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hyderabad 02



Underperforming MLAs: Jagan caught in a cleft stick

ndhra Pradesh Chief A Minister and ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president YS Jaganmohan Reddy seems to be caught in a cleft stick as far as his party's underperforming MLAs are concerned. Although he has embarked on a damage-control exercise following reverses in the recent MLC elections, he can no longer afford to be very

hard on known underperformers among his party legislators, despite his previous warning that those identified as underperformers might not get tickets for the 2024 Assembly polls.

three Having lost Graduates seats and one MLA quota set to the Telugu

Desam Party in the recently concluded MLC elections, the YSRCP leadership is on a mission to mend matters well ahead of PIN the next elections.

POINT For, it is now clear that TDP has got a booster dose of sorts in the MLC polls. The situation is quite sensitive in the three Graduates constituencies spread over more than a hundred Assembly seats. The TDP seems to have had a new lease of life, thanks to support from the Jana Sena Party and the Left par-

Jagan, despite having over-whelming majority (151seats) in Legislative Assembly, seems to have overlooked discontent among legislators.

Jagan, despite having overwhelming majority (151 seats) in Legislative Assembly, seems to have overlooked discontent among legislators. Some of the MLAs have felt extreme discomfort over the public response during their Gadapa Gadapa ku mana prabhutvam drive. Some of the legislators in fact antagonised the public by their outbursts when confronted with unfinished works at the local level.

Some of the MLAs have felt the mass contact programme, extreme discomfort over the at least a dozen MLAs figured public response during their in the 'hit list' of the party Gadapa Gadapa ku mana leadership. The harsh words and warnings that followed prabhutvam drive. Some of unnerved some YSRCP legisthe legislators in fact antagonised the public by their outbursts when confronted with unfinished works at the local level. It is believed that,

lators, resulting in crossvoting during the MLC elections under the Assembly quota. In fact, Jagan got to know depending on the perforthrough surveys that nearly mance of legislators during 50-60 MLAs had shown poor



performance in the mass contact programme. So, most of them are anxious that Jagan might replace them in the 2024 polls. It belatedly dawned on Jagan that MLAs

will stay loyal only if they know that their future in the party is secure.

It is natural for ruling parties to replace MLAs who do not perform as per expectations. For, Jagan Gadapa Gadapaku mana prabhutvam was the touchstone. The results of the MLC elections have forced him to back down. In a changed voice, he urged every legislator to come again to him after winning the next election, adding sig-nificantly and emotionally that he did not want to lose

who had given tickets to all sitting MLAs in the 2018 any MLA. For the 2006 Assembly polls in West Bengal, the elections, except for two leg-islators --P. Babu Mohan and Nallala Odelu. It is obvious then ruling Left Front headed by CPI(M) had denied that many of Jagan's cabinet tickets to 64 sitting MLAs. colleagues and dozens of The then chief minister of MLAs have not earned 'good'

PNS HYDERABAD

Making it clear that the Congress

'No tie-up with BRS as

long as I am TPCC chief'

undivided Andhra Pradesh Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy had evinced interest in adopting this formula for the 2009 Assembly polls in AP. But, for whatever reasons, he ultimately refrained from doing it. Now Jagan faces the unenviable task of having to woo his estranged MLAs and instil confidence in them that they all would be renominated.

In the changed political

situation, Jagan must emulate

his Telangana counterpart K.

Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR),

Revanth made it clear that

Alleging that the BJP and the

implementing the task given by the BJP.

He said that the KCR

family's assets have

reached the Rs 1000

billion mark and

asked why the BJP-led

Centre is not conduct-

ing any probe into that

if there is no understand-

"I myself filed 50 complaints

He said that the people of

Telangana have come out of the

illusions created by KCR and

now the people of Telangana are

wishing that they should free

themselves from KCR's rule by

waging a struggle like the

Telangana Peasants Armed

Struggle.

ing between the BJP and the BRS.

against KCR's corruption but

there was no action," he said.

BRS have a secret tie-up, Revanth

said that KCR has always been

KCR's model is the 'Mafia Model'

and that the Congress will not

accept that at any cost.

conduct certificate from people. It is possible that electors might respond negatively even if Jagan condones underperforming MLAs and Ministers. ll told, it will be a tightrope

walk for Jagan, who, until the other day, was supremely confident to win the 2024 election in the backdrop of his benevolent package of welfare schemes under which he has transferred more than Rs.2 lakh crore rupees directly to the bank accounts of tens of thousands of beneficiaries.

It is a different matter that, at the start of the new financial year, the state government, with hardly any money left in treasury, is hunting for loans even to pay salaries to lakhs of its employees!

HC asks govt to consider Rajgopal's plea for 2+2 security PNS HYDERABAD

The High Court directed the Telangana Government to consider the appeal of senior BJP leader Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy to continue the 2+2 security for him.

The High Court heard the petition of Rajgopal seeking 2+2 security on Tuesday. In his petition, Rajgopal said the State government had reduced his security from 2+2 to 1+1 and requested the High Court to continue his 2+2 security.

The government advocate argued that the government provided Rajgopal with 2+2 security when he was an MLA. The government is providing 1+1 security now as Rajgopal is now not an MLA. After hearing the arguments of both sides, the High Court directed the government to consider the appeal of Rajgopal and the DGP to decide on Rajgopal's application within 10 days.

BRS plans public

Modi-Adani link

meet in AP to expose

Probe KCR family's source of funds, demands Sanjay

institutionally at the Hyderabad

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP President Bandi Sanjay Kumar asked Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to reveal "how he amassed thousands of crores?'

"Are terrorists or anti-Indian organisations helping KCR? How is it possible to spend money on all opposition parties in the country? An inquiry should be conducted on KCR family's assets" he said and area and assets," he said and gave a call to all BJP activists to reject KCR's evil plan.

He also gave a call to BJP activists to gather people for a public meeting at the Parade Grounds on April 8 which will be addressed by Prime Minister Modi

Addressing a meeting of Booth Swashakthikaran Abhiyan about Modi's visit on April 8 and the need to strengthen the party

Central District's party office on Tuesday in which Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, former Minister Marri Shashidhar Reddy, State BJP General Secretary Dugyala Pradeep Kumar, treasurer Shanthi Kumar, and leaders from erstwhile Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts participated, Sanjay asked how Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, who had only a single house eight years

ago in Nandi Nagar came to have thousands of crores. "How did KCR acquire level capability to spend thousands of

ores for all opposition parties although he is just a regional politician? Is KCR getting funds from other countries? Are terrorist organizations helping KCR to destroy the nation? Why I am saying this is that everyone knows that KCR is strongly pro-China

Minister

Chandrasekhar Rao held a

review meeting regarding the

inauguration of the new

Secretariat. On April 30, the 'Dr

BR Ambedkar Telangana

Secretariat' will be inaugurat-

Κ.

PNS HYDERABAD

announced soon.

bers and take their seats.

Ministers, MPs, MLCs, MLAs,

Chief

and pro-Pakistan. I request investigation agencies to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into these things immediately," Sanjay said. He said that senior journalist Rajdeep Sardesai does not belong to the BJP but he openly said that "KCR is ready to spend money for all opposition parties of the country if they make him the chief of the oppo-

"This is not my word. It was revealed by journalist Rajdeep Sardesai. Rajdeep does not belong to the BJP. In fact, Rajdeep strongly opposes the BJP. One can understand the situation if Rajdeep had said this," he said

nation and the BJP. He also said that BJP activists have to work hard to make the nation strong under the leadership of Modi

Sanjay said that BJP activists have to make Booth Swashakthi Abhiyan successful. that is, April 6.

will not ally with the BRS as long as he continues as the TPCC

Revanth said that the Congress will not have any alliance with the BRS in Telangana as long as he continues as the TPCC

President. He said that the high command has already made it clear that the Congress will not allow BRS President Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to come anywhere near the Congress. Rahul Gandhi also made it clear that the Congress will not allow any Congress leader to hold talks with BRS leaders.

Continued from page 1

Radio waves

detected from Earth-

like exoplanet betray

Researchers have identified an

Earth-like exoplanet, a rocky one

orbiting a star about 12 light years

from Earth, that could have a mag-

needles in the north direction,

Earth's magnetic field helps preserve

its atmosphere by deflecting high

energy particles and plasma regu-

larly blasted out of the sun, thereby,

of a magnetic field on an exoplan-

et, called YZ Ceti b, could potential-

ly signal habitability of life on that

planet, the researchers said.

Therefore, the possible existence

helping sustain life on the planet.

In addition to pointing compass

netic field like Earth does.

its magnetic field

PNS NEW DELHI

Adani Nirbhar Bharat is the new reality, says KTR

PNS HYDERABAD

Atma Nirbhar Bharat is the slogan, Adani Nirbhar Bharat is the reality, said Industries Minister KT Rama Rao in a tweet.

He shared a map showing that the Adani Group owns more than 200 ports, airports, power stations, cement plants, mines, defence equipment factories, renewable energy farms, electricity generation facilities and gas distribution networks across 23 states and UTs that cover 87 per cent of India's landmass.

KTR trains guns at 2 Telangana MPs...

Continued from page 3

In fact, no education is required to become an MP or MLA in our country. The Constitution while mentioning eligibility conditions does not mention anything about educational qualifications to become an MP or an MLA.

But any MP or MLA will be disgualified if it is proved that he had submitted wrong information about his educational qualifications while filing nomination.

There are many MPs and MLAs all over the country facing allegations about their al qualifications Bu

He called upon BJP activists to get ready to fight the evil designs of KCR to destroy the

facing all challenges

He asked party leaders to complete setting up polling booth committees in the state and to take up programmes extensively on BJP's Foundation Day,

2,500 people expected for Secretariat inaugural

gate (main gate) is used only

for the Chief Minister, CS,

DGP, Ministers, MLAs, MLCs,

MPs, Chairman and important

invitees and guests from

provided to transport the dis-

abled and the elderly. Private

vehicles are not allow

Electric buggies have been

abroad.

President, Revanth Reddy said that the Congress will win 80 seats and the BRS will be confined to less than 25 seats and the BJP to single-digit in the next elections. Speaking to the media on Tuesday,

ting up a steel factory in Bayyaram is that it had handed over the Bailadila Iron Ore Mines to the Adani Group. The Centre has given permission to transport the Bailadila iron ore to Mundra Port located in Gujarat.

BRS leaders said that the real

Continued from page 3

On Tuesday, N. Sridhar, the CMD of SCCL said that the four mines linked to Singareni, which were put up for auction by the Centre, are likely to be given back to SCCL. This will become a point that the BRS will be using against the Centre and show it to the Andhra Pradesh people raising their voice against the Centre.

The BRS so far has been saying that the coal block auction is a step towards privatisation, opposed it and wanted the Centre to allocate it back. However, with the

TODAY										
ALMANAC										
Month & Paksham:										
Tithi:Chaturdashi:	Apr 04 08:05 AM to Apr 05 09:19 AM Apr 05 09:19 AM to Apr 06 10:04 AM									
Purnima:	Apr 05 09:19 AM									
	to Apr 06 10:04 AM									
Nakshatram: Uttara Phalguni:	Apr 04 09:36 AM									
Hasta:	Apr 04 09:36 AM to Apr 05 11:23 AM Apr 05 11:23 AM to Apr 06 12:41 PM									
Tiasta.	to Apr 06 12:41 PM									
Rahukalam:	12:19 PM to 1:50 PM									
Yamagandam:	7:43 AM to 9:15 AM									
Varjyam:	08:14 PM to 09:55 PM									
Gulika:	10:47 AM to 12:19 PM									
Amritakalam:	None									
Abhijit Muhurthan	n: Nil									
HYDERABAD WEATHER										
Forecast: Mostly	/ Sunny									
Temp: 37 ^{°°}	N/A									
Humidity: 46%										
Sunrise: 6:08 Al	N A									
Sunset: 6.30 PN	1									

Updated: APRIL 4, 2023 5:00 PM

In case protests do not work, the BRS will participate in the disinvestment plan of

CMD of SCCL itself stating

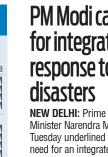
that the blocks might return to

Telangana, the BRS is going to

the Visakha Steel plant.

ing capital." It may be mentioned here public meeting in

public meeting will be held.



Tuesday underlined the need for an integrated response to disasters, saying disaster in one region can have a big impact on a completely connected world. In his video address at the fifth International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure 2023 he noted that 40 countries have become part of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in a few years. Sheikh Hasina also

KT Rama Rao re-tweeted a tweet by Lakshminarayan which read, "If the Centre does not back down, the Telangana government should participate in the bid for providing raw material and work-

that already the BRS has announced that KCR will hold Vishakapatnam. Sources said that there will be a few inductions from Andhra Pradesh this month after which the

KTR writing a letter has already created enough debate on the privatisation of the steel plant among the Andhra Pradesh people.

> PM Modi calls for integrated response to Minister Narendra Modi on

> different region in a closely Bangladesh Prime Minister

delivered a video message.

Around Roads and Buildings expected to attend the function and meals have been arranged Minister Prashanth Reddy will conduct the rituals in the for all the invitees.

secretariat.

State corporation chairmen,

HoDs, Collectors, SPs, Zilla

Parishad chairmen, DCCB,

DCMMs chairmen, zilla

library chairmen, Zilla Rythu

Bandhu Samiti presidents,

Mayors and others will attend

the opening ceremony of the

morning. This will be followed The new Secretariat has by an opening programme at complex security procedures. The Secretariat has gates in all the time decided by scholars. four directions. Among them, The auspicious time will be the northwest gate will be opened only when required. When the Secretariat starts, the Chief Minister will first sit The secretariat staff, secrein his chamber. After that, the taries and officials will come ministers, secretaries, CMO and go through the northeast staff and other staff of the secgate. There is parking on the retariat will go to their chamsame side. The southeast gate is meant for visitors. The vis-Apart from Secretariat staff,

iting time of the Secretariat is from 3 pm to 5 pm. The east

the Secretariat. The DGP would formulate security procedures and take steps to ensure security at the Secretariat.

The Chief Minister directed the CS to formulate procedures for implementing the Grilahakshmi (Financial assistance of Rs 3 lakhs for those with lands) scheme.

A programme for the distribution of Podu lands would be started soon. The CM ordered to start distribution of sheep immediately. Dalit Bandhu will be continued, he said.

10th students on tenterhooks

with

Continued from page 3

The Kamalapur Police subsequently arrested two majors Ganesh and Prashanth and one minor. They seized three mobiles from the accused.

AV Ranganath told the held media that the accused minor,to help his friend Commissioners writing language paper, had entered a Government Secretary Vakati Karuna, School school in Kamalapur Police Station Police limits and clicked a photo of the ques-Devasena, Police Range IG tion paper at 9:45 am.Later, Shanawaz Kasim. the accused posted the photo of the Hindi question Reddy said that the governpaper to the other accused's ment had taken strict mea-WhatsApp who in turn forof the SSC examinations. warded it to SSC 2019-20 WhatsApp group through his cell phone at 9.59 am. to play with the future of stu-While the third accused Prashant received the quesinterests in the matter of tion paper from the SSC these examinations. 2019-20 group on his cell phone. This question paper been advised to take strict was sent by him to various measures for the conduct of

groups. State Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy declared that employees committing irregularities in

the conduct of Class 10 Reddy clarified that under examination would be dis- no circumstances should missed from their jobs. cell phones and electronic Those found negligent in devices be allowed in the examination centres. This the performance of their duties would not be spared rule applies also to officers and staff in charge of the under any circumstances. A video conference was examinations.

