

Kaleshwaram to be back in action soon; all 35 pumping units at three barrages ready

Hyderabad: The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), once written off as a wasteful expenditure by the ruling Congress party, could soon roar back into life, with Irrigation officials firm on resuming the pumping operations under the project and keeping all the pump houses ready. The multi-stage project involves several pumping facilities. It has in all 35 units that manage the project's outflows at the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages. These units play a crucial role in reverse pumping of water from the confluence point of the Godavari and Pranahita rivers to the Sripada Yellampalli project. The Kannepalli pump house comprises 17 giant motor pumps, each weighing 2,376 metric tonnes, and are meant for lifting water from Godavari in the first stage. These powerful pumps, known as 'Baahubali motors', have a capacity to lift 3,000 million cubic feet (TMC ft) of water every day. All of them are now kept ready for resuming operations.

Since no impounding of water is allowed at this stage in the Medigadda barrage, the possibility of lifting from the natu-

ral flows has been examined. Only Medigadda barrage has been receiving some inflows, thanks to the contribution of the Pranahita river. Lifting of water from Medigadda would be possible if the inflows are in the order of some 30,000 cusecs to 35,000 cusecs. The inflows at Medigadda are in the order of 17000 cusecs now and are expected to be doubled within a week. Lifting of water to the designed capacity of two TMC a day may not be immediately possible without building the storage level. The project authorities are of the view that the river would receive heavy floods from the second week of July to September. The need for building the storage would arise only from October when there would be a dip in the inflows.

They are planning to build a make-shift cofferdam or weir kind of structure after three months to retain water in the Medigadda Barrage to facilitate pumping into the Annaram Barrage in the lean period. The pump houses at Annaram and Sundilla barrage were also overhauled and kept ready to resume operations. No significant inflows were, however, received



at both the barrages so far. The interim works recommended by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) on the two barrages were in their crucial final phase. They would be completed in less than a week, said officials

Water can be impounded in the two barrages once the works are completed and final clearance was received from the State government as well as the NDSA. The NDSA team is expected to revisit the barrages soon.

South India's biggest veterinary hospitals comes up at Shamshabad



Hyderabad: Billed as the biggest veterinary hospital in South India, Maa Saraswathi became operational on Sunday with a formal inauguration at the Satyam Shivam Sundaram Gau Seva Kendra, in Burujgadda near Shamshabad.

The hospital, which cost around Rs 3 crore, was built with donations by philanthropists and animal lovers, a press release said on Monday. Spread over 5,100 sqft area, the hospital is equipped with an ambulance, an operation theatre, an intensive care unit, diagnostic facilities and a medical dispensary. It is also equipped with modern diagnostics, an X-ray machine, an Endoscope, a Blood-insulin Analyzer and many other such facilities. It is manned by five veterinarians, five assistants and five para medical staff.

Seen A Woman Feeding Cows Which Are Sheltered At Satyam Shivam Sundaram Gau Nivas At Burujgadda Where South India's Biggest Veterinary Hospital Has Come Up The hospital facility was formally inaugurated by Ruhi and Mehr, grandchildren of Dharamraj Ranka, an 85-year-old man behind the hospital. According to Dr Nishita Ranka, the facility is equipped to take up ten 10 surgeries a day in addition to handling 100 sick animals a day.

A tool to ensure complete voter anonymity

The Janata Dal (United) candidate from Sitamarhi Lok Sabha seat, Devesh Chandra Thakur, was in the news for 'breaching' the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) no longer in force and rekindling interest in a dormant writ petition (W.P.). Mr. Thakur was in a spot for saying, "Those (from Muslim and Yadav communities) who want to come can come, have tea and snacks, but don't expect any help" and thus explicitly suggesting that the two sections should not expect him to help in the redressal of their grievances as they had not supported him in the elections. Mr. Thakur's statement was a straightforward assertion of a transactional relationship that bordered on defiling democratic principles. It was against the constitutional spirit behind the relationship of the citizens and their elected representatives. What it implied was that he would overlook the interest of the Muslims and the Yadavs. While the JD(U) issued statements to blunt the condemnation that came his way, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), which had been defeated in the constituency, asserted that a leader after winning an election becomes the representative of an area and that "he should work for everyone without categorising caste and community".

The cardinal spirit behind an impartial election is that the voter is able to cast his vote without the fear of retribution or feeling induced by the promise of a reward. It was in order to discourage the politics of vendetta or vote bargain that voter secrecy was embedded in Rule 56 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, enjoining the returning officer to "reject a ballot paper if it bears any mark or writing by which the elector can be identified". Similarly, while counting, ballot papers of different ballot boxes were mixed to avoid group targeting of voters based on the voting trends in a particular area. However, with the introduction of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), this 'mixing' cannot be done, which has led to demands of introducing a totaliser to avoid identification of areas according to their voting behaviour.

The totaliser as a technique to mask booth-level voting patterns was mooted in 2007 as a solution to the problem of post-election harassment of voters. It was examined and evolved by the authorised EVM manufacturers in consultation with the Technical Experts Committee of the Election Commission of India (ECI), and demonstrated in 2008 before political parties who had "no objection" to the use of totaliser. In March 2009, it was used on a trial basis in bye-elections to the Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh. Thereafter, the issue has shuttled between the ECI, government, and the Courts, with the government pussyfooting the proposal till 2014 and then not favouring it altogether. Following the Madras High Court order of August 2011 in W.P. 11919/2011 directing the government to consider the ECI's recommendation of amending the relevant Rules for introducing the totaliser, the government sought to ascertain the time required to fully deploy



it. The EC said it would take about four months. Thereafter, there was a lull. In August 2013, the ECI again requested the government to amend the 1961 Rules.

