

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 16 JUNE 2024

## WEATHER

Max: 34.4°C  
Min: 25.1°C  
RH: 46%  
Rainfall: Nil  
Forecast: Partly Cloudy.  
Max/Min temp. 34/25 °C

## ASTROGUIDE

Krodhi: Uttarayana  
Tithi: Jyeshtha Shukla Dasami till 4.43 am (Monday)  
Star: Hasta till 11.10 am  
Varjyam: 8.02 pm to 9.48 pm  
Durmuhurtham: 5.04 pm to 5.56 pm  
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm  
HJRI CALENDAR  
Zul Hijjah 9, 1445 H  
PRAYERS  
Fajar: 4.32 am  
Zohar: 12.26 pm  
Asar: 4.53 pm  
Maghrib: 6.57 pm  
Isha: 8.14 pm  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 05.42 AM  
SUNSET TODAY 06.51 PM  
MOONRISE 1.54 PM  
MOONSET 1.17 AM

## COUNTER POINT



I passed my Degree exam with 99 grace marks!

## IN BRIEF

### Slaughterhouses closed tomorrow

Hyderabad: Cattle slaughterhouses and retail beef shops in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area should remain closed on Monday and Tuesday on Bakrid festival, Id-ul-Azha, the corporation said in a statement.

### 8 Naxals, 1 jawan killed in Chh'garh

Raipur: One jawan and eight Maoists were on Saturday killed in an encounter in Abujhmad area under Narayanpur district in Bastar in Chhattisgarh. Two security personnel were also injured in the incident. A joint operation involving personnel of district reserve guard, STF, ITBP and BSF was launched in the forests of Kutul, Farasbeda and Kotameta, Bastar police said.

Full report on Page 13



## AMIT SHAH TO REVIEW J&K SECURITY

New Delhi: Union home minister Amit Shah will take stock of the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday in the wake of the recent terror attacks there and is expected to give broad guidelines to intensify counter-terror operations, sources said. The home minister will also review the preparation for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage set to start on June 29. Shah will chair the high-level meeting three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a similar meeting where he directed officials to deploy the "full spectrum of counter-terror capabilities" after a spate of terror incidents, including an attack on a bus carrying pilgrims to Amarnath cave shrine.



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## WORLD | 15

### Ukraine peace summit starts, Russia absent

## PM Modi to lay project foundation in October Hyd RRR put on fast track, BRS slept on it

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

The works on the long-pending Hyderabad Regional Ring Road (RRR) project are all set to begin in October, official sources said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation for the project, they said. The project cost has been escalated by ₹6,000 crore due to the delay in execution of the project. The BRS government had failed to acquire lands for the project despite repeated reminders from the Centre in the last five years. The BRS government proposed the project in 2018 and the Centre

gave its approval the same year apart from agreeing to bear 50 per cent of the land acquisition costs. The Centre approved execution of the RRR project in two components: northern and southern. It was decided that the northern part will be taken up first. The 158-km northern part will connect Sangareddy, Narsapur, Toopran, Gajwel,

Pragnapur, Jagdevpur, Bhongir and Choutuppal. The second phase would include the 182-km southern section that passes through Choutuppal, Ibrahimpatnam, Kandukur, Amangal, Chevella, Shankarpally and Sangareddy. The Centre had estimated in December 2021 that ₹9,164 crore would be required to complete the northern part of the project, including land acquisition costs. However, with the delay in execution of works, the project cost has escalated to ₹15,000 crore due to rise in land prices.

Page 5: CM directs officials to speed up work

## Revanth wants ORR cams linked to Command Ctrl

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed officials to connect all the CCTV cameras within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) limits to the Police Command Control Centre in Banjara Hills so that officials can immediately deal with any emergency situation that may arise during heavy rain. Emphasising the need for a robust response system, Revanth Reddy directed officials to utilise the ORR limits as a unit for integrating disaster management efforts.

The Chief Minister was speaking at the police Integrated Command Control Centre, along with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Ponnampalabakuram Prabhakar. Chief Secretary A.



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, along with ministers, speaks at the police Integrated Command Control Centre in Hyderabad on Saturday. — BY ARRANGEMENT

Santhi Kumari and DGP Ravi Gupta were present during the visit was aimed at reviewing and enhancing the city's preparedness for the current rainy season. Revanth Reddy ministers enquired with officials to assess the current strategies in place for

inter-departmental coordination. Officials stated that 141 flood-prone areas have already been identified, and special measures are being implemented to prevent flooding in the city.

Page 7: CM reviews monsoon preparedness

## KLIS: Probe panel to investigate contracts

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

The judicial commission inquiring into alleged irregularities in planning, construction and maintenance of the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages of the Kaleshwaram irrigation project, will investigate the sub-contracts given to various companies by the agencies which were awarded the contracts to build the barrages. This was revealed by Justice Pinaki Chandra

Ghose heading the commission on Saturday. The agencies had sub-contracted the work to about 10 to 15 companies. Just who did what can be found when the payments made by the agencies are checked, Justice Ghose said during an informal chat with mediapersons on Saturday. Anyone that the judicial commission calls for deposing before it must attend, he said.

Page 5: Medigadda not a suitable location: Experts

## NEW COLLECTORS APPOINTED IN 20 TG DISTRICTS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

In a major reshuffle of IAS officers, the state government on Saturday appointed new collectors for 20 districts amid reports that a bigger shake-up of senior officials was on the anvil. This is the first major reshuffle undertaken by the Congress government after assuming office in December 2023.

Full report on Page 7

## SPORTS | 17

### Despite washout against Canada, India top group 'A'

## G7 to back infra plan in India-Gulf-Europe route

### Industrialised nations also target free Indo-Pacific region

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 15

The Group of Seven (G7) industrialised nations pledged to advance infrastructure projects, including the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) as per G7 Summit communiqué, released at the end of the three-day summit attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The communiqué was issued on Friday evening following the traditional family photo at Borgo Egnazia, a luxury resort in Italy. The G7 also reaffirmed its dedication to a free and open Indo-Pacific region grounded in the rule of law.

The communiqué emphasised the G7's commitment to promoting flagship infrastructure projects under the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII). These initiatives aim to develop transformative economic corridors, including the Lobito Corridor, the Luzon Corridor, the Middle Corridor, and the IMEC, leveraging efforts



Prime Minister of Italy Giorgia Meloni takes a selfie with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Apulia, Italy, on Friday. — PTI

such as the EU Global Gateway and Italy's Mattei Plan for Africa. The IMEC is envisioned as an extensive network of roads, railways, and shipping routes connecting Saudi Arabia, India, the

United States, and Europe, fostering integration across Asia, the Middle East, and the West. This initiative is seen as a strategic counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which has

faced criticism over transparency issues and disregard for national sovereignty. The IMEC initiative was finalised on the sidelines of the G20 Summit hosted by India in Delhi last year. The communiqué also detailed an Outreach session held on Friday, focusing on Artificial Intelligence, Energy, Africa, and the Mediterranean, which was addressed by Prime Minister Modi. The session saw participation from leaders of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, India, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritania, Tunisia, Turkey, and the UAE. The G7 committed to enhancing interoperability among AI governance approaches to foster innovation and sustainable growth. Another key priority of the summit was support for Ukraine amidst its ongoing conflict with Russia. The communiqué announced the launch of Extraordinary Revenue Acceleration (ERA) Loans, aiming to provide approximately \$50 billion in additional funding to Ukraine by the year's end.

## Will defeat Pak handlers, ploy won't work, says DG

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, JUNE 15

Recent terror incidents in Jammu and Kashmir are desperate attempts by handlers across the border to sustain their operations after suffering major setbacks, said Director General of Police R.R. Swain on Saturday. He affirmed that enemy forces would be defeated. Swain urged the public not to raise "false flags" and to verify information about terrorist movements before reporting to security agencies, ensuring effective responses. From June 9 to 12, terrorists attacked four loca-

tions, including a pilgrim bus in Reasi, Kathua, and Doda districts, resulting in the deaths of nine civilians and a CRPF jawan, with many others injured. Two suspected Pakistani terrorists were killed in one encounter in Kathua. Swain noted that the terror threat is significant, with handlers determined to keep tensions high despite diminishing terrorism in the region. He highlighted that foreign mercenaries are sent to maintain the conflict. During his visit to Saida Sukhal village in Kathua, where an operation against terrorists lasted over 15 hours, Swain

pledged the police personnel for their efforts. He assured that terrorists, though few, would be eliminated and emphasized the ongoing efforts to strengthen security forces with better equipment and training. Swain also addressed the challenge of Pakistan using drones to drop weapons and narcotics. He warned that stern action would be taken against those supporting terrorism to deter future support. He concluded by encouraging the public to continue providing accurate information to aid in counter-terrorism efforts.

## 20 ASPIRANTS URGE SC TO SCRAP NEET RESULTS

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 15

A group of 20 medical aspirants has filed a plea before the Supreme Court seeking the scrapping of National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate)-(NEET-UG) 2024 and a Supreme Court-monitored probe by the CBI or another independent agency into alleged irregularities in the test held on May 5. The petition also requests that the National Testing Agency (NTA) conduct the test again.

Page 12: Plea alleges fraudulent practices

## MVA leaders gear up for Maha poll

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, JUNE 15

Dismissing the reports of inter-party discontent, Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders on Saturday announced that they will contest the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly election together as "equal partners". The winnability will be the only criteria for the seat distribution, they said.

NCP founder Sharad Pawar took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi



NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and Congress leaders Balasaheb Thorat and Prithviraj Chavan in Mumbai on Saturday. — PTI

stating that wherever Modi held rallies and roadshows, the MVA candi-

dates won and thanked the PM. The NCP founder, Shiv

Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and senior Congress leaders Balasaheb Thorat and Prithviraj Chavan held a meeting at Y.B. Chavan in connection with the upcoming Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha election. Addressing a joint press conference after the MVA leaders' meeting, Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan said that the alliance has registered a big victory in Maharashtra in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections.

## SKY | HIGH Cultivate reading habit, Chaudhari tells newly commissioned officers

## Modern tech key to warfare: IAF chief

RACHEL DAMMALA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

IAF chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari on Saturday said that modern warfare was no longer a physical domain, but a dynamic and ever-evolving landscape increasingly influenced by complex data networks and advanced cyber technologies. "Tomorrow's conflicts cannot be fought with yesterday's mindset," he said at the combined graduation parade at the Air Force Academy in

Dundigal, near here. "As leaders, you need to adapt, innovate and leverage technology effectively for proving decisive in winning wars." Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said that 2024 was the year of "Transformation Through Upskilling", and emphasised the importance of continuous learning and adapting to modern warfare. Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari also suggested that the cadets passing out cultivate the habit of reading. "The more you

read, the better you will understand the complexities of your field. A well read mind is capable of adapting and leading with clarity in the face of the unknown," he said. The ceremony, which marked the culmination of training for 235 flight cadets, was a proud moment for the new officers and their families. "Mission, Integrity, and Excellence are the core values of the IAF," the Air Chief Marshal said.

Page 11: Lead by example, IAF officers told



Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari reviews the cadets during the Combined Graduation Parade at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal, near Hyderabad, on Saturday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

## Nayak, first Banjara to get Yuva Puraskar

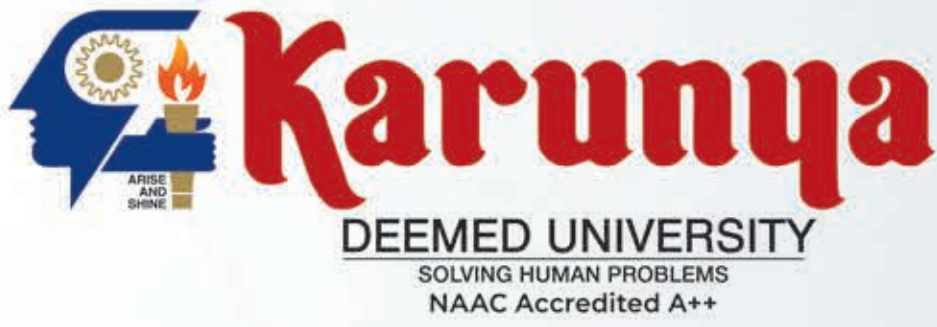
MANVI VYAS | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

The Sahitya Akademi on Saturday selected Ramesh Nayak, 26, from Nizamabad and K. Vaishali from Hyderabad for the prestigious Yuva Puraskar. They are among the 23 writers who will receive the award. Nayak is the first winner of the award from the Banjara community. P. Chandrashekar Azad won the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for his work in Telugu. While Ramesh will be awarded for his short stories book



'Dhaavlo', Vaishali won the award for her memoir 'Homeless: Growing up Lesbian and Dyslexic in India'. The Yuva Puraskar awardees receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of ₹50,000 at a ceremony to be held later.

Page 11: It's like dream come true: Nayak



# Admissions 2024 in Progress

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- Biotechnology (Spl. in Artificial Intelligence)
- Biotechnology (Spl. in Drug Engineering)
- Biotechnology (Spl. in Genome Engineering & Technology)
- Civil Engineering
- Civil Engineering (Spl. in GIS & Remote Sensing)
- Civil Engineering (Spl. in BIM & Digital Twin)
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Engineering (Spl. in Cyber Security)
- Computer Science & Engg.

- Computer Science & Engg. (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)
- Computer Science & Engg. (Artificial Intelligence)
- Electrical & Electronics Engg.
- Electrical & Electronics Engg. (Spl. in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)
- Electrical & Electronics Engg. (Spl. in Data Science)
- Electronics & Communication Engineering
- Electronics & Communication Engineering (Spl. in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)
- Electronics & Communication Engineering (Spl. in Internet of Things (IoT))
- Electronics & Computer Engg.
- Electronics & Computer Engg. (Spl. in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)
- Electronics & Computer Engg. (Spl. in Data Science)
- Food Processing & Engg.
- Food Processing & Engg. (Spl. in Internet of Things (IoT))
- Mechanical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering (Spl. in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)

- Mechanical Engineering (Spl. in Electric Vehicles)
- Robotics & Automation
- Robotics & Automation (Spl. in Artificial Intelligence & Data Science)
- Robotics & Automation (Spl. in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)

#### M.Tech.

- Aerospace Engineering
- Biomedical Instrumentation
- Biotechnology
- Computer Science & Engg.
- Cyber Security
- Food Processing & Engg.
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- Robotics & Automation
- Structural Engineering
- VLSI Design

#### B.Sc. (Hons.)

- Agriculture

#### B.Sc.

- Computer Science & Media Productions
- Forensic Science
- Information Security & Digital Forensics

#### M.Sc.

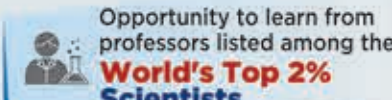
- Agriculture (Spl. in Genetics & Plant Breeding)
- Agriculture (Spl. in Agronomy)
- Horticulture (Spl. in Fruit Science)
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## EVENTS TODAY

- Kuchipudi Darpanam**  
Time: 5.30 pm  
Venue: Shilparamam
  - Imperial Secunderabad Cantonment: Heritage Walk by Deccan Archives**  
Time: 8 am  
Venue: Cantonment, Secunderabad
  - Odd Compass History**  
Time: 4.30 pm  
Venue: Naomi Patisserie and Bakehouse
  - Sumeru Sandhya: Music, Meditation, Wisdom**  
Time: 6.30 pm  
Venue: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (Cultural Venue)
  - Blood donation camp**  
Time: 9 am  
Venue: Sloka International
  - Camp of free limb and callipers fitment for the physically challenged**  
Time: 8 am  
Venue: Eden Gardens Function Hall
  - Film music orchestra By Upcoming Singers Music Academy**  
Time: 4.30 pm  
Venue: Sri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha
  - Mirror and Mosaics: Painting workshop**  
Time: 3 pm  
Venue: One Golf Brewery
  - Workshop on pottery**  
Time: 2 pm  
Venue: House Of Gourmet
  - Workshop on texture art**  
Time: 1 pm  
Venue: Terra Cafe & Bistro
  - Workshop on making scented candles**  
Time: 2 pm  
Venue: Xena Brewery & Kitchen
  - Aakriti Elite: Lifestyle exhibition**  
Time: 11 am  
Venue: Taj Krishna
  - Telangana Squash Open (National Circuit Tournament)**  
Time: 8 pm  
Venue: Gamepoint
  - National Silk Expo**  
Time: 11 am  
Venue: Sri Satya Sai Nigamagamam
  - Paradoxical Paradise: Art exhibition by Sweta Chandra**  
Time: 10 am  
Venue: Telangana State Gallery Of Fine Art
- REACH US AT**  
eventsatdc@gmail.com

## SHORT TAKES

### STATE TO HIRE 531 SURGEONS, LAB TECHNICIANS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

The state government has announced the recruitment of 531 civil assistant surgeons, 193 lab technicians and 31 staff nurses. Taking into account the acute shortage of medical staff, especially in the monsoon where the burden on the health system is likely to increase with the spread of diseases, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) announced the recruitments.

"Notification will be issued soon," the CMO said and cited the acute shortage of staff in primary health centres (PHCs).

The Telangana Medical Health Services Recruitment Board (TGMHSRB) will issue a notification to fill these posts soon. The Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad would issue a notification for filling up of 193 lab technician posts. Notification to fill 31 staff nurse posts in various hospitals will also be out soon, as per the statement released by the CMO.

Appreciating the move, Telangana Medical Council vice-Chairman Dr G. Srinivas said that there was a shortage of about 1,200 speciality doctors.

"With the establishment of 33 new medical colleges, there are seats vacant for assistant professors in teaching hospitals. In rural areas, the government has not made recruitments for village medical health officers, where at least one officer should be recruited for two villages," Dr Srinivas said.

"Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad last held recruitments in 2018."

- **THE TELANGANA** Medical Health Services Recruitment Board (TGMHSRB) will issue a notification to fill these posts soon.

- The Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad would issue a notification for filling up of 193 lab technician posts.

## Neta's natter

### REVANTH MIFFED WITH HOME-TURF MLAs

Congress MLAs from Mahbubnagar district are said to be in a quandary. Ever since the Lok Sabha election results were announced on June 4, the heated debate in party circles is that for someone who quickly built a reputation as an accessible Chief Minister, A Revanth Reddy, is becoming hard to reach for party MLAs from Mahbubnagar. The word doing the rounds is that Revanth, who hails from the district, has not been very happy with how the MLAs failed to ensure the victory of party candidate Ch. Vamsi Chand Reddy in the Lok Sabha polls from their constituency. Vamsi lost to BJP candidate D.K.



Aruna by a slender margin, after the Congress made a clean sweep in the district in the Assembly polls by winning seven out of seven Assembly seats just six months ago. Despite the presence of seven Congress MLAs, the party lost the

Mahbubnagar Lok Sabha seat, and this party insider say, has come as a big embarrassment for Revanth and the post-mortem of the debacle by the Chief Minister reportedly found that a few Congress MLAs themselves played spoilsport.

### A CASE OF BAD LUCK FOR JYOTHULA

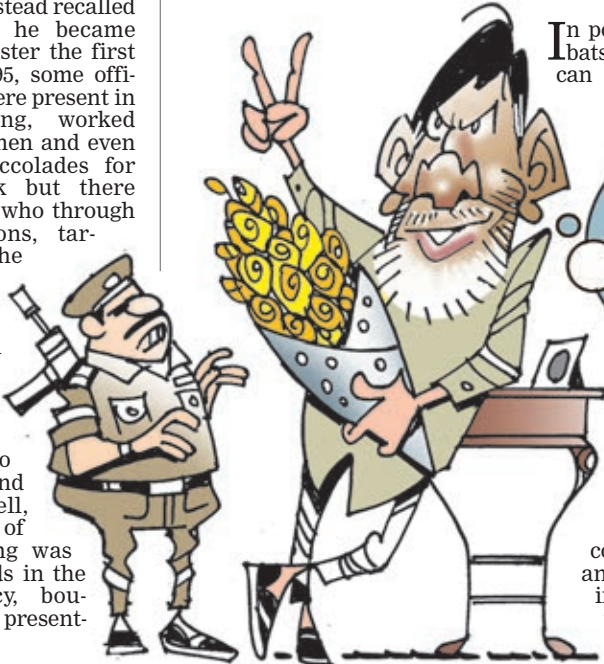
Some politicians are destined to wait, or end up on the losing side, regardless of the fortunes of the party they represent. Though they may have all the qualities, fortune simply refuses to smile on them. Such has been the case with Jyothula Venkata Appa Rao, alias Nehru, a four-time MLA from Jaggampeta in AP. After his first victory in 1994 on a TDP ticket, and two more wins later, he joined the Praja Rajyam in 2009 elections and was defeated. Though he won in 2014 as a YSRC candidate, he shifted his loyalty to the TD, and lost the 2019 elections. Now, as a TD MLA, he was hoping that he might get a Cabinet position, but with Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan getting picked form Kakinada district, Jyothula once again ended up on the sidelines. Hopefully the man's fortunes change someday, is what his well-wishers are praying for.

### TD MINISTERS FIND TELUGU HARD TO PRONOUNCE?

Telugu may be the 'Italian of the East,' as many words end with vowels as per the 5th Century Venetian explorer Niccolo de Conti who first called Telugu that, but despite being our mother tongue, Telugu can still throw up some tongue-twisters for some, almost making it as hard when it comes to pronunciation of some words. One might even think it sounds foreign when this happens. Such was the

case when it came to saying 'sarvabhooma adhikaram' (sovereignty) during the oath-taking ceremony by members of the AP Cabinet with eight of them finding themselves in some trouble saying the word. Getting a Cabinet berth is not an easy task and after all that hard work, some realised that a single word can make getting to that prized chair one tongue twisting hurdle away.

### MODI'S TRIBUTE TO NAIDU MAKES A FLORAL STATEMENT



In politics, there is never any dearth of brickbats. But when it comes to bouquets, the story can be different. At N. Chandrababu Naidu's oath-taking ceremony as the new Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, a single bouquet was passed on from one leader to another after it was dutifully presented to Naidu and a picture with that leader taken. Once done, the bouquet, handed to security personnel, quickly was grabbed by the next leader in line and on it went. But the show stealing bouquet came from Prime Minister Narendra Modi who presented one full of yellow flowers, the TD colour to Naidu, a choice that was not lost on anyone. After all, Naidu's TD is now an important ally of the BJP at the Centre, and the TD's support to Modi is vital for the NDA government's stability.

### FOREST LAND, OFFICERS EQUALLY UNDER THREAT

Every monsoon season, Telangana sees a rise in the number of skirmishes between foresters and people wanting to till forest land. The entire process of distribution of podu land pattas to people allowing them to practise agriculture in forest land

by the previous BRS regime was half-baked at best and politicians promising backing to those occupying forest land parcels is making their job harder, is the complaint from foresters. Caught between a government that does not appear to care for forest

protection, and their duty to protect the forests, staff and officials of the forest department are now asking that they be provided security. The latest attack on a forest range officer in Nizamabad district by a large group of villagers trying to take

over a forest plantation is being considered the last straw. The question doing the rounds in the department is whether it is worth risking their lives to protect forests when politicians of all hues are actively undermining their ability to do so.

Contributions from Laxmi Pranathi, L. Venkatram Reddy, Vadrevu Srinivas, Sampat G. Samritan, Aruna, Balu Pulipaka

## Stick to hygienic food: Damodar

SHRIMANSI KAUSHIK | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

Telangana should be an example for other states on food safety. Strict action will be taken against food business operators who ignore quality and hygiene standards, said health minister C. Damodar Rajanarasimha in a review meeting with officials of the department.

He expressed disappointment with the performance of GHMC's food safety officers. The minister directed the officials to conduct inspections across the state by forming task force teams and establishing mobile food testing labs. He said that around 200 samples should be tested by these 'Food Safety on Wheels' labs. Food safety officials are required to provide a detailed report of tests conducted by mobile food labs every Saturday. He directed the officials to hold

awareness campaigns and added all government hostels, private boarding residential schools, bakeries, dairy food manufacturers, restaurants and packaged food manufacturers should register for licence. "There is no ignoring those who mess with health of students. Action will be taken against negligent FBOs as per Food Safety and Standard Act," he said.

## BJP lodges complaint over KCR missing

Leaders urge police to trace whereabouts of Rao

DC CORRESPONDENT SIDDIPET, JUNE 15

BJP leaders staged a protest at Gajwel against former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, the local MLA, on Saturday, displaying flexi boards stating that their legislator was missing and that they were searching for his whereabouts.

They also lodged a complaint in the police station urging officials to trace Rao, who they said had disappeared after winning as Gajwel MLA. They raised slogans against Rao.

BJP leaders said that Rao was habituated to cheating the people with false promises.



BJP leaders stage a protest in Gajwel town on Saturday displaying flexi boards stating that Gajwel MLA and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao is missing after Assembly elections. —BY ARRANGEMENT

After winning as legislator for the Assembly, Rao was not available to the people of the Gajwel Assembly constituency.

They offered prize to anyone who traced Rao and gave 'identification marks' of the former chief minister.

## Surekha seeks report on BRS illegal Podu pattas

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

The Telangana government has sought a report on the list of beneficiaries who received podu pattas for forest land during the BRS regime, with forest minister Konda Surekha on Saturday saying that she had received reports about irregularities and selection of ineligible people.

Surekha, along with panchayat raj minister Dansari Anasuya, was speaking at a meeting at the Secretariat to review various podu land-related issues that was attended by senior forest department officers.

Referring to Saturday's incident in Nizamabad district where a woman forest range officer and her colleagues trying to prevent encroachment of a forest plantation were attacked by villagers, Surekha said anyone attempting to illegally occupy forest land will face strict action.