Bharat Rashtra Samithi the and leaders alleged that one of Education Department the accused arrested by the Warangal Police is a close Education follower of Bharatiya Janata Department Commissioner Party president Bandi Sanjay. BRS leaders started sharing the viral pictures of the Minister Sabitha Indra accused, with BJP leaders saying:

"Another proof to say BJP sures to ensure fair conduct leaders are behind the paper leak scandals in Telangana. She requested errant staff not The accused in today's 10th Class Hindi Exam Paper being made viral in WhatsApp groups after the dents for their own selfish exam commenced is a close Collectors and SPs have follower of Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay. We request Telangana CMO, KTR Telangana DGP

the remaining four examinations. Around 55,000 to arrest Bandi Sanjay and officers and staff are probe his role in all exam involved in the conduct of papers issue since he isn't cothese exams. Sabitha Indra operating with the Police."

honoured. The CM directed that along with Secretariat staff HoDs of all departments, District Collectors, Ministers, MPs (Rajya Sabha Lok Sabha), MLCs, MLAs, and Chairmen of Corporations should attend the programme. The meeting will start at 2 pm and end at 5 pm on April 14. He said that steps should be taken to ensure that 35,700 people from all 119 constituencies attended the Ambedkar statue unveiling. Around 750 RTC buses will be booked to transport those who come for the unveiling ceremony. He said that food would be provided to the people who come to the meeting 50 km before reaching Hyderabad. Arrangements for dinner would also be taken care of while returning after the meeting, the CM said. KCR said that one lakh sweet packets, one and a half lakh butter milk packets (Vijaya Dairy), and one and a half lakh water packets would be supplied to the public. "As a large number of people are likely to attend, the entire area around the statue should be used. Tents should be provided to protect the people from the heat." the CM said.

KCR plans grand unveiling of...

The CM said that only Buddhist monks would be invited for this

programme and the programme would be conducted as per their

traditions. The CM praised 98-year-old sculptor Padma Bhushan

and Ram Vanii Sutar and he said they would be invited and

no MP or MLA was ever disqualified for submitting fake education certificates.

Many MPs and MLAs have been disqualified including Rahul Gandhi due to other issues. Even though there is no need for educational qualifications to become an MP or an MLA political parties are targeting their opponents on this issue

Along with other issues educational qualifications have also become a weapon for political parties to level allegations against adversaries.

'Invented' names does not alter status

PNS NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday outrightly rejected China renaming some places in Arunachal Pradesh, asserting that the state is an integral part of India and assigning invented" names does not alter this reality.

India's reaction came in response to Beijing announcing Chinese names for 11 more places in Arunachal Pradesh which the neighbouring country claims as southern part of Tibet. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India outrightly rejected China's renaming of the places in Arunachal Pradesh. 'We have seen such reports.

Astronomers Sebastian Pineda and Jackie Villadsen from University This is not the first time China of Colorado (US) and Bucknell has made such an attempt. We University (US), respectively, reject this outright," Bagchi said. observed a repeating radio signal 'Arunachal Pradesh is, has emanating from the star YZ Ceti, been, and will always be an inteusing the Karl G. Jansky Very gral and inalienable part of India. Attempts to assign invent-Large Array, a radio telescope operated by the US National Science ed names will not alter this reality," he said. Foundation's National Radio It was the third batch of stan-

in 2017 and the second batch of 15 places was issued in 2021. The official names of the 11 places were released on Sunday by China's ministry of civil affairs. It also gave precise coordinates, including two land areas,

dardised geographical names for Arunachal Pradesh issued by

The first batch of the stan-

dardised names of six places in

Arunachal Pradesh was released

China's civil affairs ministry.

two residential areas, five mountain peaks and two rivers, and listed the category of places' names and their subordinate administrative districts, Chinese state-run Global Times reported on Monday.

Reacting to India's criticism of China announcing the names for 11 locations in Arunachal Pradesh, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning claimed at a media briefing in Beijing that "Zangnan (the Chinese name for Arunachal Pradesh) is part of China's territory.

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Astronomy Observatory.



DON'T MISS...

Gang involved in counterfeit...

The Hyderabad police arrested a gang of four, who were indulging in procuring counterfeit general store items from a manufacturer at Kachiguda and selling them in Karnataka and seized duplicate general store items in large quantities. The accused are Ajay Kumar Bhure, Syed Imran, Premraj Purohith, and Pukhraj Purohith. Two other accused, Kamal Bhati and Mahender Singh Rathod, are currently absconding. The police seized 857.5 liters of duplicate Parachute oil...



Green India Challenge enters...

Green India Challenge founder Joginipalli Santosh Kumar has been named in the Limca Book of Records, which registers the immense talent displayed by Indians worldwide. The Limca Book of Records recognises and acknowledges the achievements of Indians in the fields of education, literature, cinema, science and technology, defence, social services etc and place them in the record. Limca book Records Editor Vatsala Kaul Banerjee said that Santosh Kumar has been...



Credit Suisse chief admits failure...

The chairman of Credit Suisse apologised Tuesday to shareholders for failures of the once-venerable bank and acknowledged the shock and anger felt as the troubled Swiss lender is set to be swallowed up by rival UBS in a governmentarranged takeover. Axel Lehmann, who took the top board job only last year after joining Credit Suisse from UBS in 2021, decried "massive outflows" of customer funds in October and a "downward spiral" that ...

BRS plans public meet in AP to expose Modi-Adani link

PNS HYDERABAD

capital.

The BRS is making arrangements to hold a public meeting in Visakhapatnam with the Visakha Steel Plant (VSP) on its agenda. The party is looking at exposing

how this deal if not stopped will allow the Adani Group to take over VSP. KCR may even announce that they

will take part in the Vishaka Steel Plant's disinvestment plan by providing raw material supply and working

Arrangements for the public meeting have been reportedly given to AP BRS Chief Thota Chandrasekhar and others. Instead of looking at poaching MLAs, the BRS is moving forward by trying to bring VSP employees into its fold. Already the Gangavaram and Krishnapatnam ports have been taken over by the Adani group. Now the BRS is likely to launch a strong attack against the Modi Government using the Vishakapatnam Steel Plant which they say will be eventually given

to Adani. TS Industries Minister KT Rama Rao re-tweeted on how the VSP is going to go to Adani.

by Krishank Manne.

"As Modi's is interested in handing over VSP to Posco, the Bailadila Mines which were crucial for Bayyaram was given to Adani as Posco and Adani are setting up a steel plant in Gujarat," says the tweet

10th students on tenterhooks

DEEPIKA PASHAM HYDERABAD

Reflecting unaddressed systemic flaws in the conduct of SSC Public Examination, a bundle containing answer sheets was reportedly lost in transit and another question paper was leaked after the examination commenced on Tuesday.

The two untoward incidents have resulted in mounting tension for SSC students, despite heightened vigil following the leak of a question paper on Monday. Although Educational

Department officialshad forewarned the District Educational Officers, a bundle containing the answer sheets of Telugu language paper of Class X examination was lost while it was being shifted from a post office to the bus stand in Utnoor mandal centre on Tuesday. In the other incident, the Hindi language question paper was leaked widely in Warangal. Although there were no leads in the former

case, in the latter case, the Kamalapur Police arrested three of the accused. In Utnoor, 30 answer sheets of Telugu language were missing in the bundle. The police registered a case



CCTV cameras installed on the and inquiry report has been submitroute between the post office and bus ted to the Minister. We have filed case on the postal department and station were dysfunctional. found lead... We will probe the issue

Additional Collector Shaik Rizwan Basha told The Pioneer: "I visited the Utnoor mandal centre

Bharat Rashtra Samithi leaders alleged that one of the accused arrested by the Warangal Police is a close follower of Bharatiya Janata Party president Bandi Sanjay.

and find the culprit.

for the first language examination in five centres in Utnoor mandal headquarters on Monday. Subsequently, the leak of a ques-

tion paper was reported in Warangal. SSC Hindi question paper screenshots surfaced on WhatsApp, a little over an hour after the commencement of the examination in

Kamalapur mandal of Hanamkonda. Officials are in shock as the examination centres had been declared no-mobile zones, where prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC were in force.

Warangal District Educational Officer (DEO) Vasanthi, along with other officials of Hanamkonda district, filed a complaint at the office of the Warangal Police Commissionerate on Tuesday afternoon seeking a detailed probe into the incident. Immediately Commissioner Ranganath ordered an investigation.

KTR trains guns at 2 Telangana MPs over fake degrees

SNCN ACHARYULU HYDERABAD

How many Munna Bhais are there in legislatures across the country? This has become the latest topic for discussion among political observers and the general public. BRS Working President IT Minister KT Rama Rao said on

Tuesday that there are two Munna Bhais among Telangana MPs. KTR had earlier made fun of Prime Minister Modi regarding his degree certificate.

KTR's comments are definitely about BJP MPs. The BJP has four MPs from Telangana. Among these four MPs who are the Munna Bhais and about whom did KTR comment?

In the context of the controversy about Prime Minister Modi's degree certificate KTR tweeted, "I have a Post Graduate degree in Biotechnology from the Pune University. I also have PG degree in Business Administration from the City University of New York. I am ready to share both certificates publicly."

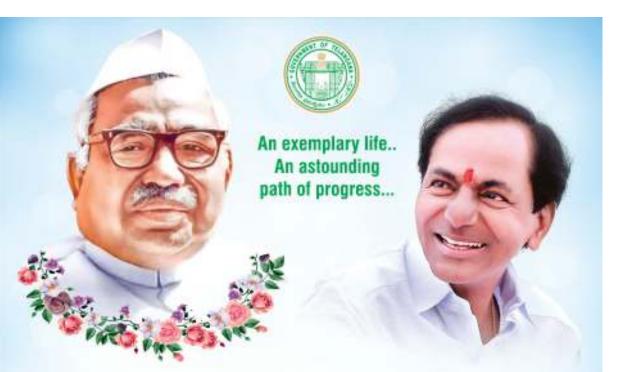
Without naming Prime Minister Modi, KTR indirectly challenged him to show his degree certificate publicly. Now KTR has shifted his attack on

education qualifications to Telangana BJP MPs. In Andhra Pradesh, Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram is also facing allegations about fake degree

A total of 1, 011 students appeared

certificates. The main opposition party, TDP, has filed a complaint with the President against Tammineni Sitaram alleging that he secured admission for a three-year law degree course by submitting a fake degree certificate.







Hyderabad sizzled at 40°C on Tuesday. Borabanda recorded the highest temperature of 40.2°C while Khairtabad recorded 40.1°C. Gachibowli record-39 9°(Shaikpet, Tirum Saroornagar, Kapra, Nampally, Asifnagar, Golkonda, Rajendranagar, Secunderabad, Bandlaguda, Uppal and Rajendranagar recorded temperatures above 37°C. Weather expert T. Balaji pointed that out after April 9, it will get hot with a daily 40°C temperature. Wanparthy recorded 42.9 degrees followed by Adilabad at 41°C. He said, "In the next three days, more thunderstorms are expected in Telangana. Hyderabad too has a good chance in the next three days for scattered rain. In the next three days, some rains are expected. Some areas which already had rains will get a respite. Heat will get worse in the entire Telangana from April 9."

based on a complaint but found that

Minister Sabitha warns that errant employees would be



RR ready for Punjab Kings challenge

Rajasthan Royals would be banking on their near-perfect combinations in almost all departments of the game to put up another commanding performance when they take on a strong Puniab Kings side in an IPL match here on Wednesday. The Royals would be buoyed by the massive 72run victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad, who were outsmarted by last year's runners-up in every aspect of the game on Sunday. With Yashasvi Jaiswal. -SPORTS



KCR plans grand unveiling of Ambedkar statue

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao said that the unveiling of Dr BR Ambedkar's statue on April 14 should be celebrated as a grand, historic event and must be a feast for the eyes. "Flowers should be showered by a special helicopter to pay tributes to this Gem of India, the architect of India's Constitution. Make a huge garland of roses, white chrysanthemums and betel leaves. A crane will be used to remove the huge curtain on the 125 feet statue of Dr BR Ambedkar and decorate the vertical garland," KCR said. -PAGE:2



TS stands third in justice delivery

NAVEENA GHANATE HYDERABAD

The 2022 India Justice Report (IJR), India's only ranking of states on the delivery of justice in the country, published on Tuesday, ranked Karnataka at the top of the 18 large and mid-sized states (with popula-tions of over one crore each), followed by Tamil Nadu (2020: 2nd), Telangana (2020: 3rd) Gujarat (2020: 6th) and Andhra Pradesh (2020: 12th). The list of seven small states (population less than one crore each) was topped by Sikkim (2020: 2nd), followed by Arunachal Pradesh (2020: 5th) and Tripura (2020: 1st).

Improving its performance across all pillars Telangana retained its third rank this year. Jumping nine spots, the state ranked first in police budget, the highest among IJR's data partner.

the policing pillar. It is among the top five performing states in all pillars. Among 61 comparable indicators between 2020 and 2022,

large and mid-sized states.

2017-18 to Rs 157 in 2020-21.

sons:

udges in the High Court were halved from 46% in 2018-19 to 21% in 2022. The state nearly halved Tamil Nadu improved in 34 indicators across all pillars. In the vacancies at both the officer and third edition of the India Justice constabulary levels in the police. Report, Telangana retained its third

The case clearance rate at the rank due to the following key rea-High Court increased from 61% in 2018-19 to 103% in 2022. All police Improving share of women stations in the state have at least one across all pillars: Woman judges in CCTV. The state met its ST and OBC quotas among judges, police both the High Court and district courts account for 27% and 53% officers as well as the constabulary.

respectively, the highest among The India Justice Report (IJR) was initiated by Tata Trusts in 2019, Vacancies among correctional and this is the third edition. Partners staff in prisons remains nil since include the Centre for Social Justice, 2019. The per capita spend on the Common Cause, Commonwealth judiciary increased from Rs 140 in Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS-Prayas, Vidhi Centre for Telangana allocated 2.6% of its Legal Policy and How India Lives,

large states, towards the training of Through a rigorous 24-month police personnel. Vacancies among quantitative research, the IJR 2022, like the previous two, tracked the progress of states in capacitating their justice delivery structures to effectively deliver mandated services.

Based on the latest official statistics, from authoritative government sources, it brings together otherwise hidden data on the four pillars of Justice delivery, the Police, the Judiciary, Prisons and Legal Aid. Each pillar was analysed through the prism of budgets, human resources, workload, diversity, infrastructure and trends (intention to improve over a fiveyear period), against the state's own declared standards and benchmarks. The third IIR also assessed the capacity of the 25 State Human Rights Commissions (see SHRC brief for more).

Celebrating Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram's 116th Birth Anniversary April 5, 2023

The Government of Telangana pays rich tribute to the former Deputy Prime Minister of India Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram, a freedom fighter and a social reformer who worked tirelessly for the welfare of the downtrodden.

He led an exemplary life. His contribution towards Dalit empowerment is unmatched. He firmly believed that liberty, equality and social justice contribute towards a happy and inspiring society.

Today, on his 116th birth anniversary, let's pay him glorious tributes. Let's take a pledge to follow his ideals in our day to day lives and work for the betterment of the society.

Floral Tributes to Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram Statue

Venue

Opp. Nizam College, Hyderabad on Wednesday 5" April, 2023 at 9.00 am. and Public Meeting

Special Cultural Programmes at Ravindra Bharathi from 6.00 pm onwards

Scheduled Castes Development Department **Government of Telangana**



Sri Koppula Eshwar Hon'ble Minister for Scheduled Castes Development Minority Welfare, Disabled Welfare and Senior Citizens Weltare, Govt. of Telangana

All are Invited

Issued By: Commissioner, I & PR Department, Government of Telangana



hyderabad 04

FLO SINGS AN MOU WITH T-HUB **TS govt to expand startup** ecosystem to schools

IS HYDERABAD

Telangana Government plans to expand the start-up ecosystem to schools and students.

Responding to a question by Dhanya, an educationist, asked in a programme held at T-Hub, Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Govt of Telangana, responded that they created Y-Hub 20 days back and also urged the schools to register themselves with it and requested them to send their best teachers for training.

This decision was explained in a panel discussion on 'The power of partnership' organ-ised by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) on how to initiate start-up culture or inculcate the culture of entrepreneurship in schools.

