61.4 per cent, as against men’s 90.6 per cent (World Bank, 2022). While, in the lone women households, with at least one child under 6, economic compulsion lifts women’s LFPR to about 65.8 per cent, but, it goes down to 48.7 per cent, when mothers live with a partner and a young child, as the ‘male breadwinner’ syndrome prevails (UNWomen). Notwithstanding, the ‘breadwinner moms’ also bear a heavier load at home,



IT IS HIGH TIME NOW THAT THE WORLD FULFILS ITS SDG 2030 COMMITMENTS AND ENSURES WOMEN’S ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND EQUALITY, WITH APPROPRIATE POLICY FORMULATIONS AND RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS

even if they out-earn their husbands’ (Pew Research Centre). While, the ‘motherhood penalty’ is very much persistent in the USA (Harvard, 23). ‘Moms were six times less likely than non-mothers and 3.35 times less likely than child-free men to be recommended for a hire...and are 114 per cent more likely than dads to take a career pause (Mom Project, US, a career-resource platform for working mothers). ‘If a kid is sick,..... it’s going to be the woman to take time off, because they are paid less, which makes more economic sense’ (PNAS, 2023). While, a report by the British trade union association ‘TUC’, said that ‘men do not face a penalty as parents at all, rather, fathers who work full time, experience a wage bonus, when they have children, earning 22 per cent more’. ‘The disparity arises not because mothers actually become less productive employees, or fathers work harder becoming parents, but, because employers expect them to be so, indicating a clear-cut culture bias about gender and work’, said Michelle Budig, a sociology professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her research further revealed that on average, men’s earnings increased by more than 6 per cent when they had children, if they lived with them, while, women’s decreased by 4 per cent for each child they had (National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, US, 1979 to 2006). In India, childbirth impacts women’s entry into the labour market, but, differently, in the context of urban and rural. A study, collecting the Life History Calendar (LHC) data from the

States of Karnataka and Rajasthan, suggested that motherhood may not be accompanied by a penalty in terms of labour market participation for rural women because of the predominance of informal and flexible employment, which are more conducive for childcare responsibilities than work in an urban or more formalised setting (Gautham 2021). The analysis of data from the Employment-Unemployment Schedule (EUS) of the NSS from 2004 to 2012 revealed that rural motherhood wage penalties are close to zero, whereas, urban women pay a large penalty of about 18 per cent of total wages and highly educated women, or women in regular or salaried wage work, incur a larger wage penalty after motherhood than their less educated or casual wage counterparts (Wilde et al. 2010). However, first-time fathers, both rural and urban, experience no negative wage effects following the birth of children. The lack of childcare facilities is one of the most significant impediments to gender equality in job markets (UNWomen). A macro-econometric analysis of childcare policies in 18 OECD countries (1980-2007) commented that measures like high levels of employment protection and longer paid leave are crucial for the survival of working mothers (Thévenon, 2013). In 2016, an analytical study (ITUC) in seven high-income OECD countries, appraised that an investment of two per cent of GDP in the care industry, could create nearly 13 million new jobs in the US, 3.5 million in Japan, nearly 2 million in Germany, 1.5 million in the UK, 1 million in Italy, 600,000 in

Australia and nearly 120,000 in Denmark and boost women’s employment rate by 3.3 to 8.2 percentage points, as against men’s 1.4 to 4.0 percentage points. Subsequently, similar research (ITUC) in emerging economies such as Brazil, Costa Rica, China (People’s Republic), India, Indonesia and South Africa, also substantiated that the same amount of investment in the health and care sector would bolster nearly 24 million new jobs would in China, 11 million in India, nearly 2.8 million in Indonesia, 4.2 million in Brazil and over 400,000 in South Africa and 63,000 in Costa Rica. While, the ILO’s recent global ‘Care at Work’ report exhorted that to reducing the gender gap in employment by 7 percentage points and the monthly earnings gap to 1.8 per cent by 2035, a sustainable annual investment of over \$204 billion, an average of 5.8 per cent of GDP per country, should be invested for universal childcare and long-term care services. While, feminist economists (Elson et al.) and proponents of the Purple Economy (Ilkkaracan), vouched for recognising care as ‘an indispensable component of human well-being’ and called for a ‘caring and gender equal economic and social order’, by sharing caregiving responsibilities between the State and households and women and men. It is high time now that the world fulfils its SDG 2030 commitments and ensures women’s economic justice and equality, with appropriate policy formulations and resource allocations. (The author is former Director General, Doordarshan & All India Radio, views are personal)

MONEY MATTERS

EPFO adds record 18.92 lakh net members in April

Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) added a record 18.92 lakh net members in April, payroll data released on Thursday showed. The addition during the month is the highest since the first payroll data was published in April 2018, a labour ministry statement said. An increase of 31.29 per cent was registered in net member addition during April as compared to March 2024, it stated. According to the statement, EPFO's provisional payroll data released on Thursday highlights that it has added 18.92 lakh net members in April. Further, the year-on-year analysis reveals a growth of 10 per cent in net member addition. The surge in membership can be attributed to various factors, including increased employment opportunities, a growing awareness of employee benefits, and the effectiveness of EPFO's outreach programmes, the statement said. The data indicates that around 8.87 lakh new members have enrolled during April 2024.



Gold jumps Rs 120; silver surges Rs 900 amid strong global cues

Gold prices jumped Rs 120 to Rs 72,550 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday amid strong trends globally, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had ended at Rs 72,430 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver prices also surged Rs 900 to Rs 92,300 per kg. It had settled at Rs 91,400 per kg on Wednesday. "In Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) are trading at Rs 72,550 per 10 grams, up by Rs 120 from the previous close," Saamil Gandhi, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities, said. In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,332 per ounce, up USD 5 from the previous close. "Gold prices remained positive, as US participants returned from the Juneteenth holiday with a buying sentiment. This was driven by weak retail sales data and lower inflation figures. "Expectations for a rate cut in September are growing, but if any US Fed members hint at a delay beyond September, profit booking in gold is likely," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.



SEA seeks govt push for oilseed output boost

Edible oils industry body SEA has urged the government to prioritise agriculture and launch a national mission with adequate financial support to boost oilseed production in the upcoming 2024-25 Budget. In a pre-budget memorandum, the Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) said increasing domestic oilseed output was crucial to reducing India's rising dependence on expensive imports of edible oils. The body also demanded the correction of an inverted duty structure on imports of refined oil and finished products like stearic acid that put local manufacturers at a disadvantage. India meets over 60 per cent of its edible oil demand through imports, making it one of the world's biggest importers. SEA also asked the government to not extend a ban on exports of de-oiled rice bran beyond July 31. The new government has included an "Oilseed Development Programme" in its first 100-day agenda.



UNSECURED LENDING

Not acting on it could have created bigger problem: Das

PNS ■ MUMBAI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said not acting on unsecured lending could have created a "bigger problem", and RBI's actions on such practices have had the desired impact of slowing down growth in the riskier segment.

Addressing an international conference on financial resilience at the RBI's College of Supervisors here, Das said restrictions on unsecured lending were the result of a view that there could be a potential problem in the credit market because of growth in unsecured lending.

The overall headline parameters were looking good, but there was "clear evidence" of dilution of underwriting standards, lack of proper appraisals and a mentality to join the bandwagon for driving up the unsecured lending among some lenders, he added.