Surekha called on forest officials to act with restraint to ensure genuine podu patta beneficiaries are not harassed.

"The government is as determined to ensure the interests of those practicing podu legally are protected, just as it is determined to ensure protection of forest staff performing their duties," the minister said.

Anasuya said she had been a witness to conflicts over podu land and urged Surekha to ensure no hindrances are created in villages that have existed for a long time in the forests, and to clear hurdles from the forest department side to development activities in forest villages.

Meanwhile, the Telangana Junior Forests Officers Association representatives sought protection from attacks from people, and in a memorandum submitted to Surekha, urged her to take steps to protect their lives from the increasing threats they are facing while discharging their duties from various sections including tribals.

The minister in response, said that the government would take measures to ensure safety of forest officials and staff, and was ready to extend any assistance towards this end.



Ministers Konda Surekha and Dansari Anasuya at a meeting on podu land issues, at the Secretariat in Hyderabad on Saturday. —DC



Women and child welfare minister D. Seethakka speaks at a function in the city on Saturday. —DC

## Seethakka: Women top priority of govt

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

Women and child welfare minister D. Seethakka on Saturday said women should take advantage of the loans given by banks to increase their income and grow economically.

At a function to mark the annual credit plan for the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty-Rural Development Organisation-SHG- bank, she said ₹20,000 crore had been allocated as a target for 3,56,273 societies.

The minister said development of women would be given utmost priority by the new government. At least 2,53,864 societies would get funds under interest-free loans.

Advance funds of ₹264.34 crore was released from December 2023 to March 2024. Society women would get ₹10 lakh for accident insurance and loan insurance up to ₹2 lakh has been provided.

A decision was also taken to set up Mahila Shakti canteens across

- **WOMEN AND** child welfare minister D. Seethakka said that the government would provide 2,53,864 self-help group societies funds under interest-free loans.

the state and plans have been made to set up women power canteens in secretariat, collector offices, all head offices, tourist areas, temples, bus stands and industrial areas. In this way, efforts are made for economic development of women in women's groups. "Personal loans are provided by banks to help them develop their income generation programmes," Seethakka said.

"Our government is moving ahead with the determination to make women millionaires, and for that purpose, 3,56,273 societies will be given ₹20,000 crore for various livelihood programme for 2,25,000 women and ₹4,500 crore will be provided by banks," she said.

## 6K schools closed by BRS govt: Minister

P. SRINIVAS | DC SURYAPET, JUNE 15

Minister for roads and buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Saturday said 6,000 government schools were shut down in the state during the previous BRS regime. He exuded confidence that the education sector would witness revolutionary changes with improvement in quality of education in state-run schools under the Congress government.

All government schools would be developed into model schools by spending ₹600 crore in a phased manner.

- Komatireddy says all government schools would be developed into model schools by spending ₹600 crore in a phased manner.

Participating in Prof Jayashankar Badi Bata programme in Zilla Parishad High School at Nuthankal, Venkat Reddy said the Congress government was committed to strengthening of government schools and ₹22,000 crore was allocated to education sector.

He announced the allotment of 10 computers to

run to the Nuthankal ZPHS and ₹10 lakh for construction of toilets on its premises. Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said earlier glory would be resorted to government schools by the state government by developing them on par with corporate schools. He asked the teachers to work with dedication to extend quality education to their students. Earlier, the minister distributed textbooks and uniforms to the students. District collector S Venkat Rao and additional collector Ch Priyanka also attended the programme.



Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy distributes uniforms and textbooks to students of ZP High School at Nuthankal in Suryapet district on Saturday. —DC

**WE ARE OPEN TODAY!**

**OPEN ON SUNDAY**

**Metro FOOTWEAR & LEATHER STORES**

ONLY @ ABIDS, STATION ROAD, Hyd

**WE HAVE NO BRANCH**

**IN BRIEF**

**3 held for murder of 19-year-old man**

Hyderabad: The Balapur police on Saturday arrested two persons and a minor for the kidnap and murder of 19-year-old Syed Sameer. The accused were identified as 20-year-olds Md Sohail and Md Abdul Ghouse, who were sent to remand while the minor was sent to a state home. Police said the murder was a result of previous enmity.

**2 motorists killed as SUV hits bikes**

Kamareddy: Two motorbike riders died when a SUV hit their vehicle on National Highway 161 (Sangareddy-Nanded-Akola) near Begumpur gate in Pedda Kodappal mandal. The two-wheeler riders, Riyazuddin of Manepally and Shivaram of Shanthapur, were taking a U-turn when the accident occurred. Family members of the deceased and locals protested along with dead bodies, demanding action against the accused.

**SHORT TAKES**



**HIGH-END CAR CATCHES FIRE AT JUBILEE HILLS**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

A high-end car caught fire in Nandagiri Hills in Jubilee Hills on Saturday evening, causing a traffic jam. The occupants got out of the car in time. Assistant district fire officer N. Durga Prasad said the BMW car suffered an electrical malfunction which resulted in the fire. Fire engines got stuck in the traffic jam caused by the burning car. "We could see the flames from a distance. Except for the car's chassis, everything got burnt," said Sathvik, a passerby.

**WOMAN, 27, ELOPES WITH 16-YR-OLD SON OF TENANT, HELD**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

A 27-year-old woman was arrested for eloping with her tenant's 16-year-old son from Siddipet district, reportedly raping him at a hotel room in Chennai and making off with his money.

The accused was identified as Solanki Radha Gaikwad of Hanumannagar, Siddipet district. The victim has been sent for counselling, said Siddipet Two Town SI P. Upender.

Police said Radha had asked the victim to bring money and gold from his house and left home on June 10.

On June 11 when the victim's mother lodged a missing complaint. Radha dropped the victim at his house in Siddipet on June 13.

The victim's mother lodged a fresh complaint stating that Radha had spent the money and handed over the gold to unknown persons at a party, sub-inspector P. Upender said.

According to Upendra, Radha and her husband Vijay Gaikwad, along with their children, were staying in a rented house in Hanumannagar for three months.

# Ganja addicts extort money from office-goers at night

Many office-goers, especially women, face threats, if they fail to pay up

SYED OMAR FAROOQ | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

Walking on the streets in the twin cities after sunset is nothing but inviting trouble and risking life from ganja addicts. Many job-goers, especially women, complain that they have been facing threats from these addicts if they fail to give money to them.

Most of them are shabbily dressed habitual offenders, pickpockets and property offenders, who carry paper cutting blades and operate in public places. They follow their targets, including lonely women, intercept and demand money by displaying a paper cutter. Once the victim pays up, the individual is let off, investigation by Deccan Chronicle revealed. "Most addicts turn violent or aggressive after consuming ganja. Most of those whom we interrogated for offences like murders and snatchings confessed that they had consumed ganja before committing the offence. Incidentally, as per IPC, if a person in an intoxicated condition commits a crime the conviction rate is low compared to an accused who commits similar offence in a normal condition. Even if the investigation officer mentions that the accused had consumed ganja prior to committing the offence we need to prove it in court," a senior police official said. "I hardly remember what I had done. Most of us threaten the passersby. We need money to buy ganja," said Shankar, a ganja addict from a footpath in Secunderabad. In most of the cases the accused goes absconding. By the time the police arrest him, he is in a normal state, which makes it difficult to prove the charges against him in court, the officer said.

On Friday night, an elderly person, Janarthan Naidu, was brutally attacked allegedly by ganja addicts, when he cautioned them against consuming ganja before his house in Kothapet. The police identified the attackers through CCTV footage and arrested them on Saturday. The attackers were not subjected to any narco analyser tests, reliable

police sources said. "It has become a nuisance to walk home after dawn, near Clock Tower towards Secunderabad railway station. Even women demand money in a threatening manner. If I refuse, they follow me till I give them money. They are very scary and dangerous," M Sangeeta, a private employee said. "Around 7.15 pm on March 19 I was walking towards Marredpally via JBS when two men who seemed drunk intercept-

ed me. When I was about to give ₹50 that they were demanding, a passerby approached me and asked if there was any problem. Seeing him, the two ran away," said another female employee, adding that her female colleagues faced similar ordeals. Around 60 per cent of the Sheelavathi ganja, which is dry compressed with hydrochloride, is smuggled to Goa, Pune, Mumbai, Karnataka and the rest is sold in the twin cities, one of the

main suppliers said. The peddlers buy the produce at ₹2,500 to ₹4,500 depending on the quality and sell the same for ₹20,000 to ₹25,000. At times, it goes up to ₹45,000 to ₹40,000. The city-based Shaheen Begum and Majid Khan procure ganja from AP, Odisha and MP. After gathering ganja from the cultivators, it is supplied to the peddlers. The interstate market runs into crores. The demand is always on the rise, said one of them.

peddlers and consumers in order to establish links with major suppliers. Recently, we arrested a notorious kingpin named Standly."

HC advocate P. Arun suggested, "To effectively reduce the crime associated with drug abuse, we must focus on arresting consumers, the addicts. If drug users are held accountable, we can create a stronger deterrent and disrupt the cycle of crime. It's not always about targeting suppliers, the demand side is equally important for making our cities safer."

Justice T. Vinod Kumar directed the removal of the encroachments of tin sheds and bathrooms near the Balaji Temple at Nimboliadda. The judge was dealing with a writ plea filed by the management of the Sri Balaji Temple complaining of illegal encroachments by the GHMC.

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**HIGH WAY**

**CHIEF MINISTER** A. Revanth Reddy says TSAB sanctioned ₹40 crore to curb drug menace; police stations to be set up for the bureau.

**5000-sq.km** Rachakonda police commissionerate with four major highways running through it is the main gateway of ganja.

Purchased in the ₹2,500 to ₹4,500 range, it is sold for prices touching ₹45,000 depending on the quality



Drug addicts consume ganja behind Metro Rail pillars at Secunderabad on Saturday. — R. PAVAN

Over 60% of dry compressed ganja is smuggled to Goa, Pune, Mumbai, Karnataka, while 40 per cent is earmarked for the twin cities.

**SHAHEEN BEGUM** and Majid Khan from the city procure ganja from AP, Odisha and MP

DECCAN CHRONICLE has identified over 75 spots where drug addicts operate, including railway stations, bus terminuses; around colleges and educational institutions. They are also at Bansilalpet, JBS circle, Tivoli road, Gopalapuram, Necklace Road, Maqtha, Chaitanyapuri, Amberpet, Ramanthapur, Raghavendranagar colony, Nacharam, Babanagar, Chilkannagar, Maniknagar and Bholakpur.

# Migrant workers take drugs as diversion from hard work

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC ADILABAD, JUNE 15

There is no check on labourers from other states who consume ganja and get into brawls with their colleagues. These workers are employed on cotton farms during the picking season, and work in rice mills, ginning and pressing factories, brick kilns and private industries in the erstwhile Adilabad and Karimnagar districts.

A police officer of Ramagundam commissionerate said ganja consumption is an old habit among labourers who worked in brick kilns and rice mills in Ramagundam industrial area. "These migrant labourers consume ganja in their leisure time for relief. They carry dry ganja for their own consumption and never sell it," he said. He said it would be good if the local police keep a close watch on them by visiting work

sites frequently. The exploitation of labour is high in these fields since these labourers are illiterate and work for low wages. In some instances, they are employed as bonded labour and the women are sexually exploited by the employers. Addressing an awareness programme at the Kotapalli police station, Ramagundam police commissioner M. Srinivasulu appealed to youth not to get addicted to any drug.

police sources said. "It has become a nuisance to walk home after dawn, near Clock Tower towards Secunderabad railway station. Even women demand money in a threatening manner. If I refuse, they follow me till I give them money. They are very scary and dangerous," M Sangeeta, a private employee said. "Around 7.15 pm on March 19 I was walking towards Marredpally via JBS when two men who seemed drunk intercept-

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# 7 held as drunk men hitting man goes viral

MANVI VYAS | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 15



Drunkards attack a man who asked them to stop drinking as it was late in the night.

The Saroornagar police on Saturday arrested seven persons for attacking one Janardhan Naidu, who had asked them to stop drinking as it was very late at night on Friday. A video clip of incident was widely circulated on social media. While it is alleged that the perpetrators were under the influence of ganja, the police claimed that the accused had consumed alcohol. The accused were identified as Maddi Shankhu, Gadderaju Vamsi, Choegoni Harish, Bozhi Shaheed Ali Khan, Mohammad Sonu, and Edulakanti Manoj, Mohammad Rehan, both in their teens.

According to Saroornagar circle inspector Vootkuru Saidreddy, the accused, who were allegedly drinking at a private place near Chaitanyapuri Metro Rail station in Netajinagar, were approached by Janardhan's tenants, asking them to stop drinking as it was already 1

am. This turned into a brawl, the accused barged into Janardhan Naidu's house and broke the windows of the house and pelted stones. "After that, they again sat in the same place and drank. Seeing this, the tenants called Janardhan and there was another brawl between Janardhan and the gang. The gang attacked him with sticks. He was injured and was shifted to a hospital for treatment," the CI said.

Asked whether a narcotics test of the accused was carried out, the police said, "We have not tested them for narcotics since they don't have a history of narcotic consumption."

# MAN HELD FOR CARRYING 28 KG DRY GANJA

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

The Secunderabad RPF arrested one Akash Kailash Kanojia while carrying 28 kg dry ganja from Bhubaneswar to Dadar in Mumbai. The contraband worth ₹7 lakh was seized from his pos-

session. His associates Feroz alias Rizwan of Maharashtra and Sillu, who sold the ganja in Bhubaneswar, are absconding.

The Railway Protection Force caught Kanojia during a routine check on Platform 1 at the Secunderabad station.

**In Loving Memory**  
**Mrs. POTHUKUCHI VENKATA PADMA**  
 1st Death Anniversary Ceremony will be held on Monday 17th June 2024 at our Residence Plot No: B-33, DD Colony, Baghamburpet, Hyderabad.  
 Inserted by: Husband: Surya Narayana Son: Abhishek Near & Dear

**Memorial Service**  
 "I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (psalm 23)  
  
**Sukeshini Anthony Das**  
 W/o Anthony (Mohan) Das  
 D/O late Rev & Mrs. A. Devasdas Jacob  
 Called to Glory: 04.08.2024  
 Memorial Service on 16.06.2024 at 6 PM  
 At Centenary Methodist Church  
 Chapel Road, Hyderabad.  
 Ph: 965250193 / 968911114

**SEVENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
 Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. **Matthew 5:8**  
  
**Mrs. DHANAVANTHY VIJAYA RAO**  
 W/o Late Mr. Kottapalli Vijaya Rao  
 DOB: 10-6-1935 DOD: 16-6-2017  
 Your memories are precious and are always with us.  
 Inserted by: Children & Grand Children. (S/2425/D00264)

**13th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew, 5:8)  
  
**WILLIAM BENEDICT GOMEZ**  
 DOB: 15-01-1948 DOD: 16-06-2011  
 Today completes 13 years since your departure & we are still grieving your loss!  
 Rest in Peace dearest Willie/Dad, until we are united again.  
 Your everloving wife & sons & all who truly loved u.  
 Inserted by: **MARILYN GOMEZ**

**IN FOND MEMORY OF**  
  
**B. ANANDA RAO**  
 Heavenly Abode on 16-06-2012  
 "You are Ever living in our Hearts"  
 Inserted by: **G.KALYAN DAS & FAMILY**

**PAGDI**  
  
**Late Shri. MOHAN DASWANI**  
 S/o. Late Hairam Daswani  
 Will be held on 16th June, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 9:30 PM, At Hira Hall, Abids.  
 In Grief: Rakhi Daswani, Sanjay Daswani, Megha Daswani, Barkha Shroff, Dheeraj Shroff, Madhu Daswani, Shyam Daswani, Mahesh Daswani, Jyotender Daswani, Jyothi Lalwani & Manoharlal Lalwani & Daswani Family. Ph: 8801018101 (S/2425/D00268)

**7th ANNIVERSARY**  
  
**Mrs. REMA RAMAN**  
 DOD: 16.06.2017  
 We miss you every moment.  
 Inserted by: S Raman Mobile: 93910 29038

**16th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
 He who believes in me will live, even though he dies yet shall he live. **John 11:25**  
  
**Mr. M.P. GABRIEL**  
 (Retd. Police Officer)  
 D.O.D.: 16-06-2008  
 "Dad, you taught us the value of life and the importance of strength. Your memory is our guiding light."  
 Forever Remembered by: Family Members

**Birthday Remembrance**  
 "The memory of the righteous is blessed" Proverbs 10:7  
  
**Katru Stephen Josyam**  
 Retd. Senior Section Engineer-Bridges, SCR  
 Well known senior Christian Music Director  
 DOB: 16.06.1959 - DOD: 02.06.2021  
 Inserted by: Wife: Amar Swaroop Stephen Daughter: Selma Stephen Son: Samuel Stephen (Chinnu) & Katru & Karre families

# HC directs tahsildar to issue ST certificate

L. RAVICHANDER HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

Justice K. Lakshman has directed the Adilabad Urban mandal tahsildar to issue an ST community certificate as Lingadhari Koya to an NEEET aspirant within two weeks. This comes after Challuri Nihitha, the aspirant, filed a writ alleging that the Adilabad collector and the tahsildar had repeatedly rejected her request on untenable grounds. Her parents have the community certificate. The judge set aside the rejection orders and directed that the cer-

tificate be issued within two weeks.

**CJ RECUSES FROM PLEA ON NALSAR**

Chief Justice Alok Aradhe recused from hearing a writ petition filed against the National Law School Nalsar as he was the chancellor of the university and said it would be improper on his part to adjudicate matters of the institution. The matter relates to a writ petition filed by M. Karthik, a resident of Tirupati. It is the case of the petitioner that he scored All India rank of 871 and Nalsar



**LEGAL STORIES**

had failed to consider his domicile status and proceeded to insert his candidature at serial no 78 of Provisional 5th List of CLAT-UG. This was contrary to Section 95 of the AP Reorgan-isation Act 2014. Earlier the vacation panel, after considering the arguments, directed Nalsar to hold a seat in

the BA-LLB course and posted the matter after vacation. The matters will now be heard by a division bench presided by Justice Sujoy Paul.

**NOTICE ON RAILWAY SCANNING CHARGE**

Justice C.V. Bhaskar Reddy ordered notice in a batch of writ petitions questioning the power of the railways in levying and collecting scanning charges. The judge was hearing a batch of writ pleas filed by contractors, who were successful bidders to handle parcels from one railway cargo section to

another. They alleged that the authorities charged ₹10 and ₹five, respectively, as scanning charges for the parcels. The petitioners contended that such imposition was not part of the tender conditions.

**OFFICIAL BOOKED ON SAME CHARGES**

T. Madhavi Devi took on file a writ plea on the question as to whether authorities could initiate disciplinary proceedings on the same set of facts on which an employee was exonerated in a criminal case. K. Looka filed the writ

petition complaining that the agriculture and cooperation department had initiated a departmental inquiry against him for the same set of facts for which he was exonerated in a criminal case earlier. The petitioner is an agricultural extension officer grade II at Bichkunda, Nizamabad district. The petitioner alleged that the conduct of respondents in conducting departmental inquiry again in respect of the same set of facts is unjust, illegal and in violation of various Articles of the Constitution. He also

sought sanction of his annual grade increments with retrospective effect.

**SHIFF BATHROOMS NEAR TEMPLE: HC**

Justice T. Vinod Kumar directed the removal of the encroachments of tin sheds and bathrooms near the Balaji Temple at Nimboliadda. The judge was dealing with a writ plea filed by the management of the Sri Balaji Temple complaining of illegal encroachments by the GHMC.

Full report on deccanchronicle.com

SHORT TAKES

MUSLIMS FALLING VICTIM TO UAPA MISUSE: OWAISI

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP-elect Asaduddin Owaisi said the Modi 3.0 government had not learnt from its setbacks in the recent Lok Sabha elections and was acting in the same old fashion, as many innocent Muslims were falling victim to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.



Asaduddin Owaisi

In his social media account 'X', Owaisi said the UAPA was under debate even today as many innocents are put behind bars under the 'inhuman Act'. Stan Swamy, an 85-year-old activist, fell victim to this Act, Owaisi said.

Stan Swamy, or Stanislaus Lourdaswamy, a Catholic priest and tribal rights activist, was the oldest person to be accused under the UAPA. The activist, a Parkinson's patient, was arrested in the Bhima Koregan case and for alleged links with Maoists in October 2020, and died just ahead of his bail hearing in July 2021.

The Act, brought in by the Congress government in 2008, was made tougher in 2012. Stating that he had opposed the law in those days, Owaisi said the BJP government had added new provisions in 2019 and made it more stringent.

He pointed out that the Congress, which was in the Opposition, had extended full support to the amendments of the new law. The Modi 3.0 government has not learnt from its setbacks in recent Lok Sabha polls and misused the law, he said.

RTC SAYS STATE GOVT DELAYED BONDS REPAYMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

The TGSRTC management blamed the Telangana state government for the delay in repayment of the fixed bond cum certificate payment for 27,000 employees. It claimed that although Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had released a cheque for ₹280 crore in February this year for payment to staff, the government had released ₹80 crore so far.

This sum had been paid to driver category employees. The RTC was responding to a news report, '27K RTC staff await PRC salary arrears' published in these columns on June 15.

Stating that the government was processing the release of the remaining ₹200 crore, the TGSRTC said, "The same is being pursued by the management. The remaining employees will also be paid once the funds are received from the government."

CM DIRECTED OFFICIALS TO SPEED UP WORK

FROM PAGE 1

Prices of steel and cement, and expenditure for shifting utilities obstructing the construction works have also gone up.

However, after Congress came to power in December 2023, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy laid special focus on expediting RRR works.

He held a review meeting with senior officials in January and directed them to expedite land acquisition. However, due to the election code from March 16 to June 6, the process came to a halt.

Out of 1,935 hectares that needed to be acquired, the BRS government could initiate the process to acquire only 1,459 acres, which is still under different stages of acquisition.

With the conclusion of Lok Sabha elections, minister for roads and buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy expedited the process of land acquisition and related works pertaining to the RRR project.

Efforts are being made to complete land acquisition by September and invite Modi for the ground breaking ceremony in October marking the formal launch of RRR works.

● WITH THE conclusion of Lok Sabha elections, minister for roads and buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy expedited the process of land acquisition and related works pertaining to the RRR project.

Ex-engineers back Pranahitha-Chevella dam

Says late YSR proposed the project at Kautala mandal in Adilabad district to irrigate two lakh acres

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC ADILABAD, JUNE 15

A team of retired engineers from the irrigation department has called for construction of B.R Ambedkar Pranahitha-Chevella Sujala Sravanti barrage on the Pranahitha as an alternative to the defective Medigadda barrage of the Kaleshwaram scheme, after a visit to the site at Tummidihatti where the project was supposed to be built.

Construction of the Pranahitha-Chevella project was proposed at Thummidihatti in Kautala mandal in the erstwhile Adilabad district by the Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy government.

Later, it was proposed that water could be given to two lakh acres from project. However, the BRS government of K. Chandrashekar Rao scrapped the project, and focused on the Kaleshwaram scheme.

After visiting the Tummidihatti site, Patha Venkataramana, a member of the team, said that water from Pranahitha-Chevella can be taken to Yellampalli with gravity. He added that soon a team of retired engineers from



A river project, used for illustrative purposes.

A file photo of retired engineers of irrigation department inspecting the Tummidihatti site where the Pranahitha-Chevella project was proposed to be built.

Hyderabad will meet Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and explain about the advantages that come with the Pranahitha-Chevella barrage. Reservoirs constructed downstream could be used to take the water to south Telangana. The team also included Bheemaiah, Pulla Reddy, Sriram Reddy, Raghuma Reddy, Venkataiah, Hanumantha Reddy and Ravindranath.

During his Lok Sabha elections campaign, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had promised in Adilabad that the Congress government would construct the project at Tummidihatti towards which talks were underway with Maharashtra. Meanwhile, Sirpur (T) BJP legislator Palvai Harish Babu said that the Central government was

ready to give 60 per cent of the funds required for the construction of the Pranahitha-Chevella barrage.

It may be recalled that BJP leaders, led by Harish Babu, had taken out a Pranahitha Jala Sadhana padayatra and later met Union ministers Nitin Gadkari and G. Kishan Reddy urging them to look into their demands in 2022.

Probe into PPAs vendetta by Revanth, asserts KCR

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15



BRS president and former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday accused Justice L. Narasimha Reddy, a former Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, who is heading the judicial commission to inquire into alleged irregularities in electricity-related matter during the BRS government, of adopting a vindictive attitude towards the previous BRS regime.

The Justice Narasimha Reddy commission is inquiring into the power purchase agreements (PPAs) with the Chhattisgarh government and the setting up of the Bhadradi and Yadadri thermal power plants during the BRS regime. Rao accused Justice Narasimha Reddy of 'malevolent intentions' and of crossing 'limits beyond the terms of reference in apportioning unjustified blame on the (BRS) government," and

called on him to step down from the commission.

Rao said the former judge should have informed the state government that the constitution of the commission was 'illegal' as it could not probe decisions taken by electricity regulatory authorities. Comments about him, and the notice issued to him, Rao said, showed the former judge's "determination to discredit the erstwhile government."

It has become clear that Justice Narasimha Reddy has 'lost moral ground to inquire,' Rao alleged. He accused A. Revanth Reddy of ordering the probe 'with a clear political motive to discredit the earlier government.' Further, the BRS chief, in an apparent

hint that anyone from Telangana should not question what the BRS regime under his leadership, said: "Justice Mr. Narsimha Reddy! You are a son of Telangana, you are aware of the power situation before 2014 and how the government succeeded in supplying 24X7 quality power to all sectors earning a name for Telangana in the country." Rao said Revanth Reddy, who had first raised the issues now being probed by the commission, while he was an opposition leader, could have approached the courts but did not do so. By ordering the inquiry, Revanth Reddy had made it clear that the exercise was a matter of political vendetta, Rao said. Rao said that with respect to PPA with Chhattisgarh, the BRS government's hand was forced by the Power Grid Corporation which made it clear that unless a PPA was in place, it could not provide a dedicated transmission line to state.