FLO singed a Memorandum of Understanding with T-Hub. This MoU will help FLO members with value-based professional support and mentorship, Shah, declared Ritu



Chairperson of FLO. Adding Partnership for Diversity and more details, Ritu Shah said, Inclusion, replying to a partic-FLO, Hyderabad, and T-Hub ipant's observation that technology was not found in the have partnered to promote diversity and inclusivity in the best of the best schools in the startup ecosystem and empowcity along with the changing times, he said Y Hub will er women entrepreneurs. This partnership will facilitate access to resources, mentorship, and needs. In fact, one of the young entrepreneurs in the T-Hub is funding opportunities for women entrepreneurs in

13 years old Slok, a student who is personally mentored by Telangana. Jayesh Ranjan, who was one Srinivasa Rao Mahankali, of the panellists at the FLO & Executive Officer of T-Hub. T-Hub panel discussion on The boy is doing research in Empowering Women: The FLO Hyderabad and T-Hub robotics voice-activated support

Children can be problem solvers too. They are creative. They can bring in solutions if not age-appropriate solutions. He referred, to Chandrashekar, an 8th-class boy who was working on producing a ceil-ing fan that runs without using power. Girls too can do in a similar way. "Let us sow seeds of entrepreneurship in them from an early age. Children have an abundance of talent and it can be channelised," Jayesh Ranjan said.

Intervening in the discussion at this stage Ritu Shah announced that FLO will do a workshop soon in association with Y-Hub for the benefit of schools and students who are aspiring to be entrepreneurs in future.

Telangana Govt is planning to come out with a Single Window facility which will take care of all business women's needs such as product validation and others, Jayesh Ranjan informed.

T-JUDA seeks stipend hike, adequate facilities

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Junior Doctors Association (T-JUDA) has issued yet another appeal to the Director of Medical education regarding District Residency programme (DRP), regularisation of stipend, and a 15 per cent increase in stipend, among other issues, on Tuesday.

The JUDA members also revealed that concerned district hospital superintendents have refused to provide adequate facilities as prescribed by the National Medical Commision to the PG students who are placed for the DRP. They announced

that if the government fails to respond, they will boycott their services from April 11. Ever since the National Medical Commission (NMC)

has announced plans to implement the District Residency Program (DRP) for every Postgraduate (PG) student from the NEET PG 2021 batch, the junior doctors have been raising concerns with the facilities available in Telangana residency hospitals.

TS govt signs MoU to beautify Ameenpur lake

PNS HYDERABAD

In an effort to restore and beautify the 100+acres Ameenpur lake and rebuild its ecosystem, the Government of Telangana has entered into a partnership with South India's largest real estate developer, Urbanrise.

The association is in line with the recently announced programme by the Government of Telangana that aims to rejuvenate and beau-tify 50 lakes in and around Hyderabad, thereby providing a clean and healthy environment for the community.

The entire activity will be undertaken under the supervision of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA).

Manoj Namburu, Chairman and Managing Director of Urbanrise said, "Being an environmentally friendly and sustainability focused organisation, we are happy that the Government of Telangana has entasked us with beautifying the heritage Ameenpur lake, as



Chandrasekhar Reddy JMD- Urbanrise receiving the MoU of beautifying Ameenpur Lake from the KT Rama Rao Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development of Telangana.

part of our CSR initiatives. We will put our best efforts to ensure that the Ameenpur lake becomes a tourist attraction so that it becomes a home to more variety of migratory

birds." Ameenpur lake Is India's first water body to be recognised as a Biodiversity Heritage Site and the first biodiversity site to be approved in an urban area. In recent years, Ameenpur lake has become one of the popular destinations for birdwatchers and nature

enthusiasts owing to its rich avian diversity, with over 170 species of birds recorded in the area. The rejuvenation work,

taken up as a part of the company's CSR programme will involve a multi-faceted approach where Urbanrise will set up walking tracks, landscaping, lighting, open gyms, benches, toilets and play areas with dedicated equipment for children, thus enhancing the overall ecosystem.

quantum computing research

groups in the country. The new quantum solution lab will add

a significant dimension to the

research, making it yet anoth-

er research translation lab for

The lab will be under the

leadership of Prof Arun Pati,

who has been in the world rank

University. He welcomed the

idea, noting that the lab would

pave the way for the translation

the institute.

TiE Grad Finals to be held on April 5; 10 teams to participate

of

PNS HYDERABAD

TiE Hyderabad will conduct the 7th edition of TIE Grad Business Idea tournament on April 5 at Club Botanica in Kondapur.

The competition is an extension of TiE University Challenge which is conducted in 40 cities of 10 countries. TiE Hyderabad has collaborated with over 20 engineering and marketing colleges and familiarised over 1,000 students with entrepreneurship. Over 70 teams from across

Hyderabad sent entries for the competition. The Semi-finalists will pitch their fabulous ideas and business plans to a jury panel at the Finals which will be held on Wednesday. The winners from here will be nominated to various Global **B-Plan** competitions.

List of the finalists includes. Heamac Healthcare (IIIT Hyderabad), Noishh (G.

Miniature painting exhibition held in city Naravanamma Institute of Technology and Science), Bluewingler (Vishnu Insitute PNS HYDERABAD

of Technology), Becoba Energy Systems (CVR College Engineering), Apatbandhava (Sreenidhi Institute of Technology and Science), FeetWings (Netaji Subhash University of Quli Qutb Shah. Technology), Hooken Seven (CMR College ofF

address this and many such

during the open exhibition. The event was jointly organised

Speaking of the exhibition Hyderabad ebrate the life and works of Sultan Muhmmad Quli Qutb

Shah, who was instrumental in the foundation of Hyderabad as a counter magnet to



is that they were aware of each space having a limitation in terms of carrying capacity as compared to the population of that time.

Apart from these, there was diamond and pearl trade centres established in and around the Golconda fort," the convener added.

She further said, "The ruler and the Prime Minister realised that they were approaching a time when the fort won't have enough water and space for the population and so, Mir Momin designed the various Qutb Shahi palaces which were later destroyed by Aurangzeb.'

'This is the first structure which was built, the Charminar, a perfect example of the Qutb Shahi architecture and which is strong till today. This area also hosts Darul Shifa, the first Unani hospital," Reddy explained.

Earlier in the day, Reddy the presence of Mohammed Sibghatullah Khan, the founder of Deccan Archives and the members of the Archeological Survey of India.

IIIT Hyd partners with Synergy Quantum to set up a solution lab

PNS HYDERABAD

The International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Hyderabad on Tuesday entered into a strategic partnership with Synergy Quantum India to establish a solution lab which

will design and build quantum solutions, starting with quantum encryption, quantum communications and more. list of top 2 per cent scientists recently published by Stanford The collaboration aims to

develop financially feasible quantum technologies and their applications in both military and civilian use cases. The lab will focus especially on tum technologies.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof PJ Narayanan, Director, IIIT Hyderabad said, "IIITH 5G networks. has one of the most extensive

of fundamental research in quantum information into practical technological developments Jay Oberai, Founder and CEO of Synergy Quantum India said, "We are excited in partnering with IIITH on developing and commercialising some very interesting technologies within the field of quantum secure communication, quantum secure data storage and quantum safe private

(ICFAI). A winner, runner up and leading non-profit organisaquantum random number generators and quantum sensing, people's choice award will be Golconda. In this period, he It must be remembered that Speaking of the paintings on tions working to preserve the given and the winner shall also had a very enlightened display she said, "The paintings including quantum navigation. heritage of the pearl city. in Golconda it was not just a represent TiE Hyderabad and Prime Minister, Mir Momin copies from the The partnership is significant military fort. Iit was also a city are for IIITH as it continues to the state of Telangana in the INŤACH who came from Iran. fort where people were living, Rijksmuseum.' Convener, Anuradha Reddy global finals expected to be drive innovation and make an "The thought behind this and there was agriculture and counter magnet development impact in the world of quaninaugurated the exhibition in held in May-June in Silicon said, "We are here today to celmany other activities. Valley.

Professor D Rvindra, the Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University will be the chief guest at the competition.

Engineering and Technology), BirthTech (B V

Raju Institute of Technology),

Edodwaja (Malla Reddy

Uuniversity) and TARQ

Traffic restrictions ahead of Durgam | Nigerian involved in | Gellu Srinivas Yadav

BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF QULI QUTB SHAH

A miniature painting exhibition of the founder of Hyderabad was held at Charminar on Tuesday on the occasion of the 458th birth anniversary of Muhammad Four copies of the Qutb

Shahi ruler's paintings from the Rijksmuseum of the Netherlands were on display by INTACH Hyderabad and Deccan Archives, two of the

Cheruvu cable bridge repairs

PNS HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad police on Tuesday released traffic restrictions ahead of inspection of the Durgam Cheruvu cable bridge.

The traffic restrictions will remain in place for three days as the repair work will require 100 tonnes cranes over the bridge near pylon P1 and P2 for taking up the inspection work as the cranes will occupy the carriage way.

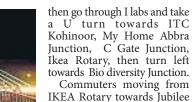
The following traffic restrictions must be followed for convenient travel. Traffic coming from Jubilee Hills Road No.45 towards Gachibowli via cable bridge will be diverted to Ambedkar Open Dr University, commuters will have to take a right turn towards Madhapur law and Order Police Station, then take a left turn towards COD Junction, Cyber Towers and then turn left towards Lemon Tree Junction, IKEA Rotary. Commuters moving from



Jubile Hills Road No 45 via cable bridge towards Gachibowli will be diverted at

Dr Ambedkar Open University. They will have to take a right turn and then turn left before D-Mart and then go through Vasanth Emerald Gardens.

They will have to turn left towrds HMWSSB then turn right towards Nectar Garden road and Sampradaya. The commuters will have to go towards Nectar Garden Colony, then turn right towards Nectar Garden Junction and take a left turn towards Durgam Cheruvu,



Hills via cable bridge will be diverted at In-orbit Mall, they must turn left towards I-Labs then go through Durgam Cheruvu, COD Junction, then turn right towards Ayappa Society and go through

Madhapur Law and Order police station and go towards Kavuri Hills Junction and **Jubilee** Hills. Traffic moving from IKEA Rotary towards Jubilee Hills via

cable bridge will be diverted at In-orbit Mall, they must turn left towards I-Labs then go through Durgam Cheruvu, Nector Garden Junction and turn right, Doctors Colony and go through D -Mart and take a U turn towards Jubilee Hills Road number 45

Facebook fraud held

PNS HYDERABAD

The Cyber Crimes Police of Hyderabad arrested a Nigerian national at New Delhi, who has allegedly cheated several innocent people on the pretext of gift fraud through Facebook. The accused coordinated with the main accused who resides in Nigeria. The accused is Onuigbo

Chibuzo Godwin (42) who is also known as Bobby, a national of Nigeria but lives in Delhi. The police seized laptops, mobile phones, SIM cards, bank passbooks and debit cards from the accused. In the month of February, two accused persons involved in the same case, Bakayoko Lassina, Ivoirienne National (West Africa) and Shoma Purkayastha were sent them to judicial custody. The police revealed that

the accused had cheated the

victim on the pretext of gift fraud to the tune of Rs 1.22 crore on the instructions of prime accused persons Sequro and Okwuchukwu (both Nigerian nationals and absconding).

The accused persons used to create fake Facebook profiles impersonating as US/UK persons and sent friend requests to Indians of the opposite sex. Later, after becoming friends, they used to chat over Whatsapp numbers. After gaining some confidence they informed the victims that they were going to send costly gifts, jewellery etc. After that they used to contact the victims with fake mobile numbers posing as if they were from the customs department and used to collect money in the name of RBI charges, customs, GST and other charges. They convinced the victims to deposit amounts in given fake bank accounts.

appointed as TTDC chief

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has appointed TRSV State President Gellu Srinivas Yadav as the Chairman of Telangana Tourism Development Corporation (TSTDC). Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari has issued orders as per CM KCR's decision. Gellu Srinivas Yadav expressed special gratitude to the Chief Minister on this occasion.

Gellu Srinivas was born on August 21, 1983 to Lakshmi and Mallaiah in Himmatnagar village of Veenavanka Mandal, Karimnagar Dist. He comes from a family with a political background with father Gellu Mallaiah working as Kondapaka MPTC. Mother Lakshmi served as Sarpanch of Himmatnagar. Srinivasa Yadav has been actively involved in student politics since he was studying BA degree. He participated in the movements under



the leadership of Bomma Rammurthy and Baba Fasiuddin. In 2006-2007 he worked as the President of TRSV Department at Telugu

University, Hyderabad. He has been working under the leadership of KCR as the state president of TRS student wing since 2017.

TS least in cyber crime PSs, highest in reported cases

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Police established a total of three cyber crime police stations, 24 cyber crime cells and 18 social media monitoring cells in 2021 but still cyber crime has not decreased in the state. The data was revealed in Status of Policing in India Report 2023: Surveillance and the Question of Privacy.

The annual round of 2022 also showed an increase in overall crime when compared to 2021, attributing to 57 per cent increase in cyber crime. The policing data said the

rate of total cyber crimes in the state was 27.3 per cent with 10,303 cyber crime cases being reported. The number of cases being reported by the cyber

crime police station per unit was 381.6. Interestingly, the states with the highest reported rates of cyber crime also have the highest caseloads per unit, including Assam (over 1,600 cases per unit), Karnataka (over 900 cases per unit) and Telangana (about 380 cases per unit).

In Telangana, the total offences under the IT Act were 655 which was 6.4 per cent of overall cyber crime cases. Under the IPC, total cases reported were 9,644 which was 93.6 per cent of overall cyber crime cases. Coming to cases under Special and Local Laws (SLL), only four cyber crime cases were reported. States that have more than 80 percent of

Cyber offences under the IPC



are Andhra Pradesh (90.3 per 'selected cyber crime motive' cent), Maharashtra (90.2 per cent), Manipur (86.6 per cent), cases as reported by the National Crime Records Bureau in 2021 out of which 17 West Bengal (87.7 per cent), Telangana (93.6 per cent) and were for political motives and two were for terrorist activities. Ladakh (100 per cent). Telangana reported 19 The political motive cases

showed an increase in overall crime when compared to 2021. attributing to 57 per cent increase in cyber crime

of 2022 also

The annual round

being reported in the state were 0 in 2016, two in 2017, 14 in 2018, six in 2019 and eight in 2020.

The report stated that a total of 1,478 people were arrested for cyber crimes in 2021 in

Telangana of which the chargesheeting rate was 16.4 per cent and the conviction rate

was 44.2 per cent. With 842 police stations installed with CCTV cameras, Telangana had 99.9 per cent of overall stations covered with cameras. The total number shared by BPRD was 843 police stations being covered with CCTV but based on RTI information, the figure turned out to be only429 police stations which is 50.9 per cent of the cleaned number claimed number.

Talking about the Facial Recognition Technology used by the states, it was revealed that there were a total of eight FRT systems installed in Telangana out of which four are in active utilisation.

Gang involved in counterfeit grocery items busted

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad police arrested a gang of four, who were indulging in procuring counterfeit general store items from a manufacturer at Kachiguda and selling them in Karnataka and seized duplicate general store items in large quantities. The accused are Ajay Kumar

Bhure, Syed Imran, Premraj Purohith, and Pukhraj Purohith. Two other accused, Kamal Bhati and Mahender Singh Rathod, are currently absconding.

The police seized 857.5 liters of duplicate Parachute oil, 866.5 kgs of duplicate Red Label tea powder, Taj Mahal Gold Cover loose tea powder of 587 kgs,

sandal soap, 150 kgs of fake everest meat masala, 3 Roses tea powder of 144 boxes weighing about 14 kgs, 2 cartons of Clinic Plus shampoo of each carton containing 960 pouches, Head & Shoulders shampoo of 5,760 liters and many more times and machines for packaging. The police revealed that

1,600 pieces of fake Mysore

Kamal Bhati is a native of Rajasthan and is presently residing at Kachiguda. He is the manufacturer of duplicate general store items and sells them through distributors Premraj Purohith, Pukraj Purohith and Mahender Singh Rathod to various shops in Hyderabad and in Karnataka state.



Telangana

Kishan urges KCR to be present at PM's functions

K VENKATESHWARLU HYDERABAD

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy has stated that the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) sent an invitation as per the protocol to Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programme in Hyderabad on Âpril 8. Kishan Reddy said that he said that he expected KCR's presence at the function.

"Kishan Reddy said that the politics are two different things. The Prime Minister is visiting the State to launch several developmental activities. In this context, he is expecting the presence of the Chief Minister at the programmes, Kishan

Reddy said. Kishan Reddy also launched a scathing attack on KCR. He questioned KCR whether the latter had earned thousands of crores of money illegally to hatch a conspiracy to defeat PM Modi. Whether KCR changed his TRS name to BRS to defeat PM Modi, Kishan Reddy asked.