"We thought if left unat-



Addressing an international conference on financial resilience at the RBI's College of Supervisors here, Das said restrictions on unsecured lending were the result of a view that there could be a potential problem in the credit market because of growth in unsecured lending.

tended, these vulnerabilities can become a bigger problem. So, we thought it is better to act in advance and slow down the credit growth," Das said.

He expressed satisfaction that the RBI's action has had the desired impact, as the growth in unsecured lending has indeed slowed down.

Das said the growth in credit card portfolios has slowed down to 23 per cent from 30 per cent before the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) action, while growth in bank lending to Non-bank Finance Companies (NBFC) has slowed to 18 per cent from the earlier 29 per cent. It can be noted that on November 16 last year, the RBI increased the risk weights on unsecured lending and exposure to NBFCs, which will make banks set aside larger amounts of capital on such assets.

"India's domestic financial system is now in a much stronger position than it was before we entered the period of the COVID crisis. Indian financial system is now in a much stronger position, characterised by robust capital adequacy, low levels of non-performing assets, and healthy profitability of banks and non-banking lenders, that is NBFCs," said Das.

Indians' funds in Swiss banks plunge 70 pc to hit four-year low of Rs 9,771 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/ZURICH

Funds parked by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks, including through local branches and other financial institutions, fell sharply by 70 per cent in 2023 to a four-year low of 1.04 billion Swiss Francs (Rs 9,771 crore), annual data from Switzerland's central bank showed on Thursday.

The decline in aggregate funds of Indian clients with Swiss banks for the second consecutive year, after hitting a 14-year-high of CHF 3.83 billion in 2021, was largely driven by a sharp plunge in funds held through bonds, securities and various other financial instruments.

Besides, the amount in customer deposit accounts and funds held through other bank branches in India also declined significantly, the data showed.

These are official figures reported by banks to the Swiss National Bank (SNB) and do not indicate the quantum of the much-debated alleged black money held by Indians



in Switzerland. These figures also do not include the money that Indians, NRIs or others might have in Swiss banks in the names of third-country entities.

The total amount of CHF 1,039.8 million, described by the SNB as 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks or 'amounts due' to their Indian clients at the end of 2023, included CHF 310 million in customer deposits (down from CHF 394 million at 2022-end), CHF 427 million held via other banks (down from CHF 1,110 million), CHF 10 mil-

lion (down from CHF 24 million) through fiduciaries or trusts, and CHF 302 million as 'other amounts due to customers in form of bonds, securities and various other financial instruments' (down from CHF 1,896 million).

The total amount stood at a record high of nearly 6.5 billion Swiss francs in 2006, after which it has been mostly on a downward path, except for a few years including in 2011, 2013, 2017, 2020 and 2021, as per SNB data.

While all four components had declined during 2019, the

year 2020 saw a significant plunge in customer deposits, while there was a surge across all categories in 2021. During 2022, only the fiduciaries segment saw an increase.

According to the SNB, its data for 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks towards Indian clients takes into account all types of funds of Indian customers at Swiss banks, including deposits from individuals, banks and enterprises. This includes data for branches of Swiss banks in India, as also non-deposit liabilities.

On the other hand, the 'local national banking statistics' of the Bank for International Settlement (BIS), which have been described in the past by Indian and Swiss authorities as a more reliable measure for deposits by Indian individuals in Swiss banks, showed a decline of nearly 25 per cent during 2023 in such funds to USD 70.6 million (Rs 663 crore).

It had dropped by 18 per cent in 2022 and by over 8 per cent in 2021, after rising by nearly 39 per cent in 2020.

SBI Chairman pitches for tax relief on interest income in Budget



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State Bank of India Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara has pitched for tax relief on interest income, saying it would help banks to garner savings that could be used for funding long-term infra projects.

Currently, banks are required to deduct tax when interest income from deposits held in all the bank branches put together is more than Rs 40,000 in a year. With regard to savings accounts, interest earned up to Rs 10,000 is exempt from tax.

"If at all some relief could be given in the Budget regarding tax on the interest earnings, it will be an incentive to depositors. Eventually, the banking sector uses deposits mobilised for the capital formation in the country," he told PTI in an interview.

The Full Budget for 2024-25 is likely to be presented by

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Parliament next month. Given the current economic growth rate, the SBI chairman is expecting 14-15 per cent loan growth during the fiscal year 2024-25. "Normally the way we look at it is that the GDP growth rate plus inflation and 2-3 per cent over that. That gives us the number around 14 per cent or so," he said.

"Hence, 14-15 per cent credit growth depends upon the opportunities available for lending, and it meets our risk appetite. We will be happy to grow at this pace," he said.

As far as deposits are concerned, he said, it grew by 11 per cent last year. "And we have some elbow room available in terms of excess SLR...which ensures that we don't have any pressure on us to raise the deposit rates for supporting our loan-to-deposit ratio," he said.

India fossil fuel consumption up 8 pc in 2023

PNS ■ DUBAI

Fossil fuel consumption in India rose 8 per cent in 2023, accounting for almost all demand growth, while its share of overall consumption stood at 89 per cent, according to a report.

According to an Energy Institute (EI) report, for the first time, more coal was used in India than Europe and North America combined.

EI and co-authors KPMG and Kearney on Thursday released the 73rd annual edition of the Statistical Review of World Energy, presenting for the first time full global energy data for 2023.

The report suggests that five key stories emerge from the 2023 data, starting with record



global energy consumption, with coal and oil pushing fossil fuels and their emissions to record levels.

"Global primary energy consumption overall was at a record absolute high, up 2 per cent on the previous year to 620 Exajoules (EJ). Global fossil fuel consumption reached a record high, up 1.5 per cent to 505 EJ (driven by coal up 1.6 per cent,

oil up 2 per cent to above 100 million barrels for first time, while gas was flat)," said the report.

As a share of the overall mix they were at 81.5 per cent, marginally down from 82 per cent last year. Emissions from energy increased 2 per cent, exceeding 40 gigatonnes of CO2 for the first time.

Solar and wind push global renewable electricity generation to another record level. Renewable generation, excluding hydro, was up 13 per cent to a record global high of 4,748 TWh, it said.

This growth was driven almost entirely by wind and solar and accounted for 74 per cent of all net additional electricity generated.

Financial sector players pitch for tax sops in Budget to boost capital markets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Financial sector players on Thursday pitched for streamlining capital gains tax and reduction in Securities Transaction Tax in the upcoming FY25 Budget to boost capital markets.

In a pre-budget meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman here, some of the players urged the government to fix tax arbitrage wherever it exists.

This was the second Pre-Budget Consultation, which was attended by leading

experts of the financial and capital markets sector, in connection with the forthcoming General Budget 2024-25, the finance ministry said in a post on X.

The full Budget for 2024-25 is expected to be presented in Parliament next month. Emerging out of a two-hour meeting with the finance minister, Arun Kohli, MD & Country Head, Morgan Stanley India Company, said tax policies need to be stable and long-term oriented.

Participants also extended their suggestions on capital



gains tax and securities transaction tax.

According to George Alexander Muthoot, MD of Muthoot Group, some of the players pitched for deepening the market and providing some tax incentives.