PPAs: Narasimha panel urged to summon CM

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15



N.V.S.S. Prabhakar

State BJP vice-president N.V.S.S. Prabhakar on Saturday urged the Justice Narasimha Reddy commission, probing into power sector irregularities during the BRS regime, to summon Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, irrigation minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and senior Congress leader K. Jana Reddy as they had raised a number of issues while they were in the Opposition.

Addressing a press conference, Prabhakar urged the government to extend the term of the Justice Narasimha Reddy commission. He said summoning officials and non-officials to depose before the commission would not serve any purpose. The Congress leaders could share their information on the power purchase agreements (PPAs) and higher power tariff.

Pointing out that Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had accused the state government of financial indiscipline, Prabhakar said Telangana had only ₹2,937.58 crore funds with it that

the Centre had released it on June 10.

The BJP leader said road and infrastructure projects were getting delayed due to inordinate delay in land acquisition. Union minister Nitin Gadkari had pointed to the delay and escalation of project cost of Regional Ring Road and other projects. Railway minister Aswini Vaishnav had made similar remarks about the delay in completing MMTS and railway underpasses.

Prabhakar said he has suggested to Union agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to constitute a task force with members from minor irrigation, power, civil supply, marketing, banking, food processing and warehousing ministries as several issues are interconnected to get the desired results.

Medigadda was not a suitable location: Experts

FROM PAGE 1



Justice Ghose added that the first phase of inquiries with irrigation department engineers, currently serving and retired, has been completed. Further interactions and questioning might be required after all the affidavits submitted to the commission are studied, he said.

Justice Ghose on Saturday also met with a team of retired irrigation engineers who were part of the Anantaramulu committee that was tasked by the then BRS government to submit its report on feasibility of the Kaleshwaram project and locating a barrage at Medigadda.

The team is learnt to have informed Justice Ghose that the then chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao,

and the then irrigation minister that after their study in 2015, they submitted a report recommending that Medigadda was not a suitable location for constructing a barrage. "There was no acknowledgement of our report and Medigadda as the site was picked by Chandrashekar Rao despite the committee proposing that the original location at Tummidihatti should be the one where the barrage should be built," the team members are learnt to informed the commission.

वित्त मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

## DON'T FALL PREY TO FRAUDULENT CALLS OR SMS IN THE NAME OF INDIAN CUSTOMS

**BEWARE**  
of fraud  
in the name of Indian Customs

### Modus Operandi

- Fake Calls/SMS-** Fraudsters posing as Courier officials/staff contact via calls, text messages or email claiming that a package or parcel has been held by Customs and requires payment of Customs duties or taxes before it can be released.
- Pressure Tactics-** Fraudsters impersonating as Customs/Police/CBI officials demand payment of Customs duty/clearance fees for packages/gifts which are received from a foreign country and supposedly require Customs clearance. Target individuals are asked to make payments for the release of their goods.
- Demand of Money-** Targeted persons are informed that their package has been seized by Customs due to illegal contents (such as, drugs/foreign currency/fake passport/contraband items) or violations of Customs regulations. Fraudsters threaten legal action or fines and demands payment to resolve the issue.

### Safety Measures

**ACT:** Disconnect calls and never respond to messages, if you suspect fraud or encounter any irregularities.

**PROTECT:** Never share or disclose personal information (Passwords, CVV, Aadhar number etc.), or send money to unknown individuals or organizations without verifying their identity and legitimacy.

**VERIFY:** All communications from Indian Customs consists of Document Identification Number (DIN), which can be verified on CBIC website (<https://esanchar.cbic.gov.in/DIN/DINSearch>)

**REPORT:** Immediately report such instances to [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) or helpline number 1930.

**Indian Customs never calls or sends SMS for payment of Customs Duty/Fine/Fee**

**Stay Alert, Stay Safe: Beware of Scams!**

**Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs**

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DECCAN Chronicle

16 JUNE 2024



Rupa Gulab

Off the beaten track

Up in the air and down in the dumps

I'm old enough to remember the joys of flying when cabin crew welcomed us with cotton wool sachets and boiled sweets. You could take as many sweets as you wanted. If you were a kid, the flight attendant would grab a hefty handful and give you more — even if your dotting parents were the *only* people in the world who thought you looked cute!

Whenever I hear babies wailing raucously during take-off and landing, I have to suppress the urge to write a vituperative letter to the CEO of the airline, accusing him/her/them of skimping on basic necessities to make flights comfortable. Even the widest and most relaxing ergonomically-designed seats cannot soothe those babies when the cabin pressure fluctuates wildly and causes ear aches.

Just how expensive are tiny sachets of cotton wool and sweets for heaven's sake? Sure, one must economise, but there are so many other areas where airlines can cut costs, like those deathly dull inflight magazines packed with run of the mill articles by hacks, specially designed to make you fall asleep so you won't keep pressing the call button for flight attendants. Save trees and ears, bring back the sweets and cotton wool now!

If the tight-fisted sods still refuse to provide them, shouldn't they at least warn passengers to bring their own sweeties and ear plugs, and explain why these are important?

They could add this message to that section that warns us not to pack coconuts and other peculiar things in check-in baggage, or they could add it to the barrage of text messages they attack us with when we book a flight. You know, the usual repetitive pleas to upgrade, book their efficient car partners for smooth airport rides, book their charming hotel partners for luxurious stays, and someday soon perhaps, even book their designer partners for chic and comfortable co-ords. In case you're wondering what on earth co-ords are (I did, last year), it's just a fancy marketing term to make pajamas legitimate outdoor wear. If you haven't seen posh fashion victims wearing pajamas at airports these days, you're way overdue for an eye test. Suburban Dadar aunties who do their daily veggie shopping in colourful cotton nighties are having the last laugh.



**Do your bit to make flying safe again and vote out right wing leaders across the world please. Greens are not only healthy to eat, but healthy parties to vote for. Till then, go ahead and buy those ghastry co-ords. If you're going to be rushed to hospital after a flight, best to go in comfy pajamas.**

And then there's the food. Whether it's on the house or sold on-board, it is uniformly bad. I heartily agree with late American chef and author Anthony Bourdain who once said in an interview with Bon Appetit magazine that "No one has ever felt better after eating plane food." He went on to say that while he had no choice on super long flights, he'd restrict himself to cheese and port. "I'd eat some cheese and drink myself stupid." The interviewer wryly reminded us that this is the man who happily ate still-beating cobra heart and seal eyeballs without flinching. So, yeah, airline food.

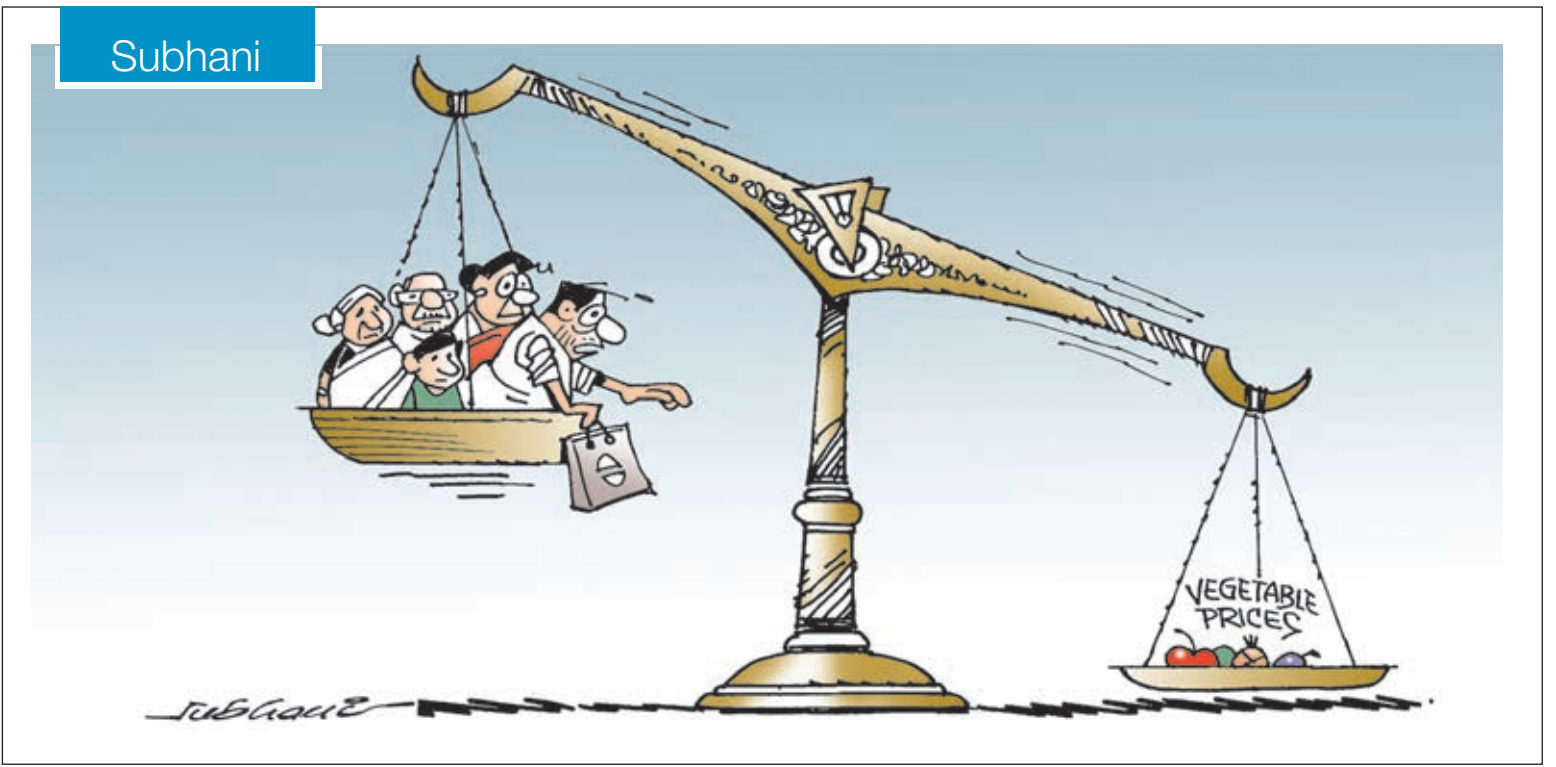
I cannot remember the title or author of a book I once read, but I do recall a sentence. One character dryly tells the other to shun airline food and consume the paper napkin on the meal tray instead because it's far more edible. I have to confess that I'm not that picky, shame on me. I attack the mandatory bread roll and butter with relish — it's a right treat because bread and butter are banned at home (doctor's orders). Then I demolish the dessert no matter how awful it is, because I have a demanding sweet tooth. If I'm still hungry, I open the main course container, and eat gravy with rice. Gravy and only gravy because I absolutely detest chicken and paneer (the usual staid vegetarian and non-vegetarian options everywhere in homogenised India). And finally, I pop an antacid in my mouth, so I don't feel as sick as a dog for the rest of the day.

Airline food, however, is less frightening than turbulence — a factor we really must keep in mind even though most right wing world leaders pretend that climate change and global warming is a wicked leftist conspiracy. I have flown since I was a baby (cotton wool firmly in ears, sweet in mouth), and never experienced fear. Till a few years ago when flying over the gorgeous Indian Ocean, the plane went bumpy bump bump and dropped sharply all of a sudden — gravity wasn't merely calling, it was screaming along with some passengers. Since then, I have always kept my seat belt fastened and the air sickness bag in a prominent place.

Turbulence is only going to get worse as we recently saw in the Singapore Airlines flight that dropped 54 metres in altitude in *less than five seconds* over Myanmar. The toll was horrifying, with one passenger dead of a suspected heart attack, and dozens badly injured with brain, skull, and spinal cord injuries — life altering injuries in some cases. Far worse than indigestion after an airline meal, right?

Do your bit to make flying safe again and vote out right wing leaders across the world please. Greens are not only healthy to eat, but healthy parties to vote for. Till then, go ahead and buy those ghastry co-ords. If you're going to be rushed to hospital after a flight, best to go in comfy pajamas.

Rupa Gulab is an author and columnist



China's legacy chip threat and some ideas for India



Manish Tewari

State of the Union

The Challenge is real and it is not confined to the four-year-long stand-off on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Its omnipresence goes across the board and is not limited to the land, maritime and cyber domains alone. Its real salience is in the realm of both legacy and cutting edge science.

In the high-stakes world of advanced technology, it's easy to become fixated on the cutting edge — the latest breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and 5G networks. But as the US and China engage in a fierce battle for technological supremacy, a critical front in this conflict is going largely unnoticed — legacy semiconductors.

Legacy chips, also known as mature node semiconductors, are the unsung workhorses of the modern world. Plenty of computer chips are not leading-edge. They are "legacy", "trailing-edge", or "foundational" chips. With transistors measuring 14 nanometres or larger, these chips power everything from automobiles and home appliances to factory equipment, medical devices, and even military systems. As the Rhodium group notes, "They are pervasive therefore they are essential." They may lack the buzz and glamor of their bleeding-edge counterparts, but legacy chips are absolutely vital to the global economy and national security.

The importance of these chips was starkly illustrated in Ukraine, where captured Russian military equipment was found to be filled with semiconductors scavenged from dishwashers and refrigerators. It's a stark reminder that even the most advanced militaries rely on a steady supply of legacy chips.

Which is why the world should be deeply concerned about China's aggressive push to dominate this crucial sector. Over the past few

years, China has been pouring staggering sums into legacy chip production, with the goal of achieving self-sufficiency and global preeminence. In 2022, Chinese foundries grabbed 10 per cent global market share for the first time. By 2027, China is projected to control a staggering 39 per cent of the legacy chip market.

This breakneck expansion is being fuelled by enormous government subsidies, which have allowed Chinese firms to rapidly scale up and undercut foreign competitors. The playbook is eerily similar to how China came to dominate solar panels and 5G infrastructure — flood the market with cheap, subsidised products and drive everyone else out of business. Industry experts warn Chinese legacy chip makers could do the same, making the rest of the world precariously dependent on China for these essential components.

At the forefront of this effort is Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation (SMIC), China's largest chipmaker. SMIC has benefited from billions in state support and is using this financial muscle to undercut rivals and expand its market share. Even more worrying are SMIC's deep ties to the Chinese military, as documented in a report by defence expert James Mulvenon. This raises the spectre of the People's Liberation Army gaining control over a vital slice of the global semiconductor supply chain.

For India, China's legacy chip ambitions pose an especially thorny challenge as it races to build up its own semiconductor industry. The Indian government has earmarked \$15 billion to construct new chip fabrication plants, or fabs. But these fabs will be entering a market that is already oversupplied, thanks to the deluge of cheap Chinese chips. The 15 billion dollar fund is paltry com-

India boasts a robust chip design ecosystem that could be harnessed to develop specialised semiconductors that China struggles to make, like analog chips and microcontrollers

pared to China's state backed fund of 40 billion dollars. With utilisation rates for legacy fabs falling and margins being squeezed, it will be exceedingly difficult for India's new facilities to compete, even with government support. Additionally China's current and projected production capacity for legacy chips is significantly larger than India's with major facilities expected to start production by 2025-2026. If you look at the numbers it is surprising, China's integrated circuit (IC) output surged by 40 per cent, reaching a record-breaking 98.1 billion units.

There are also troubling security implications to consider. Investigations have found that over a dozen Indian firms have been selling the government Chinese-made microchips in critical systems, in violation of procurement rules. The spectre of hidden Chinese chips in cars, laptops, and infrastructure is a serious vulnerability that could be exploited for surveillance or sabotage. India's 2020 Mumbai blackout, for instance, was linked to a breach in the power grid's Chinese-built components.

To be sure, India does have some key advantages it can leverage in the legacy chip race. The country boasts a robust chip design ecosystem that could be harnessed to develop specialised semiconductors that China struggles to make, like analog chips and microcontrollers. Chinese firms have doubled their share of the analog chip market since 2019, but have struggled to make further inroads due to the complexity of these designs.

This is where India should be focusing its efforts, not on large-scale manufacturing of commodity chips. Unfortunately, the current approach

appears to be misguided. The \$11 billion fab being built by the Tata Group, for instance, will focus on assembly, testing, and packaging rather than the high-value design work that could differentiate India from China.

Ultimately, India will need a much more comprehensive and proactive strategy to secure its semiconductor supply chain and mitigate the risks of Chinese dominance. This should include: Strict prohibitions on Chinese-made chips in critical infrastructure and government systems. Contractors must be held to this standard as well. A robust monitoring regime to track the origin of every chip entering the country, down to the product and company level. Customs authorities need visibility into where chips were made, who owns the fab, and who did the design, in order to enforce restrictions. Currently, the government has little idea where the chips in imported goods are coming from, a dangerous blind spot. Targeted export controls on chip design software and manufacturing equipment to slow China's progress. This will require close coordination with the US and EU. Increased government support for domestic chip design and specialised manufacturing, rather than large-scale production of commodity chips. The focus should be on areas where India has an edge and China has struggled, like analog chips and microcontrollers. A long-term plan to build up local suppliers for semiconductor-grade materials, equipment, and components. These upstream chokepoints are just as essential as the fabs themselves.

The stakes could not be higher. Legacy chips may be older technology, but they are the irreplaceable foundation of the modern world. Ceding this market to China would be a disaster for both economic competitiveness and national security. If India plays its cards right, it may have a legacy of its own making.

The writer is a lawyer, MP and former Union minister. The views expressed are personal. Twitter handle @manishtewari.

LETTERS

NEET FIASCO

There were never grace marks in entrance tests (NEET probe: SC seeks NTA reply, June 15). Sixty-seven students scoring 100 per cent in an entrance test is impossible. It is ideal to cancel it and hold it afresh test to remove all doubts in the minds of people.

T.V.V. Subrahmanyam  
Hyderabad

RELIGIOUS FANATICS

Are Muslims living in India not Indians? (Protest after Muslim woman gets govt flat, June 15). Aren't they eligible for any government schemes? With such religious fanaticism, we are hoping to do well in the world.

K.R.K.S. Murthy  
Hyderabad

HOTEL HYGIENE

Roadside eateries, small hotels and big restaurants must be checked monthly by Telangana food safety officers. Hygiene is not maintained even at famous restaurants.

Faisal Shah  
Hyderabad

SALARY ARREARS

Not only RTC staff, but state employees are also waiting for revision of pay and release of DA (4 years on, 27K RTC staff await PRC salary arrears, June 15). Recently the employees association met with the Pay Revision Commission officials and the Chief Secretary in this regard. Now that the election code has ended, the government should expedite sanction of dearness allowance instalments, decide fitment and revise the pay.

Dinanath S.  
Hyderabad

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com.

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

India's biggest ship to be launched soon

Visakhapatnam, June 15. The biggest vessel in India M. V. Jagdoot a 2,18,000 DWT bulk carrier will be launched on June 22 at Hindustan Shipyard by Union Minister for Shipping and Transport, Kamalapati Tripathi. It was 28 years ago in 1946 that the keel for the first ocean-going vessel 'Jala Usha' was laid.—UNI.

Pradeep S. Mehta and Mehak Sharma

Surat's industrial renaissance is a model for India's economic growth

India is establishing targets to reach its vision of a developed India by 2024 and to become a \$30 trillion economy within the next 23 years.

The Niti Aayog, the premier public policy think tank for the Government of India, has defined India's short-term, medium-term and long-term goals. Its initial focus for growth centres is on four cities — Mumbai, Varanasi, Surat, and Visakhapatnam — to build a national development strategy. The subsequent stages entail choosing an additional 20 to 25 cities to drive economic development and beyond. The four initial selected cities have demonstrated robust growth trajectories in terms of population and flourishing industrial units over the past 20 years. Here, we have focused on Surat in Gujarat as a case study because of its unique dimensions, which can serve as a good role model for all other cities.

This involves understanding how Surat can evolve into a megacity and significantly contribute to the solid economic growth of India. This city hosts more than 6,000 industrial units and has a population of approximately 7.5 million. Despite occupying just about four per cent of Gujarat's total land area, it

contributes around 20 per cent to the state's GDP.

However, this transformative journey has been anything but smooth and straightforward. The path to development began around 2004, following a significant setback a decade earlier in September 1994, when a severe plague struck the city. This epidemic, initially pneumonic but later turning bubonic, deeply impacted Surat's economy and caused widespread disruption, both locally and globally. The aftermath of this epidemic created chaos.

The consequences were no less than the recent Covid-19 pandemic. The UAE's halt on cargo transhipment from India severely impacted India's agricultural exports, causing a \$420 million loss. The global media coverage of Surat's plague outbreak led to London's global depository receipts plunging and local agricultural stocks tumbling. The situation disrupted international relations, postponing a Mauritian minister's visit, cancellation of several international conferences, and failing to attract the foreign media and tour operators. Global travel restrictions, enhanced surveillance by the Centres for Disease Control

and Prevention, Atlanta, and quarantine measures in Italy and Russia added to the economic toll, estimated at around \$600 million.

Despite facing numerous adversities, Surat persevered. The credit for its progress goes to the intrepid business community, particularly the textile, diamond, and the proximal Hazira industrial belts. Credit should also go to the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC), and a good municipal commissioner, S.R. Rao. These sectors have been key drivers of Surat's growth. The city boasts a vibrant textile market and is globally renowned for its diamond polishing and cutting industry, processing nearly 90 per cent of the world's diamonds.

The nearby Hazira port plays a crucial role in maritime trade, with its strategic location and robust infrastructure, facilitating the import and export of goods. Surat is also home to numerous Special Economic Zones, which attract investments in chemicals, petrochemicals, engineering, and information technology. Known for its entrepreneurial spirit, the city's local entrepreneurs and businesses continually innovate and adapt to

changing market dynamics, fostering economic diversification and resilience.

A major factor in Surat's growth is its rapid infrastructure development, including advancements in transportation, real estate, and urban planning, all of which support economic activity and enhance the quality of life. Additionally, the agriculturally rich regions surrounding Surat contribute to its economy through the processing of cotton, rice, and other crops. Through multiple interviews with prominent city industrialists, several key drivers of the city's economic growth have emerged. These include the unwavering and resilient attitude of the citizens, who persist even in the toughest situations. Additionally, many industrialists have operated with a vision of contributing to society and the nation, and this constructive approach has significantly fostered both industrial and overall economic growth.

Surat's diverse economic activities and its strategic initiatives in industrial and infrastructural development play a pivotal role in driving not only the city's growth but also contributing significantly to the economic growth of Gujarat and India as a whole. Other cities in India

can also ensure their economic growth by adopting several strategies inspired by the development path of Surat. This includes creating ample employment opportunities by investing in key industries, tax incentives and infrastructure development.

To ascertain its economic progress, India, in line with the growth model adopted in Surat, should ensure an all-round development approach focusing on major labour-intensive industries. This should be coupled with ensuring a considerable expenditure on the existing human capital, such as health, education and skills. Strategic investment and guided interventions from the government can only ensure a resilient and thriving economy in future. Today, Surat is the second largest city of Gujarat and the fastest growing city in India. The example of Surat certainly shows that nothing is unattainable, and so should be the spirit if India wants to attain its goal of "Viksit Bharat" by 2047.

The writers work for CUTS International, a global public policy research and advocacy group

IN BRIEF

HMWS&SB MD gets 36 complaints

Hyderabad: HMWS&SB managing director Sudarshan Reddy attended 36 calls during the board's 'Dial your MD' programme that was restarted on Saturday after four years. The complaints pertained to contaminated water, low drinking water pressure, sewage overflow and leakages from water pipe lines.

TWO DIE, ONE HURT AS BIKE RAMS INTO TRUCK

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD JUNE 15

Two persons died and one was severely injured when a speeding bike rammed into a stationary truck on Friday night, Kukatpally police said on Saturday. The deceased were identified as Sandhya Uday Kumar and Sonu, both 17. The survivor, Shefi, also 17, a resident of Mallareddy nagar, was admitted to a hospital with severe injuries, inspector D. Krishna Mohan said.

STRUCTURES RAZING KICKS UP ROW

P. SRINIVAS | DC SURYAPET, JUNE 15

Demolition of illegal structures encroaching on roads in Suryapet municipality took a political turn with BRS leaders alleging that properties of their party leaders were targeted. The special task force of the Suryapet municipality has taken up a drive to demolish illegal constructions following complaints from people about structures and ramps encroaching on roads and causing traffic jams.

The row started after the ramp of a hospital building and a restaurant, both owned by BRS leaders, constructed in the area of full tank level (FTL) of Saddala Cheruvu were demolished.

Examining the debris of the restaurant, former minister and BRS Suryapet MLA G. Jagadish Reddy alleged that officials were taking up demolition of buildings of BRS leaders due to pressure from the ruling party. He asked the officials not to become a part of the vengeful acts.

Suryapet municipal commissioner Srinivas clarified that demolition of structures was taken up by the municipal authorities only after issuing notices to their owners.

Messages went viral in social media, saying BRS leaders constructed buildings occupying malas in violation of the rules and 100 huts of poor families were removed at Pulla Reddy Cheruvu during BRS government.

● SURYAPET MUNICIPAL commissioner Srinivas clarified that demolition of structures was taken up by the municipal authorities only after issuing notices to their owners.