> Modi, CS holds review meeting elangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will not receive Prime Minister

Narendra Modi when he lands at Hyderabad on Saturday. The Chief Minister has not from 2022. The last time the duo came face to face was in 2021 during the CM's visit to Delhi Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari instructed officials to make fool-proof arrangements for the visit of Prime Minister Modi to the state on the 8th of this month. Presiding over a coordination meeting held in connection with the visit of the Prime Minister to the state, she said that all departments have to work in close coordination and make the visit of the Prime Minister a success.

followed the protocol of

receiving the Prime Minister

KCR not to receive

Alleging that conspiracies were hatched by KCR against PM, Kishan Reddy quoted the Chief Minister as saying that he would bear the election expenditure if he was made chairman of the opposition alliance and

said that it was a serious issue. The BJP is considering it a serious issue because of how KCR, who had no money to fill the fuel tank of his car during the Telangana movement as was revealed by Telangana pro-tagonists, who said that they filled diesel in the fuel tank of the car. Then, how he got these many thousands of crores of money, Kishan Reddy asked.

While addressing the media on Tuesday at the State BJP office, the Union Minister said that as per a senior journalist KCR would bear the election expenditure of the opposition parties. It is atrocious on the part of KCR to expect to become Prime Minister with the money he earned illegally.



meant for distribution to people below the poverty line to stave off their hunger pangs,

has been in the administration.

The smugglers are able to act with impunity due to a lack of surveillance on the movement of the rice meant for the PDS system.

system is reportedly being smuggled out of Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Paddapalli and Mancherial districts day in and day out. There are 277 fair-price shops in the Jayashnakar Bhupalapally district. They are supposed to cater to the needs of 3,46,511 beneficiaries. The fair prices are supposed to distribute 1,564 tonnes of rice free of cost to the poor between the 5th and 29th of every month. The middlemen are wheedling the beneficiaries to sell rice drawn

PDS rice allegedly smuggled out of district, sold at profit

Rice meant for the public distribution system (PDS) is being smuggled out of the State borders unhindered day in and day out. The rice,

helping the middlemen line their pockets, according to sources

The rice meant for the PDS a blow to the smugglers has

Free sex-change operations at govt hospitals: Minister

PNS HYDERABAD

Welfare Minister Koppula Eshwar on Tuesday said that the upcoming super-speciali-ty hospitals in Hyderabad will offer free sex-change for transgender persons.

"Gender affirming surgeries are very expensive but vital to a transperson's identity. Most people turn to hard ways of earning money, as they come from financially backward conditions. They fall into longlasting debts and other problems. This is why the new corporate-level hospitals will offer these surgeries free of cost,"

Minister Eshwar said. The Minister participated in Telangana's first ever Trans Utsavam- 2023 organised the department of Persons of Disabilities, Senior Citizens and Transgender persons. The function hosted over 500 transgender persons from all



Welfare Minister Koppula Eshwar participating in Telangana's first-ever Trans Utsavam- 2023 in Hyderabad on Tuesday

over Telangana and felicitated many prominent personalities for their efforts to uplift the community. Minister Koppula Eshwar

further added that being born in the wrong body is nobody's mistake and asked everyone to be compassionate to the trans community that is already oppressed. He said, "For the implementation of welfare schemes and programmes run for transgender persons. Last year, Rs 2 crore was

announced. Rs 1 crore was released in this year. The government is specially providing livelihood loans and voca-

tional training to transgender people to help them stand on their own feet and live independently. We are also setting up a jute production centre in Suraram for the livelihood of trained transgender people. A help desk has been set up at the state level and a help desk under the collector in the districts will also be set up for the

purpose of helping the trans-genders who are being discriminated against in the society.

Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens chief secretary Bharati Holliker said that the society will not witness development until oppressed communities like transgender community are developed. "The rights of transgender community must be protected, They must receive job security and opportunities. That is when we can witness sustainable and inclusive development."

The transgender community appealed to the government to ensure that schemes like Aasara pension, 2BHK houses apply to the Trans community. Several cultural programmes were held by transwomen and transmen from different parts of Telangana.

Swapnalok victims PNS HYDERABAD The Telangana government has announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of the

Rs 5 lakh ex gratia

paid to kin of

six people who died in a fire accident at Swapnalok complex in Secunderabad last month. State Minister for Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairy Development and

Cinematography Talasani Srinivas Yadav handed over the sanctioned checks to the family members of the deceased on Tuesday at his office in Masab Tank, along with Home Minister Mahmood Ali and Narsampeta MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy.The incident, which occurred on March 16, claimed the lives of six people hailing from Warangal, Mahabubabad and Khammam districts. Speaking to the family members, Minister Talasani expressed his condolences and assured them that the government would stand by them in their time of need. He also mentioned that

Chief Minister Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhar Rao was deeply shocked by the tragedy.

MLA asks party workers to help BRS achieve hat-trick

PNS SIDDIPET

Husnabad MLA Voditela Satish Kumar has said that the party activists are the backbone

party activits are the backbone of the BRS and maintained that the KCR government will work for the welfare of the people. Addressing the BRS Atmeeya Sammelan at Koheda in Siddipet district on Tuesday, the MLA noted that the peo-ple of the region faced hardple of the region faced hardships in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. There used to be an acute scarcity of drinking water.

But, in the last nine years of the BRS regime did a lot to develop the State. The fruits of development are there for everyone to see. The State ranked number one in terms of welfare and development. All regions were developed equally. The welfare and development schemes were implemented for all sections of people.

The Husnabad constituency set an example for others to emulate in all spheres of activity, he said appealing to the party rank and file to explain the development achieved and welfare schemes implemented in the new state of Telangana the people. He quote



Hunabad MLA V Satish Kumar speaking at BRS party Atmeeya Sammelanam at Koheda in Siddipet on Tuesday

others to emulate. The other example of Kalyana Lakshmi, Shadi Mubarak, Rytu Bandhu, political parties are resorting to mud-slinging campaigns against the BRS unable to keep pace Rytu Bima, 24x7 power supply to the farm sector, KCR kits, KG to PG free education, Palle with it in development, he said. Pragati, Pattana Pragati and so The objective of holding on. The whole nation looking Atmeeya Sammelan is to coortowards the visionary leaderdinate the efforts of the fieldship of Chief Minister K level workers, he said asking them to explain the develop-Chandrashekar Rao. Such unprecedented development ment that took place in had never taken place in other the state to the people and discuss the developmental initia-

tives by reviewing it in all vil-

states. That is why the people of other States wanted the BRS lages. Noticing that the BRS would to run for elections in their States and implement the schemes being implemented retain power again, the in Telangana. In Telangana, every household derived bene-Opposition parties are campaigning against it, he said asking the party workers to fits from KCR's welfare scheme. The welfare and development repulse the criticism and schemes implemented in explain the development

Water for irrigation to be released from PRLIS by December

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

Minister Κ Chief Chandrashekar Rao has directed the officials of the Irrigation Department to ensure that the Palamuru-Ranganareddy Lift Irrigation scheme (PRLIS) is completed at a faster pace and water is released for irrigation by December. In all, 80 per cent of PRLIS work was completed.

Speaking at Zilla Parishad general body meeting, presided by Chairperson Swarna Sudhakar Reddy on Tuesday, the Minister said that nearly 80 per cent of work on Udandapur and Krivena reservoirs was completed. Canal works remain to be done.

Mahabubnagar district had faced acute shortage of drinking water and power cuts in the past.

The successive governments in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh had never granted sufficient funds for developmental works in the district.

But in the new State of Telangana, all the villages in ate witnessed



Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud speaking at Zilla Parishad general body meeting in Mahabubnagar on Tuesday

provide quality education to

During the debate, some

of the members brought to

the attention of the Minister

that the bankers at some

places have been recovering

old dues loans of farmers

the youth, he said.

development with the government. Several villages were certified as model villages. There were no power cuts

now. The government has been supplying potable water to every

from Rythu Bandhu money. household in the State, he said. The government estab-Zilla Parishad Vicelished a number of Gurukula Chairman Kodugal Yadaiah, Schools, Scheduled Castes Additional Collector K Seetharama Rao and others and Scheduled Tribes and Backward lasses hostels to

PDS rice to beneficiaries in Jayashankar Bhupalapally district

from the fair price shops by offering Rs 8 to Rs 10 a kg. In some instances, the fair price shop dealers are allegedly buying the rice meant for the PDS system from the beneficiaries and selling them to middlemen at higher price. The middlemen have reportedly appointed agents in Kataram, Mahadevpur, Mahamutharam, Malharrao, Chityal, Bhupalapally, Ajamnagar, Ghanapuram and Mogullapalle mandals to procure rice from beneficiaries. The rice thus procured is being smuggled out of the State borders by lorries and auto-rickshaws every day. The officials of the Revenue, Civil Supplies and the police have so far failed to bust the smuggling gangs. The failure on the part of the officials in dealing



GALES, RAIN CAUSE DAMAGE TO **STANDING CROPS**



Damaged paddy crop in Nanganur mandal in Siddipet district

PNS SIDDIPET

Standing paddy crops in Nangunur and Ghanapur villages of Nangunur mandal of Siddipet district were damaged due to the unseasonal hail storm experienced on Tuesday evening.

The rain caused damage to the mango crop ready for harvesting. The iron sheet roof of Rytu Vedika in Nangunur was blown off by gales.

The Revenue and Agriculture officials said that they would assess the loss on Wednesday and send a report to the government.

In Nalgonda district also, hailstorm and heavy rain lashed several areas. In the undivided Nalgonda district, Addagurdur, Mothkur, Rajapet and Athmakur mandal experienced heavy rain accompanied by strong winds. Hailstorm lashed Rajapet and Addagudur man-

Left is now the B-team of BRS, says Thammineni

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS in the Munugode by-poll. Reacting to Sharmila's allega-YSRTP Chief YS Sharmila said tions, Thammineni said that his the Left has become the B-Team sister Sharmila had failed to proof the BRS in the presence of tect her honour. He said that none other than the CPM's they did not support the BRS Telangana State Secretary secretly and that they had openly extended their support to the Thammineni Veerabhadram on Tuesday. She also alleged said **BRS**. that the Left was not launching Thammineni lashed out at

movements against the KCR Sharmila saying that she dared government's failures. to come to their office and called She also asked Thammineni them the B-Team of the BRS. Veerabhadram on whether the Thammineni said that Sharmila's YSRTP is working as Left has invited her to launch movements

the B-Team of the BIP and movements against the BRS government. She said made it clear that they will not the Left has to work with work with it. He demanded that the government has to order a all parties keeping in mind probe by a sitting HC judge if the future of unemployed youth. She said that the Left had it wanted to bring out facts regarding the TSPSC leakage. worked as the B-Team of the

Green India Challenge enters Limca Book of Records

PNS HYDERABAD

Green India Challenge founder Joginipalli Santosh Kumar has been named in the Limca Book of Records, which registers the immense talent displayed by Indians worldwide. The Limca Book of Records recognises and acknowledges the achievements of Indians in the fields of education, literature, cinema, science and technology, defence, social services etc and place them in the record.

Limca book Records Editor Vatsala Kaul Banerjee said that Santosh Kumar has been selected for the prestigious award in social service for undertaking a massive plantation in a just one hour time. Banerjee said that the Limca Book of Records certificate



Green India Challenge founder Joginipalli Santosh Kumar being felicitated by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Raoi as he has been named in the Limca Book of Records on Tuesday

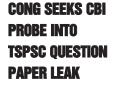
was presented to Santosh Kumar by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao.

The organisation said that with the special initiative of Santosh Kumar, the Green India Challenge planted 3,54,900 saplings with the participation of 16,900 people in one hour at Durga Nagar in

Adilabad district on July 4, 2021. The Limca Book of Records management said that each participant planted 21 saplings and it is the best feat in this category till date. The organisation praised Green India Challenge for making a big success the massive plantation programme which is a

proof of collective effort and social awareness. Rajya Sabha member and

Green India founder Santosh Kumar said that getting "Green India Challenge" a place in the Limca Book of Records and receiving the certificate from the Chief Minister increased his responsibility. Santosh Kumar said that Adilabad MLA Jogu Ramanna is the main reason for achieving Limca Book Record. With the inspiration of KCR, Jogu Ramanna took the decision to plant saplings as part of the Green India Challenge on his birthday and planted more than 3.5 lakh saplings within an hour. The efforts of Ramanna and his followers are noteworthy. special thanks to Jogu Ramanna and his followers





PNS SIRICILLA

TPCC leader K K Mahender Reddy demanded that the State government transfer the investigation into the TSPSC question paper leak case to the CBI. He blamed IT Minister K T Rama Rao for the question paper leak. He crit-icised the State government for the continued leakage of question papers of even the SSC examinations.

Addressing media at the press club here on Tuesday, he accused the State government of adopting double standards over conducting the TSPSC examinations and charged it with being insensitive to the suicides by the unemployed and students. The BRS would invite the wrath of over 30 lakh families of the unemployed.

He said that it was unfortunate to note that the state government stooped to such a position of selling the

Group-1 exam question paper in the market. He demanded the state government order a CBI probe into the case if it is really sincere. Leakage of even SSC question papers reflected the inefficiency of the government, he felt.

PAWAN'S KHWAISH AFTER MEET WITH NADDA **YSRCP-mukth** Andhra Pradesh

PNS VIJAYAWADA

EWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

Jana Sena Party chief K Pawan Kalyan has said that his party aims at making AP a 'YSRCPfree state' and made it clear that alliance with any political party has not figured during his meeting with BJP national president JP Nadda.

Talking to the media, after meeting JP Nadda along with Nadendla Manohar in Delhi on Tuesday, Pawan Kalyan said that the JSP's main agenda is to defeat the YSRCP and come to power.

rule. The Jana Sena will stick to in AP," he claimed.



its decision to ensure that the anti-YSRCP votes do not split. We have discussed all issues in AP comprehensively including corruption in AP with JP Nadda," Pawan Kalyan dis-

"The JSP's sole objective is to make AP get rid of the YSRCP to remove YSRCP from power

However, Pawan Kalyan clarified that the issue of alliance with any political party did not figure in his discussion with JP Nadda. "I will inform you at an

appropriate time on the alliance with any political party," he said.

Significantly, Pawan Kalyan his residence in the afternoon said the BJP's aim is also to and they discussed various defeat the YSRCP and come to issues.

power, adding that his meetings and discussions with the BJP leaders during his two days in Delhi yielded good results.

Earlier, Pawan Kalyan had a 40-minute meeting with JP The JSP leaders and activists Nadda in which BJP State hoped that Pawan Kalyan affairs in-charge and Union Minister Muralidharan also took part.

JSP sources said that they discussed the MLC election results and why the BJP candidates were defeated.

Pawan Kalyan also had a meeting with Muralidharan at priate time.

Meanwhile, Pawan Kalyan's

meetings with the BJP's top leaders in Delhi attracted the attention of not only the political parties but also the people of the State.

would give clarity on the alliance with the TDP but Pawan Kalyan did not give any hint on the issue.

Pawan Kalyan also avoided queries on the alliance with any political party, stating that he would disclose it at an approHYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | APRIL 5, 2023

ne pioneer

pinion 06

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

Good signs

The economy is resilient though there are issues that need to be resolved urgently

he World Bank's assessment that India's economy would remain resilient despite some signs of moderation in growth in the second half of the last fiscal comes as a morale booster for the country's economic policy and decision makers. Even though the bank has downwardly revised its GDP forecast for the current fiscal to 6.3 percent from 6.6 percent (made in December 2022), "India is still going to be one of the fastest-growing economies in the world." The moderation is on account of sluggish consumption growth and tough external conditions. Evidently, former Reserve Bank of India governor Raghuram Rajan's fears about the slowing growth rate were exaggerated. He said last month that the third quarter FY2023 growth was "dangerously close to our old Hindu rate of growth." While it is true that the economy has



slowed down in the recent past, it is also undeniable that things are not as bad as one would have expected them to be. The Covid pandemic and ensuing lockdowns had crippled the supply chains, resulting in enormous disruptions and losses; and while the economy was getting back on track, Russia's war in Ukraine brought more trouble. But the recovery seems to be happening. Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank's Country Director in India, told a news channel that India needs to grow at 8 per cent if it wants to become an upper middle-income country by 2030 and a developed economy by 2047. Deep reforms are needed to achieve that, he added.