"We've suggested that since NBFC credit has grown and the RBI has flagged over-dependence on banks, allocation of funds from SIDBI and NABARD could increase for refinancing of NBFCs," FIDC Director Raman Aggarwal said. NBFCs (non-banking financial companies) also sought clarity on GST demand on co-lending and payment of GST on service fees, Aggarwal added. Asset management companies discussed issues related to GIFT CITY also and the ways to retain capital within the country, he noted.

Govt issues draft guidelines to curb unsolicited biz messages

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Consumer Affairs Ministry on Thursday sought public comments until July 21 on draft guidelines to curb unsolicited and unwanted business communications like promotional calls and text messages.

The guidelines -- prepared after consultations with stakeholders, including telecom firms and regulators -- define "business communication" as any communication related to goods or services like promotional and service messages but excludes personal com-

munication. They will apply to all individuals and entities that make or engage others for such communications or benefit from them, the ministry said in a statement.

The draft guidelines classify any business communication as unsolicited and unwanted if it does not comply with the recipient's consent or registered preferences.

Other conditions that would make a communication unauthorised include using unregistered numbers or SMS headers, calling despite recipients opting out,



failing to obtain digital consent, not identifying the caller and purpose, and lacking an opt-out option.

The proposals also bar such communications that violate the telecom regulator Telecom Regulations Authority of India (Trai) rules on commercial messages based on customer preferences.

While Trai's 2018 rules have been effective for registered telemarketers, communications from unregistered marketers using private 10-digit numbers remain unabated, the ministry said.

"Do Not Disturb (DND)

registry has been highly effective for registered telemarketers, but the unwarranted communication from unregistered telemarketers and those using 10-digit private numbers remain unabated," the ministry said.

The government is "committed to safeguarding consumer interests and consumer rights, especially in the increasingly expanding and penetrative consumer space".

The draft guidelines aim to protect consumers from invasive and unauthorised marketing, the ministry added.

Sensex, Nifty scale fresh record high levels on robust FII inflows

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty soared to new lifetime highs on Thursday, fuelled by intense buying in market heavyweights Reliance, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank amid a recent surge in foreign capital inflows.

Besides, stable global crude prices extended support to capital markets amid investors looking for fresh triggers, traders said.

Rallying for the sixth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 141.34 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 77,478.93. During the day, it surged 305.5 points or 0.39 per cent to 77,643.09.

As many as 2,282 stocks advanced while 1,571 declined and 128 remained unchanged on the BSE. The BSE benchmark has jumped 1,022.34 points or 1.33 per cent in the last six days.

The NSE Nifty rose 51 points or 0.22 per cent to settle at its fresh closing high of 23,567. Intra-day, it soared

108 points or 0.45 per cent to 23,624. "FIIs have been net buyers in Indian equities for the last three days and have bought Rs 12,600 crore, which includes a few large block deals. On the domestic front, the market is consolidating with a positive bias amid strong FII flows and healthy macros. Also, an expectation of a growth-focused budget is aiding sentiments and is likely to lead to sector-specific action," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.



'GASPING FOR BREATH, IT WAS NOT EASY TO CAPTURE SHOTS ON MOVING BIKE'

TRAVELOGUE

SHRADDHA NEWARE

Embarking on a journey of self-discovery on his motorcycle and making sure to heal the environment along the way, actor Amit Sadh takes *The Pioneer* exclusively through the highs and lows of his travels.

In his recent series, *Motorcycle Saved My Life*, the environmentally conscious actor documents his journey from Mumbai to Leh on his beloved mode of transport, a motorcycle!

He has been riding for years now, but most of that experience has been a private part of his life.

Combining his love for riding and nature, the determined actor shares, "My team urged me, suggesting I share my adventure, my love for

nature, country, travel and motorcycling with people. This series is my first step."

Hinting that this is most likely an ongoing project, and that this was just the beginning, he added, "We just went and we kind of tried our hands with documenting the experience."

He began riding when he was young and claims that riding fosters discipline and a sense of community. He talks to us about how he discovered a big shift in himself after years of living this way saying, "During my early years, I think I used to ride because I used to be angry. Riding made me realise that I wasn't furious anymore and that I was having fun."

India, he says, has so much biodiversity that the flora and fauna change every 50 miles. Being brought up in a household that prioritises environmental well-being and preaches keeping your surroundings clean from a young age, the empathetic actor has kept his learnings alive throughout his travels.

While travelling to mountains and villages, he recalls meeting locals whose simplicity touched him the most. "They are conscious of the ecosystem and respectful of nature. I think that's one quality we all can bring to the big cities," said the *Kai Po Che* fame.

He advocates being the custodians of the earth and India, urging people to take care of their surroundings.

Travelling to some of the highest parts of Leh, he also described the hardships endured by them as they also had to film their journey. Feeling proud of his team, the *Sultan* fame said, "We filmed at around 17,000 to 19,000 feet, where there is a lack of oxygen and the air is thin. Gasping for breath and not acclimating well, it was not easy capturing a shot of a moving bike. There was a lot of physicality on the line, and everyone from my team chipped in." Braving the rough conditions, he wanted the filming to be raw and not use AI or CGI for the outcome. He wanted to emphasise the truth and showcase their real ordeal.

Talking about ordeals, the adventurous actor shared behind-the-scenes details about his harrowing experience. "I was coming from a village called Kibber, at 16,000 feet. It wasn't dark yet, but the sun had set. I was in my lane, and an Army vehicle hit me! Luckily, 3 seconds before the hit, I had an intuition that I was going to be hit. I did what I could in those 3 seconds, my reflexes kicking in. The hit wasn't direct, but on the side. I suffered some bruises, but my gear and my discipline saved my life."

He explained that a hit like this will affect your psyche and your confidence, and you have to debrief yourself again and again to ride. He further added, "It's an emphasis on riding with discipline, with complete gear and not showing bravado when you are on a motorcycling adventure. Your bravado can cost your life."

Wishing to be as real as possible, a humorous actor generally wanted this to be added to his series but promised to not hold back on the upcoming projects.

Environmental concern plays an important role in his life, as he navigates his travelling experience in India and advocates healing our surroundings. "I feel that we have to heighten our awareness. We have to first educate ourselves on how we can make the environment cleaner and better. I am learning to enhance my understanding. Because before you do something, you have to learn. You have to understand where we can get better. I hope this sense of ownership and responsibility comes to all of us," said the *Bigg Boss* fame. He added, "In any travel, journey, cycling, adventure, or hobby, the first step is self-understanding, self-correction, or self-realisation."

His journey from Bombay to Leh captures the diversity of Indian culture, language, food, and biodiversity. Well, as we head towards this chat, he says he wants to put his experience on the camera, real and true!



Actor and avid traveller Amit Sadh embarked on a journey of self-discovery in his recent series *Motorcycle Saved My Life*. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer* for our Travelogue segment, the actor takes us through his travel voyage and some contretemps on his trip.