Dana Kishore proposes 12 units to check floods

₹8.07 cr project to free locations from stagnation during rain

NABINDER BOMMALA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

M. Dana Kishore, principal secretary, municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) department, has proposed constructing 12 rainwater-holding structures at locations which experience water stagnation even if there is moderate spell of rain. The conditions worsen during downpours. The initiative is expected to cost ₹8.07 crore.

This follows a direction by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to the MA&UD department to ensure that commuters do not encounter waterlogging on roads, which causes traffic congestion, during the rainy season.

Near the Khairatabad RTA office, where one such structure has been proposed, commuters wading through knee-deep water and cars being stuck are a common sight during rains.

The capacity of these 12 rainwater-holding structures is 23.35 lakh litres and the probable date of commencement of works is the last week of June. Tenders have been floated for the process, and works will be executed by the GHMC. Ten of the structures will be located in the Khairatabad zone and one each in the Serilin gampally and Charminar zones. The design of these structures will be similar to underground sumps. They will have pumps and an underground pipeline to carry the water into the nearest stormwater drain.

"Once the structure is filled with water, the automatic mechanism will pump the water to the nearest drain," said a GHMC official.



A municipal worker clears a road inundated with rainwater.



Dana Kishore



Two workers busy opening the manhole lids for making passage to the rainwater.

RELIEF SOON

THE GOVERNMENT WILL BUILD 12 RAINWATER-HOLDING STRUCTURES TO EASE WATERLOGGING DURING THE RAIN:

- PVNR PILLAR 264 (1.5 lakh litre, ₹128 lakh)
- KAROLNAGH 'A' (2 lakh litre, ₹47 lakh)
- NETAJINAGAR COLONY, Langar Houz (2 lakh litre, ₹64.75 lakh)
- RANGMAHAL Y JUNCTION (1.5 lakh litre, ₹78 lakh)
- IMAGE HOSPITAL LANE (1.5 lakh litre, ₹25.50 lakh)
- JOYALUKKAS 'U' TURN (2 lakh litre, ₹25.50 lakh)
- RAJIV GANDHI STATUE (Khairatabad zone) (25,000 litre, ₹52 lakh)
- IN FRONT OF DWARKA HOTEL, LAKDIKAPUL (10,000 litre, ₹33 lakh)
- OLD KCP JUNCTION (3 lakh litre)\*
- RTA OFFICE, Khairatabad (3 lakh litre)\*
- LAKE VIEW GUEST HOUSE (4 lakh litres, ₹138 lakh)
- 100 FEET ROAD, AYYAPPA SOCIETY X ROAD (2.5 lakh litres, ₹47 lakh)

THESE STRUCTURES TOGETHER WILL COST ₹170 LAKH

CM REVIEWS MONSOON PREPAREDNESS, WATERLOGGING

FROM PAGE 1

These include the installation of water harvesters to manage floodwaters efficiently and prevent water accumulation on roads.

To further mitigate traffic issues, the CM instructed authorities to implement physical policing measures and provide traffic alerts to Hyderabad residents via FM radio.

He directed the recruitment of home guards to ensure there is no shortage of personnel to address traffic challenges during the rainy season.

Dad SP salutes IAS trainee daughter at NPA seminar

MOULI MAREEDU | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

It was a proud moment for N. Venkateswarlu, a superintendent of police-rank officer and deputy director of the Telangana Police Academy, when he saluted his daughter, N. Uma Harathi, an IAS trainee.

On Saturday, IAS trainee officers along with Uma Harathi visited the police academy for a seminar. Uma Harathi has been posted in Vikarabad.

On seeing his daughter, Venkateswarlu saluted her at the academy. The father and daughter were all smiles, and those at the academy were appreciative of the daughter climbing to a position



Deputy director of the Telangana Police Academy N. Venkateswarlu welcomes his daughter, N. Uma Harathi, an IAS trainee.

— DC that was more senior to the third rank in the her father. Uma Harathi secured UPSC exams, and is a 2022 batch IAS officer.

Illegal structure at Jagan's Lotus Pond house razed

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

The GHMC on Saturday demolished illegal structures built at the compound wall of Andhra Pradesh former chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's residence in Lotus Pond, Jubilee Hills.

The structures were built by encroaching the road for security personnel and staff.

Following rumours of a political conspiracy on social media, GHMC officials said that the demolition was taken up following the complaints of the people, and that they had not received any orders from the state government. "Locals from the locality have complained to us. We had served notices before removing the illegal structures," said a GHMC official. The



The makeshift structure that was built for security personnel was demolished on Saturday.

— R. PAVAN

structures were not demolished earlier due to the security concerns related to a Chief Minister. "Politicising the corporation's enforcement activity is inappropriate," he said.

While local residents welcomed the action for easing traffic, a few BRS leaders alleged that there was a political angle to the demolition. Anticipating protests, the GHMC had informed the police.

New textbooks



The government textbooks are off-loaded at a store run by a private distributor, in Hyderabad on Saturday.

— P. Surendra

20 districts get new collectors in rejig

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

In a major reshuffle of IAS officers, the state government on Saturday appointed new collectors for 20 districts amid reports that a bigger shake-up of senior officials was on the anvil.

This is the first major reshuffle of collectors undertaken by the Congress government after assuming office in December 2023.

No postings were given to a few collectors in some key districts after they were transferred, like Dasari Harichandana, Pamela Satpathy, Ila Tripathi and Bhavesh Mishra. They are likely to be posted at the state level during the reshuffle of IAS officers that is expected very soon. The new collectors are as follows: Muzammil Khan: Khammam, Badavath Santhosh: Nagarkurnool, Sandeep Kumar Jha, joint

managing director, Transco: Sircilla, Anuraag Jayanti: Karimnagar, Ashish Sangwan: Kamareddy; Jitesh V. Patil: Kothagudem; Rahul Sharma: Bhupalpally; Koya Sree Harsha: Peddapalli; P. Pravinia: Hana mkonada; Bud umajii Satya Prasad: Jagtial; B. Vijiendra, special secretary, transport, roads and buildings; Mahubnagar; Kumar Deepak: Mancherial;

Prateek Jain, project officer, ITDA Bhadrachalam: Vikarabad; Narayana Reddy: Nalgonda; Adarsh Surabhi, Khammam municipal commissioner: Wanaparthy; Tejas Nan dlal Pawar: Suryapet; M. Satya Sarada Devi, joint secretary, agriculture and cooperation: Warangal in the place of P Pravinia. Divakara T.S.: Mulugu Abhilasha Abhinav, GHMC zonal commissioner: Nirmal

KUWAIT | HORROR Gangaiah under treatment at Mancherial hospital

TG man used cell light to flee fire

PRATHYUSH NALLELLA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

Kotte Gangaiah, a resident of Mancherial district, survived the fire accident in Kuwait last week and is receiving treatment at a hospital.

Gangaiah, 49, hailing from Kommugudem village in Lakshettipet mandal, was employed as a helper at a supermarket in Kuwait for 12 years. The supermarket owner had arranged for staff accommodation in a residential building in

Mangaf, Kuwait. Gangaiah shared a room on the second floor with another Telugu person and two individuals from Kerala. On the day of the incident, Gangaiah said one of the Kerala roommates woke up early for a morning shift, took a bath, and returned around 4.15 am. Hearing his screams, the other three occupants woke up to find thick smoke in their room. While Gangaiah's three roommates jumped to safety from the second floor, and fracturing their legs in the



Kotte Gangaiah

process, Gangaiah managed a more cautious escape. Using the torchlight on his mobile phone,

Gangaiah navigated through the smoke-filled room. His eyes burning, he carefully climbed down to a lower ledge with the aid of a cable. Eventually, he descended using a ladder provided by residents of the neighbouring building. Gangaiah, who was admitted to the hospital, has undergone scans, X-rays, and other tests. He sustained minor injuries and experienced heightened heart rate and blood pressure due to the stress of the incident. His condition is now stable.

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SHORT TAKES

IT'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE: NAYAK

FROM PAGE 1

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Nayak said after the announcement: "I am very happy. This is like a dream come true. What elates me is that I am the first Banjara writer who has won this award."

"I really hope and pray that more and more people come out and write about our state and our tribe. We really need people to tell their stories," Nayak said.

OVER 150 ATTEND PLASTIC SURGERY SCREENING CAMP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

More than 150 patients with birth defects, burns and traumatic injuries turned up at the plastic surgery screening camp conducted by the Hyderabad police in collaboration with Aakar Asha Hospital, at HACA Bhavan on Saturday.

Screening tests and other investigations were done for the patients.

Hyderabad police commissioner K. Sreenivasa Reddy inaugurated the camp and interacted with the patients. CCS DCP N. Swetha, Women Safety and Cyber Crimes DCP D. Kavitha, Dr. Bhartendu Swain, Dr. Shalini Sampreeti, Dr. Tejaswi Das and others participated in the camp.

UTKOOR COP SUSPENDED FOR MOB LYNCHING

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

Utkoor sub-inspector B. Srinivasulu, who received information from the Dial 100 staff regarding a mob lynching a farmer over a land dispute, upbraided the staff for mentioning the call, according to an inquiry.

During his inquiry, Narayanpet SP Yogesh Gautham found out that Srinivasulu was aware about the land dispute between the victim Sanjay and others in Chinaporla village which led to the lynching. The issue had been brewing for a month.

When Gautham asked why he had failed to take action on the land dispute complaint, Srinivasulu stated that it was "a silly issue." Srinivasulu has been suspended by inspector-general of police G. Sudheer Babu.

TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS FOR ID-UL-ZUHA

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

For the congregational prayers Id-ul-Zuha (Bakrid) on June 17, the Hyderabad traffic police has issued vehicular restrictions at Mir Alam Tank, Masab Tank and Langer Houz.

At the Mir Alam idgah, parking areas are designated near Nehru Zoo Park, Masjid Allah-akbar, Modern Saw Mill, Mir Alam filter bed and Indian Oil petrol bunk. Namazis will be allowed through Purnanapal, Kamatipura, Kishanbagh, hivarampally, Danamma Huts and Kalapather.

Vehicles from Purnanapal towards Bahadurpura will be diverted at Purnanapal Darwaza towards Jaguda and City College. Vehicles coming from Shamshabad, Rajendranagar and Mailardevpally towards Bahadurpura will be diverted at Aramghar Junction towards Shamshabad/Rajendranagar/Mailardevpally.

For the prayers at Masab Tank's hockey grounds, no traffic will be allowed under the Masab Tank flyover. Traffic from Mehdiapatnam side and from Lakdikapul side will be allowed only on the flyover.

Traffic from Mehdiapatnam to Banjara Hills will be routed through Masab Tank, Lakdikapul, Khairatabad and Taj Krishna, while traffic from Banjara Hills towards Lakdikapul will be diverted past Taj Krishna and via Khairatabad.

At Langer Houz, general traffic coming from Nanalagar towards Andhra Floor Mill will be diverted at Balika Bhavan junction towards Lakshminagar, while traffic coming from Langer Houz will not be allowed towards Military Hospital and will be diverted at Idgah U-turn at Military Hospital towards Moghal Ka Nala.

Salar Jung had instilled values in Nizam: Family

Ahtheram Khan delivers lecture on 135th birth anniv. of Salar Jung III

SHRIMANSI KAUSHIK I DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

From breaking chandeliers to donating expensive pocket watches, the upbringing of the sixth Nizam, Mir Mahboob Ali Khan, happened most gloriously under the guidance of Salar Jung I, said Ahtheram Khan, a member of the Salar Jung family. He was delivering a memorial lecture on the 135th birth anniversary of Salar Jung III at the lecture hall in the eastern block of the Salar Jung Museum.

Ahtheram Khan said that Salar Jung was one of the most curious persons, and became an expert in the things he collected while travelling around the world. After his death, the family had agreed to donate these articles to the nation at the insistence of then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

He congratulated the staff and security personnel at the museum who have kept the collection from Yousuf Ali Khan (Salar Jung III) safe and secure.

Ahtheram Khan also shared how Salar Jung I raised the sixth Nizam.

"Afzal-ud-Daula, the fifth Nizam, was diabetic and died very early. His son, who was just six years old



Ahtheram Khan (right), a member of the Salar Jung family, garlands a portrait of Nawab Mir Yousuf Ali Khan, popular known as Salar Jung III, on the occasion of the latter's 135th birthday anniversary on Saturday, at Salar Jung Museum on Saturday. — P. SURENDRA

then, became the heir. With other nobles vying for the throne, Salar Jung ensured that the rightful heir became the king," he said.

He shared two incidents highlighting the values Salar Jung wanted to instil in the Nizam.

One day, as a child, the sixth Nizam smashed a pedestal chandelier. Salar Jung came to know about it, which petrified the Nizam. Seeing that the child was afraid, he handed him his walking stick and ordered him to break

all the other chandeliers at the dining table as well, recounted Ahtheram Khan.

Salar Jung then said, "Your Exalted Highness, you are going to rule this country one day, you should not be bothered about these petty losses."

In another incident, a nobleman gifted the Nizam an expensive British pocket watch. When Salar Jung came to know about it, he asked the nobleman to pay Rs 10,000 as a fine. When asked the reason

for it, he said, "I have been trying to teach the Nizam that as a ruler, he is supposed to give, not take. While inculcating such ethics, I do not want him to be deterred by these trivialities."

The nobleman paid the fine, from which another 200 such pocket watches were purchased and given away as gifts by the government, Ahtheram Khan said.

"As Salar Jung took care of him, the sixth Nizam took Yousuf Ali Khan, Salar Jung III, under his wing. His father, Laik Ali Khan, died when he was just a month old. This child, well-educated and a scholar, was given the diwani at an early age, but he was not interested in administration and hence diverted his mind to collecting antiques. He collected everything that caught his eye, and that is how the collection, then kept at Dewan Deodi, began to soar," said Ahtheram Ali Khan.

He specified that the collection has some of the rarest artefacts, such as figures in porcelain made by the famous sculptor Gary Baldy, with the subject Alexander training his horse. Similarly, there are Tipu Sultan's ivory chairs, Noor Jahan's knife, Mary Antoinette's table, and other rare pieces.

ACB seeks info on bribe-taking cop

MOULI MAREEDU I DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

The ACB has obtained details of 32 cases which were investigated by inspector Ch. Sudhakar, arrested recently while taking a ₹3 lakh bribe, suspecting that he had indulged in corruption while dealing with those cases.

Sudhakar belongs to the Hyderabad Central Crime Station (CCS) economic offence wing (EOW). ACB officials have asked those whom Sudhakar may have extorted, to approach the bureau.

Sources said that the ACB officials verified a few FIRs which were registered by the CCS EOW and entrusted to Sudhakar for investigation. When the officials inquired with some accused in the cases, a few hesitated to reveal details while others spoke of Sudhakar's demands.

It is following this information that the ACB officials asked the complainants to come forward and lodge complaints with the ACB for taking action against Sudhakar.

In the case in which he was arrested, Sudhakar was handling a cheating case against Mani Ranga Swamy Ayyar, a consultant, of Old Bowenpally, One C.V.S. Satya Prasad had lodged a complaint



Inspector Ch. Sudhakar (in picture above) was arrested recently for taking ₹3 lakh bribe.

against Swamy.

The ACB said Sudhakar bargained with Swamy and fixed the bribe at ₹15 lakh to let the accused off the hook. As advanced, the inspector demanded ₹5 lakh. Swamy approached the ACB. Initially, Swamy gave ₹3 lakh at which time the ACB caught the inspector red-handed.

ACB officials said that they had a tough time catching the inspector, who noticed them, threw away the bag carrying the bribe amount and started running from the Old CP office premises. ACB officers chased and caught him. An officials said the bureau would approach the court for Sudhakar's custody for interrogation, and unearth his illegal properties.

Med body finds 122 fake doctors in Khammam

SHRIMANSI KAUSHIK I DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

A 30-member group of the Telangana Medical Council and Indian Medical Association, led by chairman Dr Mahesh Kumar and vice-chairman Dr G Srinivas, identified 122 fake doctors in Khammam on Saturday. They said there were at least 250 fake doctors in the district. The team will inspect medical centres in the district for four more days.

Inspections were carried out across Khammam Urban and Rural at Kusumanchi, M. Venkatayapalem, Nelakondapalli, Konijarla, Mudigonda, Vaira, Tallada, Enukuru, Jullur Padu, Kallur, Kothagudem, Sujatha Nagar, B.M. Banjara, Raghunadhapalem, Karepalli, Mulkalapalli, Tekulapalli, Kamepalli, Illandu, Mucharla, and Thimmarao Peta.

The 122 fake doctors were identified in the Tirumalayapalem and Pindiprolu areas. Claiming to be RMPs and PMPs, they administered antibiotics, steroid injections and painkillers.

Dr Srinivas said legal actions would be taken against them. Ethical committee chairman Dr Kiran Kumar said that illegal operations, including clandestine abortion procedures and excessive steroid injections for knee pain, were being conducted under the guise of first aid centres. A surveillance system has been established to monitor these activities.

Public relations committee chairman Dr Naresh Kumar stated that no one should practice medicine without a medical degree. Those with paramedical training should only provide basic treatment and refer patients to government hospitals.

Ethical committee chairman Dr Kiran Kumar said that illegal operations, including clandestine abortion procedures and excessive steroid injections for knee pain, were being conducted under the guise of first aid centres. Reports suggest 250 fake doctors in the district.



Jubilant officers and their proud family members at the combined graduation parade at the Air Force Academy in Dundigal. — S. SURENDER REDDY

ENTHRALLING SHOW



Lead by example, IAF officers told at parade

FROM PAGE 1

He urged the newly commissioned officers to lead by example with professional competence, courage, and empathy. He also highlighted the IAF's vision of 'People First, Mission Always,' encouraging the graduates to demonstrate these values in their service.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari conferred the President's Commission on the new officers, including 22 women. The event also saw the awarding of 'Wings' to nine officers from the Indian Navy, nine from the Indian Coast Guard, and one from a foreign nation. Twentyfive cadets from

the National Defence Academy were commissioned into the ground duty branches.

Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command, and Air Marshal S. Shrinivas, Commandant AFA,

welcomed the IAF chief. The parade began with a general salute, followed by an impressive march past and synchronised fly-pasts featuring Pilatus PC-7 Mk-II, Hawk, Kiran, and Chetak helicopters.

Flying Officer Happy Singh from the flying branch receiving the President's Plaque and the Chief of the Air Staff

Sword of Honour for overall excellence in the pilots' course. Flying Officer Taufeeq Raza was awarded the President's Plaque for his outstanding performance in the ground duty officers' course.

The event concluded with the new officers marching to the traditional notes of 'Anandaloke' by Rabinranath Tagore, receiving their first salute from their juniors.

The grand finale featured an exhilarating aerobatic display by the SU-30 MKI, the Sarang helicopter display team, and the Surya Kiran aerobatic team.

Chandu fails to champion the cause, falls flat

FILM: CHANDU CHAMPION  
Director: Kabir Khan  
Starring: Kartik Aaryan, Ayan Khan, Sroha, Vijay Raaz, Bhuvan Arora

L. RAVICHANDER

Vikabir Khan works on his next sport-pic. From the winners of the World Cup cricket, he moves to the Paralympics. This biopic based on the life of India's first gold medal winner way back at its fourth edition at Munich and Heidelberg. Coming close on heels of 'Srikant' (Rajkumar Rao), it is bound to be compared. Unfortunately, there is something amiss with both the films.

'Chandu Champion' is a clear pointer that good

intent in itself is insufficient. For someone who worked on credibility with his '83' and his capacity to deal with thrillers — 'New York', 'Ek Tha Tiger' — this outing looks almost amateurish and often lacking in credibility.

Young Murlikant Petkar (Ayan Khan) eyes fame very early in life. His disciplinarian dad would swallow none of his nonsense. However, young Murali skips school and lands up in the local vyayamashala and learns a trick or two in wrestling. When he defeats a local hero, the village bigwigs chase him out of the village.

We have Murali (Kartik Aaryan) get into a running train. Everywhere he goes, he is handed over the sobriquet 'Chandu Champion', which is more a taunt than an acknowledgment. He soon joins the Indian armed forces. He, with his friend Karnail Singh (Bhuvan Arora),



undergo regular training. Murali's talent is recognised by his superior Uttam Singh (Yashpal

Sharma) who are trained in boxing by Tiger Ali (Vijay Raaz). They make big news at the

International Military Games at Moscow. When he returns with a silver, his trainer is disap-

pointed and furious. However, sports take a back seat when he is posted in Kashmir.

The 1985 war takes a toll on him. He loses Karnail on the battlefield and suffers a bullet injury that makes him immobile. On a wheelchair, he sees his dream for an Olympic gold shattering. How he is inspired to part take in the Paralympics in swimming and how he brings home a gold is what 'Chandu Champion' is about.

He survives multiple close calls with death. Fate's favoured child at one level, he ensures his gut and determination get him his cherished gold.

The storyline is pregnant with multiple opportunities but at every such opportunity it falters. The war scenes border on being amateurish. His realization is fought with paralysis is hurried and mixed needlessly with a

gambler attendant in Topaz (Rajpal Yadav).

The finale is all too predictable. Actors with talent like Sonali Kulkarni and Shreyas Talpade are wasted. They are reduced to glorified props.

The film depends largely on Kartik Aaryan and his wherewithal to make the grade.

He obviously worked a lot (and very successfully) on his body.

However, he is far from convincing in the fight and nobly scenes. No fire in the belly. He comes into his own when called upon to emote. He does his best to save a half-baked script. He too is half-equipped, part prepared.

The film is handicapped by its script and badly needs a cinematic high to be a winner. Murlikant Petkar survived his handicap to tell his story. 'Chandu Champion' does not.

SHORT TAKES

LEOPARD STRAYS INTO TN SCHOOL, CAUGHT IN HOURS

Tirupathur, June 15: A leopard that strayed into a school campus here on June 14, triggering panic among locals, and later traumatised five occupants of two cars after it entered a car shed, was finally caught in an overnight operation, a senior forest official said on Saturday.

A team of forest department comprising veterinarians, who arrived from Hosur, tranquillised the big cat which was found under a car, in the small hours on Saturday. We have successfully caught the straying leopard. And also rescued the five people stranded in their car the official said.

2 SCHOOL KIDS DROWN IN KERALA POND

Kottayam (Kerala), June 15: Two schoolchildren met a tragic end after drowning in a stone quarry pond in Thrikkodithanam in this district on Saturday.

The students hailing from Ponpuzhakkunnu, were studying in class 10 and six in a local school.

According to police, tragedy struck when they were catching fish in a quarry pond.

It is suspected that one of the children fell into the water initially. The other one also slipped into the water while trying to rescue his friend, they said.

After being informed by the local, police and fire and rescue personnel rushed to the area and launched a search in the pond.

Sidda says no to revenge politics

Says BJP is a political face mask of RSS

Mysuru Jun 15: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said he and his government have never indulged in "vindictive politics" and will not do it in the future too, and accused the BJP of indulging in such practices.

He was reacting to the BJP and JD(S), accusing the Congress government led by him of indulging in vindictive politics, following the arrest warrant against former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa in a Pocco case. JD(S) leader and Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy has alleged that the Congress government in the state was now targeting the Yediyurappa family, after targeting former prime minister H.D. Deve Gowda's family. Speaking to reporters here, Siddaramaiah asked, "When they (BJP) booked cases against us, was it not targeting? Against me, against D.K. Shivakumar, Rahul Gandhi, cases were booked, what should that be called? They had cancelled Rahul Gandhi's membership (of Lok Sabha). What should that be called?"

Yediyurappa has been booked under the Pocco Act and Section 354 A, based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-

K'taka raises sales tax on petrol, diesel

Bengaluru, Jun 15: Karnataka government on Saturday increased sales tax on fuel which will make petrol and diesel costlier.

According to official sources, petrol will now go up by Rs 3 and diesel by Rs 3.5 per litre. In a notification issued by the finance department, the government has raised sales tax on petrol by 3.92 percentage points, from 25.92 to 29.84 per cent. On diesel, it is 4.1 percentage points, from 14.34 to 18.44 per cent.

The move, aimed at resource mobilisation,

comes after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is also the finance minister, reviewed the state's revenue generation and fiscal position.

According to sources, the increased price is expected to generate ₹2,500-₹2,800 crore during the financial year. Hitting out at the government, Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra urged the chief minister to roll back the hike in petrol and diesel prices, as he threatened a state wide protest by the party on Monday.

old girl who alleged that he molested her daughter during a meeting on February two this year, at his residence in Dollars Colony in Bengaluru.

Asked whether eight MPs from South India being made union ministers was part of a larger plan by PM Modi to expand the BJP in the south, Siddaramaiah said, no matter what they do, people in South India won't support the BJP because it is "RSS political face mask."

"They faced a setback in the north too in the Lok Sabha polls, in Uttar Pradesh and Mumbai. A RSS leader has said that people have taught them (BJP) a lesson for their arrogance," he said.

Regarding the NEET exam issue, the CM said, "There has been injustice to students who have worked hard. A re-exam has to be done," he said.

EARTHQUAKE OF MAGNITUDE 3.0 FELT IN THRISSUR

Thrissur, Jun 15: A mild earthquake of 3.0 magnitude on Richter Scale struck parts of Thrissur and Palakkad districts on Saturday, official sources said.

The National Center for Seismology (NCS) reported that an earthquake of 3.0 magnitude was recorded in the region at 8.15 AM today. Thrissur District authorities told PTI that the tremors were felt for four seconds. However, there are no immediate reports of damage/injuries. — PTI

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5 Contact no. of Procurement officer Mobile- 9199253106

6 Helpline number Mobile- 9934036058/ 9973277482

NOTE:- Only e-Tenders will be accepted. Separate EMD and Tender Fee have to be given for different groups. Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in.