The good news is that a number of reforms have already been undertaken: the fiscal situation, though not ideal, is under control; GST implementation has found its groove; direct tax collection is also buoyant, the mopup for the last fiscal exceeding even the revised estimates; infrastructure development is going on at an unprecedented pace; welfare programmes are being streamlined, with emphasis on technology adoption and elimination of non-eligible beneficiaries; and the Government is no longer afraid of the most daring of all liberalisation measures-privatisation. The World Bank has rightly underlined the weaknesses like the one in manufacturing, but there are some good signs. For instance, S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index showed a three-month high in March, the index rising to 56.4 from February's 55.3. Capital goods, indicating capacity addition in the economy, also grew at 13.6 per cent in April 2022-January 2023, against a high base of 21.3 in the corresponding period in 2021-22. It would be premature to state that an industrial revolution is on the horizon, but there is a real possibility of uptick in manufacturing. There are also some real concerns; these are mainly from politics. Populism continues to lure politicians to its meretricious charms, which invariably strains the public exchequer. Then there is the issue of not enough investment pouring in. On the whole, however, the situation is not bad.



Triumph of India's foreign policy



What looked like near impossibility in not too distant past is now a reality. Sri Lanka has repulsed the allure of China and is back in India's fold

ho could have dreamt that Sri Lanka where anti-India sentiment was skyhigh and China (and Pakistan) ruled the roost, would come into India's fold? Who could have thought that Sri Lanka, a country that was once touted to become the Singapore of South Asia, would default on its sovereign debt? Who could have imagined that the Rajapaksa clan which handled 70 per cent of the country's wealth, were hailed as the victors of the 30-year-long war and were darlings of the south would be hounded out? Who could have conceived that six times Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe whose United National Party (UNP) won one (that too on PR) seat, would become President? In 2022 many unthinkable happened in Sri Lanka.

Twice President, Mahinda Rajapaksa, younger brother and last President, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, and party strategist and ormer finance minister Basil Rajapaksa, were all forced into hiding even as Gota fled the country while Basil was prevent-ed from doing so. On 9 May 2022, Mahinda resigned following countrywide violence in which 9 persons died and 30 were wounded. Gota resigned on 15 July and Wickremesinghe was sworn in as acting President. On 20 March 2023, IMF approved USD 3 bn bailout and released USD330 mn as immediate disbursement. All three Rajapaksas along with former Governor Central Bank, Ajit Cabraal and former Finance Minister SR Attygalle have been charged by Transparency International Sr Lanka for being directly responsible for the economic crisis. Former President Chandrika Kumaratunga said the Rajapaksas and friends thought they owned the country and its assets. But Mahinda blamed foreign forces and the former government for the economnse



shortage of foreign currency was made up mainly by India (USD4bn) in three months in 2022. As inflation rose to 99 per cent, and then fell to 59 per cent, nearly 30 per cent of the population is facing food insecurity and acute shortage of cooking gas, fuel and 10 to 12 hours power outages. Things have improved after creditors, especially India, helped. Wickremesinghe, who is also Finance Minister, presented the interim and full budgets last August and November. He is still unpopular

because contrary to Aragalya's demand, he has refused to dissolve Parliament whose term ends after two and a half vears. He is backed by the . Rajapaksas SLPP breakaway faction which has a majority in Parliament.

Wickremesinghe has postponed elections to 340 local bodies, due 9 March, indefinitely, SLPP fearing it will lose them and undermine their image. Rs 10 bn allotted for elections was ordered instead to be utilised to distribute free rice but the Supreme Court blocked the populist scheme. Provincial elections have not been held for four years, 12 members of SLPP including the mercurial GL Peiris, have joined the opposition SJB party as a breakaway faction of UNP. Another Aragalya has been threatened but Wickremesinghe has vowed to use

the Army. Meanwhile, Colombo suf-

fered its worst defeat since 2009 at UNHRC Geneva during the 51/1 Resolution last October. Most of the demands were carryovers from previous resolutions. For the first time, India included issues of reconciliation and devolution calling actions taken on them by Sri Lanka inadequate and abstained from voting for the resolution. This prompted Wickremesinghe to resume dialogue with the Tamil National Alliance and pledged to implement fully, the 13th Amendment enacted in 1987.

THE INDIA-CHINA The India-China rivalry took a distinct pro-China tra-**RIVALRY TOOK A** jectory in 2005 as India refused to provide lethal arms while China (and Pakistan) were DISTINCT PRO-CHINA obliging. Further, the Rajapaksas are so deeply indebted to China for the massive and TRAJECTORY IN **2005 AS INDIA** superfluous infrastructure proects in the south, especially the **REFUSED TO** airport and Hambantota sea port which is on a 99-year lease PROVIDE LETHAL to Beijing. Similarly, Colombo **ARMS WHILE** Port City is expected to become another white elephant. CHINA (AND With the elimination of the Rajapaksas China, the third PAKISTAN) WERE

raised strong objections but later, it managed to force its entry.

Besides the cancellation of

income tax concessions, IMF imposed conditions for the 17th bailout including the reduction of the once worshipped Army from its strength of 200,000 to 135,000 by 2024 and 100, 000 by 2030. This could never have happened during Colonel Gotabhaya's presidency. Several officers including three Generals including present CDS, Lt Gen Shavindra Silva, have been sanctioned by the UN and separately by the US with travel bans. Sri Lankans have recognised India's timely USD 4bn assistance and first responder in debt restructuring. Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said on his recent visit to Colombo that India will stand by the people of Sri Lanka at all times. India's primacy in Sri Lanka is likely to continue as Wickremesinghe has cancelled Chinese energy projects in Jaffna and finally allotted oil tanks in Trincomalee for refurbishment. Sri Lanka is becoming India's foreign policy tri-

umph. (The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

The Rajapaksas were ousted from power by a popular people's revolution, Aragalya, for their role in the economic meltdown. The economy slumped minus 11 per cent in 2022 and will decline minus 4 per cent in 2023. The

OBLIGING

ADB has changed its tune, dragging its feet over debt restructuring.

The Chinese naval surveillance ship Yuan Wang5 was first prevented from docking at Hambantota port after India

Race for Karnataka elections hots up

biggest creditor after Japan and

Tourists ride boats at the Dal Lake after rainfall, in Srinaga

Narendra Modi: The architect of new BJP



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has remoulded the BJP with his efficient leadership and dexterity, writes Ajay Singh in his latest book

or some time now, the rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its unwavering performance across India, particularly making inroads to the once considered 'impregnable' terrain of southern and Northeastern states, has been a subject of as much attention and deliberations among academic and scholarly community, policy-makers as common masses. In this context, Ajay Singh's book 'The Architect of the New BJP: How Narendra Modi Transformed the Party provides an insider's account of how Prime Minister Narendra Modi transposed his highly organized and efficient leadership acumen into the broader context of Indian Politics, thereby, transforming the party's performance and its support base. The author, while tracing the historical foundations of the party, examines both past and contemporary visions and contributions of many veterans, including Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani, as well as the myri-



ad challenges the party faced in consolidating its position in Indian politics. Through a blended research methodology consisting of extensive interviews with party workers, leaders and observers, and an analysis of instances of the different innovative experiments and display of organisational skills by PM Modi, the author traces his life journey. The author observes that since his very childhood, the predisposition of Modi to adapt and apply the learnings of his life- discipline and organisational skills -at every phase of his journey, starting from his association with RSS as a Pracharak, followed by the BJP as a General Secretary (organisation) of the Gujarat unit as well as National Level, as a Chief

Minister of Gujarat to Prime Minister of India, has brought about transformational changes in the party.

In a detailed explication, tained commitment to what the author reflects on the early experiments of Modi in building an alternate political force in the early 1990s in the states of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. In the hindsight, a couple of reasons can be considered for the continued dominance of BJP in Indian Politics: first, values of discipline and organisational skills instilled among the party workers as well as the masses under Modi's leadership have already developed deep roots, which will continue to facilitate the party's strong hold even in the future. Second, many myths about the party, which constrained the party's performance in the past, have already been dismantled with the successive victories in the 2014 and 2019 general elections, as well as states' elections, which will further enable BJP to consolidate its position in the Indian politi-

cal landscape. Undoubtedly, Modi's vision has elevated the party's image transcending caste, urban and minority rhetoric. The success and future of the New Delhi. The views BJP will depend on the sus- *expressed are personal*)

PM Modi calls the Mantra of Triveni, i.e. the convergence of three elements: the government's actions, work ethics, and the service of the BJP workers. The book is an interesting read for anyone with deep curiosity to understand the role of leadership in bringing tremendous transformations in BJP, which in turn changed the discourse of politics in India. The ingenuity of PM Modi's leadership quality can be aptly described, in the words of Joseph Nye, as 'contextual intelligence' - the ability of a leader to understand changing environments, discern and capitalise on trends, adapt and apply the flow of events to implement different strategies in different circumstances/ contexts. PM Modi's ability to lead, organise, mobilise and capitalise have paved the way for greater transformations at both national and global level to build a 'New Bharat' capable of shaping world politics. (The writer is Senior

Consultant Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

THE EDITOR

NOT EVERYTHING ABOUT AI IS GOOD

Sir — In the recent past, thousands of tech experts, including Elon Musk, have called for the suspension of this type of AI system, ie Artificial Intelligence, because the race to develop them was feared to be out of control. Italy's data protection authority has become the first western country to block the advanced chatbot ChatGPT, seemingly acknowledging this apprehension to some extent.

There have been concerns over the potential risks of artificial intelligence, including a huge threat to jobs and a huge increase in cybercrime if it falls into the wrong hands. There are growing serious concerns about how ChatGPT and similar chatbots can deceive and manipulate people. These AI systems need greater public scrutiny, and public officials should reintroduce control over them. That's why Italy should not be the last country that has announced to curb this advanced technology, but other countries of the world should also come forward and take similar steps. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

RELIEF FOR RAHUL GANDHI

Sir — A Surat sessions court on Monday granted bail, till disposal of his appeal, in the defamation case over his remark "why all thieves share the Modi surname" and also issued notice to the complainant on Gandhi's plea for a stay on his conviction. According to legal experts, a stay on Gandhi's conviction in the case would be sufficient to restore his Lok Sabha membership. According to the Supreme Court judgement in the Lily Thomas case, a stay on the conviction is sufficient and if the sessions court stays Rahul's conviction, then the Lok Sabha secretariat could restore Gandhi`s membership. The sessions court will hear Gandhi's appeal against conviction in the case on April 13.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

SUPARI TO DEFAME THE PM

Sir - PM Narendra Modi in recent election rallies claimed that some people had given out a" Supari"(contract) to defame



arnataka, going to polls on May 10. has become abuzz with political activity. Congress high command released a list of 124 candidates on Saturday. It has been criticised by ticket seekers and there has been protests from the workers demanding tickets for their respective leaders in the second list. Both the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress have a lot at stake and what is to be watched out for, in particular, is how the Adani issue and Congress' former president Rahul Gandhi's conviction by a Surat court for the 'Modi-surname' remarks leading to his disqualification from the Lower House play out in the

him and repeatedly said the opposition is trying to dig his grave.

Is the statement in keeping with the dignity of his post he occupies? It seems under PM Narendra Modi's regime the sheen of the Prime Minister post has been lost. The choice of language was unbecoming of a PMS post. Modi talks about being Vishwaguru and having 56 inches chest but has often been called himself accused of playing the victim card. Now the question arises who in the opposition is daring enough to take Modi's" Supari"?

Instead of talking about the development and achievements of his regime, in his speeches why Modi will play the victim card and how long he will play the victim card?

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi's choice of language has driven criticism from a large number of people who promptly linked it to the ongoing controversy about his educational qualifications

upcoming elections. Meanwhile Rahul Gandhi has moved to the Surat court. A verbal duel between the leaders of the BJP and the grand old party is on as the former says that the latter is trying to exert undue pressure on the court while the Congress president Mallikarjun rejected it saying that it was a symbol of support and not a show of strength

Now that the court will take decision on Rahul Gandhi's conviction, there is considerable relief in the grand old party which feels that the case is frivolous and would not hold. One thing is for sure, that congress would take up this issue in its election rallies in Karnataka to gain sympathy and win over the voters.

Notably, a couple of stalwart Congress leaders including Privanka Gandhi Vadra and Bhupesh Baghel and others accompanied Mr Gandhi to the court. However, Congress leader Rajeev Shukla cleared the air that the leaders went to the court of their volition. Let one wait and watch the way this political cookie crumbles!

Azhar A Khan I Rampur

and degrees. One of the netizens has tweeted that " Is this the language a leader of a country speaks given a "Supari". It sounds so juvenile whining now and then that somebody or the other is out to malign him, seems to be a serious case of persecution complex. Our PM talks about how the opposition showers filthy abuses on him but the same PM is silent on the Adani issue when the opposition criticizes the PM on Adani row.

For this Mallikarjun khadke has rightsaid that the PM has taken Supari (in PM's language) to "pickpocket" the people. Our PM should stop playing by saying repeatedly that the opposition has taken Šupari " and the opposition is digging raves, the person who is in power cannot play the victim card frequently.

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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FIRSTCOLUMN AND THE AWARD GOES TO... YOU

Understanding consciousness is critical for a purposeful life, writes Hingori

have recognised that living outside the concept of Maya daily is beyond general human endeavour. I wondered how we could achieve that. I received a response in the form of the following statement: 'LIVE THE LIE, BUT BE AWARE OF THE TRUTH'.

Understanding consciousness is critical because it defines who we are and everything around us. Therefore, we need to explore consciousness deeply and try to shift our conscious awareness to other forms of life to see things from their perspective. In recognising that consciousness exists in every lifeform, one will slowly be able to accept the oneness in all living entities further realising that we are all one. It is the concept of the drop of water makes the ocean and the ocean is the drop of water. So making yourself aware of and empathetic to the perspective of all other living beings, not just other humans is the first step towards recognising the divinity in yourself. So, celebrate your growth and development, both in the physical world and your spiritual self. Go ahead and give yourself an award, because you deserve it! And who doesn't love a good awards show? Here are a few more to ponder over:

THE BEST EDITOR AWARD: This award goes to someone who can delete what is not of value, see the big picture, and make tough decisions. The best editor award recognises individuals who go above and beyond themselves. The editor is like the Marie Kondo of your life, helping you declutter and get rid of things that don't add value.



The concept of getting rid of attachments and desires that are not necessary can be found in the practice of detachment or vairagya. One must have the ability to let go of one's ego and put the greater good of the cause first. One must possess the ability to detach from one's emotions and circumvent negative self-opinion.

Limiting sensory pleasures is another concept that requires to be worked upon. The practice of Pratyahara involves withdrawing the senses from external stimuli. It helps cultivate inner peace and clarity of mind. One must be able to separate themselves from distractions and external stimuli to make objective decisions that serve their life story.

THE BEST MUSIC DIRECTOR AWARD: This award recognizes individuals who understand that the background music of one's life is one's destiny. It's like having your personal DJ or creating the perfect soundtrack for your life. Accepting life's circumstances that do not align with one's expectations can only be possible with a clear understanding of destiny. So, turn up the volume and let your destiny jam out with you.

The Brihadaranyaka Upanishad states, "You are what your deep, driving desire is. As your desire is, so is your will. As your will is, so is your deed. As your deed is, so is your destiny." This quote emphasizes the importance of understanding one's desires and will in shaping one's actions and ultimately, one's destiny.