In April 2014, W.P. 422/2014 Yogesh Gupta v. EC was filed before the Supreme Court, seeking a direction to the EC "to declare the results of every Parliamentary Constituency as a whole and to not declare results of every voting machine separately, so as to preserve the right of privacy in voting" since booth-wise declaration of results provided a "tool in the hands of the political parties to intimidate the voters". In its counter-affidavit filed in June 2014, the EC reaffirmed its commitment to the totaliser whereupon the court sought to know why amendment to Rules was required and whether the EC could issue instructions for the use of totaliser under existing Rules. The EC reiterated that amendment of Rules was necessary. Meanwhile, in its 255th Report, the Law Commission of India endorsed the EC's proposal to introduce totaliser in counting of votes. However, in its affidavit in the Yogesh Gupta matter in February 2016, the government stated that the use of totaliser served no larger public interest. The EC expressed its "firm view" that using totalisers for counting of votes was "absolutely necessary" for protecting the interests of the voters. It held a meeting of recognised political parties for demonstration of totaliser in March 2016. The Bahujan Samaj Party, the Congress, and the Nationalist Congress Party supported the use of totaliser, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) advised a phased introduction, the CPI did not give a view, and the Bharatiya Janata Party opposed it. The EC conveyed the views of the parties to the government reaffirming its original proposal. In 2016, the government referred the matter to a group of ministers which con-

cluded that revelation of booth-wise voting patterns would have a beneficial effect in increasing development activities. In October 2017, another W.P (C) No. 927/2017 Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay v. Union of India was filed before the Supreme Court, seeking "appropriate steps to use totaliser" for counting of votes. In this W.P. which is

tagged with the earlier one, the EC again submitted that the time was ripe for introducing totaliser. The government counsel raised the issue of the possible leakage of data from the EVM. The matter remains dormant since March 2018. It is worth debating if technology will help us rise above our prejudices or proclivities.

Girls walk away with large number of seats in six-year BTech programmes offered by RGUKT

Hyderabad: Girls walked away with a large number of seats in the six-year BTech programmes offered by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT), Basar, for the academic year 2024-25. This time, 976 girls got provisional admissions as against 428 boys, translating the ratio of girls and boys among those selected to 69:31. Overall, 1,404 candidates were given provisional admission by the university in the first phase of admissions.

A list of candidates provisionally selected was released by Principal Secretary (Education), Burra Venkatesham, along with RGUKT Vice Chancellor Prof. V Venkata Ramana, here on Wednesday. The list has been made available on the university website <https://www.rgukt.ac.in/>.

At 330, the highest number of students was from Siddipet district followed by 157 students from Nizamabad and 132 from Sangareddy district. Among those selected, 95 per cent were from the government schools and remaining from the private



This time, 976 girls got provisional admissions as against 428 boys, translating the ratio of girls and boys among those selected to 69:31.

schools. The first phase of certificate verification will be conducted on the university campus from July 8 to 10. It is mandatory for all provisionally selected candidates to attend the counselling on the prescribed dates along with necessary original certificates. Those students who do not attend the counselling will forfeit any claim for the admission, the RGUKT said. Date of reporting at the campus will be informed to candidates in the due course.

Anantha Law College hosts a thrilling Intra College Moot Court Competition, Celebrating the next generation of legal fraternity!

Anantha Law College, a leading institution for legal education in the twin cities, hosted the third edition of its Intra college moot court competition, showcasing the exceptional talent and legal prowess of its students. The event was graced by the presence of Professor Professor Dr. GB Reddy, Director PGRR CDE (OU) presided over the event as Chief guest. With the intent of inculcating academic drive in students and to enhance their legal skills, Correspondent Mr. Ravi Anantha and Principal, Dr. M. V. Chandramathi have facilitated to organize this event, where students showcased their talent in an Appeal matter on the given COVID vaccine related Moot proposition in the Finals Round held today. Trophies, medals and certificates were awarded to all the participants and to the winners, who showed outstanding performance.

Speaking to the audience and media on this occasion, Dr. GB Reddy after giving his valuable suggestions on the Moot Court proceedings, emphasized on the main provisions of the new criminal laws in a nutshell to spread public awareness. Dr. M V Chandramathi stressed on the number of opportunities the young students can avail by excelling in legal education. Apart from enthusiastic students, the teaching and non teaching staff of Anantha Law College played an indispensable role in the success of today's event.

The competition culminated in the presentation of trophies and medals to the top-performing students. The winning



team, comprising T. Ashoka Reddy and his team T. Indira Bhargavi & Rayeesa Tarannum, demonstrated exceptional legal acumen and advocacy skills, securing the top spot. The runners-up team, consisting of N. Sai Tharun Kumar and his team

R. Ravi Kumar & B. Ganeswari, also showcased their exceptional talent and legal expertise. The Intra college moot court competition at Anantha Law College has emerged as a prestigious event, providing a platform for aspiring legal professionals

to showcase their skills and gain valuable experience. This event not only celebrates the academic excellence of the students but also reinforces the institution's commitment to fostering a vibrant and engaging legal community.