PR 326606 District(24-25)#D  
Administrator, Nagar Parishad, Dumka

Government of Jharkhand Rural Works Department  
JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JSRRDA)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS  
(National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement)  
eTender No.- 02/ 2024-25- 1552(Encl.)Ranchi, Dated: 14.06.2024

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Jharkhand invites item rate bids through e-Procurement from the eligible bidders registered\* in appropriate class with any State/Central Government/State/Central Government Organization for construction and maintenance for five years of the works (List of schemes shall be displayed in the website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in) of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna PM-JANMAN (Batch-1, 2023-24).

Sl. no.	District / Block	Package Number	Mega Package No	Road Name	Type	Length (in Kms.)	Cont. Cost (in Lakh)	Maint. Cost (in Lakh)	Total Cost (in Lakh)	EMD (in Lakh)	Time period (in Months)	
1	Chatra Sadar	JH02XCL 001	JH-02-PMJAN-AN-CHA-01 / 2023-24	L022-PMGSY NH-100-SAIL SEREGEDA ROAD TO SAHEDA	Road	1.055	105.83	3.46	109.29	348.94	6.98	
2	Chatra Sadar	JH02XCL 002		L021-NH99 CHATRA BAGRA RD TO ARUDANA	Road	1.825	148.21	10.63	158.84			
3	Chatra Sawalong	JH02XCL 003		L021-RATNAG-BARWADIH ROAD TO PURNATAND BIHORE TOLA	Road	1.08	74.38	6.43	80.81			
4	Dumka/Masalia	JH05AEC 002	JH-05-PMJAN-AN-DUM-01 / 2023-24	L021-Taldangal to pabadiya tola	Road	0.85	142.03	10.62	152.65	414.86	8.30	
5	Dumka/Rangari	JH05AEC 001		L021-REGO ROAD BASKO TO LATHIPHAR	Road	2.41	242.33	19.88	262.21			
6	Jamtara/Jamtara Sadar	JH12AEC 002	JH-12-PMJAN-JAM-01 / 2024-25	L021-Sahar Dangal PMGSY To Chandripa Pharitola	Road	2.01	178.8	15.39	194.19	648.04	12.96	
7	Jamtara/Kundbit	JH12AEC 004		L023-Talpokharis to Muridih Khujuria (Pahariyatola) via Madhapur	Road	4.5	338.09	27.47	365.56			
8	Jamtara/Nala	JH12AEC 001		L021-PMGSY Morbasa Godpal To Lakdhara Pharitola	Road	1.035	79.8	8.49	88.29			
9	Letchar/Barwadih	JH14ITG/002	JH-14-PMJAN-LAT-01 / 2023-24	L021-AKHIRA R.C.D ROAD TO PARHAIYA TOLA	Road	1	83.26	7.06	90.32	424.08	8.48	
10	Letchar/Barwadih	JH14-ITG-003		L022-MURGIDIH R.C.D TO RWD ROAD VIA MURGIDIH HOSPITAL	Road	2	148.85	14.94	163.79			
11	Letchar/Garu	JH14-ITG-001		L021-ARMU R.C.D ROAD TO ARMU ALIS MARCHAIA	Road	2.1	155.52	14.45	169.97			
12	Palamu/Chainpur	JH17MA RS108	JH-17-PMJAN-PAL-01 / 2023-24	L021-Gore to Korwa tola via Balahiya vilage korwa tola	Road	2.3	204.78	16.04	220.82	864.96	17.30	
13	Palamu/Chainpur	JH17MA RS112		L022-Sarabaha to korwa tola via Saraha School	Road	0.77	70.93	6.08	77.01			
14	Palamu/Chainpur	JH17MA RS109		L024-RCD Karso to Pachhwa	Road	4.446	387.92	24.14	412.06			
15	Palamu/Chainpur	JH17MA RS105	JH-17-PMJAN-PAL-02 / 2023-24	L026-Gore Pipratand korwa tola to Nawadih pwd road	Road	1.696	146.09	8.98	155.07	186.91	3.74	
16	Palamu/Panki	JH17MA RS103		L022-PMGSY Road Parhiya Tola To Hutai	Road	1.875	167.86	19.05	186.91			
17	Palamu/Patan	JH17MA RS102	JH-17-PMJAN-PAL-03 / 2023-24	L021-Tisbar Bridge to Chetma Picket	Road	7.848	701.28	69.66	770.94	770.94	15.42	
18	Saraikela Kharsawan/Chandil	JH20TKE -B-01		L022-RIO ROAD HESAKOCHA TO KADAMBERA VIA RANGMATIYA	Road	10.5	909.95	59.31	969.26			
1	Saraikela Kharsawan/Chandil	JH20TKE -B-01	JH-19-PMJAN-2023-24-SRK-01 / 2023-24	HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE OVER LOCAL NALA AT CHAINAGE 7-030 IN L022-REGO ROAD HESAKOCHA TO KADAMBERA VIA RANGMATIYA	Bridge	17.15 M	130.22	1.4	131.62	131.62	2.63	
Total							49.30	4416.13	343.48	4759.61	4759.61	

The bid should be submitted online in the website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in. The bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate for online submission of bid.

Details of bid submission is as under:

Procurement Officer	Place of Opening	Availability of tender (on-line) for bidding		Last date & time of seeking clarification	Last date and time of bid submission	Date & time of opening (on-line) of tender	
		From	To			Technical bid	Financial bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9
Engineer in Chief, JSRRDA, Ranchi	Engineer in Chief, JSRRDA, Ranchi	18.06.2024 at 10.00 AM	08.07.2024 upto 5.00 PM	01.07.2024 upto 2.00 PM	08.07.2024 upto 5.00 PM	08.07.2024 at 05.30 PM	To be informed later

\* Non-registered bidders may also submit bid, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract.  
\*\* Cost may change.

- Note:-
- Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.
  - Cost of Bid Document (Rs. 10000) and Bid Security (as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet) shall be deposited online in form as mentioned in Bid Data Sheet failing which the bid will be treated non responsive and action shall be taken as per Sec. 2 of ITB clause 12.2 (d).
  - In case, it is found, even after the award of work that the bidder has submitted/ uploaded any false/erroneous/fraudulent statement/document, he/she is liable for blacklisting and forfeiture of Bid Security.
  - Bidders must submit GST registration certificate without which bid is liable to be rejected.
  - Bidders whose names appear in the Debar/blacklist of RWD or any department of GoI/GoI (including JSRRDA) shall not be allowed to participate in the above bids.
  - Bids submitted by bidders, who have long pending ATR(s) / made inordinate delay in execution of earlier allotted construction/maintenance works of PMGSY, may be rejected summarily.
  - In case of any discrepancy/dispute about units in BOQ, units as mentioned in Current SOR on which BOQ has been prepared shall prevail.
  - Participating bidders are free to submit grievances, if any, against the decision of technical evaluation within five days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation only through email at [jb-ec@pmgsy.nic.in](mailto:jb-ec@pmgsy.nic.in) Grievance submitted after stipulated period shall not be considered.
  - Bidders must have valid registration with Employee Provident Fund organization under EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 failing which the bid shall be rejected.
  - Bidders must not quote rate for routine maintenance. The amount for routine maintenance as indicated in the Bill of Quantities must be acceptable to bidders.
  - For unbalanced bids, extra security will be required to be deposited by the bidder at the time of Agreement.
  - The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the tender at any stage without giving prior notice/reason.
- All other details can be seen in the bidding document which is available in website [pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in](http://pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in) as per schedule mentioned above.

Engineer-in- Chief  
Rural Works Department- Cum- JSRRDA, Ranchi  
PR 326549 Rural Work Department(24-25)D

Indira mother of India: Suresh Gopi

Thrissur, Jun 15: Union Minister Suresh Gopi described former PM Indira Gandhi as the "mother of India" and late Congress Chief Minister K Karunakaran as a "courageous administrator".



Suresh Gopi

The BJP leader also called Karunakaran and Marxist veteran E K Nayanar as his "political gurus". Gopi was speaking to reporters after visiting the memorial of Karunakaran, "Murali Mandiram" located in Punkunnam here. Interestingly, Suresh Gopi had won Thrissur Lok Sabha constituency by dashing the hopes of Karunakaran's son and Congress leader K Muraledharan who finished third in a triangular contest in the April 26 polls.

Urging mediapersons not to add any political connotation to his visit to Karunakaran memorial, the BJP leader said he came here to pay his respects to his "guru". He said that, like Nayanar and his wife Sarada Teacher, he had close relations with Karunakaran and his wife

Kalyanikutty Amma also. He had visited Nayanar's home in Kannur and renewed his relationship with his family members on June 12. Gopi said as he viewed Indira Gandhi as "bharathahinte mathavu" (mother of India), Karunakaran was the "father of the Congress party in the state" for him. He explained that describing Karunakaran as the "father" of the Congress in Kerala was not a disrespect to the founders or co-founders of the grand old party in the southern state. He also hailed the administrative capabilities of the Congress veteran and dubbed him "courageous administrator" of his generation. — PTI

DMK accuses NTA of NEET sabotage

Chennai, June 15: Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK on Saturday accused the National Testing Agency (NTA) of spoiling the sanctity of NEET and blamed the BJP-led government at the Centre for being a 'spectator' and backing coaching centres that earned in crores.

THE PETITION noted that the results declared by the NTA showed that 67 candidates scored the maximum possible marks of 720 out of 720.

Yet again, the DMK sought scrapping the national test, saying it alone would protect the sanctity of education sector. Referring to the Centre telling the Supreme Court days ago that the grace marks of 1,563 students would be cancelled, DMK's Tamil mouthpiece *Murasoli* said the BJP government would not have done this if the matter had not been taken to the apex court.

The plea stated, "The sanctity of the examination is questionable in view of confirmed cases of question paper leakage, for which FIRs have been lodged and several individuals have been arrested, according to media reports."

While hearing separate petitions regarding grievances over the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-2024, the Supreme Court sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on a plea for a CBI probe into allegations of question paper leaks and other irregularities in the exam. The new plea argues that due to "rampant irregularities and fraudulent

practices," a re-examination would help shortlist deserving students for admission to medical institutions.

The petition noted that the results declared by the NTA showed that 67 candidates scored the maximum possible marks of 720 out of 720. "These significant irregularities need to be thoroughly investigated by the CBI or another independent agency under the supervision of this court to ensure justice for the many meritorious students affected by the systemic failure to conduct a fair examination," the petitioners contended.

Directorate of Veterinary Services Chhattisgarh  
Indrawati Bhawan, Block-3, Nawa Rajpur, Atal Nagar  
Phone No. 0771-2331393, 94.95 Fax No. 0771-2331392/95  
Email- [dirvet.cg@nic.in](mailto:dirvet.cg@nic.in)

Tender Cancellation Notice  
Tender Ref. No. : 440/ Veterinary Vaccines/DVS,CG/2023-24/Dated: 29/01/2024  
Subject :- Cancellation of the referred Tender.  
Due to inadequate eligible bidder participation, the tender no. 440/ Veterinary Vaccines/DVS,CG/2023-24/Dated: 29/01/2024 has been cancelled.

Sd/- Director  
Veterinary Services,  
Chhattisgarh

G-242500335/ 3

TELANGANA LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT, SAIFABAD, HYDERABAD  
Notification No: 71/R&P/2024, Date: 13.06.2024.

TENDER NOTICE  
Secretary to State Legislature, Telangana Legislative Secretariat, Hyderabad invites sealed tenders from experienced agencies of repute, for providing Canteen Services in Telangana Legislature (Council & Assembly) premises, Hyderabad. In addition, the agency/company may also be required to serve refreshments during the important events, national and state functions, meetings/ conferences which will be held in Telangana Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly premises.

2. The interested reputed agencies whose office is located in Hyderabad and with an experience in running of the canteen of government departments/institutions/ organizations/Public Undertakings/MSMEs/registered companies are requested to submit their Sealed Tenders in the Tender Box at Legislature (Reception & Protocol) Secretariat, Telangana Legislative Secretariat, Saifabad, Hyderabad, as per the time schedule shown below.

1) Sale of Tender Documents: On all working days from 21.06.2024 to 29.06.2024 between 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM. 2) Cost of Tender Documents: Rs. 1,000/- (Non-refundable) Demand Draft in favour of the Secretary to State Legislature, Telangana Legislative Secretariat, Hyderabad. 3) Place of Sale and receipt of Tender Document: Legislature (Reception & Protocol) Secretariat, Ground Floor, Administrative Building, Telangana Legislative Secretariat, Saifabad, Hyderabad. 4) Pre bid meeting / Site Visit Date: 03.07.2024 at 11.00 AM. 5) Last Date for submission of Tenders: 10.07.2024 up to 4.00 PM. 6) Opening of Sealed Tenders: 20.07.2024 at 4.00 PM in the Committee Hall-I, Assembly Buildings, Hyderabad.

3. The Secretary to State Legislature, Telangana Legislative Secretariat, Hyderabad reserves the right to cancel any one or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- SECRETARY TO STATE LEGISLATURE,  
SAIFABAD, HYDERABAD.

R.O. No. : 75-PP/CL/AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25

TELANGANA LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT, SAIFABAD, HYDERABAD  
Notification No. 128/O.P./2024, Date: 12.06.2024

TENDER NOTICE  
Secretary to State Legislature, Telangana Legislative Assembly, Hyderabad invites tenders from agencies of repute having experience in supplying manpower of Government/ State / Central/ Public Undertakings, to meet the manpower requirements of Legislature Secretariat in the categories of Reporters, Assistant Telugu Translators, Stenographers, TCAs, Typists, Office Subordinates, Sweepers and Sanitary Workers etc. Interested agencies with proven track record and capabilities in the field may only participate in the Tender process.

The Companies/firms having experience in the field can obtain the tender documents from the Legislature (O.P.) Secretariat, 1st floor, Administration building, Legislature Secretariat on payment of Rs. 1,000/- (Non-refundable) by way of demand draft in favour of Secretary to State Legislature, Telangana Legislative Secretariat, Hyderabad between 11.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on all working days upto 25.06.2024.

The tender documents completed in all respects shall be submitted to the Legislature (O.P.) Secretariat, 1st floor, Administration building, Legislature Secretariat between 11.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on all working days upto 08.07.2024 along with an Earnest Money Deposit (refundable) of Rs. 1,00,000/- (One Lakh only) by way of Demand Draft drawn in favour of the Secretary to State Legislature.

Tenders will be opened at 4.30 p.m. on 12.07.2024.

The undersigned reserves the right to cancel any one or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- SECRETARY TO STATE LEGISLATURE,  
SAIFABAD, HYDERABAD.

R.O. No. : 74-PP/CL/AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD. (A Government of India Enterprise - Mini Ratna)  
CIN : L74999DL199900101707

IRCTC invites bids for the following:-

- E-Tender No. 2024/IRCTC/Carpentry and Mason works/Services/ME/01, for interior repair, and maintenance works in Maharaja Express for season 2024-25. Last date of submission: 01.07.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs. E-mail: [jmservices1@irctc.com](mailto:jmservices1@irctc.com)
- Open E-tender for Maintenance & Upkeep of IRCTC Corporate Building at Sector-44, Gurgaon. Pre Bid Meeting: 25.06.2024 at 12:00 Hrs. at Corporate Office, New Delhi. Last Date of Submission: 08.07.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs. E-mail: [agm@irctc.com](mailto:agm@irctc.com)
- Open E-tender for Setting up, Operation and Management of Food Plazas and Fast Food Units. Last Date of tender of submission: 08.07.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs. E-mail: [moblecatg.tend@irctc.com](mailto:moblecatg.tend@irctc.com)
- Open E-Tender for cum e-auction No. 2024/irctc/citg/refreshment room/01 for provision of catering services in refreshment rooms for a case period of 5 years. Pre-bid meeting: 24.06.2024. Last date of submission: 08.07.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs. E-mail: [anjali5065@irctc.com](mailto:anjali5065@irctc.com)
- Open e-tender cum e-auction 2024/IRCTC/Catg./JAN AAHAAR/01 for provision of catering services in jan aahaar for a period of 5 years. Date of Pre-bid meeting: 24.06.2024. Last date of submission: 08.07.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs. E-mail: [anjali5065@irctc.com](mailto:anjali5065@irctc.com)
- Open E-Tenders For Rail Neer Plant Mangoli (New Delhi) for Supply of 8000 KG of Pasteurised BOPP label Rolls for 500 ML bottles of Rail Neer. Last date of submission 03.07.2024 at 15:00 hrs. E-mail: [railee@irctc.com](mailto:railee@irctc.com)

For details visit [www.irctc.com](http://www.irctc.com) for 1-6, [www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC](http://www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC) for 1-5 and Gem Portal for 06. Document downloading and participation can only be done on [www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC](http://www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC) for 1-5, and Gem Portal for 06.

In case of any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on [www.irctc.com](http://www.irctc.com) for 01-06, [www.tenderwizard.com/](http://www.tenderwizard.com/) for 01-06 and Gem Portal for 06.

IRCTC 11th Floor, Station House, B-146, Brakshamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110 001, Tel: 011-23312336, Fax: 011-23312329  
[ecatering.irctc.co.in](http://ecatering.irctc.co.in)

**SHORT TAKES**

**REMOVE VIDEO OF EXCISE CASE, DELHI HC TELLS SUNITA**

New Delhi, June 15: The Delhi High Court on Saturday directed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal to take down a video recording of court proceedings related to the excise policy case from social media platforms.

In the video, Arvind Kejriwal, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener, is seen addressing a trial court.

A bench of justices Neena Bansal Krishna and Amit Sharma issued notices to six people, including Sunita Kejriwal, and social media intermediaries X, Meta and YouTube on a petition alleging violation of video conferencing rules of the Delhi High Court.

The high court also directed the social media intermediaries to take down similar content if it is brought to their notice that it has been re-posted.

**CONGRESS: GOVT DUTY TO ENSURE FAIR TAKEOVERS**

New Delhi, June 15: The Congress on Saturday said it is the government's responsibility to ensure that competition among corporates is not stifled, oligopolies or monopolies do not emerge and corporate takeovers are free and fair.

It is also the government's responsibility to ensure that undue advantage arising out of access to political power is not exercised, party general secretary Jairam Ramesh said.

His comments came after the Adani Group acquired Penna Cements while strengthening its share in the cement sector in southern India.

**12 TOURISTS DIE AS VEHICLE FALLS INTO ALAKNANDA**

PRITHVIRAJ SINGH | DC DEHRADUN, JUNE 15

Twelve tourists died and 14 were seriously injured on Saturday when a tempo traveler they were in fell 500 meters down the Badrinath National Highway into the Alaknanda River bank in Rudraprayag. All injured were shifted to Rudraprayag district hospital, and seven of them were airlifted to AIIMS Rishikesh.

The incident occurred around 11:28 am when the driver of the ill-fated vehicle, with the number plate HR55AS3679, lost control and the vehicle skidded off the road. The vehicle did not enter the river stream but came crashing down 500 metres from the top of the hill, according to the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF). The accident took place near Raitauli Petrol Pump on the Badrinath National Highway.

**BJP TO ATTRACT MARATHAS AHEAD OF ASSEMBLY POLL**

PRASAD PATIL | DC MUMBAI, JUNE 15

After the Lok Sabha debacle, the BJP has planned a Maratha outreach with an eye on state Assembly polls. The party will communicate the steps it has taken for the welfare of the Maratha community in the last 10 years.

The protest led by activist Manoj Jarange proved to be one of the biggest factors that worked against the BJP in the polls. Despite the 10 per cent reservation in education and jobs provided by the Eknath Shinde government, Maratha organisations ensured the community votes to defeat BJP candidates, particularly in the Marathwada region.

Rejecting the separate 10 per cent reservation, Jarange is insisting for the reservation under the OBC category. Though no political party is supporting Jarange's demand, the community voted in favour of Maha Vikas Aghadi comprising Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar). Former Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrakant Patil admitted that there is a massive unrest in the Maratha community against BJP, which was the biggest factor of the party's Lok Sabha performance.

The Maratha community is the single largest caste in the state accounting for approximately 30 per cent of the population. "The BJP gave reservation and other concessions to the Maratha community. But despite that, there is anger against the BJP in the community," Patil said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with British PM Rishi Sunak, Japan's PM Fumio Kishida, PM of Tunisia Ahmed Hachani, Canada's PM Justin Trudeau, Argentina's President Javier Milei, Kenya President William Ruto, US President Joe Biden, Mauritania President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Pope Francis, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Jordans King Abdullah II, French President Emmanuel Macron, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and UN Secretary-General António Guterres at the G7 venue in southern Italy. — AP/PTI

**After Modi meets Biden, all eyes on Sullivan visit**

During India visit next week, likely to take Pannun case

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 15

After the brief meeting and handshakes between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Italy, all eyes are now on the next high-level exchange in the form of the visit of US national security adviser Jake Sullivan to India, expected next week "to engage the new government on shared US-India priorities, including the trusted, strategic technology partnership".

The visit will also be an opportunity to strengthen the "US-India comprehensive and global strategic partnership" and to "advance both countries' shared vision of a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific region" with an eye on growing Chinese military assertiveness in the region.

It may be recalled that Biden had discussed the forthcoming visit of Sullivan to India with Modi in the congratulatory phone call made on the morning of June 6 in the wake of the NDA's electoral victory on June 4.

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), a connectivity initiative envisaged to connect India to Europe via the Middle East that was launched at the G-20 summit hosted by India last year, is also expected to be discussed during the visit, along with the current situation in West Asia arising from the Israel-Gaza conflict and Iran-Israel tensions.

During his visit, Sullivan is also likely to take the Pannun case.



Swati Maliwal

**CUSTODY OF SWATI ABUSER EXTENDED**

New Delhi, June 15: A court here on Saturday extended till June 22 the judicial custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar. Kumar is accused of assaulting AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal on May 13 at the CM's official residence.

Kumar was produced through video conferencing before the duty metropolitan magistrate, who extended the custody and directed the Delhi Police to produce him on June 22.

On Friday, the court had extended Kumar's custody by one day. Kumar was arrested on May 18.

He was sent to police custody for five days the same day by a magisterial court. On May 24, he was sent to four days judicial custody, following which he was again remanded in police custody for three days.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Canada PM Justin Trudeau on the sidelines of the G7 summit. — PTI

**India-Italy agree to strengthen relations**

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 15

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held the scheduled bilateral meeting with his Italian Prime Minister and G7 summit host Giorgia Meloni late on Friday night (IST), where both nations agreed to strengthen their strategic partnership, trade and security ties. Soon after his meeting with Meloni, Modi entered into a bilateral meeting with Japanese PM Fumio Kishida, wherein the two Prime Ministers reviewed collaboration between India and Japan in several important areas.

During Modi's meeting with Meloni on the sidelines of the G7 summit in the Apulia region of Italy, the warm friendship and camaraderie between the two leaders were evident, especially in the video selfie in which the Italian

PM is seen waving with the Prime Minister and saying "Hello from the Melodi team" and the two leaders having a hearty laugh.

In a statement on the meeting between Modi and Meloni, New Delhi said, "The two leaders noted with satisfaction the regular higher political dialogue and reviewed the progress of the India-Italy strategic partnership. While expressing happiness at growing trade and economic collaboration, they called for expanding commercial ties in clean energy, manufacturing, space, S&T, telecom, AI and critical minerals to build resilient supply chains. In this context, they welcomed the recent signing of a MoU on industrial property rights, which provides a framework for cooperation on patents, designs and trademarks."

**Pawar, Uddhav say no to turncoats back in parties**

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, JUNE 15

Amid the speculation over the party turncoats wanting to come back to their old folds, NCP founder Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday made it clear that they would not allow any turncoats back in their parties. Buoyed by the success of the MVA in the recently concluded Lok Sabha election, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) are confident that they can turn the table in the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly election without the leaders who have shifted their loyalties in difficult times.



NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray during a joint press conference, in Mumbai on Saturday. — PTI

In June 2022, Eknath Shinde had rebelled against the then Maharashtra chief minister Uddhavand split the Shiv Sena. Shinde became the chief minister with the support of the BJP. Post this, Ajit Pawar also joined the BJP-

**PEACE SUMMIT: PAVAN INDIA'S REPRESENTATIVE**

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 15

India will be represented by the MEA's secretary (West) Pavan Kapoor at the two-day Peace Summit on the Russia-Ukraine conflict that began on Saturday near Lucerne that is being hosted by Switzerland.

New Delhi is expected to pitch "dialogue and diplomacy" as the only way forward to arrive at a resolution of the conflict that has now dragged on for more than two years. India has close ties with both Russia and Ukraine and has declared that it would "continue to do everything within its means to support a peaceful solution."

India had announced earlier this week that it would participate in the conference which is backed by the West. Russia has not been invited and China has decided to stay away.

However, India's decision to attend the conference indicates New Delhi's desire to contribute to a solution to the conflict that has consumed thousands of lives on both sides.

This comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the G7 Summit, during which he said: "India believes in a human-centric approach and peaceful resolution to the conflict."

**SUV with CRPF personnel, J&K cops scotch rumours**

Jammu, June 15: A video showing a Bolero vehicle with plain-clothes men carrying weapons went viral triggering panic among people, thereby prompting the police to clarify that the vehicle was ferrying the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel.

Some people shared a video on Facebook and other social media platforms questioning security for allowing such a suspicious vehicle with armed men on board with number plate hidden by a newspaper piece.

"As confirmed the vehicle in the video was carrying the CAPF personnel and some social media handles unnecessarily try to create panic among general masses and spread misinformation," said a police spokesman.