THE BEST PRODUCER AWARD: This award goes to someone who acts as a mentor and helps their mentee climb the ladder of life, producing a more enlightened person. Guru Vasishta is a prime example of the best producer, having evolved Ram's consciousness to the extent that he became recognised as a God. (Paradoxically so, considering Ram knew that there is no God). To qualify for the best producer award, one must be able to unveil the limitations of ignorance. Be persistent in training, testing, correcting and re-correcting. A mentor must have the patience and perseverance to help the mentee overcome limitations and achieve full potential. This involves providing constructive feedback, challenging their mentees to push themselves beyond their limits, and helping them develop the skills and knowledge necessary for success. One must have the ability to sacrifice and put others before oneself. You are like the Yoda of their life, guiding them towards the light side of the force. And who wouldn't want a Yoda in their life? BEST SCREENPLAY AWARD: A good screenplay for the Best Screenplay Award should have the following elements: knowledge, shedding negative samskaras, and a scriptwriter who possesses an ethereal sense of humour and knows how to laugh at himself. It's like having your own personal JK Rowling, creating a magical world that educates and enlightens you. And finally, THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD — goes to the exemplary volunteer. This award honours individuals who have made a selfless commitment to serve their community to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

A long-winded road to disqualification



analysis 07

The process of disqualification of a lawmaker is a bit complicated but not ambiguous. The Constitution and conventions are a fair guide on the matter



question has arisen whether a Member of Parliament convicted by a court of law and awarded imprisonment of two years or more warrants to be disqualified again by the President in terms of Article 102 read with Article 103 of the Constitution. With respect to disqualification of a Member of a State legislature, similar provisions are enshrined in Article 191 and 192. A constricted, or rather erroneous, view is gaining currency that the words used in the Constitution are 'a person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament, if he incurs any of the disqualifications mentioned under Article 102(1). Further, it is being said that a matter of disqualification must be referred to the President who shall give his decision, which will be final, after obtaining the opinion of the Election Commission (EC) and in accordance with such opinion Such an argument is utterly flawed as it is against the spirit of the Constitution, the law, the judicial dicta and the well-established parliamentary practice. The words 'shall be disqualified' are being given a very parochial rather than a harmonious construction. It is being said that after incurring any of these disqualifications, the MP has to be disqualified again with the decision of the President. If a question arises whether a member has incurred any of the disqualifications under Article 102(1), the question shall be referred to the President who shall give his decision which shall be final in accordance with the opinion of the EC. Now, it must be noted that the words used in Article 103 are 'if any question arises' whereas Article 102(1) mentions the disqualifications. The grounds mentioned under Article 102(1) come under three categories. First, disqualifications on the ground of 'unsoundness of mind', 'undischarged insolvency' and loss of Indian citizenship. On these grounds, there is no recorded case so far of any member having been disqualified. But, nevertheless, it's clear from the Article that the concerned House can dis-

THE WORDS **'SHALL BE** DISQUALIFIED' ARE BEING

(The author is a retired

Additional Secretary,

Lok Sabha, and a

member of Delhi Bar

Council. Views expressed

are personal)

qualify a member once he incurs these disqualifications. Second, in case a representation is received by the President about the alleged assumption of an office of profit by a member, the representation is referred to the EC by the President for opinion. Jaya Bachchan was disqualified by the President with effect from July 14, 2004, on receipt of a petition that she was occupying an office of profit under the UP Government. Following her disqualification, there was a spate of representations including a representation against Sonia Gandhi who was chairperson of the National Advisory Council.

To avoid the possible political upheaval, the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, was amended in 2006 retcospectively w.e.f. April 4, 1959. The **GIVEN A VERY** result was the membership of Jaya and Sonia Gandhi was saved and PAROCHIAL similar petitions became infructuous. On the contrary, where a member is disqualified by a court RATHER THAN A HARMONIOUS of law, he stands disqualified from the date of the judgment. Shibu CONSTRUCTION Soren was disqualified by the apex court in 2001on the grounds of holding an office of profit. He was a member of Rajya Sabha and following the verdict of the court, he stood disqualified and the Rajya Sabha Secretariat issued a notifica-

There is yet another category when a member can be expelled by the House without reference to any outside body or authority. Article 101 in respect of Parliament and Article 190 in respect of State Legislature provide that in case a member remains absent from the House continuously for a period of 60 days without the approval of the House, his seat may be declared vacant. The motion for such removal is usually moved by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs which once approved by the House, the seat is declared vacant. Three members of Provisional

Parliament in April 1950, a mem-ber of Lok Sabha (SN Mahapatra) in 1956, and a member of Rajya Sabha (Baljinder Singh Hamdard) in December 2000 were expelled under Article 101(4).

which is adjudicated by the Speaker/Presiding Officer, a member can be disqualified by or under any law by a court of law. The legal position after the judgment of the apex court in the Lily Thomas case (2013) is that a conviction which carries a sentence of two years or more will automatically result in disqualification since the apex court also struck down section 8(4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, being unconstitutional. The earliest case is of Rasheed Masood who lost his membership of Rajya Sabha due to conviction in a corruption case in 2013. Lalu Prasad and Jagdish Sharma too were unseated from the Lok Sabha following their conviction and sentence of imprisonment which were for more than two years.

There was no reference by

Once disqualified by a court, there is no question or propriety to refer the matter to the EC as the question of disqualification stands settled by judicial dicta. Thirdly, the Speaker can disqualify a member under the Tenth Schedule on grounds of defection. The decision of the Speaker is final under the Tenth Schedule subject of course to iudicial review. An allegation of defection is not referred to the President or the EC.

tion to that effect.

A member can also be expelled by the House for unbecoming conduct. HG Mudgal in 1951 and 10 members of Lok Sabha and one member of Rajya Sabha in 2005 were expelled by the respective Houses for 'cash for query', that was deemed unbecoming conduct of a legislature.

The expulsions were upheld by the apex court in Raja Ram Pal vs Speaker Lok Sabha (2007). None of these cases were referred to the President for approving the expulsions since the legislature itself is competent to do so. Under section 10A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, an elected member can be disqualified by the EC for failure to lodge an account of election expenses. A member of Rajya Sabha was disqualified by the EC in July 1991 and the Rajya Sabha Secretariat issued the notification of disgualification. The matter was not referred to the President.

In terms of Article 102(1)(e), apart from the anti-defection law

either House to the President or the EC since they had been disqualified by the Court. The Lok Sabha Secretariat issued a notification informing the stakeholders including the EC about the vacancy caused due to such disqualification. So, the House cannot defer the date of disqualification of a member disqualified by the Court. Once the question of disqualification is judicially settled, a legislature cannot delay or stall the same, except by enacting a new law or by amending the extant act.

The secretariat only issues notification about the vacancy so that the EC takes recourse to fill the vacancy thus caused. However, disqualification of a member would be untenable if the conviction is stayed as reiterated by the Appellate Court in the Lok Prahari case, 2018. It is therefore incumbent upon the legislature Secretariat to reinstate the membership with equal speed and alacrity once the decision of conviction is stayed by an Appellate Court.

Concluded

In Karnataka parties are offering freebies to voters

All eyes are on the Karnataka Assembly elections, for which polling will be held on May 10 and the results will be announced on May 13

he outcome will determine the prospects of the two leading contenders, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress, ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and other stakeholders like the JD(S). In a neck-andneck fight, most opinion polls indicate that the Congress has the edge over the BJP. Intelligence sources have also projected 80 to 90 for BJP, 90 to 100 for the Congress, and 30 to 40 for the JDS. Karnataka faces a three-cornered contest between the Congress, BJP and the Janata Dal (S).

Stakes are high but more so for the BJP and the Congress. The new entrant Aam Aadmi Party is also contesting all the seats. Winning Karnataka would indicate the crucial Congress revival. It will give a



(The writer is a senior

journalist. Views expressed

are personal)

moral boost to the party, which currently rules in only three states-Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Chattisgarh.

A defeat would be a setback to the ruling BJP which has been on a winning spree, even in the three Northeastern states polls last month. Karnataka is the only BJPruled State in the south.

Former prime minister Deve Gowda and his son, former CM Kumaraswamy, are battling to retain their JD(S) supremacy in the old Mysuru region and their kingmaker role. It will not be a walkover for either national party as they face intense factionalism and indiscipline. The BJP is solely dependent on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's magic. The

State several times, inaugurating various schemes and addressing Poll rallies.

The BJP is looking to the support of octogenarian former chief minister Yeddyurappa. The Lingayat strongman can sabotage the BJP's chances in the highly caste-ridden politics. The BJP got its first chief minister in the south when Yeddyurappa won the state in 2008. Unable to sideline him, the BJP has made him a Parliamentary board member after he was asked to pave for Basavaraj Bommai last

The BJP faces three challenges-anti-incumbency, corruption and lack of a chief ministerial face. The BJP is defensive on anti-incumbency. Karnataka has never elected the same party consecutively in



Assembly elections for more than two decades. Secondly, it has never given a majority to the same party in consecutive Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

In the caste arithmetic, Vokkaligas constitute 15 per cent, OBCs 35 per cent, SC/STs 18 per cent, Muslims 12.92 per cent, and Brahmins about 3 per cent. Vokkaliga votes will be divided between JDS, Congress, BJP, and others.

Lingayats (15 per cent) dominate as many as 100 of 224 constituencies. Until 1989, they supported the Congress.

However, they moved away after the sacking of the then chief minister Veerendra Patil by Rajiv Gandhi. The Congress's strategy is to woo specific interest groups like women. It mobilizes support from Kuruba, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Muslim, and OBC communi-

Secondly, Congress's vote share has never been below 26 per cent votes in the State. Even in 2018, the Congress's vote share stood at 38.04 per cent. Thirdly, Congress has made an aggressive and defi-ant move with Rahul Gandhi planning to launch his Karnataka campaign with the April 5 rally in Kolar. His Bharat Jodo Yatra and the recent court verdict resulting in dismissal from Parliament

have increased his acceptance. bies on the voter. As per the

As for the BJP, the Bommai Government has increased quotas for SC and ST by 4 and 2 per cent. The Lingayats and Vokkaligas also got a 2 per cent hike each. The Bommai Government has announced up to Rs 3,000 per month for families below the poverty line. It has offered Rs 1,000 per month for female farm workers, free bus passes to 30 lakh women in the organised sec-tor, and 8 lakh girl students.

On the negative side, the BJP is defensive on the poll issues like inflation, farmer problems, and unemployment. Real estate, sand, and mining mafias also need to be fixed. The Bommai Government is allegedly known as a 40 per cent commission sarkar. Parties are showering free-

recent trend, money is not a consideration, as all the parties are willing to spend vast amounts. The Congress has already guaranteed 4 things. They are—10 kg foodgrains, 200 units of power, Rs 2,000 for every woman family head, and Rs 3,000 for graduates. The new entrant AAP has

announced free electricity, free water, agricultural loan waiver, unemployment insurance @ Rs 3,000, and free bus pass for women in urban areas. With the parties desperately trying to woo voters with political promises, new schemes, and gifts, the big question is how much the voter would get swayed by them. The voter has a mind and could still prefer the BJP to prove the pundits wrong

 year.

Prime Minister has visited the



Money 08

Gram Power to ramp up smart meter manufacturing capacity

omegrown smart metering firm Gram Power is eyeing a multi-fold growth in topline in the current fiscal as it is set to ramp up the manufacturing capacity to 10 million units per annum, according to a top company official. "We have set up a manufacturing unit with a capacity of up to 3 million smart meters per year, and we aim to ramp up production to 10 million meters in the next 12-15 months to meet the growing demand for smart metering systems in the country," Yashraj

Khaitan, Founder and CEO of Gram Power, said. With the capacity expansion, Gram Power is eyeing about 10 per cent of the country's 300 million metering market over the next five years. Khaitan said that that once the additional capacity is functional, Gram Power's topline turnover will increase by 20 times in 2023-24. However, he did not disclose specific financial details. Recently, the company raised USD 100 million from I Squared Capital for capacity expansion works. Under the Smart Meter National Programme, the government aims to replace 25 crore conventional meters with smart meters



Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting FY23 sales cross Rs 10,000 cr

pro Consumer Care and Lighting on Tuesday said it has crossed the milestone of Rs 10,000 crore in overall sales in FY23, helped by 'significant growth' across geographies, brands, and categories. The domestic FMCG business grew 17 per cent for the financial year ended March 31, 2023, the company, part of Azim Premiji-led Wipro Enterprises, said in a statement. Its sandalwood soap brand Santoor has now become the second largest player in

the segment in India with sales of over Rs 2,650 crore. While female toiletries brand of Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting, Enchanteur, has also crossed 1,000 crore, it added. The company, which operates in FMCG and lighting products, had reported a revenue of Rs 8,634 crore for the financial year ended March 31, 2022. "FY23 was a special year with the FMCG India business growing at 17 per cent and Malavsia strengthening its No 1 position in personal care with strong growth of over 20 per cent



PhonePe forays into local commerce with Pincode app on ONDC network

almart-backed PhonePe on Tuesday announced its foray into local commerce with the launch of its consumer app Pincode, built on the government's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform. PhonePe Founder and CEO Sameer Nigam that the Pincode app will be available initially in Bangalore and it will expand to other cities after the app achieves transactions of around 10,000 per day. "PhonePe is launching a new shopping app that

puts stores at the heart of interaction. Pincode is going to open up in Bengaluru. "We are going to launch it city by city. We are going to first take transaction volumes like 10,000 a day before we open the next city. We are looking at 100 thousand per day by December," Nigam said. He said this is the second consumer app from PhonePe in about seven years. Nigam said a separate app has been launched because expectations of customers are going to be different. The app will pilot in Bangalore with grocery, food, pharma, electronics and home decor



Goods exports touched US\$ 447 bln: Goyal

PNS NEW DELHI

The country's goods exports touched USD 447 billion till the last count for 2022-23 fiscal year as against USD 422 billion in 2021-22, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday.

The final export and import data for 2022-23 would be released by the mid of April.

At present, the ministry is in the process of collating the data. The trade data for goods comes with a lag of about 15 days and in the case of services data, it is 45 days.

Goyal said that services exports are estimated to cross USD 320 billion in 2022-23.

Growth in merchandise goods would be around 6 per cent for the last fiscal, he said, adding that it has grown from "USD 422 billion to USD 447 billion at last count (as the) final numbers are still awaited"

He said the country's exports are growing despite global challenges such as rise



in raw material prices, restrictions in exports of certain products like wheat and Russia-Ukraine war.

"The final numbers (exports of goods and services will be closer to USD 765 billion... I would not be surprised if we actually go up to USD 772 billion which we figured while drawing the road map for USD 2 trillion of exports by 2030," the minister said.

If the data reaches USD 772 billion, Goyal said, "then, I will probably reset the USD 2 trillion target also". Speaking at an event, he

also said that express delivery

services sector has huge potential for growth in India.

"To bridge the cost in logis-tics, we need to look at scale, effi-ciency and the building blocks through technology," he added. Going by the strong foundation which the government is building in terms of high expenditure for developing modern infrastructure, internationalisation of trade, free trade agreements and growth in exports of goods and services, the economy size may reach USD 35-40 trillion by 2047, he added.

MP, Odisha doubled GSDP in six years to FY22: Report

PNS MUMBAI

Madhya Pradesh and Odisha more than doubled their gross state domestic product (GSDP) on a nominal basis in six years to FY22 despite the pandemic, a report said on Tuesdav.

Madhya Pradesh has shown a "remarkable journey" on economic growth by doubling in size in FY22, as compared with what it was in FY16, India Ratings and Research said in a note. It added that Chief

Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's state also entered into the top 10 states by GSDP because of this performance, and was the only new entrant in the list. Kerala has dropped off the list, it said.

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala were the 10 largest subnational economies in FY16, while in FY22 Kerala was replaced by Madhya Pradesh, it said.

ADB says China, India will power strong growth in '23

PNS BANGKOK

China's recovery from the pandemic and strong demand in India will drive strong economic growth in Asia this year, the Asian Development Bank said in a report issued

Tuesday. The Man



"It's certainly plausible that oil prices could go even higher and introduce another challenge for the region," ADB Chief Economist Albert Park said in a conference call.

However, growing imports of Russian crude oil, especialby China and Ind will

ONGC's US\$ 7 billion drive to boost output

PNS NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is stepping up a USD 7 billion investment over the next three-four years to reverse years of decline in oil and gas production, company's direc-tor for production Pankaj Kumar said.