People love music everywhere because it often brings people together and makes them happy. *The Pioneer* is honouring this annual music festival today by talking about music and interacting with some amazing musicians in honour of World Music Day, a special occasion for enjoying music.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Dhruv Dhalla

Dhruv Dhalla's path from being born into a family of businessmen to becoming one of Bollywood's most sought-after musicians is very fascinating. He doesn't need a particular day to groove out to his favourite song, but he thinks World Music Day deserves a little more fun. "Melody, lyrics, and emotions, in my opinion, are what make music popular in our nation. We Indians have a tremendous sense of melody in all forms of Indian music. The *mithaas* in the lyrics evoke strong feelings in us. For this reason, in my opinion, *Nazms* and *Ghazals* are returning to mainstream music. It has a powerful tune and mature lyrics in a terrific way." Folk music and *Nazms* are already ingrained in his way of life. It's cozy music that makes you feel at home. He considers himself fortunate to have such a wide range of folk music. Although each has a unique theory and style of presentation, their core is what makes them all feel at home. A cover of an old, traditional song doesn't, in his opinion, do it credit. What defines a song as classic is how it was written, recorded, and



produced in the past. "I consider *Indian Ocean's* music to be deeply ingrained. They have a lovely way of fusing traditional and folk melodies with straightforward production, which is completely acoustic and has a timeless quality to the music. Even if you have never heard them, you will be able to relate to their sound since it is already a part of who we are. Traditional music is in good hands, with legends like Shankar Mahadevan leading the charge. Every generation will see that art form change as long as it is respected." His father gave him a keyboard pencil box when he was four years old, which was the beginning of his musical adventure. From then on, as each birthday went by, his obsession with music and his wish to acquire larger keyboards only intensified. In the end, he joined his school band as the keyboard player. The band won multiple awards in interschool music competitions when he was leading them.

Nikita Gandhi

"The music industry, in my opinion, is currently undergoing an incredibly exciting metamorphosis. It's an open book and a lot of experimentation is taking place. New artists are emerging, and I think this is a wonderful time to be in the business because there are so many opportunities. I have personally witnessed this over the last few years, as music has become more and more digitalised. Additionally, OTT platforms are starting to emerge." She believes that due to social media platforms, there are fewer obstacles for aspiring artists to overcome. Having said that, from that perspective, everything new has advantages and disadvantages. As a result, she believes that more and more individuals are creating and releasing music, which presents a difficulty in terms of clutter removal. "Being a well-rounded musician is very important, and we shouldn't take it lightly. The funny thing is that music is a self-thought process; there is no cheat sheet. It's also important to put in the effort to learn how things work. Some important things to focus on are probably good quality music, basic production and distribution of music."



Nisschal Zaveri

Nisschal Zaveri—a Ghazal singer, songwriter and producer whose songs transport listeners outside of reality—has discovered his voice. "Hindustani classical music is deeply entwined with the genre of *Ghazals*. The majority of other Indian musical genres have their roots in Hindustani classical music. This is combined with ideas of love and longing, poetry and beauty to create a unique style of music known as ghazal. *Ghazals* are quite straightforward but contain a lot of depth and meaning, which speaks to people in various ways. Because of this, people still find meaning and resonance in the poetry of Ghalib and Mir, even though it was written a long time ago. People are inundated with information thanks to social media, but they are also exposed to excellent poetry and music that they may not have previously heard or had access to." The Hindustani classical vocalist also highlighted how we do not have the concept of harmonies in Indian music. Our main tool for labour is melody! The skillful fusion of melody and harmony is one area in which AR Rahman, sir, has excelled. Although he has done it in his own way, there are a gazillion different ways to combine the two. Therefore, enhancing the melody with these notions is a terrific technique to appeal to a wider audience. Another approach is to translate the poem into a language that non-native speakers of *Ghazal* can understand. Give inventive explanations of it, perhaps using mood or animated films. There are several approaches to audience engagement. "People have undoubtedly been exposed to previously unheard music and older 'gems' that were not easily accessible before, thanks to the digital age. Rare recordings, unheard tunes and interviews. It's an excellent spot to discover and learn. The drawback is that there are just as many pointless items available. The hardest thing for a musician to do is find steady work and a living wage. On the other hand, making music requires unwavering perseverance and a lot of work. While some may become extremely popular, many people remain dissatisfied. Being a real musician means that your primary attention should be on practicing music as a form of prayer, or sadhana, rather than pursuing fame and glitter as your ultimate objective. Although



promoters were hesitant to do *ghazal* events because Sufi music is selling well these days, things are gradually changing. There will always be highs and lows, but what matters is how you push yourself daily to persevere," also a tabla player, adds. The young *Ghazal* singer Nisschal started developing the rock-steady foundation of his creative genius at the age of six by training in Hindustani classical vocal and tabla. His musical journey began before he could speak complete sentences! After receiving a tabla as a gift at the age of two, he worked tirelessly to create the soundtrack of his life.

Jashan Bhumkar

"I have an optimistic view, that the music industry right now is a melting pot of opportunity. Digital streaming services have surpassed both physical sales and digital downloads to become the primary means of consuming music. This change has altered how people find, share and make money off of music. Furthermore, independent musicians are increasingly using digital tools to create and release their music, upending the major record labels' long-standing hegemony. Festivals and live music events are still significant sources of income for musicians. As a musician from India with a strong classical background, I've also noticed that listeners are becoming more receptive to a wider variety of music and we're witnessing a type of comeback for classically influenced tunes like *Heeramandi's* several beautiful compositions or *Rangi Sari Gulabi Chunariya*."

There is a lot of competition because millions of songs are released annually. Effective marketing and promotion techniques are necessary to stand out in a crowded industry, but they may be expensive and time-consuming. Getting gigs and playlist placements, as well as developing a fan following, are essential elements of starting a career. For artists without prior experience in the industry, navigating contracts, royalties and legal matters may be quite daunting. In his opinion, the best way to go through these obstacles is to be dependable, tenacious and upbeat, or to have sound financial judgment when it comes to your purchases and investments, enabling you to say "no" to chances that don't align with your values.





The brand-new Xiaomi 14 Civi 5G smartphone has been unveiled by Cellbay at their Gachibowli store. Varshini, the anchor for Tollywood, graced the occasion.



Reiterating its commitment to outstanding design and innovation, Bay Window announced its win at the prestigious Design Excellence Awards 2024. This honour, which comes just a year into its incredible adventure, emphasises the significant influence of more than a thousand international designs created especially for the Indian market.



Now that the My Glam Exhibition has started, fashion models are ready to walk the ramp. In addition to a gorgeous assortment of designer clothing and an excellent variety of sarees, this special event will showcase a carefully selected selection of well-known jewelers from Hyderabad.



Sucharitha





Rishika



Sreeha Reddy



Deshika



Manasa



Rinki



Sowjanya and Prachi



Jyotsna

PHOTO BY SV CHARY

Hyderabad was first introduced to the state-of-the-art laser vision correction technology known as SILK (Smooth Incision Lenticule Keratomileusis) by Medivision Eye Care Center. Patients in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will have access to advanced vision care because of this installation.






Only the second heart re-transplant in India was carried out by medical professionals at Aster Hospitals in a stunning display of medical brilliance on par with international standards. A 32-year-old engineer fought recurring heart failure for seven years (2016-2023), necessitating repeated hospital stays. His ordeal ended with a successful heart transplant. A team of cardiologists led by Dr. Nagamalesh U M mobilised to undertake a life-saving heart retransplant surgery after realising the intricacy of the case.






The largest emergency response firm in India, RED.Health, is pleased to announce that it has become the first medical transport company in Asia to receive JCI accreditation. RED.Health is a leader in emergency medical services, with a strong fleet of over 10,000 ambulances that are operational in over 510 cities.