AICTE and OPPO India collaborate for the 'Generation Green' campaign to build Green Skills through 5000 student internships in India



The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and OPPO India today announced their 'Generation Green' campaign. The 100-day programme—managed by 1M1B (One Million for One Billion)—promotes green skills among the youth through 5,000 internship opportunities across colleges in India. According to

LinkedIn's Global Green Skills Report 2023, job seekers with green skills are 29% more likely to get hired than the average workforce. This initiative cultivates climate-conscious skills which will add to the students' knowledge to make them future-ready for the opportunities of tomorrow. "AICTE is proud to join hands with OPPO

India for the Green Internship Programme," Dr TG Sitharam, Chairman of AICTE, said. "It is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their skills and contribute to sustainability efforts that tackle environmental challenges and contribute towards building an eco-friendly world. Notably, OPPO India is the first electronics manufacturing company to offer internships through AICTE. This campaign is a part of the 1 Crore Internships mission of AICTE, Ministry of Education, Govt of India, and will contribute to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals."

Students from all streams, technical and non-technical, can participate in this internship program. The interns will undertake a range of hands-on activities that will inculcate their skills in project management, sustainability practices, effective communication, collaboration, research, and data analysis, enhancing their overall employability. Students will take the Green Pledge and participate in awareness sessions, E-surveys, and Green Day celebrations. "At OPPO India, we are aligned with the Net-Zero vision of the Government of India. Our aim is to create a macro movement towards sustainability that is driven by the power of youth," said Rakesh Bhardwaj, Head, Public Affairs at OPPO

India. "Today, we are nurturing 5,000 sustainability champions who are going to further influence the next generation of changemakers. Through the programme, at least 10 lakh students from schools and colleges nationally will be provided with the right knowledge and values towards supporting a sustainable community. We are delighted to partner with AICTE in this transformative initiative and will continue to amplify the impact in this direction through our collective efforts." Dr Buddha Chandrasekhar, Chief Coordinating Officer, AICTE, added, "The AICTE internship portal hosts over 50 lacs internships, aiming to reach 1 Crore by 2025. We are pleased to partner with OPPO India to offer 5000 sustainability internships. Balancing development with sustainability is vital for India. Engaging youth in effective e-waste management is essential, as their commitment and innovation can help build a cleaner, sustainable future. Students participating in these internships may also earn 2-3 academic credits." These efforts aim to increase environmental awareness and promote sustainable practices among students. The opportunity is now available on the AICTE internship portal and students can apply through this link: www.iamgenerationgreen.com.

National Mart – India Ka Hypermart opens 8th store at Medchal



The newest store of National Mart - India ka Hypermart is now open to serve the customers of Medchal, adjacent to Deewan Function Hall on National Highway -44. The store is spread across 40,000 Square feet area and with vast parking space. National Mart in Medchal offers an extensive range of categories that include grocery, beverages, personal care, stationery, home & kitchen appliances, cookware, footwear, apparel and many more products under one roof at affordable prices.

Speaking on the occasion, Yash Agarwal, Founder, National Mart expressed his excitement about bringing National Mart's unique blend of quality and affordability to this bustling location, stating, "Our goal is to provide seamless shopping experiences that cater to the diverse needs of our customers. With our newest store, we aim to not only meet but exceed expectations, offering a haven where shoppers can find everything they need under one roof, all at competitive prices."

National Mart prides itself on offering a diverse range of products, including groceries, home essentials, and more under one roof ensuring there's something for every shopper. National Mart introduced its fashion range under Style Mart, where it provides a wide range of garments for Men, Women and Kids in affordable

price.

With a commitment to competitive pricing and regular discounts, National Mart aims to make shopping not only convenient but also cost-effective for everyone. The challenge is the lowest price every day in National Mart. The store promises a hassle-free environment where customers can dis-

cover new treasures with every visit. Their dedication to affordability ensures that everyone can enjoy quality products without breaking the bank, enhancing the overall shopping experience.

National Mart prepares to open their doors, they aim to set a new standard for

retail excellence on National Highway - 44, offering unparalleled value and convenience to the community. Through innovative retail solutions and a wide array of offerings, National Mart aims to become the preferred destination for shoppers seeking both quality and savings.

BRS criticises Revanth govt for neglecting minority welfare

Hyderabad: Former Minister Mohd Mahmood Ali hit out at the Revanth Reddy-led government for neglecting the welfare of minorities in Telangana. He condemned the decision to hand over electricity bill collection in Hyderabad's old city to Adani Group, calling it an insult to the minority community.

"While Rahul Gandhi opposes Adani, Revanth Reddy seems to welcome him," he remarked, questioning the Congress's sincerity towards minorities. He also pointed out that the current Congress government had no Minorities Welfare Minister or even a MLC post for minorities. Speaking to mediapersons at

Telangana Bhavan on Monday, Mahmood Ali challenged the Congress to fulfill its electoral promise and prove its commitment by allocating Rs 4,000 crore to minorities in the upcoming budget, doubling the amount allocated annually by the previous K Chandrashekhara Rao government. He criticised the State government neglecting the minorities residential schools and converting the Anees-ul-Gurba orphanage building constructed by the BRS regime, into an office complex. The former Home Minister also raised concerns over the deteriorating law and order situation in the Old City of Hyderabad, attributing the rise in communal strife to the Congress government's failure.