Up to 24 field development, enhanced oil recovery (EOR) and improved oil recovery (IOR) projects are currently in progress that will further help reverse the declining trend in oil and gas

production. "Most of our fields are old where natural decline has set in. But we are heavily invest-



ing in technology to raise recovery as well as tap isolated reservoirs," he said. ONGC is investing USD 5 billion-plus in development of the Cluster-II region of its flagship KG-DWN-98/2 asset in the Krishna Godavari basin offshore India's eastern coast.

development of neighbouring fields like Daman, he said, adding these ongoing projects involve an investment of Rs

60,000 crore (more than USD 7 billion) over the next three-four years. "We are investing in multiple enhanced oil recovery (EOR) and improved oil recovery (IOR) projects," he said. "In the fiscal year ending March 31, we managed to arrest the decline in output after five years and from the current fiscal we will see production rising.

ONGC is likely to see out-It also has multiple field put rise from 19.6 million tonnes in 2022-23 to 21.2 developments in the west coast region, including a planned million tonnes in the current fifth phase of redevelopment of Mumbai High along with the fiscal (April 2023 to March 2024) on a standalone basis. Natural gas output is projected to rise from 20.6 billion cubic meters in 2022-23 to 23.5 bcm in the current fiscal.

> Comviva appoints new senior executives to drive growth

PNS NEW DELHI

IT company Comviva on Monday announced the appointment of three new senior executives to drive its growth in the US and Europe. The company has roped in former Syniverse Americas

sales head Paul Barowsky as Chief Growth Officer with the primary responsibility for driving expansion in North America and European markets, Comviva said in a statement. Paul has experience in scaling up businesses in North America.

their completion. According to an order issued by the ministry on March 31, the committee will submit its report within six months from the date of its first meeting. The 14-member panel will deliberate on the issues of legacy stalled projects and suggest ways to complete and hand over these projects to homebuyers in a time-bound manner, the order states.

Automobile retail sales see double-digit growth

Amitabh Kant-headed panel to help push to examine stalled real estate projects

PNS NEW DELHI

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has set up a 14member committee headed by former NITI Aayog CEÓ Amitabh Kant to examine issues related to stalled real estate projects and recommend various ways for

ago. The committee comprises top



central and state government offi-The Central Advisory Council chaired by Union Housing and cials, including the secretary in the Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep department of financial services in the Union Ministry of Finance, the Singh Puri had decided on forming such a committee about a year principal secretary of the housing and urban planning.

based ADB's latest update forecasts an expansion of 4.8% in this year and the next, up from 4.2% in 2022. It said inflation would likely cool slightly this year and fall further in 2024.

ADB economists said a weekend decision by oil producing nations to cut output, pushing oil prices sharply higher, might reignite infla-

tionary pressures and add to

The report's analysis was based on the assumption that Brent crude oil, the pricing basis for international trading, would average USD 88 a barrel this year and USD 90 a barrel next year.

remain elevated, she expects

the local unit to gain towards

79 against the greenback by

year-end FY24, on a narrowing current account deficit (CAD)

and weaker dollar volatility

index. CAD narrowed to 2.2

per cent of GDP or USD 18.2

billion in the third quarter and

the Swiss brokerage UBS

Securities sees it further

improving to 1.2 per cent of

GDP in the current fiscal from

an estimated 2 per cent in the

just concluded fiscal.

Oil prices remain below that level, with Brent at USD the Biden administration.

more than doubled last year soared about 5% after Saudi As of February, a third of Arabia and other major oil Russia's crude exports were producers said they will cut going to India and more than production by 1.15 million barrels per day from May until the end of the year, on top of a reduction announced last October that infuriated

a fifth to China. Park noted that inflation in Asia seems to be driven more by surging demand for services, such as tourism, than for goods.

PV offtake at record high

PNS NEW DELHI

Automobile retail sales grew in double-digits in the country last fiscal, driven by a record offtake of 36 lakh passenger vehicles, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said on Tuesday.

Total retail sales rose to 2,21,50,222 units last fiscal, up 21 per cent from 1,83,27,326 units in FY22. The passenger



vehicle registrations rose by 23 rose by 19 per cent to per cent to 36,20,039 units, as 1,59,95,968 units in FY23 comagainst 29,42,273 units in 2021pared to 1,34,94,214 units in 22. Two-wheelers retail sales 2021-22. Commercial vehicle

retail sales rose 33 per cent while three-wheeler registrations witnessed an 84 per cent increase as compared with 2021-22.

Tractor retail sales grew by 8 per cent last fiscal as compared with FY22. "FY23 was the first full year without any impact of Covid after a gap of two years. Consequently, overall retail sales during the year experienced double-digit growth of 21 per cent," FADA President Manish Raj Singhania said.

Rupee likely to strengthen towards 79 by end-FY24: UBS Securities

PNS MUMBAI

Narrowing current account deficit will help the rupee strengthen against the dollar and appreciate to around 79 by the second half of the current fiscal, says a foreign brokerage report.

The rupee is likely to strengthen towards 79 by end-FY24 from an average of 82 to the US dollar in FY23, Tanvee Gupta Jain, the chief India economist at UBS Securities said in a note.

Even as the rupee is likely to

PNS NEW DELHI be volatile in the near-term, as global financial stability risks

The new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023, announced recently, will help in promoting exports of sectors from e-commerce, batteries for electric vehicles and farm equipment, experts said on Tuesday.

India on March 31 came out with the new policy which aimed at pushing rupee trade, increasing outward shipments to USD 2 trillion by 2030, and promoting e-commerce exports, amid global uncertainties.

Rumki Majumdar, Economist at Deloitte India, said that the



policy emphasises on the manufacturing and export sectors with a long term view.

Sectors such as batteries for EVs, green hydrogen, and garment, amongst others will benefit from the policy, she said, adding that with over 80 per cent of trade being done in the USD, encouraging trade in Indian rupee will be a relief.

"It will also add to its resilience to external shocks and improve negotiating capabilities in international trade," Majumdar said. Śhashi Mathews, Partner at

IndusLaw, said that through the policy, the government's focus is to digitise and re-engineer the processes to make it

more business-friendly and less time-consuming. "Some key focus areas which will reap the benefits are ecommerce, merchanting trade,

green technology products like EV, farming equipment, etc," Mathews said.

The new policy would rekindle business sentiment to achieve India's aspirational target of being a global leader

in exports, Sanjay Budhia, Chairman of CII National Committee on Exports and Imports, said.

"Reduction of export performance threshold in the new FTP is a welcome step as this will enable more exporters to achieve higher status and reduce transaction cost for exports.

ICRIER for level playing field on cargo

NEW DELHI: Economic think tank ICRIER on Tuesday suggested that the government should fast-track trade facilitation-related reforms, in a bid to give express delivery a level-playing field with general cargo. ICRIER in a report titled 'Express Delivery Services Supporting the Journey towards India@2047 said the government should remove all value limits on exports through express delivery services (EDS) to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in global value chains.



GHWC. Bid Start date: 04-04-2023 at 3.00 PM, Bid End date: 15-04-023 at 3.00 PM, Bid opening: 15-04-2023 at 03.15 PM. Name & Address Officer & Cell No.: Executive

Credit Suisse chief admits failure, apologises to shareholders

ed by the developments of the past

PNS ZURICH

The chairman of Credit Suisse apologised Tuesday to shareholders for failures of the once-venerable bank and acknowledged the shock and anger felt as the troubled Swiss lender is set to be swallowed up by rival UBS in a government-arranged takeover.

Axel Lehmann, who took the top board job only last year after joining Credit Suisse from UBS in 2021. decried "massive outflows' of customer funds in October and a "downward spiral" that culminated last month as turmoil from a US banking crisis spilled overseas. "The bank could not be saved," he said, and only two



options awaited a deal or bank-

"The bitterness, anger and few weeks is palpable," Lehmann told what is likely the last Credit shock of those who are disap-Suisse shareholder meeting in its pointed, overwhelmed and affect-167-year history.

"I apologise that we were no longer able to stem the loss of trust that had accumulated over the years and for disappointing you," he said.

New foreign trade policy to promote exports

Protesters, including some hoisting a boat labelled "Crisis Suisse," gathered outside the Zurich hockey arena hosting the meeting and some shareholders voiced their anger as they got their last crack at managers following a collapse of the bank's stock price over the last decade and an impending merger engineered to sidestep investor approval.

In 2007, Credit Suisse shares fetched as much nearly 88 Swiss francs (dollars). Today, they're trading at about 80 cents.

As the stock skid worsened and jittery depositors pulled their money, Swiss government officials hastily orchestrated a USD 3.25 billion takeover by UBS two weekends ago. Political leaders, financial regulators and the central bank feared a teetering Credit Suisse could further roil global financial markets following the collapse of two US banks.

Crosstown competitor UBS has been known for a more conservative culture after surviving the 2008 financial crisis, thanks in part to a government bailout. Executives hope that the deal will close in coming months but acknowledged a complex transaction

Engineer, Division-15, GHMC, 9704456422. Further details can be seen a www.tender.telangana.gov.in SdI- Executive Enginee R.O.No: 2-PPICLIADVTH/2023-24, Dt. 84/84/2023 Division-15, GHMC OFFICE OF THE NIRMAL MUNICIPALITY, NIRMAL DISTRICT NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST R.No. E1/01/EOI/2023-24

Dated: 03-04-2023

Expression of interest is invited in sealed covers from experienced (in similar type of works) consultants for preparation of DPR's for various developmental works in Nirmal Municipality Under Various grants, They can apply for RFP Document by submitting the Demand Draft of Rs: 3000- have to be drawn in favor o missioner, Nimal Municipality. Last date for the issuing of schedule: Dt 11-04-2023. Time: 3.00 PM, Last date for submission of sealed expression of interest: Dt: 12-04-2023. Time: 3.00 PM. Conditions: 1) Conditions f EOI should be accepted. 2) Experience consultants in similar nature of works shall only be considered. 3 production of the second se should get approved by the department. 5) The DPR's shall be prepared as per the guidelines and norms and all the information as per the check listraised by the department. 6) The firm should have minimum Rs 5.00 Crores turnover in any financial year in last five financial years. 7) The rate quoted by the consultants shall be in arcentage (%) of total estimated cost. 8) Commissioner, Nirmal Municipality has all powers to accept or reject the sealed tenders as per Schedule. Any other details contact on engineering section NIRMAL Municipality in Working hours. Contact Mobile No: Commissioner (9849905888) Municipal Engineer (9948806255). R.O.No: T-PP(CLADVTIN2022-24, DL 04.04.2023 Sdl- Commissioner, Nirmal Municipality

the pioneer erabac

Generation Follow us on @TheDailyPioneer facebook.com/ dailypioneer

Wednesday April 5, 2023

To help you manage stress levels and lead a healthy working environment, The *Pioneer* connects to Laxman Sridhar, founder of Lucid Minds Coaching, who speaks to us about the power of coaching to achieve clarity, and bring out the best in yourself and others.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

A healthy working environment is so impor-tant these days, unbearable affairs of state are to be seen in many office premises. So, to help manage stress levels these days — like we have come up with so many coaches, here we are with a top executive coach now.

Laxman Sridhar helps maintain the relationship of employees with their co-workers, because sometimes what happens is the decision that they make can impact their own wellbeing. The num-ber of hours we work, the stress of increment and especially workplace safety, all of this causes stress. So what does this coach do is take some respon-

sibility and support their mental health! Because, after all, if the employee is stressing around housing or family issues — they stop feel-ing valued. We know your bewilderness is run-ning, on how does an executive coach actually do that?

Well, when we enunciated our conversation with him, he uttered, "I believe that learning is a superpower, and everyone has the power to unleash it. There are two dimensions to learning; the formal method follows the path of acquiring knowledge in a structured and academic manner, thus creating an understanding of the topic.

Understanding what white-collar coaching is

The second is through consistent practice that helps deepen and enhance the knowledge and skills. Over the years, I have invested in numerous learning programs. These learning programs have brought me immense insights, perspectives and competencies, helping me sharpen my coach-ing skills to offer the employees best coaching methodologies while main-taining high standards of ethics and integrity." The founder of Lucid Minds Coaching,

certified coach by the International Coach Federation has over eleven years of executive coaching experience. He has worked with top companies like Abbott, Accenture, Amazon, Honeywell, HP, MasterCard, Mckinsey, Mercedes-Benz, Meesho, Microsoft, Myntra and so many others.

"The coaching journey is about the employee and the coach, and only he can facilitate the learn-ing and growth. When the above tenets are ignored, ego can mislead the coach! Some man-ifestations of that could be that the coach thinks they are an expert and considers themselves an authority to dictate what the employee should or should not do; the coaching sessions then become about the coach and not the employee. The coach is then also likely to focus on their needs over that of the employee. And those things, in turn, are likely to take the focus off the employee and limit the ability of the coach to listen actively, reduce objectivity, allow judgement to creep in and thereby contaminate the coaching session."

Yes, it happens! Then how will they feel sup-ported at work? He continued, who has also sup-ported some big shots in foreign, "Self-talk can be supportive or critical. The latter can add to the stress, increase self-doubt, create self-judgement and labelling, reduce confidence, lead to over-thinking, impact choices, delay decision-making, and appear as procrastination. All of the above and appear as proclastifiation. All of the above sadly may also rob the employees of their natur-al creativity, higher-order thinking, visioning and problem-solving abilities, thereby limiting them to play safe, avoid challenges that could help them grow, give in to fear and eventually settle for medi-

ocrity. The challenge here is fear and lack of trust unavoidable. There is continued disruption, ocrity. The challenge here is fear and lack of trust in self. With the support of a coach, the employ-ee can learn to reframe the challenges, look at them from different perspectives, and shift ener-gies from limitations to possibilities. The employ-ee can also use the coach as a non-judgemental, sounding board to express their thoughts with-out hesitation, process their emotions, develop a vision, and set clear goals and an action plan out hesitation, process their emotions, develop a vision, and set clear goals and an action plan to achieve them. By doing so, the employee can move from a place of self-doubt and fear to one of clarity, courage and confidence. This shift can help replace the critical, self-sabotaging internal voice with one that appreciates and acknowledges efforts made, a voice that encourages, supports and inspires the employee to continue on the path of self-awareness, clarity and intentional action." In these eleven years, he has coached employ-ees on areas spanning empowering leadership.

ees on areas spanning empowering leadership, executive presence, emotional intelligence, mindfulness, strategic thinking, people management, influencing stakeholders, effective decision making, impactful communication, and stress management you see!

Moreover, "Happiness is a state of being. When things go well, be mindful to celebrate, and when they don't, it's okay and healthy to emote not-so-great feelings. These can be feelings of frustration, annoyance or even anger. Emotions, feelings and tears exist for a reason and blocking, shutand tears exist for a reason and blocking, shut-ting, or avoiding them does not serve anyone. Building self-awareness, and clarity, identifying character strengths, developing empowering habits and broader perspectives, and appreciat-ing and acknowledging everyday wins can help shift a person to experience a state of happiness. Expressing gratitude, dropping judgements, practising compassion, and kindness towards self and others, staying engaged in meaningful work and others, staying engaged in meaningful work and living a life based on values and a sense of purpose are other ways of experience at your workplace."

Sridhar has also helped big shots address dis-empowering behaviours, limiting beliefs, fears, and unhealthy stress, thereby freeing them to give their best to the world and they are as we all can

"Work separation, layoffs, and restructuring a n d are complex events but are also increasingly

volatility, and uncertainty in the environment and organisations trying to adapt, save costs and survive in those conditions resort to letting go of people. Career professionals can actually better pre-pare for these likely exigencies by being proac-tive much before they even face a layoff! Successful and well-functioning corporates understand the importance of learning and development in enhancing the overall

effectiveness of the individual, teams and the larger organisation. As a result, they proac-tively plan numerous interventions to support their employees as they transition from one role to another, from managing small teams to multi-country, crossfunctional teams. A combination of interventions ensures the employees are wellrounded, consistently learning, growing and helping the organ-isation scale. Executive Coaching is one such powerful intervention. In the words of the International Coach Federation, coaching is part-nering with employees in a thought-provoking and creative process that inspires them to maximize their personal and profes-sional potential. Companies that invest in executive coaching bene-

fit by having highly selfaware empa

thetic leaders with enhanced listening skills. They manage people better, keep their teams engaged and build a sense of belonging, enjoy higher reten-tion, encourage open and honest conversations, demonstrate impactful communication, plan better and execute faster, thereby creating high-er levels of productivity, sales and growth." This was much needed, because let us tell you

the employees who are undergoing layoffs these days are not just affected financially, but also mentally and we urge you to approach such coaches to not let your productivity get affected!