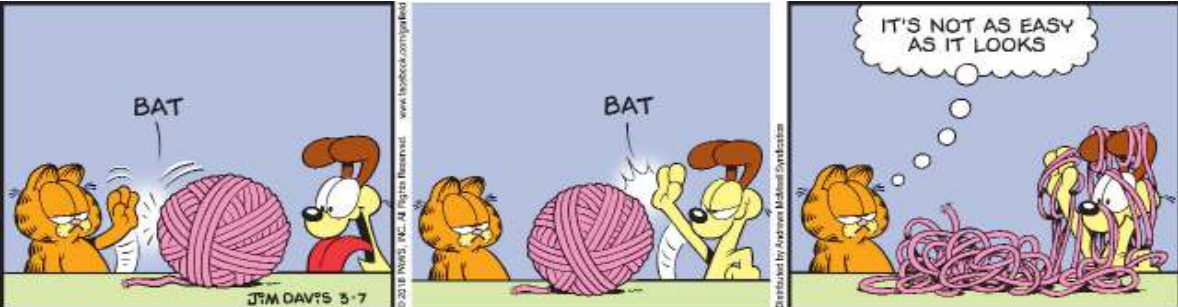
ARCHIE




CALVIN AND HOBBS




GARFIELD




NANCY




GINGER MEGGS



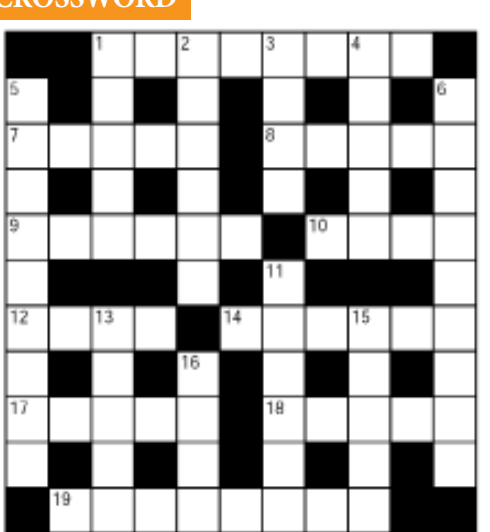
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

5			3					
7	4	2	1		5			
	1	6	8			4		
8			4	3		5	8	
6		1						6
	5			2	4	9		
4		3		9	8		1	
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Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

- Made or became larger
- A month
- An item of furniture
- One of the continents
- A graceful water bird
- Give assistance
- Purchased
- Sample by mouth
- Tiny
- Bewildered

DOWN

- Mistake
- A building for a king or queen
- Short letter
- Where your arm bends

5 A skydiver wears this

6 Jack climbed this in a story

11 Buildings for people

13 A rope thrown by a cowboy

15 Keep watch over

16 A green thing growing on a tree

SOLUTION

M	I	S	T	A	K	E	S	
U	N	D	E	R				
T	E	E	T	H				
A	U	N	D					
I	C	I	N	G				
S	A	N	E	S				
S	L	A	N	S				
K	S	T	R	A	I	G	H	

Biggest stars come together for *Kalki 2898 AD*'s grand event

The highly anticipated magnum opus of the year, *Kalki 2898 AD* is just days away from its release. Building on the mounting excitement, the film held a grand gala night in Mumbai, truly living up to the immense buzz surrounding it.

This star-studded event featured an unparalleled pan-India cast, including legends and luminaries such as Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, Prabhas and Deepika Padukone.

Producers C. Aswani Dutt, Swapna Dutt and Priyanka Dutt were also in attendance, adding to the evening's glamour. The highlight of the night was the remarkable gathering of such an exceptional ensemble. Each star shared their experiences and excitement about being part of this ambitious project, further fuelling the anticipation among fans.

Present at the event, superstar Amitabh Bachchan opened up about his experience working in the magnum opus. He said, "To work in a setup where they have gone beyond what most of us have been doing all our lives in this film industry is inhuman. And I really appreciate that they're moving a little ahead of time and making us a part of it, working in conditions that we

never thought we would be able to work in. I want to congratulate Nag Ashwin and the production for thinking of something like this film."

In addition, Kamal Haasan says, "I always thought it would be fun to play the bad guy because he wanted it to be different and I am almost like saying in the movie whatever I feel like doing. The badman gets to do all the good things in the movie when the heroes are singing romantic songs and waiting for the heroine, where he can just go and do what he wants."

Adding to it, Deepika Padukone further stated, "It's been a great learning experience. It was a completely new world and we went through different phases of discovering what this movie is all about. The magic that is in Nag's (Nag Ashwin) head is now here, finally, for everyone to see. We, as actors, have discovered that along the way. It's been an incredible experience, at both a personal and professional level."

Talking about working with legends and sharing the screen with Amitabh Sir and Kamal Sir, Prabhas added, "I should thank Datgar and Nagi for giving me the

opportunity to work with such great legends. It's bigger than a dream. And I don't know what to say. When I first met Amitabh, sir, I touched his feet. He said, 'Don't do it. If you do it, I'll do it.' Sir, please. I can't even think. We grew up watching you." Furthermore, he said, "Kamal Sir, when his *Sagar Sangam* came out, I asked my mother, 'I want his dress.' My cousin, if he had indulged, had a tummy. And they used to put a

cloth on his stomach. They used to act in front of us like him. And now I'm working with them. This is like something unbelievable. Regarding Deepika, I always wanted to work with her. She is someone who can reach such an international level and she is a great actor. It was beautiful to work with her."

Directed by Nag Ashwin and produced by Vyjayanthi Movies, *Kalki 2898 AD* is set to release theatrically on June 27, 2024. With a star-studded cast featuring Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, and Disha Patani, the film promises to be an unparalleled cinematic experience.



Sunny Deol joins hands with director Gopichand Malineni for #SDGM

Sunny Deol will star in Gopichand Malineni's forthcoming film *SDGM*, which is billed as "the biggest actioner of the country," following the success of last year's blockbuster *Gadar 2*. The actor made the announcement on Thursday along with a poster on X (previously Twitter). "Make way for the biggest action film of the country - #SDGM. Starring Action Superstar @iamsunnydeol. Directed by @megopichand. Produced by @MythriOfficial & @peoplemediatcy. Mass feast loading. Shoot begins soon,"

Sunny captioned his post on X. Neveen Yerneni, Y. Ravi Shankar and T.G. Vishwa Prasad are the producers of *SDGM*, which is being produced by People Media Factory and Mythri Movie Makers. Rishi Punjabi is the person behind the camera. Thaman S. composed the soundtrack for the movie. Alongside Preity Zinta, Sunny Deol will also feature in Rajkumar Santoshi's forthcoming film. Produced under the auspices of Aamir Khan Productions, Lahore 1947 is the first joint venture between Sunny and Aamir.

Telugu teaser of *Aho Vikramarka* out now

Producer Dr. Meehir Kulkarni's film *Aho Vikramarka*, Marathi cinema's first blockbuster-Pan India film, is all set to release soon in 7 languages. The first look and motion poster for this film have already been released.

All of you get ready to watch the heroic story of a brave and determined policeman. The film will be released in theaters in Marathi, Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada,

Malayalam and Bengali. It is produced by Meehir Kulkarni, Aarti Gill and Ashwini Kumar Mishra. Music composed by Ravi Basur.

