

'Health Walk' tracks to open tomorrow in T.N.'s 38 districts

The list of venues and Google Map links will be available on the DPH and Preventive Medicine website; screening camps will be organised along the path on the first Sunday of every month

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

With 'Health Walk' tracks all set to be launched in the 38 districts of Tamil Nadu, the identified stretches along with Google Map links will soon be available on the website of the Directorate of Public Health (DPH) and Preventive Medicine.

In a bid to encourage people to walk, the Health Department designed 'Health Walk' tracks along the lines of an 8-km walking track in Tokyo. Health Minister Ma. Subramanian had earlier stated that the initiative would be launched on November 4.

"We identified the existing suitable pathways and developed them with assistance from urban local bodies, including installing benches along the routes. Display of suitable information material on the benefits of walking and sig-



State Health Minister Ma. Subramanian and Chennai Corporation Commissioner J. Radhakrishnan inspecting the 'Health Walk' track at Besant Nagar on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

nage indicating the route for every kilometre are among the features of the initiative. Our health teams will join the walkers on the first Sunday of every month and also organise screening camps at suitable locations along the 'Health Walk' pathway," T.S. Selvavinayagam, Director of Public Health, said.

The list of venues and

Google Map links will be available on the directorate's website - www.tndphpm.com. The starting point of the walking tracks are being put up and identified routes will be posted soon on the website.

In Chennai, the track begins and ends at the Dr. Muthulakshmi Park in Adyar. The East Club Road, Race Course, in Coimba-

lore; Silver Beach, Devanampattinam, in Cuddalore; Collector Office entrance in Kancheepuram; Sunset Point in Kanniyakumari; Race Course Outer Road in Madurai; Additional Collectorate, Ooty, in The Nilgiris; Paruthipattu Lake Green Park in Tiruvallur; Science Park, Anna Nagar in Tiruchi; and Gandhi Statue near Vellore Fort, are among the identified health walk venues, according to officials.

Being health-conscious

"Every individual should take responsibility for his/her health and also give their support and motivation to friends and family members. This mass movement will definitely bring down the non-communicable diseases risk factors over the years. The government can facilitate this movement but every individual should take responsibility for their health," Dr. Selvavinayagam said.

Slowing momentum

Persistent inflation alongside moderate growth remains a challenge

Latest data, including the official Index of Eight Core Industries for September and S&P Global's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the manufacturing sector for October, point to a palpable softening in economic momentum. The government's provisional figures for output across the key infrastructure industries, from cement and coal to steel and electricity, show the average year-on-year growth in production eased appreciably to a four-month low of 8.1% in September, from the 12.5% pace posted in August. The pace of expansion flagged across all but one of the eight sectors, with only fertilizers registering a quickening in growth from the preceding month as farmers stocked up on the key agricultural input ahead of the *rabhi* season. Heavy rains in the final month of the southwest monsoon season, which resulted in 13% surplus precipitation for September, also likely contributed to dampening demand and output for cement, electricity and steel, all of which saw significant slowing in growth from double-digit paces in August. Sequentially, production in fact contracted across all the eight sectors, with the overall index declining 4.8% from August's level. Coal offered the silver lining: the year-on-year growth in output of the fuel eased only slightly to a still robust 16.1% pace, from August's 17.9%, and posted just a 1.5% sequential contraction.

Independently, the more up-to-date survey-based manufacturing PMI data for October buttresses concerns that broader economic momentum may yet again be sliding for want of traction. The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing PMI signalled sectoral growth slid to an eight-month low last month, amid a weakening in demand, particularly for consumer goods. Factories saw new orders rise at the slowest pace in a year, with even international sales losing vigour. More worrying is the fact that less than 4% of the about 400 companies surveyed said they were adding staff, thus depressing job creation in manufacturing to the slowest level since April. Input cost inflation also accelerated. But factory gate inflation was considerably slower indicating that with demand uncertain, producers were forced to temper the pass-through of higher costs. With business confidence ebbing to a five-month low, the panellists cited rising inflation expectations as the key factor expected to dent demand and production growth over the next 12 months. And the advance estimates for lower *kharif* output, disconcertingly flag the fact that the farm sector may be able to offer little succour as rural incomes get hit. Policymakers have their task cut out to surmount the twin challenges of slowing growth and persistent inflation.