KTR condemns demolitions in Peerzadiguda, says Congress harassing people

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao condemned the demolition of houses in Peerzadiguda, stating that the Congress government was harassing locals in an attempt to intimidate BRS corporators and take over the Peerzadiguda Mayor seat. Stating that the BRS would protect Mayor Jakka Venkat Reddy and its corporators, he vowed to repay the Congress' harassment with interest whenever the BRS returned to power.

The demolition, reportedly instigated by former Medchal MLA M Sudhir Reddy, has sparked outrage among locals who had constructed their homes legally on regularised plots in Survey no 1 in Peerzadiguda municipal corporation limits.

They stated that despite obtaining all permissions, the demolitions were taken up claiming that the constructions were carried out in ceiling lands. The police arrested BRS corporators Pochaiiah and Harishankar Reddy on the charges of obstructing the demolition. Responding to the incident, Rama Rao said the Congress leaders sold plots to innocent people and was then demolishing their homes. He

asked Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to investigate into the incident and initiate immediate action. He stated that the plots were regularised by the Congress government in 2008 under the then Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy. "Congress leader Ramdas Goud, Jagadishwar Reddy, and the family of Congress corporator Amar Singh sold these plots. The revenue authorities issued NOCs as it was patta land. People took loans and built houses with municipal permissions," he said. The BRS working president also slammed former MLA Sudhir Reddy for pressurising officials and demolishing the houses built by innocent people. "The BRS government had added GO 118 to solve the plot owners' problems in Saipriya and Satyanarayanapuram Colony. But the incompetent Congress government is demolishing these houses. What did former MLA Sudhir Reddy hope to achieve by demolishing them today?" he asked, warning the Congress government that public anger would not be restrained and asserting that the people would put an end to such oppression. Rama Rao also assured to do justice to the plot owners once the BRS returned to power.



Here's another reason why you should stop smoking



Menopause, the cessation of a woman's menstrual cycles, typically occurs naturally around age 51. However, for some women, this transition happens prematurely before the age of 40 — a condition known as premature menopause or primary ovarian insufficiency. While the causes can vary, ranging from genetic factors to autoimmune disorders, research has consistently pointed to smoking as a major risk factor for the early onset of menopause. According to the Cleveland Clinic, "Smoking cigarettes is the only lifestyle factor that may cause early menopause."

Additionally, a 2015 study published in the journal titled Menopause, states, "Cigarette smoke exposure in adulthood is an established risk factor for earlier age at natural menopause and may be related to age at menopausal transition." Dr Vinutha G, senior consultant gynecologist and obstetrics at Athreya Super Speciality Hospital, says, "Cigarette smoke contains numerous harmful chemicals that can influence the onset of premature menopause." Two key components are cadmium and benzo[a]pyrene, she adds. "Cadmium, a heavy metal, is known to disrupt the production of steroid hormones essential for ovarian function. It interferes with follicular growth and can lead to ovulation failure."

Benzo[a]pyrene, found in higher concentrations in smokers, affects hormone levels crucial for follicular development, leading to earlier depletion of the ovarian reserve (Journal of Ovarian Research; PLOS Medicine), informs Dr

Vinutha. smoking, premature menopause On average, smokers may enter menopause one to two years earlier. (Source: Freepik) Mechanisms of accelerated ovarian aging

According to Dr Vinutha, smoking accelerates ovarian aging through several mechanisms:— Hormonal Disruption: Chemicals in cigarette smoke interfere with the endocrine system, causing hormonal imbalances. This disruption can lead to irregular menstrual cycles and an earlier onset of menopause.— Oxidative Stress: Smoking increases oxidative stress, damaging the DNA in ovarian cells and accelerating the loss of oocytes.— Direct Toxic Effects: Components like cadmium and benzo[a]pyrene directly affect the ovaries, reducing the number of viable eggs and disrupting follicular function) Risk comparison between smokers and non-smokers Studies show that women who smoke are at a significantly higher risk of experiencing premature menopause compared to non-smokers. On average, smokers may enter menopause one to two years earlier. "The risk increases with the amount and duration of smoking.

For each additional cigarette smoked per day, the age at natural menopause can be reduced by about 2.5 weeks. This effect is dose-dependent, meaning the more one smokes and the longer the duration, the higher the risk (PLOS Medicine; Women's Health)," Dr Vinutha warns. Benefits of smoking cessation Dr Vinutha highlights that quitting smoking can significantly reduce the risk of premature menopause. "

Jasprit Bumrah: A wizard at work

Like a stalled racehorse waiting for the gates to open, he waits for the batter to settle into his stance. The unconscious twitching of the shoulders already out of the way, he gathers himself for a microsecond, then sets off on a brisk walk with the ball held above his head in both hands. After a few quick steps, he gathers momentum, exploding at the bowling crease with a hyperextended right elbow, a braced left knee. The orb that leaves his hand is now a weapon of destruction. It could shape in the air, break away on pitching and hit top of off, like Reeza Hendricks found out. It could defy physics and tail in late, as Marco Jansen discovered to his utter shock. It can also begin way outside off and keep coming in, homing in on toes and stumps as if radar-directed. Skeptical? Ask Ollie Pope. And it can grip and turn, delivered with a slight tweak of the fingers, pace taken off, and sneak through the defences to rattle timber. Phil Salt will nod his head, in grudging acceptance.