Now, the makers of the film have released the Telugu teaser for the film. The teaser has introduced Dev in the character of a sincere police officer who fights against all the odds to protect people from the hands of the deadly antagonist.



Paruvu: Intriguing yet a one-time watch

RIYA KOMMINENI

Plot: Married couple Dolly and Sudheer, who moved to Hyderabad and eloped, return to Guntur for a relative's burial at Paruvu. The couple's families had disowned them because of their different castes. When the pair returns home, they find themselves embroiled in a major criminal case and discover that their connection has made them targets. The series delves deeper into the serious topic of honour killings in South India, with multiple individuals involved in subplots that add to the story's complexity.

What lured us in: In the world of Indian web series, the notion of this one is novel. It tells a compelling story while delving into a significant socio-political topic. The terrible reality of India's caste system is depicted in *Paruvu*, where the main characters frequently engage in violence and bloodshed. It also examines the loneliness that results from rejecting social norms, as we witness Dolly's attempts to maintain a relationship

with her family.

Technical aspects: Technically speaking, *Paruvu*'s cinematography is superb. From the start, Vidyasagar Chinta used original camera techniques. The exterior views show how the environment is changing as Dolly and Sudheer make their way to Guntur. They travel along high-rise residential complexes and streets lit by streetlights in Hyderabad's urban area. They travel through unidentified lanes on dimly lit dirt roads in rural Andhra Pradesh. The opening twenty minutes of the first episode cover all of this. As the show goes on, Chinta plays with hued lighting, reflections in water, and dark cast shadows that work nicely with the story.

Performances: Another noteworthy aspect is the cast's diversity. Siddharth and Rajashekar made an attempt to select actors with less experience in addition to well-known actors. One such actor is rookie Siddha, who plays a significant and commendable role as a silent character who uses ASL for communication. Despite playing a small role, Amit Tiwari's portrayal of Kallaji had a strong effect.

What we found kind of dull: It can be challenging to keep track of all the characters and plots. Despite the fact that every character is connected, things become very unclear very quickly. You start to get tired of the subplots by the third episode. Although I can appreciate Siddharth and Rajashekar's Tarantino-inspired vision, it's crucial to consider the audience's attention span. In an effort to extend the plot, the final two episodes seem to have been slapped together. The resolution is completely unclear and feels like a complete afterthought to the main story. Dolly and Sudheer, the primary protagonists, make a number of poor choices that both function as plot

devices and cause the audience to question their judgment. The show's idea is actually flawed. Given that they would be in danger, why would the couple even go back to their hometown? *Paruvu* takes a number of artistic licenses that make it difficult to distinguish between an instructive and poignant thriller and an unrealistic soap opera. Additionally perplexing is Praneetha Patnaik's portrayal of the character Swathi. Similar to Dolly and Sudheer, she makes a number of dubious choices. When her fiancé disappears, she draws hasty conclusions and causes needless chaos in a community that is already in hardship. Her manipulative nature makes it difficult to sympathise with her because she seems to have no ulterior motive.

Verdict: Even if *Paruvu* is a crucial reminder of some long-standing problems in Andhra Pradesh, the series nevertheless finds it difficult to leave an impression. Despite being intriguing, the numerous subplots became tiresome and laborious after the first few episodes. Although some of the cast members' performances and the film-making are commendable, there is still more to be desired.



Megastar Chiranjeevi is proud of his daughter's *Paruvu* webseries

Sushmita Konidela, the elder daughter of megastar Chiranjeevi, has made her mark in the entertainment industry not only through her production company but also with her latest web series, *Paruvu*. The series, directed by Siddharth Naidu and Rajasekhara Vadlapati, has garnered a positive response on Zee5.

Paruvu tells the story of a young couple, played by Nivetha Pethuraj and Nareesh Agastya, who defy societal norms and elope. Their inter-caste relationship creates complexities, leading them on a perilous journey as they evade their families and become entangled in a web of crime. Honour killing, a sensitive topic, is explored in a thought-provoking manner within the series. Each character's motivations add layers to the narrative, with the couple's actions culminating in a significant crime that further complicates their situation. Chiranjeevi, expressing his pride in his daughter's work, lauded Sushmita Konidela and the entire *Paruvu* team for creating "groundbreaking Telugu OTT content." He praised his brother Naga Babu's performance and expressed his eager anticipation for the upcoming season, wondering whether the couple will escape the perilous situation they've found themselves in.

BREAKING: URVASHI RAUTELA SIGNS CONTRACT WITH HONEY SINGH, CAN'T WORK WITH BADSHAH

As per sources, Urvashi Rautela has signed a special work contract with Yo Yo Honey Singh, where the two of them will have many interesting collaborations going forward. However, as per the same sources, the special clause of the contract highlights that Urvashi Rautela cannot work with Badshah as per the terms and conditions of the contract! We tried getting in touch with Urvashi Rautela to get an official update on the same, but we didn't receive any response from her or her team.

Well, given the fact that everyone knows Yo Yo Honey Singh and Badshah don't share the best of equations, this ain't a surprise for anyone. It will be interesting to see what happens going forward in terms of Urvashi Rautela and her upcoming collaborations with Yo Yo Honey Singh. On the work front, apart from her upcoming grand Tamil movie with Shankar, global Indian superstar Urvashi Rautela has massive projects like *Welcome 3* with Akshay Kumar, *NBK109* with Bobby Deol, Dulquer Salmaan, Nandamuri Balakrishna, *Baap* (a remake of Hollywood blockbuster *Expendables*) with Sunny Deol and Sanjay Dutt, *Inspector Avinash 2* with Randeep Hooda and *Black Rose*.



Varun Tej resumes shooting for *Matka*

Official filming of the new film has commenced, with a superb cast including Varun Tej. "Back on set after 175 days with new energies and aspirations, ready to bring the retro magic of *Matka* to life!" the actor said on social media to express his delight. He hinted that he began filming *Matka* by sharing a picture of himself clutching an antique

phone. Fans are counting down the seconds until they see him in this movie. The film *Matka* features G V Prakash Kumar as the composer and stars Norah Fatehi and Meenakshi Chowdary as the female leads. The project is being produced in partnership by Vyra Entertainment and SRT Entertainment.



Huge fan of Bumrah, don't want thing be changed in his unorthodox action: Ambrose

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN BARBADOS,

Curtly Ambrose is a huge fan of Jasprit Bumrah and despite the Indian spearhead's struggles with stress fractures in the past, the Caribbean legend would not want to change anything in his unorthodox action as he feels every fast bowler takes the field with a risk of getting injured. Bumrah, arguably the best all-format pacer in the game right now, has had his fair share of back problems and underwent a surgery in March last year. After a long rehab, Bumrah made a comeback ahead of the ODI World Cup in India in November and he has not looked back since then.

The 30-year-old can get wickets in a T20 at any stage of the game and in the longest format, he has the ability to strike with both the new and the old ball, more so when it is reversing.

In a telephonic interview with PTI, Ambrose said Bumrah should not change a thing unless he sustains a serious injury.

"What I can tell you something about Jasprit Bumrah, I'm a big fan. Right from ever since I saw him the first time. He's so unconventional but highly



effective. And that's what I like about him. When you look at traditional fast bowlers, you wouldn't look at Bumrah, he's so unorthodox.