The spokesman said people are advised not to pay heed to rumour and fear-mongering. As per sources, the number plates of vehicles carrying security forces are covered. Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday issued an 'alert advisory' in the Jammu region, urging the residents to stay vigilant regarding the movement of suspicious individuals and objects. They have advised the residents of Jammu and Rajouri to thoroughly check their vehicles before turning them on, the officials said. — PTI



Crisis Response Team along with Special Operations Group of the J&K Police personnel during a search operation on the outskirts of Jammu on Saturday. — PTI

**Shah to review J&K security ops today**

New Delhi, June 15: Union home minister Amit Shah will take stock of the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday in the wake of the recent terror attacks there and is expected to give broad guidelines to intensify counter-terror operations, sources said.

The home minister will also review the preparation for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage set to start on June 29.

Shah will chair the high-level meeting three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a similar meeting where he directed officials to deploy the

"full spectrum of counter-terror capabilities" after a spate of terror incidents, including an attack on a bus carrying pilgrims.

National security adviser Ajit Doval, Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha, Army Chief General Manoj Pande, Army Chief-designate LG Upenndra Dwivedi, home secretary Ajay Bhalla, director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, CRPF DG Anish Dayal Singh, Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police R. R. Swain and other top security officials are expected to attend the meeting. — PTI

**Bastar: 8 Maoists killed, 1 jawan dies**

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC RAIPUR, JUNE 15

One jawan and eight Maoists were on Saturday killed in an encounter in Abujhmad area under Narayanpur district in Bastar in Chhattisgarh.

Two security personnel were also injured in the incident, police said.

According to the Bastar police, a joint search operation involving personnel of district reserve guard, special task force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Border Security Force was launched in the forests of Kutal, Farsbeda and Kotameta fal-

ling under Abujhmad in Narayanpur district, following specific intelligence inputs on presence of armed Maoists in the area.

"The security forces came face to face at several places in these forests at around seven am on Saturday, leading to fierce encounters between them", a senior police officer posted in Bastar said.

"Bodies of eight Maoists were recovered along with a huge cache of weapons such as INSAS assault rifle, 303 rifle, and Barrel Grenade Launcher (BGL) at the encounter site", the police said.



Arundhathi Roy

**NC, PDP OPPOSE UAPA ON PROF., ARUNDHATHI ROY**

Srinagar, June 15: The National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party have expressed their disapproval of the prosecution sanction against author Arundhati Roy and a former professor in Kashmir under the stringent UAPA for allegedly making provocative speeches at an event in Delhi in 2010.

According to officials, the FIR against Roy and former Central University of Kashmir professor Sheikh Showkat Hussain was registered following the orders of the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi. Expressing disapproval of the move, the NC stressed the need to uphold the fundamental right of every citizen to free speech.

"The NC expresses its strong disapproval of the prosecution of author Arundhati Roy and Dr Sheikh Showkat Hussain under the UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act). The use of anti-terror laws to suppress dissent and criminalize speech is deeply concerning," it said in a post on X.

"It is also imperative to note that this permission has been granted 14 long years after the alleged speech took place. In the intervening years the speech has been all but forgotten and didn't vitiate the atmosphere in J&K," it said. — PTI

**Release water for humanity: Delhi**

New Delhi, June 15: In view of the water shortage in the national capital, the Delhi government has appealed to Haryana to discharge additional water into the Yamuna on humanitarian grounds, senior AAP leader and minister Atishi said on Saturday.

Delhi's water minister also told a press conference here that the capital is facing a shortage of 70 million gallons per day (MGD) in production due to lack of raw water in the Munak canal and Wazirabad reservoir.

The normal water production of around 1,002 MGD in Delhi went down to 932 MGD on Friday because of lack of raw water, she said.

"The Delhi government has appealed to Haryana to release additional water for the people of the city on humanitarian



A man comes with bottles and a bucket to collect drinking water from a tanker of Delhi Jal Board on a hot summer day at a slum in East Delhi, Saturday. — PTI

grounds," the minister said and added that issues related to share of Yamuna water can be discussed after heatwave conditions abate.

She said no solution to the water crisis in Delhi could be found during the meeting of the Upper Yamuna River Board. — PTI

**DECISION | VIOLATION Before LS poll they announced support for a consensus Naga candidate**

**Naga panel seeks social boycott of Cong. MP**

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, JUNE 15

The United Naga Council (UNC), an apex body of Nagas in Manipur, on Saturday asked for social boycott of newly-elected Congress MP Alfred Kanngam Arthu and two independent candidates from the Outer Manipur Lok Sabha constituency.

Stating that they failed to respect and honour the position of the UNC in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections the UNC in a resolution said that

they should be boycotted from public platforms and holding any position or leadership in Naga society for a period of seven years with immediate effect.

It is significant that before the Lok Sabha election, the Naga body had announced support for a consensus Naga candidate identified by the apex body for the Outer Manipur constituency. However, the three candidates were against this decision and decided to contest the election despite the decision of the UNC..

● **FOUR CANDIDATES** contested from the Outer Manipur constituency in the recent LS polls: Alfred Kanngam Arthu as the Congress candidate, Alyson Abonmai and S Kho John as independent candidates, and Kachui Timothy Zimik as the NPF candidate.

Four candidates contested from the Outer Manipur constituency in the recent Lok Sabha polls: Alfred Kanngam

Arthur as the Congress candidate, Alyson Abonmai and S Kho John as independent candidates, and Kachui Timothy Zimik as the Naga People's Front (NPF) candidate.

The BJP did not contest in Outer Manipur but supported the regional party NPF. Alfred Kanngam Arthu won the seat with a margin of 85,418 votes against his nearest rival Kachui Timothy Zimik.

In a public notification the UNC's secretary of information and publicity, H. James Hau said that

Arthur, along with two independents, has been socially boycotted for a period of seven years from the date of issue of the notification.

The decision was taken according to the resolution adopted by the Naga apex body in its emergency assembly held on May 29 at Town Hall, Panchai, Chandel district, Manipur.

The notification also mentioned that S. Kho John of the Poumai tribe, Allyson Abonmai of the Liangmai tribe, and Alfred

Kanngam Arthu of the Tangkhul tribe failed to respect and honour the position of the UNC in the election. The Poumai, Liangmai, and Tangkhul tribes are sub-tribes of the Naga. The three individuals' willful attempt to challenge the Naga people's position has resulted in their being debarred from public platforms, it added.

They cautioned all the constituent units, subordinate/associate units of the council, and the Naga populace to uphold the resolution of the UNC.

**SAJID NADIADWALA AND KABIR KHAN PRESENT**

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ SUMIT KADEL ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ROHIT JAINWAL ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ONA ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ AAJ TAK ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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**IN CINEMAS NOW**

**RAMAKRISHNA GLITTERATI, ABIDS, 11:30, 6:00, 9:15 p.m.**

**MUKTA A2 SENSATION (Fully Renovated) KHAIRATABAD, 11:45 a.m., 3:00, 9:30 p.m.**

**AMB CINEMAS GACHIBOWLI, 10:20 a.m., 1:20, 4:25, 7:25, 10:30 p.m. PRASADS MULTIPLEX NTR GARDENS, 12:00 Noon, 2:15, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45 p.m.**

**CYBERABAD INORBIT MALL - MADHAPUR, 10:30, 1:40, 4:50, 8:00, 11:10 p.m.** | SUJANA FORUM PRISTAGE MALL - KPHB, 10:30, 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40 p.m. | ICON HI-TECH - MADHAPUR, 10:30, 1:30, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00 p.m. | NEXT GALLERIA MALL - PANJAGUTTA 10:10, 1:20, 4:30, 7:40, 10:50 p.m. | IRRAM MANZIL, 10:00, 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40 p.m. | MUSARAMBAGH, 10:00, 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40 p.m. | CENTRAL MALL - PANJAGUTTA, 10:20, 1:30, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00 p.m. | BK MALL - BANJARA HILLS, 11:50, 3:30, 7:30, 10:40 p.m. | ATRIUM MALL - GACHIBOWLI, 10:10, 1:20, 4:30, 7:40, 10:50 p.m. | PRESTON PRIME - GACHIBOWLI, 10:00, 1:10, 7:50, 11:00 p.m. | DVK ONE - BANJARA HILLS, 10:10, 1:20, 4:30, 7:40, 10:50 p.m. | NP MALL - KACHIGUDA, 10:10, 1:20, 4:30, 7:40, 10:50 p.m. | GSH MALL - MIYAPUR, 10:00, 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40 p.m. | SATTVA NECKLACE MALL - KACHIGUDA, 10:10, 1:20, 4:30, 7:40, 10:50 p.m. | ASHOKA - KUKATPALLY, 10:20, 1:30, 7:30, 10:30 p.m. | S2 CINEMAS MALLAPUR, 10:00, 1:10, 7:40, 10:50 p.m. | S2 CINEMAS WARANGAL, 10:25, 1:35, 7:30, 10:40 p.m. | ARMOOR |

**LULU MALL - KUKATPALLY, 10:30, 1:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30, 10:30 p.m.** | MANTRA MALL - ATTAPUR, 10:30, 1:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30, 10:30 p.m. | CCPL - MALKAJGIRI, 10:30, 1:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30, 10:30 p.m. | SUDHA - SHALIBANDA, 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00 p.m. | DSL VIRTUE MALL - UPPAL, 10:30, 1:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30, 10:30 p.m.

**CINE PLANET - KOMPALLY, 10:45, 1:35, 4:20, 7:20, 10:40 p.m.** | VAISHNAVI, 10:50, 1:35, 4:25, 7:25, 10:40 p.m. | M CUBE MALL - ATTAPUR, 10:50, 1:35, 4:25, 7:25, 10:40 p.m. | MUKTA CINEMAS A2 NJR CINEMAS NARAPALLY, 4:30, 10:30 p.m.

**BALANAGAR, 10:30, 1:30, 7:50, 10:50 p.m.** | CHANDRA NAGAR, 11:20, 2:20, 7:50, 10:50 p.m. | MIYAPUR, 11:00, 2:00, 7:40, 10:40 p.m. | MALKAJGIRI, 11:00, 2:00, 7:40, 10:40 p.m.

**PLATINUM GACHIBOWLI, 9:00, 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45 p.m.** | AMEERPET, 10:30, 4:30, 10:30 p.m.

**VENKATARAMANA COMPLEX KACHIGUDA, 11:30, 6:00 p.m.** | AMR MALL MOULALI, 10:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45 p.m.

**SECUNDERABAD, 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40 p.m.** | AAA CINEMAS AMEERPET, 10:50, 1:40, 4:30, 7:25, 10:40 p.m.

**J PRASAD MADINAGUDA, 10:45, 1:35, 4:20, 7:20, 10:40 p.m.** | TARAKARAMA KACHIGUDA, 11:15, 2:15, 6:00, 9:00 p.m.

**METRO BHADURPURA, 11:30, 2:30, 6:00, 9:00 p.m.** | SAI RAJA MUSHEERABAD, 11:30, 2:30, 6:00, 9:00 p.m.

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WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY NITHILAN SAMINATHAN  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER A.KUMAR ASSOCIATE PRODUCER KAMAL NAYAN  
PRODUCED BY SUDHAN SUNDARAM & JAGADISH PALANISAMY

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**CHANDU CHAMPION (HINDI)**  
10:40 AM, 01:40 PM, 4:40PM, 7:40 PM, 10:40 PM

**HAROM HARA (THE REVOLT) (TELGU)**  
10:25 AM, 01:00 PM, 04:45 PM, 10:30 PM

**INSIDE OUT 2 (2D) (ENGLISH)**  
01:50 PM, 04:00 PM, 06:00 PM, 08:10 PM

**KOTEE**  
KOTEE (KANNADA)  
10:20 PM

**MAHARAJA (TAMIL)**  
07:55 PM

**MAHARAJA (TELGU)**  
10:50 AM, 01:15 PM, 04:15 PM, 7:30, 10:50 PM

**MANAME (TELGU)**  
01:35 PM, 04:10 PM, 07:00 PM, 10:50 PM

**MUNJYA (HINDI)**  
01:30 PM, 04:10 PM, 10:10 PM

**THE WATCHERS (ENGLISH)**  
03:40 PM, 08:30 PM

**THE GARFIELD (ENGLISH)**  
01:20 PM

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**HAROM HARA - THE REVOLT** Rs. 295/350  
10:40 AM, 01:40 PM, 05:25 PM, 07:10 PM, 10:40 PM

**INSIDE OUT 2** Rs. 325/380  
10:20 AM, 12:30 PM, 02:55 PM, 08:30 PM, 10:40 PM

**CHANDU CHAMPION** Rs. 295/350  
10:40 AM, 01:15 PM, 04:15 PM, 07:15 PM, 10:20 PM

**MAHARAJA** Rs. 295/350  
10:15 AM, 04:40 PM, 07:40 PM, 10:25 PM  
TAM 2D (UA)  
10:30 AM

**MANAMEY** Rs. 295/350  
10:20 AM, 01:25 PM, 04:30 PM, 07:25 PM, 10:40 PM

**MUNJYA** Rs. 295/350  
02:40 PM, 04:40 PM, 07:50 PM, 10:30 PM

**THE WATCHERS** ENG (A) 04:50 PM, 10:25 PM  
Rs. 295/350  
**BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE** ENG (A) 07:55 PM  
Rs. 295/350  
**MR & MRS MAHI** HIN (U) 02:00 PM  
Rs. 295/350  
**ROCKSTAR** HIN (UA) 01:30 PM  
Rs. 295/350  
**SATYASHAMA** TEL (UA) 05:10 PM  
Rs. 250/350

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**TODAY'S SCHEDULE**

**HAROM HARA (A)**  
(154 MIN)(TEL)  
4.40, 10.30PM

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**MAHARAJA**  
(146 MIN)(U/A)  
11.00, 1.50, 7.40, 10.40PM

**MANAME(U/A)**  
(U/A) (155 MIN)  
1.40, 4.30, 7.20PM

**MUNJYA(U/A)(HIN)**  
(123 MIN)  
11.15, 2.30, 7.30, 10.20PM

**CHANDU CHAMPION (U/A)(143 MIN)(HIN)**  
11.00, 1.50, 4.40, 7.40, 10.40PM

**INSIDE OUT2(U)**  
(96MIN)(ENG)  
12.15, 5.20PM

**ASIAN CINEMAS**

**SCHEDULE FOR TODAY**

**ASIAN RADHIKA - AS RAO NAGAR**  
MUNJYA Rs.150/200 INSIDE OUT 2 Rs.220/300  
MANAMEY/HAROM HARA/MAHARAJA/MAHARAJA Rs.200/300  
MANAMEY Rs.200/300 10:45AM, 1:50PM, 4:40, 10:25 MAHARAJA Rs.200/300  
10:50AM, 1:45PM, 7:40, 10:35 HAROM HARA Rs.200/300 10:40AM, 7:30PM  
MUNJYA Rs.200/300 7:50PM, 10:40 INSIDE OUT 2 Rs.220/300 4:50PM  
THAMMUDU Rs.200/300 MAHARAJA Rs.200/300 4:45PM

**ASIAN CINEPLANET - KOMPALLY**  
CHANDU/MUNJYA Rs.150/200 INSIDE OUT 2 Rs.220/300  
MANAMEY Rs.250/300 HAROM HARA/MAHARAJA Rs.200/300  
CHANDU CHAMPION Rs.200/300 10:35AM, 1:25PM, 4:20, 7:45, 10:20  
MAHARAJA Rs.200/300 10:50AM, 1:50PM, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30 HAROM HARA Rs.200/300  
10:40AM, 1:35PM, 7:20, 10:35 MANAMEY Rs.200/300  
10:35AM, 4:45PM, 7:20 INSIDE OUT 2 Rs.220/300 11:10AM, 1:50PM, 7:50  
MUNJYA Rs.200/300 4:35PM, 10:20

**ASIAN CINE SQUARE - UPPAL**  
MUSIC SM/NEE DHAAREY Rs. 160/200 THAMMUDU/INSIDE OUT Rs. 200/250  
MANAMEY/HAROM HARA/MAHARAJA Rs.200/300  
MAHARAJA Rs.200/300 10:45AM, 1:35PM, 4:50, 7:30, 10:40 MANAMEY Rs.200/300  
11:25AM, 2:45PM, 6:25, 9:35 THAMMUDU Rs.200/300 11:20PM, 4:40, 6:25  
HAROM HARA Rs.200/300 2:40PM, 9:40 MUNJYA Rs.200/300 6:40PM, 9:40  
MUSIC SHOP MURTHY Rs.200/300 11:30PM  
NEE KATHA Rs.200/300 10:30PM

**ASIAN M CUBE MALL - ATTAPUR**  
CHANDU CHAMPION/MUNJYA Rs.150/200 INSIDE OUT 2 Rs.220/300  
MANAMEY Rs.250/300 HAROM HARA/MAHARAJA Rs.200/300  
CHANDU CHAMPION Rs.200/300 10:45AM, 1:30PM, 4:30, 7:15, 10:25  
MAHARAJA Rs.200/300 10:50AM, 1:50PM, 7:40 MANAMEY Rs.200/300  
10:30AM, 7:40PM, 10:35 HAROM HARA Rs.200/300 10:50AM, 4:40, 10:30  
INSIDE OUT 2 Rs.220/300 4:45PM, 7:40 MUNJYA Rs.200/300 1:45PM, 10:40  
THAMMUDU Rs.200/300 1:40PM MAHARAJA Rs.200/300 4:45PM

**ASIAN LAKSHMIKALA CINEPRIDE - MOOSAPET**  
THAMMUDU/MANAMEY/MAHARAJA Rs. 50/100/150  
THAMMUDU/MUSIC SHOP/HAROM HARA Rs. 50/100/150  
MAHARAJA Rs.200/300 11:30AM, 2:45PM, 6:25, 9:35 MANAMEY Rs.200/300  
11:25AM, 2:45PM, 6:25, 9:35 THAMMUDU Rs.200/300 11:20PM, 4:40, 6:25  
HAROM HARA Rs.200/300 2:40PM, 9:40 MUNJYA Rs.200/300 6:40PM, 9:40  
MUSIC SHOP MURTHY Rs.200/300 11:30PM  
NEE KATHA Rs.200/300 10:30PM

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INSIDE OUT 2 Rs.220/300 THAMMUDU/CHANDU Rs.150/200  
HAROM HARA/MAHARAJA/MAHARAJA Rs.200/300  
MAHARAJA Rs.200/300 10:45AM, 1:35PM, 4:35, 7:30, 10:30 MANAMEY Rs.200/300  
10:30AM, 1:35PM, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45 CHANDU CHAMPION Rs.200/300 1:40PM  
4:30, 7:25, 10:25 HAROM HARA Rs.200/300 4:25PM, 7:25, 10:20 INSIDE OUT 2  
Rs.220/300 11:15AM, 4:40PM, 7:25 THAMMUDU Rs.200/300 10:35AM, 1:30PM, 10:20PM

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**MAKUL SEEVAN VIJAY SETHUPATHI**

**SAPTHAGIRI 70MM**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**RAJADHANI DELUXE-DSNR**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

**MALLIKARJUNA 70-KUKATPALLY**  
11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM

**JAGADAMBA 70MM**  
11.30, 6.30PM(2 SHOWS)

**RAMAKRISHNA 70MM-11.30, 6.00**

**VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI**  
11.15, 6.15PM(2 SHOWS)

**AMB-10.30, 1.20, 7.15, 10.20PM**

**AAA-10.15, 4.15, 10.15PM**

**PRASAD'S-11.20, 5.55, 10.30PM**

**ASIAN CINEMART-1.35, 7.30, 10.30PM**

**LAKSHMIKALA-11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.35PM**

**INOX**

**GVK MALL-10.45, 4.40, 7.45PM**  
NECKLACE-10.30, 7.35, 10.40PM  
MP MALL-4.40, 10.20PM  
ASHOKA ONE-10.20, 7.25, 10.30PM

**DILSUKNAGAR-10.30, 1.50, 8.00PM**  
MALKAJGIRI-10.30, 5.00, 10.30PM  
CHANDANAGAR-11.10, 7.30, 10.30PM  
MIYAPUR-10.30, 5.00, 10.30PM  
BALANAGAR-11.10, 5.20, 7.30, 10.30PM

**JP CINEMAS-1.35, 4.30, 7.45, 10.45PM**  
RADHIKA-1.40, 7.30PM  
MJR SQUARE-1.40, 4.50, 7.20PM  
MCUBE MALL-1.50, 7.40PM  
SHA&SHAHENSHA-6.30, 9.45PM  
SIVANGA-11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM  
CINESQUARE-10.45, 4.35, 7.25, 10.20PM  
CINEPLANET-4.40, 10.15PM

**NEXUS MALL-10.50, 7.45, 10.50PM**  
MUSARAMBAGH-11.20, 4.00, 10.50PM  
MALLAPUR-11.00, 7.40, 10.45PM  
IRRUMMANZIL-10.15, 7.40, 10.45PM  
INORBIT MALL-11.00, 4.15, 10.50PM  
CENTRAL MALL-10.15, 7.45, 10.50PM  
RK-5.25, 10.50PM | PRESTONE-11.05, 4.55, 10.50PM  
ATRIUM MALL-10.50, 4.40, 10.30PM  
ICON HI TECH-10.05, 5.10, 10.30PM  
L&T GALLERIA-10.35, 4.25, 10.50PM

**SUDHA MALL-11.00, 1.35, 10.45PM**  
MANTRA MALL-11.00, 2.00, 7.20, 10.20PM  
LULU MALL-10.00, 1.20, 7.50PM  
CCPL-10.30, 1.30, 10.45PM | DSL VIRTUE-10.50, 1.45, 10.45PM

**BVK 1.30, 7.30, 10.40 AMR MALL 10.15, 4.15, 10.15**

**11.00, 1.50, 7.40, 10.40PM GPR MALL 10.30, 7.30, 10.30PM**

**GACHIBOWLI-9.15, 3.00, 8.15PM AMEERPET-2.00, 7.30, 10.15PM**

**INDRA/NAGENDRA 70 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15 ASIAN SWAPNA 70 11.00, 6.00PM**

**ASIAN SENSATION 2.30, 9.15PM BR HITECH 70MM 11.00, 6.00PM**

**GOKUL 70MM 11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30 SAIRANGA 70MM 2.00, 9.00PM**

**SAIPOOJA 70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 SRISAIRAM 70MM 2.30, 9.45PM**

**SUSHMA 70MM 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM VLS SRIDEVI 70MM 11.15, 2.30, 6.00, 9.15PM**

**VYJAYANTHI 70MM 11.00, 6.00PM ASIAN JYOTHI 70 11.00, 6.00PM**

**SANTOSH 70MM 11.00, 6.00PM ALANKAR 70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00**

**SRIRAMANA 70MM 11.00, 6.00PM RAJYALAKSHMI 11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00**

**SUPER 70MM 11.15, 6.15PM SRISAIRAM 70MM 2.30, 9.45PM**

**SVC SIVASAKTHI 70 11.30, 6.30PM TALLURI 70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**

**ASIAN CINEMAS A2**

**Sensation Cinema**

**NEWLY RENOVATED**

**NOW OPEN**

**2 SCREEN MULTIPLEX**

**NOW SHOWING**

**MAHARAJA (U/A) (TELGU) 2:30PM, 9:15PM**

**HAROM HARA (U/A) (TELGU) 11:15AM, 6:00PM**

**CHANDU CHAMPION (U/A) (HINDI) 11:45AM, 3:00PM, 9:30PM**

**MUNJYA (U/A) (HINDI) 6:30PM**

Khairatabad, Lakdikapul, Hyderabad

**SANDHYA 35MM**  
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**ARJUN 70-11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM**

**RAJADHANI 70MM-DSNR**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

**JAGADAMBA 70MM**  
2.30, 9.30PM(2 SHOWS)

**RAMAKRISHNA 70MM-2.30, 9.15PM**

**VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI**  
2.30, 9.15PM(2 SHOWS)

**TALLURI 70MM-ECIL**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

**PRASHANTH 70MM**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**MUKTA SENSATION 70**  
2.00, 9.00PM

**ASIAN SWAPNA 70MM**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

**SUPER 70MM**  
2.15, 9.15PM

**BR HITECH 70MM**  
2.15, 9.15PM

**INDRA/NAGENDRA**  
11.00, 6.00PM

**SAIRANGA 70MM**  
11.00, 6.00PM

**SREERAMULU 70MM**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

**SRISAIRAM 70MM**  
11.30, 6.15PM

**VIJETHA 70MM**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**VYJAYANTHI 70MM**  
2.00, 9.00PM

**SREERAMANA 70**  
2.00, 9.00PM

**SRIKRISHNAUPPAL**  
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

**SVC SRLAKSHMI**  
2.30, 9.30PM

**SVC EESHWAR 70**  
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

**SVC SANGEETHA 70**  
11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM

**BHUJANGA 70MM**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**SAMPOORNA 70**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

**SVC SIVASAKTHI 70**  
2.30, 9.30PM

**SANTOSHIPATNAM**  
2.00, 9.00PM

**NARTHAKI 70MM**  
2.30, 9.30PM

**ASIAN CINEMAS A2**

**2ND WEEK HINDI 2D**

**KUMAR**  
70MM KACHIGUDA  
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

**SEE TODAY**

**PVR IRRUMMANZIL-4.40PM**  
**PVR FORUM MALL-11.20AM**  
**PVR CENTRAL MALL-11.00AM**

**ASHOKA ONE-4.15PM**  
**GSM MALL-10.50AM**  
**SATTVA NECKLACE-1.45PM**  
**MJR SQUARE-4.35PM**  
**JP CINEMAS-11.00AM**

**ASIAN CINEMAS**

**SCHEDULE FOR TODAY**

**ASIAN SHIVA GANGA - DILSUKNAGAR**  
MAHARAJA/MANAMEY/HAROM HARA Rs.50/100/150  
MAHARAJA Rs.200/300 11:15AM, 2:15PM, 6:00, 9:15- MANAMEY Rs.200/300  
2:00PM, 9:00- HAROM HARA Rs.200/300 11:00AM, 6:00PM

**ASIAN SHA & SHAHENSHA - CHINTHAL**  
HAROM HARA/MAHARAJA/MAHARAJA Rs.50/100/150  
MAHARAJA Rs.200/300 11:15AM, 2:30PM, 6:30, 9:45- MANAMEY Rs.200/300  
2:45PM HAROM HARA Rs.200/300 11:30AM, 6:15PM, 9:30-

**ASIAN MUKTA A2 MDR SQUARE MALL - NARAPALLY**  
CHANDU/MUNJYA/NEE DHAAREY Rs.150/200 THAMMUDU Rs.300/400  
HAROM HARA/MAHARAJA/MAHARAJA Rs.200/300

**MAHARAJA (U/A)**  
10.50AM, 1:50PM, 4:50, 7:20, 10:30 HAROM HARA Rs.200/300  
10:45AM, 1:45PM, 7:35, 10:35 MANAMEY Rs.200/300  
10:35AM, 4:20PM, 7:40 THAMMUDU Rs.200/300 10:30AM, 1:35PM, 4:40  
MUNJYA Rs.200/300 7:40PM, 10:40 CHANDU CHAMPION Rs.200/300  
4:45PM, 10:20- NEE DHAAREY NEE KATHA Rs.200/300 1:35PM

**INOX**

**GVK MALL-10.40, 4.10, 7.25, 10.40PM**  
GSM MALL-10.10, 1.25, 7.35, 10.50PM  
MP MALL-10.40, 12.50, 7.25, 10.30PM  
ASHOKA ONE-10.05, 1.20, 7.25, 10.40PM  
SATTVA NECKLACE-10.35, 1.10, 7.45, 10.40PM

**BALANAGAR-2.10, 10.35PM**  
MALKAJGIRI-2.00, 11.00PM  
CHANDANAGAR-11.10, 4.40, 7.50, 11.00PM  
DILSUKNAGAR | MIYAPUR

**11.00, 1.50, 7.30, 10.30PM**

**10.30, 1.45, 4.45, 8.00, 11.00PM**

**10.45, 4.35, 7.15, 10.15PM**

**GACHIBOWLI-10.00, 3.00, 8.00, 10.55PM AMEERPET-10.00, 4.00, 7.15, 10.00PM**

**SUDHA MALL-11.00, 1.35, 10.45PM**  
MANTRA MALL-11.00, 2.00, 7.20, 10.20PM  
LULU MALL-10.00, 1.20, 7.50PM  
CCPL-10.30, 1.30, 10.45PM | DSL VIRTUE-10.50, 1.45, 10.45PM

**11.00, 1.50, 7.40, 10.40PM**

**10.45, 4.35, 7.15, 10.15PM**

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**VYJAYANTHI 70MM 11.00, 6.00PM ASIAN JYOTHI 70 11.00, 6.00PM**

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**SRIRAMANA 70MM 11.00, 6.00PM RAJYALAKSHMI 11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00**

**SUPER 70MM 11.15, 6.15PM SRISAIRAM 70MM 2.30, 9.45PM**

**SVC SIVASAKTHI 70 11.30, 6.30PM TALLURI 70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**

**APARNA-10.25, 1.00, 4.45, 7.20, 10.30PM**

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SHORT TAKES

SA'S RAMAPHOSA RE-ELECTED AS PREZ AFTER DEAL

Cape Town, June 15: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa was re-elected for a second term after his humbled ANC cobbled together an unprecedented coalition government. Lawmakers in Cape Town voted overwhelmingly on Friday to put Ramaphosa, 71, back in office for another five years after the May 29 general election produced no outright winner. "I am humbled and honoured that you, as members of the National Assembly, have... decided to elect me to be the President of South Africa," Ramaphosa said.