Is there anything Jasprit Bumrah can't do with the cricket ball? Maybe bowl left-arm wrist-spin, yes, for now. But with right arm and fingers and wrist, there's nothing he can't do. Not to the right-hander, not to the left-hander. Not with a new cherry, not with an old ball. Not in Test cricket, not in the limited-overs variants. Bumrah is the most perfect bowler of his generation, distinctly unique, incredibly skilled, and unbelievably hard-working.

Ace Marksman Even with a team replete with some of the most aesthetically bruising stroke-makers in the business, Rohit Sharma was aware that India's campaign at the T20 World Cup would hinge around how his principal hitman shaped up. He had a maximum of 24 deliveries at his disposal in each outing, but those four overs could often be the difference between victory and defeat. And while he was allowed only 24 legal deliveries, their impact was such that around his overs, other bowlers would benefit. Not least Arshdeep Singh, Bumrah's new-ball partner and understudy, the joint leading wicket-taker of the tournament alongside Afghan Fazalhaq Farooqi, with 17 sticks.

Bumrah slotted in third in that chart, but he was the bowler of the tournament and, officially – as if confirmation was required – the Player of the Tournament. His 15 wickets came at an average of 8.26, a strike-rate of 11.86 and the fairly ridiculous economy of 4.17. He bowled 29.4 of a potential 32 overs in eight matches and conceded just 12 boundaries – 10 fours and two sixes – out of a total 124 runs scored off his bowling; 26% of those runs, stats reveal, were when the batters were not in control. These are cold, bland, mundane numbers, but even they tell a tale in themselves. What they don't elucidate is just how much having Bumrah in their ranks lifted India, how much it cowed oppositions down. Imagine being Rohit, able to summon Bumrah to the bowling crease when he needed control, or wickets. In T20 cricket, one is not any more significant than the other at most times. Sometimes, a 'control over' can be more damaging than a double-wicket maiden. Like in the final. Axar Patel's last over of what was otherwise a fantastic World Cup for him had gone for 24, Heinrich Klaasen embarking on a boundary-bashing spree. That

humongous over brought the equation down to 30 needed off 30, six wickets in hand. For most of the World Cup, Rohit has tended to use Bumrah maybe occasionally in the 16th, mainly in the 17th, and then reserved him for the 19th, which is generally delivered by the best bowler in the lineup. This time, after the Klaasen pyrotechnics, he needed breathing space. He needed someone who would bring about a modicum of sanity to the proceedings, a bankable option who would drag out the game, take the chase deeper. The option was a no-brainer.

Ask and he will deliver Bumrah bowled a gun 16th. He knew his captain relied on him to pull things back. He knew the fate of the final hinged on how the 16th unfolded. He couldn't have won the final in those six balls, but for all the magic he had produced in the preceding seven games, and in his first two overs in the title clash, he could have lost it. If he didn't feel any nerves, he wouldn't have been human. But wait, maybe he isn't human, after all? Maybe he is super-human, above human, beyond human.

Bumrah was on top of his game, that over an event in itself. Just four singles. Four lopped off the target, but the ball was doing a little. Bumrah is dangerous even when the ball is doing nothing. When it's doing a little, well... Bumrah couldn't have pulled it off all on his own. He could bowl just 25% of the 24 balls remaining, of which South Africa required 26. He needed help. He needed support. He needed more than one bowler to back him up. He found support in Hardik Pandya, and in Arshdeep, a protégé if there was one. But it was Bumrah who was the difference. By the proverbial country mile. A lengthy gap between Bumrah's 16th and Hardik's 17th, to tend to Rishabh Pant's knee injury, must have set the nerves jangling in Klaasen, for there is no other explanation for his optimistic waft at a wishful first ball from Hardik which took the edge on its way to Pant. 26 off 23, enter Jansen. The odds still in South Africa's favour, but the force and momentum with India, the despondency of ten minutes back replaced by the prospect of an astonishing heist. Danger man Klaasen gone, six Bumrah balls to go. Rohit could have stuck to his template, brought Arshdeep on for the 18th, held Bumrah back for the next, but he went with gut. With instinct. With blind faith in his enforcer. Not for the first time, Bumrah didn't let him down. If No. 16 was awesome, No. 18 was out of the world. Out of This World, as the tournament's catchline screamed from different parts of the ground. Two runs, Jansen packed off with a pearler, balance tilted, job nearly done. Bumrah is now eight and a half years young in international cricket, time enough for him to have graduated from just a bowler, no matter how complete, to a leader, to a mentor. He was done with the ball, yes, but he wasn't done as a competitor. Already, he had showcased his leadership skills by walking up to Axar for a high-five after the 24-run over. After Quinton de Kock had smashed Arshdeep for six over long-leg, he thrice called out to the bowler from short third-man, and clapped furiously, encouraging his younger mate. A field change resulted in de Kock holing out to long-leg the next ball. Coincidence, for sure. Poor cricket from the Protean 'keeper, without a



shadow of doubt. But Bumrah wasn't just thinking about his own bowling. He was looking out for his colleagues. No wonder then, that Arshdeep concedes that several of his 17 wickets came about because of the pressure Bumrah imposed at the other end, because of the liberty batters felt they had to take against him because they would get nothing, absolutely nothing, from Bumrah. This isn't just romanticising the premier bowler in the world currently. If anything, words can't do justice to what Bumrah is unleashing these days, ball after searching ball, over after probing over. You have to be at the ground to experience the electricity when he is at the top of his bowling mark. You have to witness firsthand the slightly haunted look on the batter's face, never mind if he is Jos Buttler or Keshav Maharaj, David Warner or Naveen-ul-Haq, Babar Azam or Saurabh Netravalkar. They know they are in the crosshairs, and while Bumrah might be no Abhinav Bindra, he seldom misses. A fortnight back, former Indian pacer Lakshmiopathi Balaji had told this writer that Bumrah's legacy as the second best Asian