"He has done a great job for India and still doing a great job in all formats. I met him a couple of years ago when India played in Antigua. He's someone I've always enjoyed watching because he's so different," said Ambrose who is involved with promoting the ongoing T20 World Cup here.

Bumrah's open-chested action does put pressure on his back but Ambrose believes every fast bowler has to deal with risks like that. "From my little experience, there are no two bowlers who are exactly alike. Bowlers may have similarities but they are never exactly alike and we all have our different styles everyone is different.

"In terms of his longevity, in terms of injuries, (for) every fast bowler, there is always risk of being

injured. But at the same time you can't go out there thinking that way.

"You've got to go out there and do the job to the best of your ability and whatever happens, happens. The only way he should change is if he, may be, sustains a serious injury or has to re-model his action or something," said the 60-year-old who played 98 Tests for the West Indies taking 405 wickets.

Ambrose, who troubled the world's best batters with the extra

bounce he created because of his 6'7" frame, also doesn't believe that the stress on Bumrah's back is only because of his action.

"I've never been through it (stress fracture). So it would be unfair for me to even try to say what to do. I will leave that for the medical expert. I don't think Bumrah's stress comes totally from his action.

"You can look at Ian Bishop, he had a perfect action and he also had stress fracture," reasoned the cricketer from Antigua.

Too much cricket being played, Test cricket is real cricket

The international calendar is busier than ever before with T20 leagues around the world taking a lot of space. Ambrose acknowledged that the game has changed drastically and too much cricket is having an adverse impact.

"The game has become a bit more commercialised. Too much cricket is being played as well. Players are leaving from one series to the next, there is franchise cricket as well. Guys could get burnt out.

"It's still exciting, there are wonderful players around but too much cricket is being played and that to me would be a bit of a concern," said Ambrose.

T20 WC: England batters look to tame strong South African bowling

PTI ■ GROS ISLET (ST LUCIA)

If their authoritative win against the West Indies is a sign, England batters seemed to have found their cloak of invincibility at the right time and they will eye an encore against a formidable South African bowling unit in a Group-2 match of the T20 World Cup Super 8s here on Friday.

England were at their menacing best against the Windies, while handing them a crushing eight-wicket defeat here that has also fired them to the top of the group through a better Net Run Rate -- +1.34 against SA's +0.90.

That the winner here will have their one foot in the semifinals of this ICC showpiece will come as an additional motivation.

South Africa, on the other hand, suffered a scare from the USA before they squeezed out an 18-run win in their Super Eight opener.

English opener Phil Salt showed why he is the No. 2 T20I batter in the world when he steered a tricky 181-run chase, mixing caution and aggression en route an unbeaten 87.

Salt would once again look to give England an explosive start along with his skipper Jos Buttler, who will be eyeing some runs under his belt.

Buttler, who scored a 42 in their loss to Australia in the group stage, has not been able to convert his starts with just 91 runs from four innings.

The return to form of Jonny Bairstow, who struck a crucial 48 not out against the West Indies, will also be a big boost for England.

My priority is playing for NZ, even though SA20 is exciting: Kane Williamson

WELLINGTON, JUN 20 (PTI)

Kane Williamson said the intention to play in next year's SA20 was the catalyst behind him declining the New Zealand central contract, but reaffirmed his commitment to play for his country in all three formats outside of the T20 league.

The SA20 is scheduled between January 9 and February 8, 2025, which clashes with the dates of the Super Smash in New Zealand. As per NZ rules, a player has to play in Super Smash if they are not on an international assignment to be eligible for a central contract.

"I want to play as long as I can. There's a number of great competitions during that time, but

SA20 looks really exciting. Unfortunately, it meant turning down a central contract," Williamson told reporters upon his arrival in New Zealand from the T20 World Cup, where his side failed to enter the Super Eight stage.

Consequently, Williamson had also stepped down from the Kiwis' captaincy in white-ball formats but the elegant right-hander insisted that his international career was far from over.

"My priority still is, absolutely, playing for New Zealand. Think I might miss maybe a handful of games over a three-week period," he added.

It meant that Williamson would miss the ODI and T20I series



against Sri Lanka in January next year. But he will be available for the one-off Test against Afghanistan in September, besides the WTC matches against India and Sri

Lanka away and the three-match series against England at home.

"It's simply the contract, the rules that currently exist meant I wasn't able to have one but in terms of playing for New Zealand I'm not missing almost any cricket really, so that was important to me," he said.

Williamson said he was eagerly waiting to see how the leadership role of New Zealand evolves in white ball formats.

"I've really, really enjoyed my time captaining and it's been a privilege and an honour to do that for a number of years.

"I'm excited with what's next for the team in terms of the leadership as well and looking forward to being part of that," he added.

Kuldeep will come into play in the Caribbean: Rahul Dravid

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN

Without giving too much away, India head coach Rahul Dravid hinted at the possibility of playing wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav in the Caribbean leg of the T20 World Cup, starting with the Super 8 opener against Afghanistan. India did not play either Kuldeep or Yuzvendra Chahal in the USA leg of the tournament considering the pace-friendly conditions. However, the conditions are different in the Caribbean where wrist spinners have already made an impact with Adam Zampa being a case in point.

India could drop a pacer and include Kuldeep in the team

How tough was it to leave Kuldeep, who has been India's standout spinner over the past 12 months, out of playing eleven in USA?

"It's tough to leave anyone out. I mean all the four guys that we left out in those games, to be honest, are all quality players. It's just that the conditions and what we felt was the requirement in that particular venue made us go with that particular combination where we felt that there wasn't a huge role for spin and it was more of pace more of kind of conditions.

"And we also wanted to ensure that we had the depth on those tricky kind of tickets. So that's what we went there with. You know, it might be different here. Without giving too much away, certainly. You know, it might be slightly different here. That you might need an extra spinner and then someone like Kuldeep or Yuzi can come into play. They become a very good factor for us," said Dravid ahead of the Afghanistan fixture.

We have definitely pushed the needle in batting

India were guilty of being too conservative in their approach in the previous two editions of T20 World Cup but Dravid feels the team has turned the tide on that front.

"We have actually been to be able to push the needle forward in terms of our batting there. Sometimes in certain conditions, you just got to be mindful of conditions also. Sometimes we just get carried away with pushing the needle forward in T20 cricket. "Cricket is a very condition specific game. It's one of the only sports left where the surface



makes such an impact on the actual skill levels, the actual performance levels, what is an acceptable performance level.

"It's one sport that we play that where the surface makes a huge difference and it has to be brought into consideration at all times. And I think we saw that in the US that had to be brought into consideration not only for us but for other teams as well," said the outgoing India coach.

Dravid expects the wind to be a factor at the Kensington Oval on Thursday, bringing the fast bowlers like tournament's leading wicket taker Fazalhaq Farooqi into play.

"It is not just their spinners, their pacers are also experienced and doing well. Afghanistan is a very dangerous team in this format of the game. They play a lot of T20 cricket and their cricketers are very prominent members of their IPL teams. They have showed that with their performances in the World Cup."

Dravid loves the cricket culture in the Caribbean and is looking forward to the business end of the tournament. He was cheekily reminded by a scribe on India's infamous Test defeat against the West Indies at this venue back in 1997 when the visitors were bundled out for 81 chasing 120 on a treacherous pitch.