Scapegoating

Pakistan should not blame Afghan refugees for its ills and evils

The Pakistan government's order to all undocumented migrants to leave the country by October 31 has thrown the lives of hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees in jeopardy. The interim government in Islamabad says its decision is not targeted at any particular nationality. But given the numbers of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, it is evident who is being targeted. Over the decades, millions of Afghans have taken refuge in Pakistan, mostly fleeing violence in their civil war-stricken country. According to the United Nations, about 1.3 million Afghans have been registered as refugees, while another 8,80,000 have legal status to stay. But Pakistan's Interior Ministry says some 1.7 million people are staying "illegally", a vast majority of them Afghans. At least 6,00,000 Afghans are believed to have fled to Pakistan after the Taliban recaptured power in Kabul in 2021. Many others had moved during the Soviet military intervention in the 1980s. Pakistan's order states that they should either leave on their own or face detention and deportation. Pakistan has already set up deportation centres to round up "illegal" migrants and deport them. Thousands are now stranded on the Afghan-Pakistan border, while others are in fear of arrest and violence in Pakistan, leading to the UN's warning of a "humanitarian tragedy".

Pakistan's argument is that the presence of illegal migrants has led to rising crime and terror attacks and is straining its struggling economy. "There have been 24 suicide bomb attacks since January this year and 14 of them were carried out by Afghan nationals," interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti said on October 3, when he announced the deportation plan. Pakistan, which is to have its national elections in January, is also reeling under hyperinflation, a balance of payment crisis and high rupee depreciation. But the solution to these woes is not the forceful deportation of 1.7 million people. The responsibility for most of the problems Pakistan now faces lies with its rulers. When its military and civilian leadership continued to play power games, trying to outwit each other and maximise powers in their hands, its economy was neglected. The security crisis it is facing today is a result of its own dual policy on terror – fighting some outfits while supporting others. When the Taliban, which were backed by Pakistan's military-intelligence establishment, recaptured power in August 2021, it was largely seen then as a victory for Pakistan's generals. But the security crisis Pakistan is facing now suggests that the sense of victory did not last long. Skirmishes along the porous Af-Pak border are also common these days. What Pakistan is doing is scapegoating tens of thousands of poor Afghan refugees for the failures of its own policies.

Ruthless Men in Blue demolish listless Islanders

Gill, Kohli and Shreyas' dazzling knocks catapult India to 357 before Shami and Siraj boss over the Lankan line-up to skittle it out for 55; the host's seven in seven seals a semifinal berth

ODI WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
MUMBAI

Like biting into a bun-maska dunked in Irani tea in those old Parsi restaurants in this teeming metropolis, India revealed a similar ease as it tucked into a hapless Sri Lanka here on Thursday. The Men in Blue's seventh triumph in this World Cup was mounted upon muscular batting and relentless fast bowling and the fans at the Wankhede Stadium relished every second of a lop-sided contest that sealed the host's semifinal berth.

Huge margin

Having posted 357 for eight, Rohit Sharma's men bundled out Sri Lanka for 55 in 19.4 overs and won by 302 runs. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj dismissed Pathum Nissanka and Dimuth Karunaratne respectively when the batters were yet to open their accounts. If the openers were trapped right in front with ruffled pads, Sadeera Samarawickrama edged Siraj and skipper Kusal Mendis found the Hyderabadis dismantling his citadel.

No respite

With four batters in the hat and just three on the board, there was no respite as Mohammed Shami bus-

tled in. He missed a hat-trick but inflicted enough damage as Sri Lanka hobbled at 14 for six in 10 overs, and once Shami (five for 18) castled Angelo Mathews, the visitors were down for the count.

In the afternoon while a sea of blue slithered in from Marine Drive and Churchgate station, Mendis won the toss and elected to field. His counterpart Rohit flicked the first ball for four but an unfazed left-arm speedster Dilshan Madushanka thudded the next ball into the stumps while the opener played inside the line.

The initial worries were allayed by Virat Kohli. He redirected Madushanka towards fine-leg and Shubman Gill pulled the seamer as a partnership began to take shape. There were some close shaves too as Charith Asalanka dropped Gill on eight and Dushmantha Chameera failed to latch onto a caught and bowled chance off Kohli when the latter was on 10. They were difficult catches but matches turn on such slender threads.