fast bowler ever after Wasim Akram would be cemented if, like the great Pakistan in the 1992 World Cup final against England, he could single-handedly deliver India this World Cup. Balaji reflected on the similarities between Bumrah and Akram – generating pace and momentum and power from the upper body rather than the lower, like most conventional quicks do. Using the bowling hand and the shoulder and the wrist and the fingers to weave their magic. Taking the pitch out of the equation. Balaji, himself having fought back from a career-threatening back injury to make an India comeback, was in awe of how much Bumrah had gotten better after his back surgery last year. "He is just the most complete fast bowler right now. Look at him — Test cricket, white-ball cricket, doesn't matter," the Tamil Nadu coach had gushed. "New ball, he will get the job done. Old ball, he can reverse it phenomenally. Middle overs in limited-overs games, his variations and his repertoire make him a wicket-taker, not someone who just contains the flow of runs. If there is a more versatile and dangerous fast bowler right now, I don't know who that is."

Telangana govt lifts ban on transfers from July 5 to 20

Hyderabad: The State government on Wednesday issued orders relaxing the ban on transfers and directed the Heads of Departments concerned to initiate the process. A schedule has been released to complete the process of transfers from July 5 to 20. The ban on transfers will be reimposed from July 21.

Accordingly, all the departments concerned will finalise operational mechanism to prepare and publish incumbency particulars including clear vacancies and list of the employees to be compulsorily transferred between July 5 and 8. The employees should submit their applications with options between July 9 and 12, while verification of applications and preparation of master list after counseling will be completed between July 13 and 18.

The transfer orders will be issued on the last two days i.e. on July 19 and 20, where the employees will be deemed to have been relieved from the previous station after third day of issue of transfer or-

ders. As per the guidelines, no employee with less than two years of service at a particular place as on June 30 this year will be transferred.

The condition of completion of two years, however, need not be followed in respect of transfers on spouse grounds. The employees who completed four years of service in a particular station as on June 30, would not be retained at their present station. However, the employees who are retiring before June 30, 2025 will not be transferred even if they have completed four years of service, unless they make a specific request for their transfer. To ensure that there is no dislocation of the work, not more than 40 per cent of employees in any cadre will be transferred. The priority criteria finalised for consideration of options include — when more than one employee opts for a particular place, priority will be given in the prescribed order, subject to satisfaction of other conditions specified now and the employee not facing charges in departmental/criminal proceedings.

What is the significance of 'abhaya mudra', invoked by Rahul Gandhi in Parliament

In his first speech as Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi on Monday invoked the abhaya mudra, the gesture of the raised open palm that is commonly understood as conveying reassurance and a freedom from fear. He portrayed the government as a regime based on fear, and stressed that the culture of fear is alien to the Hindu religion and Indian civilisation. "The first idea in this image that we defend is the idea of confronting our fear and never being scared," Rahul said. The abhaya mudra, he said, was a common thread in the depictions of Lord Shiva, Guru Nanak, and Jesus Christ, and also figured in Islam, Buddhism, and Jainism.

Historically and philosophically, what is the abhaya mudra? Where does it originate from, and what does it symbolise?

Mudras in Buddhism In Sanskrit, the term mudra could mean a seal, mark, sign, or currency, but in the Buddhist context, it refers to "hand and arm gestures made during the course of ritual practice or depicted in images of buddhas, bodhisattvas, tantric deities, and other Buddhist images" (Buswell and Lopez, *The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism*, 2013). Mudras are most commonly associated with visual depictions of the Buddha (or Buddharupa), with different gestures conveying different moods and meanings, signifying the subtle manifestations of the Buddha's states of realisation. For about 500 years after the Buddha, who lived in the 6th or 5th Century BCE, the person of the great teacher was not depicted in the form of an image or sculpture. At Sanchi, for instance, the Buddha is symbolised by a vacant throne or a footprint.

The earliest depictions of the Buddha in physical form date to roughly around the turn of the first millennium. Depictions started appearing in the Gandhara art from the northwestern edge of the Indian subcontinent (present day Pakistan and Afghanistan), which drew on Hellenistic influences, and later in the art of the Gupta period, in the Gangetic plains. In the earliest depictions of Buddharupa, four mudras can be found: the abhaya mudra, or "gesture of fearlessness"; the bhūmisparśha mudra, or "Earth-touching gesture"; the dharmachakra mudra, or "gesture of the wheel of dharma"; and the dhyana mudra, or "gesture of meditation". With the evolution of Mahayana (Greater Vehicle) and Vajrayana (Thunderbolt Vehicle) Buddhism, and the proliferation of Buddhist artwork outside India, hundreds of mudras entered Buddhist iconography. In tantric Buddhist traditions, the mudras came to be associated with dynamic ritual hand movements, where they "symbolised material offerings, enacted forms of worship, or signified relationships with visualised deities" (Buswell and Lopez). Gesture of fearlessness The abhaya mudra is described by Buswell and Lopez as one "typically formed with the palm of the right hand facing outward at shoulder height and the fingers pointing up... Occasionally, the index, second, or third finger touches the thumb, with the remaining fingers extended upward". In some cases, both hands may simultaneously be raised in this posture in a "double abhayamudra". In Buddhist tra-

dition, the abhaya mudra is associated with the Buddha immediately after he obtained Enlightenment, "portraying a sense of the security, serenity, and compassion that derive from enlightenment" (Buswell and Lopez).