CYBER ATTACK ON PAK'S UN MISSION: EMAIL BREACHED

Islamabad, June 15: Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the UN was targeted by a cyber attack, infiltrating its official email account and the YouTube channel, a media report said on Saturday. The cyber attack occurred on Friday, at 4 pm US time, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. The breach targeted the email ID used by the Permanent Mission's information wing, the report said. The mission's YouTube channel was also compromised, and the attackers altered its name, banners, and content, the report said, quoting sources.

CHINA CALLS TO IMPROVE TIES WITH AUSTRALIA

Sydney, June 15: Chinese Premier Li Qiang called Saturday for "shelving differences" with Australia as he embarked on a four-day trip dangle the promise of expanded trade despite their geopolitical rivalry. Li — the second most powerful man in China after President Xi Jinping — touched down in Adelaide at the start of a diplomatic mission across the resource-rich continent. China has gradually removed swinging trade sanctions on Australian wine, timber, barley and beef exports imposed in 2020.

NORTH KOREA WALL IN DMZ AGAINST SOUTH KOREA

Seoul, June 15: North Korea's military has been building roads and walls inside the Demilitarised Zone that separates it from the South, the Yonhap news agency reported Saturday. The construction activities are taking place north of the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) that runs through the middle of the DMZ, the South Korean agency said, citing an unnamed military source. The report follows an incident last week when South Korean forces fired warning shots after North Korean soldiers briefly crossed the MDL.

ONE JAPANESE CLIMBER FOUND DEAD IN PAKISTAN

Skardu, Pakistan, June 15: One of two Japanese climbers was found dead and his body recovered from a mountain in northern Pakistan on Saturday, with a search ongoing for the second man, an official said. Ryuseki Hiraoka and Atsushi Taguchi were trying to summit the 7,027-metre Spantik mountain in the Karakoram range before they went missing this week. "The dead body of a Japanese climber was found, and a search is ongoing for the second climber," Wali Ullah Falahi, the Shigar district deputy commissioner, said. The body was found 300 metres below Camp 3, he said.

FLESH-EATING FATAL BACTERIA SPREADS IN JAPAN

Tokyo: A disease caused by a rare "flesh-eating bacteria" that can kill people within 48 hours is spreading in Japan after the country relaxed Covid-era restrictions. Cases of streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS) reached 977 this year by June 2, higher than the record 941 cases reported for all of last year, according to the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, that has been tracking incidences of the disease since 1999. Group A Streptococcus (GAS) typically causes swelling and sore throat in children.

Ukraine peace summit starts in Switzerland, Russia absent

Two-day gathering brings together 100 countries, global institutions

Burgenstock, Switzerland, June 15: World leaders were joining Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Switzerland on Saturday for a summit on peace in his country, but with Russia staying away it is seen as the first step in a long process.

The Swiss hosts have sought to temper expectations at the two-day gathering, with an agenda laying the groundwork for a path to peace — with future summits envisioned, eventually involving Moscow. But Zelenskyy himself expressed high hopes for the outcome.

"We will see history being made here at the summit," he said on social media platform Telegram, as he greeted presidents and prime ministers arriving at the luxury Burgenstock resort high above Lake Lucerne. "Together, we are making the first step toward just peace based on the UN Charter and fundamental principles of international law," he said on X, formerly Twitter. But in a combative speech on Friday, Russian President Vladimir Putin slammed the conference and demanded that Kyiv effectively surrender before any actual peace negotiations. Zelenskyy branded Putin's demands a territorial "ultimatum" reminiscent of Nazi Germany's dictator Adolf Hitler, while Nato and the United States also immediately rejected the headline conditions. The conference, convening exactly 100 countries and global insti-

PEACE ELUDES AMID THREATS

SCHOLZ SAYS PUTIN IS TRYING TO 'DICTATE' PEACE

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Saturday Russian leader Vladimir Putin was trying to dictate the conditions for peace. "What we need is not a dictated peace but a just and equitable peace that takes into account Ukraine's (territorial) integrity," he said.

UKRAINE SHELLING KILLS 5 IN RUSSIAN BORDER TOWN

Ukrainian shelling on the Russian border of Shebekino killed five and wounded several, the governor of Belgorod said on Saturday. "Four bodies were found in a rubble" of a house, he said while a woman died in hospital.

tutions, comes at a perilous moment for exhausted Ukrainians and outgunned soldiers, more than two years since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion. Over 50 heads of state and government figure among the attendees, including all of the G7 leaders who have been meeting in Italy — with one notable exception. The leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan are attending. China is absent, insisting it will not take part without Moscow's presence. — AFP



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Swiss Federal President Viola Amherd during the summit for peace in Ukraine in Switzerland. — AFP

UKRAINE SOLDIERS, CIVILIANS SHRUG OFF SUMMIT

On the front line and in war-fatigued Kyiv, hopes for any breakthrough are nil. Sergiy, a deputy commander of a tank brigade in eastern Donetsk where fighting is fiercest, said that when powerbrokers sit down to really thrash out an end to fighting, it probably won't be at a plush summit.



HARRIS VOWS \$1.5 BN U.S. ENERGY AID

US Vice-President Kamala Harris announced on Saturday more than \$1.5 billion in new aid for Ukraine for its energy sector and in humanitarian aid. It includes \$500 million in new funding.

Sweden says Russian bomber violated airspace, gets jets ready

Stockholm, June 15: A Russian SU-24 bomber violated Swedish airspace near the Baltic Sea island of Gotland, leaving only after Sweden scrambled two JAS-39 fighter jets, Sweden's military said on Saturday. The incident on Friday occurred three months after the country became a full member of

Nato, dropping two centuries of military non-alliance. "On Friday afternoon, a Russian SU-24 jet fighter violated Swedish airspace east of Gotland's southern tip. The Swedish air combat command warned the Russian aircraft with a verbal call," the Swedish armed forces said. "When this was not

MEA SECRETARY TO REPRESENT INDIA AT SUMMIT

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 15

India will be represented by the MEA's secretary (West) Pavan Kapoor at the two-day Peace Summit hosted by Switzerland.

New Delhi is expected to pitch "dialogue and diplomacy" as the only way forward to arrive at a resolution of the conflict. India had announced earlier this week that it would participate in the conference which is backed by the West.

India's decision to attend the conference, albeit at a senior instead of top level, indicates New Delhi's desire to contribute to a solution to the conflict that has already consumed thousands of lives on both sides.

China will detain foreigners in South China Sea

Shanghai, June 15: New Chinese coast guard rules took effect on Saturday under which it can detain foreigners for trespassing in the disputed South China Sea, where neighbours and the G7 have accused Beijing of intimidation and coercion. Beijing claims almost the entirety of the South China Sea, brushing aside competing claims from several Southeast Asian nations including the Philippines and an international ruling that its stance has no legal basis.

From Saturday, China's coast guard can detain foreigners "suspected of violating management of border entry and exit", according to the new regulations published online.

Detention is allowed up to 60 days in "complicated cases", they say. "Foreign ships that have illegally entered China's territorial waters and the adjacent waters may be detained." Manila has accused the Chinese coast guard of "barbaric and inhumane behaviour" against Philippine vessels, and President Ferdinand Marcos last month called the new rules a "very worrisome" escalation. China Coast Guard vessels have used water cannon against Philippine boats multiple times in the contested waters. There have also been collisions that injured Filipino troops.

Philippine military chief General Romeo Brawner told reporters on Friday that authorities in Manila were "discussing a number of steps to be undertaken in order for us to protect our fishermen". Philippine fishermen were told "not to be afraid, but just to go ahead with their normal activities to fish there in our Exclusive Economic Zone", Brawner said. The Group of Seven bloc on Friday criticised what it called "dangerous" incursions by China in the waterway.

PHILIPPINES TAPS UN TO RECOGNISE ITS AREA IN SCS

Manila, June 15: The Philippines has asked a United Nations body to formally recognise the extent of its undersea continental seabed in the South China Sea, where it would have the exclusive right to exploit resources, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Saturday, in a move that rejects China's vast territorial claims to the region.

The Philippine government submitted information to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on the extent of its undersea shelf in the South China Sea, off western Palawan province, after more than a decade and a half of scientific research, the department said.

China did not immediately comment but it will likely contest the move.

The undersea region where the Philippines seeks to formally establish its sovereign rights under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, or UNCLOS, covers the Spratlys, a chain of islands, islets, reefs and atolls that has been fiercely contested over the years by China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. Indonesia has also confronted Chinese coast guard and fishing fleets in the gas-rich Natuna sea in the fringes of the SCS. — AP

Princess returns



Catherine, Princess of Wales, on Saturday made a tentative return to public life for the first time since being diagnosed with cancer along with Britain's King Charles III, Prince William, Prince Louis, Princess Charlotte on the Balcony at Buckingham Palace after attending the Trooping the Colour ceremony. — AP

ISLAMIC JIHAD: PULL OUT FOR HOSTAGES

Cairo, June 15: The armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad said on Saturday the only way to return Israeli hostages is through Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, ending its offensive and reaching a deal for exchanging Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners. The spokesman of Al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of the Palestinian group, made the remarks in a video on Telegram. Islamic Jihad is a smaller ally of the militant Islamist group Hamas, which led a rampage in Israel on October 7 in which 1,200 people were killed and over 250 taken hostage. — Reuters

Kuwait targets illegal buildings

Dubai/Kuwait City, June 15: Authorities in Kuwait have launched a crackdown on illegal property extensions in the wake of a devastating fire at a seven-storey building that claimed the lives of 50 people, including 46 Indians, according to a media report on Saturday. Most deaths were due to smoke inhalation while residents in the building were sleeping when the fire broke out early on Wednesday in Kuwait's southern city of Mangaf in Ahmadi Governorate. The building was home to 196 migrant workers, mostly Indians.

The incident triggered calls for action against real estate landlords and company owners who violate the law to house large numbers of foreign labourers in extremely unsafe conditions to cut costs. The Kuwait Municipality has launched a rigorous crackdown on illegal property extensions, the

Arab Times newspaper reported. This tragic incident has shed light on the long-standing issue of unauthorised modifications to buildings, prompting authorities to take decisive action to prevent such disasters in the future. For years, the illegal conversion of property spaces has been a pervasive issue in Kuwait. Basement parking areas have been transformed into warehouses, while ground-floor open spaces have been converted into housing units and shops, all in the pursuit of additional income. These modifications, often carried out without proper approval, compromise the safety and integrity of buildings, the paper said.

An India Embassy team on Friday visited all 5 hospitals where 25 injured Indians are receiving medical treatment. They enquired about their medical condition. — PTI

Sentosa island beaches closed

Singapore, June 15: Beaches on Singapore's top resort island of Sentosa, which also house luxury waterfront homes, were shuttered on Saturday due to an oil spill at a nearby port, maritime authorities said. The oil spill resulted from an accident on Friday at the Pasir Panjang terminal between a Netherlands-flagged dredger and a stationary Singapore-flagged bunker vessel, Singapore's Maritime and Port Authority said.

Waters of three popular beaches on the island "are currently closed for beach clean-up works due to instances of oil spillage observed in the sea waters," the island said in a notice on its website. Black residue from the oil slick is visible on the beaches, an agency photographer on the scene said. One sign put up on a 7,027-metre off beach read "Oil slick spotted. Clean up in progress. Please stay clear of water." The MPA said patches of oil and light sheens have been observed off Pasir Panjang Terminal and along Tanjong, Palawan, and Siloso beaches. Sentosa is a popular tourist destination that hosts a casino, Southeast Asia's only Universal Studios attraction and luxury waterfront homes for expats and the ultrarich. — AFP

Workers are clearing the oil slick in plastic bags on Sentosa island's Siloso beach in Singapore on Saturday. — AFP



A worker clears the oil slick in plastic bags on Sentosa island's Siloso beach in Singapore on Saturday. — AFP

Ship evacuated, blaze after attack by Houthis: UKMTO

Cairo, June 15: The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said on Saturday the crew of a Palau-flagged cargo ship had been evacuated and the ship was on fire and sinking, referring to an incident that happened 98 nautical miles east of Yemen's Aden on June 13. Missiles fired by

Yemen's Houthi militants struck the Verberna in the Gulf of Aden on Thursday, sparking a fire and severely injuring one of its crew, U.S. Central Command said. The Iran-allied Houthis have launched dozens of attacks on international shipping in the Red Sea region since November in solidarity with

Palestinians in the war between Israel and Hamas. The Houthi campaign in the Red Sea region has disrupted global shipping, cascading delays and costs through supply chains. The militants have sunk one ship, seized another vessel and killed three seafarers in separate attacks. — Reuters

TOXIC | WORK Musk's firm sued as animals scratched skin via defective gloves

Herpes monkey infects ex-Neuralink staff

Washington, June 15: Elon Musk's brain-implant startup Neuralink Corp. forced an employee to work with monkeys that carried the Herpes B virus in conditions in which the animals scratched her bare skin, according to a complaint filed Friday in state court in California. The employee, Lindsay Short, said that once she transferred to the company's Fremont, California, site in August 2022, she encountered "a work environment fraught with blame, shame, and impossible deadlines." She said she was later fired after telling her supervisors

that she was pregnant. Short sued the company for retaliation, wrongful termination and discrimination based on her gender among other issues. Neuralink didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on the suit. The company has also come under fire for the mistreatment of monkeys and other animals in the past, including botched surgeries when it conducted research on monkeys housed at the University of California at Davis. It has since moved monkey research to its own facilities.

NEURALINK DIDN'T immediately respond to a request for comment on the suit. The company has also come under fire for the mistreatment of monkeys and other animals in the past, including botched surgeries when it conducted research on monkeys.

Short said she was working with monkeys that carried the Herpes B virus when she was scratched through a glove. She accused the company of failing to provide proper protective gear to work with the monkeys. In another incident, after she was forced to perform a procedure she wasn't familiar with, a monkey scratched her face. When she insisted on medical treatment, her boss threatened "severe repercussions" if it happened again, according to the complaint. In the lawsuit, Short also said Neuralink didn't honour a promise for flexible work hours to accommodate her family, then demoted her in May 2023, two months after a promotion. The following month, she told Neuralink's

human resources department she was pregnant. Short was fired the following day with the company saying the dismissal was for performance issues, according to the lawsuit. The startup is in the early stages of clinical trials for its device, which is aimed at restoring function for paralysed patients. An Arizona man, Noland Arbaugh, recently underwent surgery and became the first human patient to have the device implanted. A quadriplegic, Arbaugh can now successfully play video games by using only his thoughts. — Bloomberg

**INDIAN TOP 10**

**NON-FICTION**

- GUJARAT UNDER MODI**  
Christophe Jaffrelot, Westland, ₹899
- COVERT**  
A.S. Dulat, Harper Collins ₹699
- AGE OF REVOLUTION**  
Fareed Zakaria, Penguin, ₹1,299
- THE ROAD TO FREEDOM**  
Joseph E. Stiglitz, Penguin, ₹799
- NEHRU'S FIRST RECRUITS**  
Kallol Bhattacharjee, HarperCollins, ₹699
- KNIFE**  
Salman Rushdie, Penguin, ₹699
- NEW COLD WARS**  
David E. Sanger. Scribner, ₹899
- BAHRISONS: CHRONICLE OF A BOOKSHOP**  
Anuj Bahri. India Research Press, ₹350
- ACCELERATING INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT**  
Karthik Muralidharan, Penguin Viking, ₹1,299
- LOVE IN THE TIME OF HATE**  
Rakshanda Jallil, Simon & Schuster, ₹699

**FICTION**

- TABLE FOR TWO**  
Amor Towles, Penguin, ₹799
- MY BELOVED LIFE**  
Amitava Kumar, Aleph, ₹79
- A FIRESTORM IN PARADISE**  
Rana Safvi, Penguin, ₹699
- BUTTER**  
Asako Yuzuki, HarperCollins, ₹599
- RADHA: THE PRINCESS OF BARSANA**  
Neelima Dalmia Adhar, Westland, ₹599
- BLUE SISTER**  
Coco Mellors, HarperCollins, ₹499
- FUNNY STORY**  
Emily Henry, Penguin, ₹799
- CAMINO GHOSTS**  
John Grisham, Hachette, ₹699
- THE BOOK OF EVERLASTING THINGS**  
Aanchal Malhotra, HarperCollins, ₹799
- THE DOOR-TO-DOOR BOOKSTORE**  
Carsten Henn, HarperCollins, ₹399

Bahrisons, New Delhi

## Socialism not the answer, but...



**Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr**

**review**

The advantage with Ruchir Sharma is that he is your friendly next-door market guy, and so he would not be seen as a socialist party-pooper with a title of the book like *What Went Wrong with Capitalism*. He makes a good beginning by narrating the sob story of the Indian middle class — how he grew up in the maximum security prison of socialism of the pre-1991 India, and how he escaped the welfare state gulag and escaped to the free market Singapore and then to the capitalist paradise, the United States. And this book is a guided tour of the back-alleys of capitalism, especially in the financial sector, a far cry from the poor, from the inequality debate, et al.

In India, as there were once fanatical socialist evangelists, there are now cringing market fundamentalists who cannot see the Titanic of capitalism moving towards the iceberg. They refuse to see the iceberg. And what is the iceberg? The expanded role of the state in the market economies, the bailout packages which Central banks work out to save the private companies caught in a market squall. Sharma sums it up all in non-threatening prose. He writes towards the end: "It makes intuitive and moral sense that when a nation's government accounts for more than half of all spending in the economy or takes more than half of an individual's income in taxes, that nation is getting less free."

And this is the state of affairs not so much in the developing and emerging market economies but in advanced economies like the United States, the European Union and Japan. The startling, and perhaps not so startling, news is the existence of "zombie" companies, the companies that do not produce anything useful and do not earn profits exist-

ing because the easy loans provided by banks and the bailout packages that follow to save those companies. They were first detected in Japan, and then it was found that they exist in Europe and America as well.

Sharma finds the role of governments intervening to save private sector companies to protect national economies counterproductive, and along with greater state spending on welfare programmes, harmful. The critics of capitalism would point to the evil of welfare measures, and the critics of capitalism will point an accusing finger at the bailout packages. Sharma shows the expanded role of the state, the dependence of the people and private companies on the state, to be the canker.

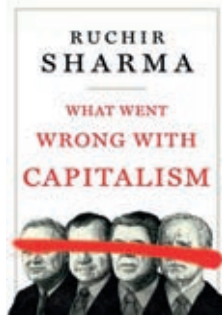
He provides a panoramic view of how the markets have been working in the West and how the benevolent role of the states in the market system has weakened the sinews of the people.

He refers to the "revolution of pain management" which the Western states have mastered through bailout packages instead of letting the people and the companies feel the pain of the boom-bust natural cycle. He says that young people today do not believe in the government's false promise of endless economic growth, and that they are aware of the natural limits.

Sharma paints a vivid picture of the story of market crises, especially the 2008-09 financial markets meltdown — which the blinkered Indian market economists refuse to acknowledge — and the saga of bailout packages in America from the 1970s onwards — and how the so-called neoliberal Reagan revolution of rolling back the state only managed to increase budget deficit!

The lesson: Something terribly wrong with capitalism. The answer of course is not socialism!

The writer is a Delhi-based commentator and analyst



By **RUCHIR SHARMA**  
Penguin Allen Lane  
pp. 367; ₹999

## Of Feluda, 'dry days': A whimsical look, but serious too



**Shuma Raha**

**review**

Sometimes quirky, sometimes philosophical, almost always witty, *In Praise of Laziness and Other Essays* by the journalist and author Indrajit Hazra is an off-beat lollapalooza that offers many wonders. The writer's penchant for word play, his fascination with words and their etymology, his wide-ranging scholarship which sparks through his ideas and propositions that are both serious and frivolous, pack quite a punch. It's a bit like watching a juggler do his thing with a multitude of strobe-lit balls.

Take the title essay, *In Praise of*

*Laziness*. A riff on Bertrand Russell's essay, *Idleness*, Hazra's ode to indolence traipses from an epic meditation on the gargantuan sleeping habits of Kumbhakarna — the brother of Ravana in the *Ramayana* — to a hat-tip to the character of Floyd, the slacker-incarnate in the Hollywood film *True Romance* (1993), to an etymological deep-dive into that exquisitely expressive, almost onomatopoeic, Bengali slang word, 'lyad', or the state of laziness.

Though the slim volume is thick with cultural cross-references (Rimbaud to Bruegel, Homer to Holmes, and so on), it is the pop culture stardust of Bengal, Hazra's motherland, that informs many of the pieces. In *Felumenon, a Bhadrakol* (1993), *Franchise*, which dwells on Feluda, aka Pradosh C. Mitter, the fictional sleuth created by Satyajit Ray and beloved of generations of Bengali children and adults, Hazra argues that the character epitomises the Bengali *bhadrakol* (gentleman) as he once used to be: a person of intelligence, integrity, knowledge, and, also, one who disdained material wealth and equated it with greed. That the Feluda industry continues to be the phenomenon that it is, churning



By **INDRAJIT HAZRA**  
Simon & Schuster  
pp. 168; ₹399

out films and television series 32 years after Ray's death, is because, Hazra says with a touch of Felumaniac romanticism, they evoke "the Bengali as he was, not is, but hopefully will be."

Other subjects get the Hazra treatment: A speculative rumination on the adult lives of Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn and Sukumar Ray's Pagla Dashu — those free-spirited madcap boys whose romps remain frozen in the pages of their boyhood; the joys of an electric blanket in Delhi's winter; the rewards of staying indoors; India's alcohol-mukt "dry day"... There are times when his sentences groan under the weight of the cultural, historical and polemical references that he brings to bear on them. But, clearly, Hazra embraces the complexity. As he says, he wants his language to be clotted, "ropey". So who are we to disagree?