"It's also now lovely to come to the Caribbean, you know, come to Barbados, come to this ground which has a great history, a great tradition of great... Country and this region. We've had a couple of days of really good practice. We are ready, we rested, we feel we are prepared."

Salt assault leads England to smooth eight-wicket win over WI

PTI ■ GROS ISLET (SAINT LUCIA)

Opener Phil Salt slammed a belligerent unbeaten 87 as defending champions England began their T20 World Cup Super Eights campaign with a crushing eight-wicket win over co-hosts West Indies here.

Coming off a scorching display against Afghanistan, West Indies amassed a competitive 180 for four, but England waltzed to 181 for two in 17.3 overs in their Group 2 match.

Salt led the Three Lions' charge with a bruising innings that came off 47 balls with seven fours and five sixes. The right-hander received copious help from Jonny Bairstow (48 not out, 26b, 5x4, 2x6).

But equal amount of credit should be given to the English bowlers for producing as many as 51 dot balls with Jofra Archer (1/34) and Adil Rashid (1/21) accounting for

22 of them in their tidy spells after Jos Buttler opted to bowl.

Their win with 15 balls to spare took the net run-rate of England to 1.343, putting them ahead of South Africa who posted a win over tournament co-hosts USA earlier on Wednesday.

"That's a really good performance from us, we executed well with both bat and ball. I thought we bowled really well to restrict such a powerful batting line-up, still we had to chase it down, but smart play from us. The partnership between Salt and Bairstow was great," England skipper Jos Buttler said.

WI now have a negative NRR -1.343 which may be a worry for them as they will have two must win matches against the USA and South Africa coming their way.

"When you look from the batting perspective, we were 15-20 runs short. We could have given a better display



with the ball," felt WI skipper Rovman Powell.

On Brandon King's injury, Powell said: "Just a bit worried, but hopefully, he can pull through for the next game."

Salt made full use of his reprieve by Nicholas Pooran on seven to cart the Windies around in the company of Bairstow as the Englishmen together milked

97 runs from 44 balls for the third wicket, while negotiating the hosts' spin attack in the middle overs. After a sedate start, England broke loose in the second over when Buttler struck two boundaries off Romario Sheperd to take 12 runs.

Akeal Hosein created an early chance but Pooran's drop proved costly as Salt began his destruction job, hammering

an Andre Russell slower one for a six.

The duo continued their assault and Salt finished the power play smashing Alzarri Joseph for a four and a six to lift England to 58 for no loss in six overs, the best powerplay score by any team against the Caribbeans in this tournament.

Off-spinner Roston Chase finally gave the breakthrough when he noticed Buttler stepping forward and speared in a 108.9 kph delivery to catch him off guard. The ball hit him hard and low on the front pad to be trapped leg before.

In that period, England lost two wickets in 15 balls.

Just when he was looking dangerous, Moeen Ali (13; 10b) was dismissed by Russell by a smart change of bowling by the Windies skipper.

Salt too started slowing down and England, at 111/2, needed 70 runs from 42 balls. But Bairstow upped the ante,

smashing Alzarri Joseph and Hosein to swing the momentum.

Buttler smashed Joseph for back-to-back four and six, and in the next over hammered Hosein for two fours and one six.

From thereon, Salt killed the contest, hitting three sixes and three fours in a 30-run 16th over bowled by Romario Shepherd.

Earlier, Windies got off to a splendid start as Brandon King and Johnson Charles opened with authority. The pair had Windies flying at 40 for no loss in the fifth over, before they were hit with a cruel blow.

Attempting to drive Sam Curran down the ground, King (23; 13b) picked up what appeared to be a side strain and had to retire hurt. The in-form Pooran joined Charles at the crease, lifting them to 54 in the power-play Pooran smoked Mark Wood for a leg-side six to start the

eighth over, but England managed to tighten the screws after the drinks.

That was the final boundary before the mid-innings break. Charles then ended a brief lull by smashing Rashid for a six. But in the next over, England struck with Moeen Ali dismissing Charles (38; 34b), who holed out to Harry Brook at long-on.

Captain Powell took on off-spinner Ali with a maximum and went on to smash Liam Livingstone for three sixes in five balls in a 20-run over.

But Livingstone had the last laugh, picking up the crucial wicket of Powell (36 off 17) off his last delivery.

The English found some fight in the final five overs.

Archer found the edge of Pooran's bat, as the heavy hitter removed for 36 off 32.

Rutherford then dominated the strike in the last few overs to lift their total but that was not enough for them.

T20 WC: Australia need all-round effort against tricky Bangladesh

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

It's a mismatch on paper but title-favourites Australia would be wary of slipping on the proverbial banana peel that Bangladesh can be when the two teams clash in their Super Eight, Group 1, match of the T20 World Cup here on Friday.

Australia, champions of the 2021 edition of the tournament, will be mindful of the dangers of taking Bangladesh lightly.

The supremely confident team from Down Under was humbled 1-4 by the South Asians in a T20 International series in 2021, and any laxity can be severely punished in conditions here that have close resemblance to the sub-continent.

From an Australian perspective, it might bring

increased onus on leg-spinner Adam Zampa and part-timers such as Glenn Maxwell and Travis Head.

Keeping in mind the inherent slowness of the pitch here, the Aussies might also mull retaining left-arm spinner Ashton Agar, who is a handy bat too, from their last group match against Scotland.

But irrespective of the conditions or nature of the pitch, Australia's real strength lies in its pacers -- Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood -- who are persistently nagging. Cummins and Hazlewood are set to return for this match after sitting out of the Scotland game.

The Aussies have also received a boost as captain Mitchell Marsh has declared himself fit to bowl in the Super Eight stage.



"I'll be available to bowl. With the line-up that we've got, I don't really necessarily see a need for me to bowl.

"But I think it's really important in this format to have options and we're blessed with plenty of those," said Marsh in the pre-match press conference.

Not just in bowling, Australia carry heavy guns through their batting line-up as well.

Their top-six consisting of Head, David Warner, Marsh, Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis and Tim David can be a threat to any bowling line-up in the world.

All of them have chipped in with runs at various stages of this ICC showpiece, and now they will eye a collective firing.

Bangladesh will hope that their assortment of clever and experienced T20

bowlers like Mustafizur Rahman, Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah and Taskin Ahmed can deliver against the Australian batters.

However, Bangladesh's real problem lies in a rickety batting line-up.

The batters are as experienced as any of their counterparts in the T20 format, but in this tournament, they have not really joined the party.

They stuttered through the group stage matches, and the highest total they could post was 159 for five against Netherlands.

Their other totals were 125/8, 109/7 (both while chasing against Sri Lanka and South Africa respectively), and 106 while batting first against Nepal. So, there is a need for them to find their rhythm against a storied opponent.

TEAMS (FROM)

Australia: Mitchell Marsh (c), Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, David Warner, Adam Zampa. **Travelling Reserves:** Jake Fraser-McGurk, Matt Short.

Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Taskin Ahmed, Litton Das, Soumya Sarkar, Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Shakib Al Hasan, Tawhid Hridoy, Mahmud Ullah Riyad, Jaker Ali Anik, Tanvir Islam, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib. **Travelling reserves:** Afif Hossain, Hasan Mahmud.