The "gesture of fearlessness [also] identifies the moment when Shakyamuni (the Buddha) tamed the mad elephant... illustrating the Buddha's ability to grant fearlessness to his followers" (Buswell, *Encyclopaedia of Buddhism*, 2004). According to Buddhist legend, Devadatta, a cousin and a disciple of the Buddha, upon not being granted the special treatment he expected, plotted to harm the Enlightened. He fed a wild elephant intoxicants and drove her on the Buddha's path. As the disciples scattered before the charging animal, the Buddha raised his hand in the abhaya mudra of love and kindness. The elephant is said to have calmed down immediately, gone down on her knees, and bowed her head to the Buddha. This is why the abhaya mudra is also seen as a "gesture of protection" or "gesture of granting refuge". Abhaya mudra in Hindu religion Over time, the abhaya mudra appeared in depictions of Hindu deities, and the Buddha himself was absorbed into the Hindu pantheon as the ninth avatar of the Puranic god Vishnu. "Hindus came to regard the Buddha as an avatar of



Vishnu between AD 450 and the sixth century," the Indologist Wendy Doniger wrote in her classic *The Hindus: An Alternative History*. The first mention of the Buddha avatar came in the Vishnu Purana (400-500 CE). As multiple traditions, practices,

and cultural influences mingled in the great melting pot of the Hindu religion, manifestations were seen in art and visual depiction of gods. The abhaya mudra was seen in the depictions, most commonly of Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, and Lord Ganesha.

UK may have a new government — this time Labour could be better for India

As the Tories in Britain head for a historic defeat in tomorrow's elections, India is well-placed to advance the bilateral relationship under a new Labour government led by Keir Starmer. The Conservative Party may well deserve much of the criticism for its tumultuous 15-year tenure in office. But when it comes to India, there is no doubt that the Tories have presided over a positive reorientation of ties between London and Delhi. Shedding some of Britain's colonial baggage, the party has unshackled British policy towards India from the Pakistan and Kashmir factors and framed the engagement in the broader Indo-Pacific framework. They have also negotiated a roadmap for the transformation of bilateral relations across the board, from green transition to defence and from new technologies to maritime security. The Migration and Mobility Agreement helped the two sides grapple with the challenge of illegal immigration and ease the flow of Indian talent into the UK. Not all problems have been resolved. Delhi remains concerned about the impunity that anti-India activity in Britain seems to enjoy. There has been enduring resistance in Britain's permanent establishment to a fresh relationship. In Delhi, too, the "anti-colonial" posturing on the left and right prevents the establishment from seizing the full range of possibilities with Britain.

Labour's return to power might reig-

nite some of India's anxieties about bilateral ties due to the disastrous turn in India-UK relations in the late 1990s when Labour presided over a visit by Queen Elizabeth II to India in 1997. Meant to signal post-colonial reconciliation on the 50th anniversary of India's Independence, the visit became a lesson in how not to organise major diplomatic events.

In a stopover in Pakistan during the mission's visit to India, the newly-minted British Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, talked about helping mediate on the Kashmir question. Inder Kumar Gujral, the Indian Prime Minister travelling in Egypt at that time, dismissed the offer and called Britain a "third-rate power" wallowing in delusions about its post-imperial weight in the world. The Queen's visit to Jallianwala Bagh to express regret at the 1919 massacre was to be the sombre centrepiece of the visit. But Prince Philip, the Queen's Royal Consort, remarked that the Jallianwala Bagh death count may be exaggerated and triggered a massive uproar in India. Although British PM Tony Blair sought to limit the damage, the squabbling over Pakistan and Kashmir continued to cast a shadow over bilateral relations under Labour's tenure. Cook's articulation of an "ethical foreign policy" that had support in the Labour Party, coupled with the promotion of identity politics and pandering to anti-India groups, put the ties between

Delhi and London on shaky ground. David Cameron, who led the Conservatives to victory in 2010, made an early visit to India and signalled the desire to put the past behind. Delhi was not ready for the transformation and it took another decade for the two sides to lay out an ambitious vision for an India-British partnership.

Could the return of Labour open up old wounds? Unlikely. Starmer has put down the anti-India fires lit in the Labour Party by Jeremy Corbyn. The Labour Manifesto's references to Kashmir in the 2019 elections triggered a storm in Delhi and mobilised the Hindu community to support the Tories. But Starmer has sought to crush the radical ideologies. There is no longer a free run to anti-India groups. Starmer has signalled the intent to build on the foundations laid by the Tories. At home, Labour is reaching out to the Hindu vote (as are the Tories). Starmer was at the Swaminarayan Temple in Kingsbury with the promise to protect the interests of British Hindus. But the new Labour can't ignore other minorities, including the Pakistani diaspora which stands at 1.2 million (the Indian diaspora is at 1.5mn). The UK-based Khalistani groups will continue to lobby the new government to push an anti-India agenda. For Delhi, there is no escaping the fact that India's domestic politics and the fractures of the Subcontinent will continue to resonate within the large South Asian diaspora. Like in most democracies,

All you need to know about the Iran presidential elections

On June 28, Iran held the first round of voting to elect a new President, necessitated by the death of Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash in May. Since neither of the top two candidates — 69-year-old cardiac surgeon Masoud Pezeshkian, a reformist, and 58-year-old hardliner Saeed Jalili — won more than 50% of votes, they will face off in a run-off election on July 5.