The writer is a senior journalist

## The voice of the Nepali American



**Ankit Rath**

**review**

Ranjan Adiga, both as a writer and as a Nepali-American, has always been fairly vocal about the contemporary issues Nepalis face, especially those that emerge from the social hierarchy they are subject to. His pieces, "Are You an Indian? No, I am a Nepali!" and "I'm not Muslim, but why should it matter if I were?"

bring into view the prejudice that he, like many others, has faced both at home and in America. I believe when similar experiences are gathered and fictionalised, they make way for an anthology like *Leech and Other Stories* to come to life.

This collection of stories "dives into the ... lives of contemporary Nepalis struggling to belong in new worlds." The dreams of progress and upward mobility push them forward while the strings of societal convention and "fate" tie them down. The author skillfully voices some of the most intimate insecurities of these people.

The representation of Nepalis and of the othering that some of them must come to terms with is quite effectively managed in this anthology. A certain homogeneity that permeates the pages is what makes it so. Many of these stories focus on the same or at least similar issues but from varying perspectives.

"Denver" follows a young

couple who have moved to America hoping for a brighter future but find themselves suspended between worlds; 'Leech', the title story, in a similar vein explores the events in the life of a Madhesi migrant in Nepal. We are witness to the disparity between the various kinds of immigrants from across the globe arriving in America in 'Spicy Kitchen', with the Nepali scholar harbouring a constant fear of being deported; the dread of having one's visa revoked is also explored in 'The Diversity Committee' but from a professor's point of view.

'Student Visa' lays bare the tools and troubles the average middle-class Nepali student undergoes simply to obtain one. All these stories explore the blemishes of a seemingly golden land replete with opportunities. Stories like 'Kali' and 'High Heels' are expressions of everyday struggles originating from the innate tendency for discrimination and violence that human society is built on. While most of these stories end on a rather hopeful note, their grim realities never really leave them.

Adiga's stories often are set in the immediate past, which may as well have been the present when they were penned, and therefore are very much in the moment. The descriptions of lewdness and actions of a sexual nature scattered throughout are, perhaps, meant to amplify a feeling of "cultural impurity". This is an important book for the times because it unveils a long-hidden demographic group in its entirety.

Ankit Rath is a DPhil candidate (Oxon)



By **RANJAN ADIGA**  
Penguin  
pp. 256; ₹399

## WORLD

**SHORT TAKES**

### WORLD MET NOD TO WATCH GASES TRAPPING HEAT

London, June 15: The World Meteorological Organisation's Executive Council has approved a Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W) implementation plan to strengthen the monitoring of heat-trapping gases which are driving climate change and to inform climate mitigation. The initial focus will be on the three most important greenhouse gases (GHGs) influenced by human activities, namely carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O).

The greenhouse effect is when GHGs in the atmosphere trap heat from the sun and keep the Earth warm.

### U.S. OFFICIALS TO PROTECT INDIAN JEWELLERS

Washington, June 15: Authorities from Silicon Valley held a meeting with the members and leaders of the Indian-American community following a string of robberies affecting the Indian Jewellery businesses and assured tough actions against the criminals. A series of armed robberies targeting Indian jewellery businesses, spanning from Newark to Sunnyvale, resulted in the loss of millions of dollars in assets and created widespread panic among business owners and the local community.

### HONDURAS TO HAVE 20,000 CAPACITY JAIL

Tegucigalpa, June 15: Honduras will build a 20,000-capacity "megaprison", President Xiomara Castro announced on Friday, among a raft of measures to combat a "security emergency" in the country. Castro, flanked by members of Honduras's National Defence and Security Council, said the "plan of solutions against crime" was in response to public complaints about rising violence.

## France, Germany, UK condemn Iran N-step

Iran denies it is planning to develop new nuclear weapon

### Iran, Sweden agree to a prisoner swap

Paris, June 15: France, Germany and Britain on Saturday condemned Iran's "latest measures", after the United Nations atomic watchdog said the country was expanding its nuclear capacities. The three allies said Iran's moves were undermining a landmark 2015 deal on its nuclear programme, after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday said the country was strengthening enrichment facilities at two sites. "These measures will again increase Iran's stock of enriched uranium and enrichment capacity, whose levels have already surpassed the limits set" by the 2015 deal, the French, German and British foreign ministries said in a joint statement. The condemnation came more than a week after the countries tabled a resolution at an IAEA board of governors meeting criticising

Tehran's lack of cooperation with the nuclear watchdog, the first such move since November 2022. Iran condemned the resolution as "hasty and unwise". It denies seeking to develop a nuclear weapon, saying its atomic programme is for peaceful and civilian purposes. Germany, France and Britain said it was unacceptable that Iran pre-

sented its measures as a reaction to the resolution.

They reiterated their commitment to a diplomatic solution preventing Tehran developing a nuclear weapon.

According to the IAEA, Iran is the only non-nuclear weapon state to enrich uranium to the high level of 60 per cent — just short of weapons-grade — while it continues accumulating large uranium stockpiles.

The IAEA has said Tehran has significantly ramped up its nuclear programme and now has enough material to build several atomic bombs. The Islamic republic has gradually broken away from its commitments under the 2015 deal it struck with world powers.

The accord provided relief from Western sanctions in exchange for curbs on Iran's atomic programme. — AFP

## Thousands march in France in protest against far right

Paris, June 15: Demonstrations were under way in Paris and cities across France on Saturday to protest against the far-right National Rally (RN) ahead of upcoming elections to the French parliament. Following the RN's surge in last Sunday's European elections, police said 350,000 people were expected to march and 21,000 officers had been mobilised after labour unions, student groups and rights groups called for rallies to oppose the anti-immigration, eurosceptic party.

At least 150 marches were expected in cities including Marseille, Toulouse, Lyon and Lille. In Paris, where up to 100,000 people were expected to turn out, a march set off at 1200 GMT from Place de La Republique, in the east, going through the Bastille square to Nation.

Speaking at Place de La Republique, hard-left CGT union leader Sophie Binet told reporters: "We are marching because we are extremely worried that (the RN's head) Jordan Bardella could become the



Demonstrators chant slogans and hold smoke flares during an anti far-right rally after the French president called legislative elections Saturday.

next Prime Minister ... We want to prevent this disaster." Carol-Ann Juste, a 22-year-old student taking part in the Paris march, said it was the first time she had taken part in a protest. She said she was "worried because people believe the lies of this party that has a truly racist heritage," a reference to the National Front, a forerunner to the RN, whose leader Jean-Marie Le Pen was fined for remarks seen

as anti-semitic or xenophobic. Juste said she wanted to "fight to preserve a country of human rights, freedom, and tolerance".

On the same march, Cecilia Lormeau, a 34-year-old teacher who said she plans to vote for the Popular Front, an alliance of left-wing parties, said: "It is important to show we are mobilised and that the RN is not the majority of the people." — Reuters

## Devotees climb 70-metre hill where Prophet Mohammed is believed to have given last sermon

### Pilgrims arrive at Mount Arafat for daylong worship

Mount Arafat, June 15: Vast crowds of Muslims gathered for hours under the hot sun atop Mount Arafat Saturday for the high point of the annual Haj pilgrimage, offering prayers including for Palestinians in war-ravaged Gaza. Clad in white, worshippers began arriving at dawn for the most gruelling day of the annual rites, climbing the rocky, 70-metre hill where the Prophet Mohammed is believed to have given his last sermon. The temperature on Mount Arafat hit 46°C, the spokesman for the national meteorology centre said

on X, creating taxing conditions for pilgrims who had spent the night in a giant tented city in Mina, a valley outside Mecca. "This is the most important day," said 46-year-old Egyptian Mohammed Asser, who came prepared with a list of prayers. "I pray also for the Palestinians. May God help them." Some 1.8 million pilgrims have participated in this year's Haj, the state-affiliated Al-Ekhabriya channel reported on Saturday, roughly the same as last year's total. Saudi Arabia's minister in charge of pilgrimages, Tawfiq al-Rabiah, warned

● **SOME 1.8 MILLION** pilgrims have participated in this year's Haj, the state-affiliated Al-Ekhabriya channel reported on Saturday, roughly the same as last year's total.

last week that "no political activity" would be tolerated during the Haj.

But that did not stop at least one pilgrim from chanting in support of the Palestinians who have endured more than eight months of incessant bombardment. "Pray for our brothers in Palestine, in Gaza... may God give victo-

ry to the Muslims," he shouted. In a message to Haj pilgrims on Saturday, Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said "the ironclad resistance of Palestine and the patient, oppressed people of Gaza... must be fully supported in every way". Some 2,000 Palestinians are performing the Haj at the special invitation of Saudi King Salman, official media said.

Saudi authorities have urged pilgrims to drink plenty of water and protect themselves from the sun during the rituals, which take at least five days to complete and are

mostly outdoors. Since men are prohibited from wearing hats, many carry umbrellas. Mustafa, an Algerian pilgrim who gave only his first name, clung to his umbrella which was handed out by haj organisers, saying, "it's what saves you here".

Another man, an Egyptian who preferred to remain anonymous, said he was drinking "a lot of juice and water" and had twice stopped to rest on the roadside. More than 10,000 heat-related illnesses were recorded last year, 10 per cent of them heat stroke, a Saudi official said. — AFP



Pilgrims use umbrellas to protect themselves from the sun as they gather outside Nimitrah Mosque to offer the noon prayers in Arafat in Saudi Arabia on Saturday. — AFP

# CRICKHIT



ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

## SHORT SINGLES

### Boult says this T20 WC will be his last

Veteran pacer Trent Boult has confirmed the ongoing T20 World Cup will be his final appearance for New Zealand in the marquee-tournament.

Since his debut in 2011, Boult has been a key member of the BlackCaps' golden generation, participating in multiple finals across all three formats for New Zealand. Additionally, the left-arm pacer has featured in four editions of the T20 World Cup since 2014.

"Speaking on behalf of myself, this will be my last T20 World Cup. That's all I have to say," Boult said at the press conference after New Zealand's nine-wicket win over Uganda.

Whether Boult will continue to play for New Zealand in any capacity remains uncertain as he had opted out of a central contract in 2022, choosing to play T20 franchise cricket around the world instead.

### Zazai to replace injured Mujeeb

Off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman has been ruled out of the T20 World Cup due to a finger injury with batter Hazratullah Zazai replacing him in the Afghanistan squad. The 23-year-old Mujeeb, who has injured his right index finger, has played only one of Afghanistan's three games in the tournament so far, at Gros Islet in the opening fixture against Uganda.

"The Event Technical Committee of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 has approved Hazratullah Zazai as a replacement for Mujeeb ur Rahman in the Afghanistan squad," the ICC said in a media release. Afghanistan, who have already qualified for the Super Eight round, will play their final group match against the tournament co-hosts West Indies.

The big-hitting Zazai, who has played 43 T20Is, is not a like-for-like replacement for Mujeeb. However, the Afghans have 19-year-old left-arm spinner Noor Ahmed in the squad, who is likely to fill the void left by Mujeeb.

The replacement of a player requires the approval of the Event Technical Committee before the player can be officially added to the squad.

### USA can beat any team, says Jones

With their Super Eight berth confirmed in T20 World Cup, USA vice-captain Aaron Jones has expressed confidence in his team's ability to trump any full member side given they play 'proper cricket' and up to their potential.

The co-hosts USA's dream run at the T20 World Cup continued on Friday when their Super Eight qualification was confirmed after their Group A game against Ireland was washed out, with the two sides sharing a point each.

USA defeated neighbours Canada by seven wickets before edging out former champions Pakistan in a thrilling Super Over finish to make their debut appearance in the tournament a memorable one.

"Definitely looking forward to the challenge (of Super Eight) for sure. Over the last couple of weeks, we've shown that obviously we could definitely compete and beat some of the full member nations," Jones said.

In the Super Eight, USA will face South Africa, West Indies and possibly England. "Not only for us



The square at the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium Turf Ground in Lauderhill, Florida (USA) remains covered with India and Canada scheduled to play their T20 World Cup Group 'A' match on Saturday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

# RAIN PAIN!

## India-Canada game called off due to wet outfield

MOSES KONDETY | DC LAUDERHILL (FLORIDA, USA), JUNE 15

Rain continued to play spoilsport at the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium Turf Ground here, resulting in India's last Group 'A' match against Canada to be abandoned on Saturday.

It didn't matter to Rohit Sharma and his team

though. They had already sealed qualification for the next stage of the tournament courtesy three successive victories, against Ireland, Pakistan and USA. Canada had no stakes in the game either.

They had no chance of making it to the Super Eight, with just two points from three matches. Even an improbable win over India would have got them

to only 4 points, one short of second-placed USA's 5.

Eventually, the no-result fetched India and Canada a point each, taking their tallies to 7 and 3 respectively.

That put humid Florida in the shade. All three games scheduled here — Sri Lanka vs Nepal; USA vs Ireland and India vs Canada — have been abandoned.

Inclement weather here threatens to ruin the last one as well, Ireland vs Pakistan on Sunday, signalling a complete washout of the Florida leg, which concludes the American edition of the tournament.

On Saturday, the weather remained gloomy with dark clouds hanging over the stadium. The square remained covered with the ground staff trying to dry

out patches in the outfield with blowers. Umpires Richard Kettleborough and Sharfuddinulla carried out frequent inspections of the ground before calling it off at 11.35 am local time. The match needed to start at 12.30 pm to get a full game while a 2.16 pm start would have ensured a 5-overs-a-side affair, the minimum overs required to constitute a match.

## Rampant Oz wary of Scotland

Gros Islet (St Lucia), Jun 15: A rampant Australia will be wary of Scotland threat when the two teams clash in a crucial Group 'B' encounter in the T20 World Cup here with the outcome set to influence Super Eight qualification.

With Australia having already booked one spot for the Super Eight from Group 'B', Scotland and England are in race for the second position.

Scotland will go through if they beat Australia or even if their contest is washed out, but in case of a defeat to the Mitchell Marsh-led side and England winning against Namibia hours earlier, the Scots would miss the bus.

For England, a win over Namibia is a must and if the Australians do them a favour by beating Scotland, chances will only brighten up.



Marcus Stoinis plays a shot during a Group 'B' match against Oman in Bridgetown.

A washout in England-Namibia game in the same group will see Scotland go through.

Australia have been in top-form with hardly any serious concern. Nathan Ellis is expected to continue featuring in their play-

ing XI since the Australians tend to rest one of their big three fast bowlers — Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc — in such contests.

Hazlewood had earlier mentioned

Australia manipulating their approach against Scotland to keep England threat at bay, but Jos Buttler's team have done themselves a massive favour by improving their Net Run Rate immensely with a dominant victory over Oman.

### PAK EYE CONSOLATORY WIN OVER IRELAND

Babar Azam's Pakistan will look to restore some pride when they take on a under-firing Ireland in their final Group 'A' match at Lauderhill in Florida on Sunday.

With arch-rivals India and USA sealing the two spots for the Super Eight stage from Group 'A', Pakistan have been confined to some introspection and relook at their T20 game. But before all that, Babar's side will have to first thwart the Irish challenge. — PTI

## S. AFRICA EDGE NEPAL BY 1 RUN

Kingstown (St Vincent), June 15: Nepal came within a whisker of achieving its best-ever win in cricket, losing by one run to powerhouse South Africa here.

Nepal needed two runs from the last ball of the match to win, one run to match South Africa's modest total of 115/7 and force a Super Over. But teenager Ghulsan Jha was run out at the non-striker's end attempting a single from the final ball and South Africa held on to win a thrilling match.

The Nepal players were disconsolate. They seemed to be headed for Nepal's first win in 12 attempts against an ICC full member nation when they needed 22 runs from the last 24 balls.

They needed 18 runs from 18 balls but lost three wickets for one run with six balls including two wickets to spinner

## NZ hammer Uganda to register 1st victory

Tarouba (Trinidad), June 15: New Zealand put up a clinical performance to notch a comprehensive but a consolatory nine-wicket win over minnows Uganda in the T20 World Cup here.

Left-arm pacer Trent Boult (2/7) and fellow veteran quick Tim Southee (3/4) wrecked havoc as

Uganda folded up for a mere 40 in 18.4 overs, missing the lowest total in the T20 World Cup by just a run.

— PTI  
Brief scores: Uganda 40 in 18.4 overs (Kenneth Waiswa 11, Tim Southee 3/4) lost to New Zealand 41/1 in 5.2 overs (Devon Conway 22 not out; Riazat Ali Shah 1/0).

## SCOREBOARD

**South Africa:** Reeza Hendricks c & b Airee 43, Quinton de Kock c & b Airee 10, Aiden Markram b Bhurtel 15, Heinrich Klaasen c Karan KC b Bhurtel 3, David Miller c Lamichhane b Airee 7, Tristan Stubbs not out 27, Marco Jansen c Sah b Bhurtel 1, Kagiso Rabada st Aasif Sheikh b Bhurtel 0. Extras (lb-6, w-3) 9. **Total (for 7 wickets in 20 overs) 115.**  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-22, 2-58, 3-74, 4-82, 5-97, 6-115, 7-115.  
**Bowling:** Sompal Kami 2-16-0, Dipendra Singh Airee 4-0-21-3, Karan KC 1-0-9-0, Kushal Malla 2-0-17-0, Sandeep Lamichhane 4-0-18-0, Kushal Bhurtel 4-0-19-4, Abinash Bohara 3-0-19-0.  
**Nepal:** Kushal Bhurtel b Shamsi 13, Aasif Sheikh b Shamsi 42, Rohit Paudel b Shamsi 0, Anil Sah c Jansen b Markram 27, Dipendra Singh Airee c de Kock b Shamsi 6, Kushal Malla b Nortje 1, Gulsan Jha run out (de Kock/Klaasen) 6, Sompal Kami not out 8. Extras (b-4, lb-3, w-4) 11. **Total (for 7 wickets in 20 over) 114.**  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-35, 2-35, 3-85, 4-99, 5-100, 6-100, 7-114.  
**Bowling:** Marco Jansen 4-0-16-0, Kagiso Rabada 2-0-17-0, Ottnel Baartman 4-0-20-0, Anrich Nortje 4-0-27-1, Tabraiz Shamsi 4-0-19-4, Aiden Markram 2-0-8-1.

Tabraiz Shamsi and the equation changed.

Gulshan was unable to score from the first two balls of the last over, bowled by Ottnel Baartman. He then slashed a four through the off side and Nepal needed

four runs from three balls.

Gulshan ran two with Sompal Kami and Nepal needed 2 from two balls. The fifth ball was a dot ball — no runs were scored — and Gulshan was run out next ball to end the match. — PTI

## MEN'S ARCHERY TEAM LOSES IN QUARTERS OF OLYMPIC QUALIFIER

Antalya (Turkey), June 15: Indian men's archery team followed its women compatriots in failing to secure an Olympic quota from the Final Qualifier and will now have to rely on rankings to qualify for the quadrennial showpiece slated next month. A day after Indian women suffered a shock defeat to Ukraine in the pre-quarters, the world No. 2 men's team exited in the last-eight stage, going down to Mexico in the shoot-off in a dramatic fashion.

The top-seed India lost 4-5 (57-56, 57-53, 55-56, 55-58) (26-26\*). The men's team event offered Olympic quotas to the top-three on the podium.

The loss came as a rude reality check for the Indian Olympic medal hopefuls as they were leading 4-0 after winning first two sets comprehensively.

Both the men's and women's teams can still qualify based on their rankings ahead of the Paris Olympics cut-off date. — PTI

## Groupings to blame for Pak's poor show

Karachi, June 15: Pakistan's shock early exit from the T20 World Cup is being blamed on "groupings" within the team and non-performance of senior players during critical moments and it could lead to "major changes" not just in the team but also in the PCB.

According to Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) sources, the biggest challenge before Babar Azam on his comeback as captain was to unite the team but he could not do so because of the groupings.

Shaheen Shah Afridi upset at losing the captaincy and Babar not supporting him when required while Muhammad Rizwan was unhappy at not being considered for the captaincy. "There are three groups in the team, one led by Babar Azam, the second one by Shaheen Shaheen Afridi and the

third one by Muhammad Rizwan. Add to this mix the return of seniors like Muhammad Aamir and Imad Wasim and the recipe was ready for a World Cup disaster," a source close to the team told PTI. "The return of Imad and Amir added to the confusion as it was difficult for Babar to get any worthwhile performances from both of them as they had not played top level domestic or international cricket for a long while now except in franchise based leagues.

"There were even instances where some players were not talking to each other and a few of them even tried to appease all the group leaders in the team," added the source.

A senior PCB official said that Chairman Mohsin Naqvi was well aware of the problems in the team even before the



Pakistan will look to restore some pride when they take on a under-firing Ireland in their final Group 'A' match at Lauderhill, Florida, on Sunday.

World Cup and had been briefed by his right hand, national selector and senior manager, Wahab Riaz.

"Naqvi held two meetings in private and gave them pep talks asking them to put

their issues aside and focus on winning the World Cup and he would remove all misgivings in the team later on but apparently things didn't work out.

"I am not defending

Babar but what is a captain supposed to do when your premier bowler can't even defend 15 in the final over against a weak USA side and concedes a boundary and six on full tosses. "Or when an all-rounder brought out of retirement to help win the World Cup sits out with fitness issues."

The role of outside elements including agents of players and some former players who ran social media campaigns also have not helped ease the simmering tensions in the team. Naqvi has now hinted at making changes in the national team but another well-informed source made it clear that changes would now also be made in the cricket board.

"The Chairman obviously is going to clean up things but already he has started the process," the source said. — PTI

## WOMEN'S | CRICKET

### India, S. Africa look to build momentum

Bengaluru, June 15: India and South Africa will be eager to achieve different goals with the broader picture of the Women's T20 World Cup hanging in the backdrop when they begin a three-week long all-format series with the first ODI here on Sunday.

In the year of T20 WC, the 50-over matches might look a bit incongruous but they are significant for the two teams looking to hit a busy road to the ICC showpiece, to be hosted by Bangladesh in October, on a winning note, and gain momentum.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side, which had lost the ODI and T20I series against Australia at home

this January, came roaring back, blanking Bangladesh 5-0 in a recent away T20I series and the hosts would like to build on it further.

However, the victory over Bangladesh on slow tracks was crafted by the Indian bowlers as the batters often struggled to hit the top gear. But a return to the M Chinnaswamy stadium with its placid pitch, short boundaries and quick outfield, will fill them with hope.

On the other hand, South Africa are coming off a middling series against Sri Lanka at home where they lost the T20Is 1-2 before sharing the ODIs 1-1. So, they would want a turnaround in this series. — PTI

## SHORT TAKES

### Eng set to face Serbia in opener

**Germany:** England's attacking arsenal sees them start Euro 2024 as the bookmakers' favourites to end a wait since 1966 to win a major tournament, but some doubts persist over the Three Lions ahead of Sunday's opener against Serbia. Gareth Southgate's men have won just one of their last five matches -- a run that includes a 1-1 draw with North Macedonia and a shock 1-0 home defeat to Iceland in their final warm-up match before flying out to Germany. England are still expected to cruise through a group that also includes Denmark and Slovenia. However, a dominant display is required against the Serbs in Gelsenkirchen to settle nerves at the start of another tournament filled with high expectations, but which could still fail to deliver a long-awaited trophy. The biggest question over England's credentials to be European champions is at the back as injury has robbed Southgate of his settled back four from previous tournaments. — AFP

### Messi on target for Argentina

**Landover:** Lionel Messi scored twice as Argentina wrapped up their preparations for the Copa America with a 4-1 friendly victory over Guatemala in Maryland on Friday. Messi grabbed an early equaliser and then dinked in Argentina's fourth as the world champions came from behind in what was their final game before they launch the defence of their Copa America crown against Canada next Thursday. Guatemala took a shock lead after only four minutes when a free-kick from Oscar Santis from wide on the left sowed confusion in Argentina defence. Santis's cross bobbed across ended with Lisandro Martinez scooping an attempted clearance into his net for an own goal. But Argentina did not have to wait long to get back on level terms and equalised in the 12th minute after a blunder by Guatemala goalkeeper Nicholas Hagen. — AFP



Switzerland's Michel Aebischer (right) celebrates with teammates after scoring his side's second goal against Hungary in a Group 'A' match in Cologne on Saturday. — AP

## Germany off to flying start, thrash Scotland

**Munich, June 15:** Germany thrashed 10-man Scotland 5-1 as the Euro 2024 hosts kicked off the tournament in style in Munich on Friday, the start of a journey they hope culminates in a record fourth continental title. Florian Wirtz struck the opening goal 10 minutes in and Jamal Musiala soon doubled Germany's lead with an emphatic finish. "We couldn't have had a better start. We've seen the atmosphere in the country, and we need that," Musiala said of Germany's lightning start. A long-awaited night for Scotland went from bad to worse before half-time when Ryan Porteous was sent off for a two-footed challenge on Ilkay Gundogan, with

Kai Havertz tucking away the resulting penalty. Niclas Füllkrug powered in a fourth midway through the second half after coming on as a substitute and not even a late own goal from Antonio Ruediger could spoil an otherwise perfect start to the campaign for Germany. There was even time for Emre Can to add a fifth goal with the final kick of the game. Scotland could surely not have envisioned such a disastrous beginning, but they must regroup quickly with games to come in Group A against Switzerland and Hungary. "Today was hugely disappointing but you're playing against the host nation and it's the first

game... things don't get much tougher than that," said Scotland captain Andy Robertson. After three successive failures at major tournaments, including back-to-back group stage exits at the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, this was a statement of intent from an experienced Germany side. **SWISS SINK HUNGARY** Switzerland made a flying start at Euro 2024 as Kwadwo Duah and Michel Aebischer scored their first international goals in a 3-1 win against Hungary on Saturday. Murat Yakin's side raced into a two-goal lead by half-time in Cologne to kick off their Group A campaign in impressive fashion as Duah opened the scoring. — AFP

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