Peach of a shot

Soon Kohli essayed his drives but the peach was a straight-driven four off Kasun Rajitha. Gill, the stylish apprentice to the master at the other end, cut and flicked. He switched to turbo-mode, hoisting sixes off Chameera and Dushan He-



Wicket in chief: The Sri Lankan batters found Shami too hot to handle and fell like nine pins. **EVASTALINIA.COM**

mantha. However, the 189-run second-wicket partnership concluded when Gill (52, 92b, 11x4, 2x6) lapped Madushanka into the gloves of Mendis. Just like Gill, Kohli (88, 94b, 11x4) too fell against the run of play, popping up a catch off Madushanka. The much-anticipated re-

cord-equaling 49th ODI ton proved elusive while the original maestro Sachin Tendulkar watched from the stands. The next duo of Shreyas Iyer and K.L. Rahul scored briskly with the former hoisting sixes for fun. But another soft dismissal emanated when Rahul picked the field-

er at short-cover. Suryakumar Yadav too did not last long but Shreyas cruised. A pulled six off Madushanka (five for 80), followed by one straight down the ground showed the Mumbaier in all his glory before he (52, 56b, 3x4, 6x6) holed out as another imminent century

became a mirage. India by then had enough to leave the visitors deflated.

Next assignment

INDIA: November 5 vs. South Africa, Kolkata, 7 p.m.
SRI LANKA: November 6 vs. Bangladesh, Delhi, 7 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Rohit Sharma b Madushanka 4 (28, 3x4), Shubman Gill c Mendis b Madushanka 92 (92b, 11x4, 2x6), Virat Kohli c Nissanka b Madushanka 88 (94b, 11x4), Shreyas Iyer c Theekshana b Madushanka 82 (56b, 3x4, 6x6), K.L. Rahul c Hemantha b Chameera 21 (39b, 2x4), Suryakumar Yadav c Mendis b Madushanka 12 (8b, 2x4), Ravindra Jadeja run out 35 (24b, 2x4, 1x6), Mohammed Shami run out 2 (10), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 1 (10); Extras (b-5, lb-6, w-8, nb-1); 20; Total (for eight wickets in 50 overs): 357

FALL OF WICKETS
1-4 (Rohit, 0.2 overs), 2-193 (Gill, 28.6), 3-196 (Kohli, 31.3), 4-256 (Rahul, 38.7), 5-275 (Suryakumar, 41.3), 6-333 (Shreyas, 47.3), 7-355 (Shami, 49.3), 8-357 (Jadeja, 49.6).

SRI LANKA BOWLING
Madushanka 10-0-80-5, Chameera 16-2-73-1, Rajitha 9-0-65-0, Mathews 3-0-11-0, Theekshana 10-0-67-0, Hemantha 8-0-52-0.

SRI LANKA

Pathum Nissanka lbw b Bumrah 0 (10), Dimuth Karunaratne bow b Siraj 0 (10), Kusal Mendis b Siraj 1 (10), Sadeera Samarawickrama c Shreyas b Siraj 0 (4b), Charith Asalanka c Jadeja b Shami 1 (24b), Angelo Mathews b Shami 12 (25b, 1x4), Dushan Hemantha c Rahul b Shami 0 (2b), Dushmantha Chameera c Rahul b Shami 0 (8b), Mahesh Theekshana (not out) 12 (23b, 2x4), Kasun Rajitha c Gill b Shami 14 (17b, 2x4), Siraj b Madushanka c Shreyas b Jadeja 5 (6b, 1x4); Extras (b-5, lb-1, w-4); 10; Total (in 15.4 overs): 55.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Nissanka, 0.1), 2-2 (Karunaratne, 1.1), 3-2 (Samarawickrama, 1.5), 4-3 (Mendis, 3.1), 5-14 (Asalanka, 9.3), 6-14 (Hemantha, 9.4), 7-22 (Chameera, 11.3), 8-29 (Mathews, 13.1), 9-49 (Rajitha, 17.6).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 5-1-8-1, Siraj 7-3-16-3, Shami 5-1-18-5, Kuldeep 2-0-0-0, Jadeja 0-4-0-1.

Toss: Sri Lanka; **Pitch:** Shami; **India won by 302 runs.**

Points table

	M	W	L	T	PTS	NRR
India (Q)	7	7	0	0	14	2.102
South Africa	7	6	1	0	12	2.290
Australia	6	4	2	0	8	0.970
New Zealand	7	4	3	0	8	0.484
Pakistan	7	3	4	0	6	-0.024
Alghanistan	6	3	3	0	6	-0.718
Sri Lanka	7	2	5	0	4	-1.162
Netherlands	6	2	4	0	4	-1.277
Bangladesh (E)	7	1	6	0	2	-1.446
England	6	1	5	0	2	-1.652

Q: Qualified T.E: Eliminated