What do terms like “reformist” and “hardliner” mean in Iranian politics?

The reformist-conservative (what Western media call “hardliner”) divide in Iranian politics has existed since the beginning of the Iranian Revolution in 1979 and the subsequent formation of the Islamic Republic. Even when Ayatollah Khomeini led the new republic, there were moderate ayatollahs or senior Shia leaders from within the religious establishment who were critical of his policies. For instance, Ayatollah Shariatmadari challenged the notion of Wilayat al-Faqih or the rule of the jurist, which implied an important political and constitutional role for the Supreme Leader. After Ayatollah Khomeini’s death in 1989, there was a tussle for succession between the conservatives and the reformists within the clergy. Similar tussles were seen in elections for Iran’s President as well. During the period when the reformist Mohammad Khatami was President (1997-2005) there was some support for women and university students. He was followed in the presidency by hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (2005-13) who was not from the clergy, but conservative nonetheless. Subsequently, reformist Hassan Rouhani (2013-21) came to power, followed by Raisi (2021-24), who was considered a hardliner.

What views do the two candidates hold on major issues?

Pezeshkian has stated he will object to oppressive restrictions on women. Like previous reformers, he too wants a better relationship with the West, and believes that Iran’s isolation due of Western economic sanctions needs to be ended. US sanctions against Iran go back to the early days of the Islamic Republic. Iran negotiated with the West to sign the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), or the Iran nuclear deal, in 2015. In exchange for certain limits on Iran developing nuclear weapons, the West agreed to ease some sanctions. Donald Trump’s unilateral withdrawal from the deal in 2018 dealt a blow to the reformists, and served as vindication for the conservatives who were opposed to the outreach to the West. The killing of the senior Iranian general Qassem Soleimani in 2020 by the United States further consolidated the conservative hold on power in Iran. Pezeshkian is also arguing for more liberal policies, but that’s not easy to achieve. Jalili had been part of Iran’s nuclear negotiations with the West, but his statements during the campaign suggest that he is no longer in favour of a deal. He believes that represents an unacceptable concession, and instead favours continuing with the “resistance economy” of as-



serting economic independence as resistance to sanctions. Jalili also supports closer relationships with China and Russia. He is part of one of the higher bodies of Iranian politics and security, the Expediency Council, indicating his proximity to the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

How are the presidential candidates selected in Iran?

Many people apply to become candidates but the establishment oversees the selection process, and only vetted candidates can contest. Most candidates are from the establishment, and only a few reformists can enter the fray. The Supreme Leader has been indirectly critical of Pezeshkian’s position on improving relations with the US. However, these elections are taking place in the aftermath of tumultuous events like the 2022 women’s protests, and the position taken by the reformist candidate has a certain resonance.

What is the real extent of the President’s power in Iran?

The final arbiter in the Iranian system is the Supreme Leader, and the President has to negotiate all major policy decisions with him. The President’s position in Iran can be compared to that of a Vice President elsewhere. While he does have a cer-

tain amount of executive power and some leeway in the day-to-day running of the system, broader policymaking must be in line with the overall ideology of the republic, and depends upon the President’s negotiating capabilities with the Supreme Leader. President Ahmadinejad ensured Iran asserted itself in regional politics, and extended assistance to the Lebanese Shiite militant group Hezbollah. And the reformist President Khatami proposed the idea of a “dialogue among civilisations”, instead of the doctrine of a fundamental incompatibility with the West.

How could the outcome of the election influence Iran’s immediate foreign policy? Could there be shifts in the relationship between Iran and India?

Iran has important stakes in the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict. It backs both Hamas and Hezbollah, with whom the Israelis are in conflict. Under a hardline President, much of the policy direction seen under President Raisi may continue. A moderate President may try to negotiate things, but there’s a limit to it, especially during crises. For the short term, not much is expected to change even if the reformist candidate is elected. There may be some negotiations later, although the Supreme Leader runs a major part of foreign

policy. Tehran’s relationship with New Delhi is not impacted by Iran’s domestic ideological and political struggles. The two countries have ties rooted in history. After the Iranian revolution too, their relationship was not impacted negatively. In fact, Iran increased its engagements with India and non-aligned countries, in line with its opposition to the West. Some dents appeared in the relationship because of global events. The Iranian economy was suffering with the expansion of US sanctions, which impacted the Chabahar port project, an important aspect of bilateral ties. The project was first discussed under the reformist Khatami in 2002, but was brought back on track under the hardliner Raisi, signifying a continuity irrespective of ideology.

What does the low voter turnout — around 40%, the lowest since the revolution — suggest?

While it does not mean total citizen apathy towards politics, many Iranians do seem to believe that even electing a liberal President would not translate into the major policy changes they want. There is a class aspect to the ideological divide: poorer Iranians usually benefit from a conservative regime, while the liberals, middle class, and city-dwellers are more attracted to the reformists.