SOME SIGNS OF **HEALTHY EGO:**

• Coach and employee trust each other and the coaching process.

• The coach is confident in their abilities to support

• Coach is confident in the abilities of their employee to learn and grow

• Coach and employee are open to acknowledging that they do not know everything and will use the coaching process to discover more about the employee's needs, wants, aspirations, and desires as they work together.

How to treat Bipolar

the characters alive

The 'Mane' behind making

K. RAMYA SREE

lmost all of the B-Town celebrities want Darshan Yewalekar to do their A want Darsman Teware and busiest hair. One of the newest and busiest hairdressers in B-Town is the one who dared to shave Ranveer Singh's head in order to transform him into the Maratha warrior in Bajirao Mastani, gave him a distinct, grungy look in Gunday, transformed him into a terrifying Khilji in Padmaavat, and into none other than Kapil Dev in 83.

The celebrity stylist, in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, said that working on the sets of Sanjay Leela Bhansali is his most memorable experience so far in his career.

He elaborated, "I have been lucky enough to style many celebrities and every experience is different. One of my most memorable experiences was working on the sets of Sanjay Leela Bhansali sir, who is a cinematic institution in his own right. Designing Ranveer's hair for Golivon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela, Bajirao Mastani and Padmaavat was an experience of a lifetime because I learnt so much about the detailing that goes into characterisation but also about cinema in general. Right now, I am enjoying working with Karan Johar on *Rocky Aur Rani Ki* Prem Kahani who is very fashion forward and offers great suggestions."

Everybody has commented on Ranveer's look in Padmaavat where he played Allauddin Khilji and the wild, untamed hair added to the sense of dread he evoked on screen. As a Maratha warrior in Bajirao Mastani, Ranveer shaved off his hair and exuded great self-possession and authority while in Ram-Leela, he played a dashing lover with hair that added to his free-spirited character. And darshan considers that look and the look he gave to him in 83 as his most viral looks so far.

Furthermore, sharing about his most proudest professional accomplishment, he said, "I think my proudest achievement has been to build a success story from scratch and make my parents proud. Over 20 years ago, I arrived in Mumbai from Pune and did not know what the future held in store for me. All I had was a passion for cinema and for barbering, and fate brought me to a film set where I could combine both. I worked hard, imbibed every lesson and soon more doors opened and the biggest breakthrough came on the sets of Ram-Leela. I never looked back and today I am designing the Darshan Yewalekar's passion for cinema and barbering has today made him one of the busiest hairdressers in B-Town. The hairstylist, who has been closely associated with actor Ranveer Singh for over a decade now, gets candid with The Pioneer about his memorable experiences, his most proudest professional accomplishment, what goes behind getting a style approved, and



complete look for Karan Johar's Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani and also helping superstars like Ranveer nail their style for

red carpets, magazine shoots and advertisements. I am on the verge of opening a nextgeneration barber shop in Mumbai and the boy who sometimes went hungry in his initial days of struggle has finally come full circle?

He is someone who prefers creating new looks with a reference to science fiction or hark back to a certain period from the past and timeline that could be as far back as 17th or 18th Century BC or the 1930's, 40's or 50's. But, being a celebrity hairstylist is not an easy task. There are high chances of your experiments backfiring. The greatest lesson that he learnt in his life is to keep working and improving your skills. "You cannot let failure or success affect you too much. You must stay humble and never let a sad story or people's opinions define you. No matter how hard the struggle may be, you're the only one who can pick yourself up. My low phases in fact gave me the courage to push my boundaries and fall in love with the process rather than the outcome. You should love what you do every day and that will make it easy for you to go on even when things are not going your way."

Spilling some beans on what generally goes behind getting a style approved and designed for a celebrity and the whole process, he shared, "You have to know a celebrity well enough to understand what they would like or not be comfortable with. You listen intently to their brief whether it is for a film shoot, a magazine cover, an ad or a red carpet and collaborate with their team to ensure that your styling gels with the costume design, the makeup, the occasion and the energy they want to exude and then after many discussions, the final look is crystalised. Right now, I am enjoying working on Karan Johar's Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani. It is fresh, nostalgic, current and has many shades of love rolled into one film. After I went through the script, I created my mood board for each and every character and their story graph. I also kept in mind the actors who were playing these characters and created looks that were cohesive and true to the story. I tried to ensure that no actor looks like any other character they may have played in the past. For Ranveer, with whom I have worked extensively for over a decade, it was challenging to create a very distinct look that has never been seen before but we managed to surprise ourselves."

Ending the chat by sharing the trending hairstyles we will witness in 2023, he con-

Disorder effectively?

PNS | HYDERABAD

emember Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde? The antagonistic representations of the nature of the same person is NOT a fiction. It may happen in reality as well when mood states fluctuate between extremes.

Bipolar disorder dramatically affects the mood and may result in episodes of depression and elation, which can affect one's health, productivity, and relationships. World Bipolar Day educates and promotes the spread of information on bipolar disorder through international collaborative efforts.

Bipolar disorder, previously known as manic depression, is a severe mental disorder characterised by periods of depression and periods of abnormally elevated mood that last from days to weeks. If the elevated mood is severe or associated with psychosis, it is called mania; if it is less severe, it is called hypomania. During mania, an individual behaves or feels abnormally energetic, happy or irritable, and they often make impulsive decisions with little regard for the consequences. There is usually also a reduced need for sleep during manic phases. During periods of depression, the individual may experience crying and cludhave a negative outlook on life and poor eye con-tact with others. ed, "I s e e people

Commonly starting between 20-25 years, expressing Bipolar disorder themselves more, followaffects nearly 1% of ing their own the global popindividual styles ulation to make a statement When it because in the end, starts true fashion is about indiear-

viduality and standing apart. I see retro cuts coming back with a modern twist, less products, more natural textures and defiant colors on both girls and boys. Right now, everybody is doing their own thing and enhancing their best attributes with flattering cuts rather than following what Instagram influencers are doing and that is a great shift, I would say."

lier in life, it's associated with worse outcomes. Presence of this disorder in multiple family members, disrupted sleep patterns, alcohol/cannabis addiction, extreme stress and impaired daily schedule - can all lead to Bipolar disorder, though the exact cause is not vet known. Imbalance in neurotransmitter levels in the brain areas responsible for mood, energy, sleep and functioning as well as impaired nerve-to-nerve signaling in these areas can all lead to Bipolar Disorder.

Dr. Debanjan Banerjee, consultant neuropsychiatrist, Apollo Multispeciality Hospitals said, "Bipolar Disorder can be quite severe and disabling. The frequent swings between a 'manic' and 'depressive' phase are often undetected and considered to be a normal part of mood fluctuations. If untreated,

this illness takes a heavy toll on social life, relationships and professional domains. With time, the mood episodes tend to be more frequent and severe. Irritability and restlessness can increase. During the 'high' phase (mania), an individual often does not admit or understand that he/she is ill and refuses treatment. The family needs to identify the signs and initiate treatment. Often,

hospitalization may also be necessary to deal with the acute episode. The risk of suicide is high; over a period of 20 years, 6% of those with bipolar disorder died by suicide, while 30-40% engaged in self-harm behaviors?

Several medicines are used to treat bipolar disorder successfully and the treatment depends on the 'phase' of illness (high or low). Certain medicines called mood-stabilizers help the mood to remain stable and prevent the extreme fluctuations that happen in this ill-

ness (just like an inverter reduces voltage fluctua-tions). If there is more than one

episode, medicines may need to be con tinued for a long time, at times through-out life. Stopping medications without discussion with your doctor and simply for the fear of side-effects or stigma, is extremely harmful and carries a huge risk of recurrence of this disorder. Please discuss your concerns, the expected effects/side-effects and duration of treatment with your treating psychiatrist well in advance.

Besides, various approaches to psychother-apy (Cognitive Behavior Therapy / Interpersonal Therapy / Social Rhythm Therapy, etc.) are helpful to prevent relapses in Bipolar and maintain mood stability They are best done by a qualified clinical psychologist in addition to the prescribed med-icines. Lifestyle changes are

immensely important to keep this disorder at bay, especially regulating your sleep cycle, maintaining proper sleep hygiene and ensuring adequate night-time sleep. Daily exercises, yoga, avoiding alcohol and other addictions, proper nutrition and stress management also help.

Perhaps most impor-tant is to identify the early signs of this disorder and seek pro-fessional help as early as possible. There is no stigma or shame in seeking

help. The 'mania' or 'depression' episodes do not start in a day. Initially, the signs may be easy irritation, disturbed sleep, increased talking, overspending, change in behavior patterns, reduced social interaction, problems in focusing, feeling or perceiving 'weird' sensation, etc. Family members should be on the watch for such symptoms in an individ ual with Bipolar Disorder and seek prompt help in case these appear. This prevents a mood episode from escalat ing further.

Let's understand the illness and spread awareness. Bipolar Disorder can be treated well and disability prevent-ed in a lot of individuals. Only if we act timely!







Neha Gandhi and Neha Gupta, organised the introductory event of the second season of Glow Ladies club, at Terra cafe n bistro, Jubillee Hills in Hyderabad.

lassi Chhabra













what's brewing?



PARTY















A robust charging infrastructure is imperative for EV adoption in India: Ather Energy

rom a meager 3 to 4 percent market share in FY22, electric scooters have risen to 16 percent in FY23, which is a significant jump for any new category. The government has been seeking active participation from the private sector to setup charging infrastructure to accelerate EV adoption in the country. While several startups and energy companies have shown interest and have started to install EV charging stations, a lot still remains to be done by the OEMs. One such 2-wheeler brand - Ather Energy,

well known for the 450X electric scooter, is also leading the charge in India in terms of establishing a comprehensive network of charging stations The company's charging infrastructure

network, called Ather Grid, is designed to provide electric scooter owners with a convenient and hassle-free charging experience.

The charging stations are strategically located in popular public places such as malls, restaurants, and cafes, making it easy for electric scooter owners to charge

1916

MAYBE SHARED

CUSTODY WASN'T THE BEST IDEA



company also offers a mobile app that allows users to locate and reserve charging stations in advance, ensuring that they are always able to find a charging point when they need one.

FUN







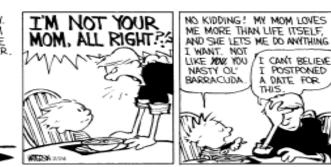


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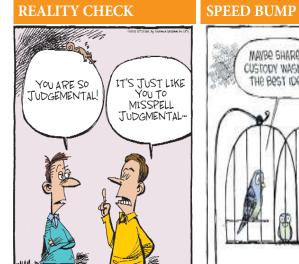
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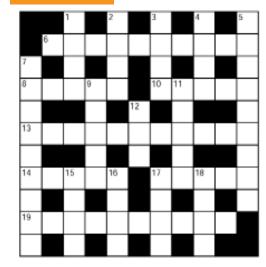




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- 2 Discover
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- something very brave
- 4 Sprinkle this on food
- 5 People aged 13 to 19
- 7 Went rigid
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9 A big bird of prey

12 A place where pigs

15 A salty drop of water

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17 A young horse

16 An area in a house

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'I'd ask everyone to lose once, and so you'll learn from your mistakes'

AMARTYA SMARAN

enu Yeldandi's Balagam was released on March 3 to extremely positive reviews. Balagam brings to the fore the hidden but obvious familial conflicts when a human being passes away. Someone's demise can bring out the best and worst for good or bad. Venu Yeldandi's remarkable debut is a fine take on the Telangana culture.

Balagam starring Priyadarshi Pulikonda, Kavya Kalyamram, Racha Ravi, Venu Yeldandi, Sudhakar, Vijayalakshmi, and Muralidhar Goud in prominent roles is out on Amazon Prime and is being screened in several villages across Telangana. What made the film successful in the first place is its deeply rooted story. It's just authentic and comes straight out of Venu's heart.

The film recently bagged the Best Drama Feature Film award at Onkyo Film Awards in Ukraine. The film added four more awards(Washington DC International Cinema Festival) to its feather: Best Feature Director (Venu Yeldandi), Best Actor in a Feature (Privadarshi), Best Actress in a Feature(Kavya Kalyanram), and Best Narrative Feature(Venu Yeldandi).

Amidst all this hype and appreci-ation, director Venu Yeldandi took some time off and spoke to *The Pioneer* about his influences, association with fellow technicians, and a lot more.

If you'd have watched the film, you will agree that in no way, shape or form does it look like a debutant directed the film. We asked Venu to share in what way some of the legendary directors have influenced him.

"There are many directors who've influenced me," stated Venu. "The purity in Mani Ratnam garu's films— It doesn't feel like the actors are acting. It's like his actors are simply behaving. Anurag Kashyap guerrilla style

of filmmaking. And I learnt how to make newcomers act and compose the scene from my guru direc-tor Teja garu. Krishna Vamsi Garu's film's helped me understand how to influence and get the best out of an actor. Then there is Sukumar garu. He is a perfectionist when it comes to shot selection and detailing. I figured a lot could be said with fewer lines from Trivikram Srinivas garu. Now that I worked with all these people, I observed and learned from them."

In our conversation with the cinematographer of the film, Acharya Venu, who won the award for Best Feature Film Cinematography at the Los Angeles Cinematography Awards, he told us that Venu was never stubborn about what he wanted.

Speaking of his experience working with the young cinematographer, the *Balagam* director said: "It was a wonderful experience. He could understand my vision and put it

out there the way I wanted it. He'd say, 'You narrated it so well'. That's not the

Venu point. You need Yeldandi, who people recently made his directorial debut with

Balagam, speaks to The Pioneer over an exclusive chat about his influences, association with fellow technicians, became and more. an actor in 2003. I made a

decision in 2015 that I would go all in and be a full-time director. I felt, 'Maybe I won't be able to pursue this passion if responsibilities pile up. Then, I was like, 'Even if I waste a couple of years, I don't mind because this is the age to explore. Before that I was concerned about my family and financial responsibilities. Probably it took me this long because I was thinking of various possibilities. Just in case, if things went the other way around, I didn't want to be in a position where I'd be helpless?

film at large. End of the day, we wanted to do what

was right for the film. Most of us were debutantes and all of us had one motto. We just wanted to hit

Veteran comedian Ali quipped in a recent event that Venu would constantly give his advice on how

a particular shot should be framed. He also said,

Venu would keep making suggestions from behind the camera. When asked about it, he shared, "We'd

simply discuss and I'd give my suggestions and tell them it would be great if they could shoot it in this particular way(haha). I was always into writing. So

all these things would inevitably come out some-

"It took me 20 years to achieve this level

of appreciation," said Venu, who began

his career in 2003 as an actor. Later,

he slowly cemented place in

Tollywood by taking part in various skits in audio

launch events. His claim

to fame apart from

the film roles was

Jabardasth, a

weekly com-

edy show.

times(haha) out of excitement."

it out of the park with this film."

Balagam didn't not happen overnight. It took 20 years of strug-g l e

who can bring your vision to life and Acharya Venu did that wonderfully. We would fight during discus-sions but we'd settle with whatever benefitted the something so spectacular that the entire state can't keep calm but appreciate the film. Youngsters might get total-ly disappointed if something doesn't go their way, but hold on, the successful comedian turned director has some advice.

"I'd say wait for some time. Don't lose your confidence. Just hang in there. In today's generation, one needs more experience. You know what? I'd ask everyone to lose once. Only then you'll learn from your mistakes. I lost a lot like that, but today that has become my strength," explained the director.

The scene where Priyadarshi realises that his grandfather actually passed away is one of the best scenes from the film. The director was quick to say, "That's my favourite scene." Venu apparently wait-ed for 5 years to see that scene come to life.

"I'd keep talking about that scene with Darshi(Priyadarshi)," enthused the filmmaker. "I showed him this reference video (Masaan) so that he'd get an idea about the intensity of the scene. I wanted him to understand up to what level he could burst out."

He further continued: "I'd do that constantly to prepare him. When we were going to shoot that scene, I told Darshi clearly, 'Do it only if you're in the mood to do it. Forget about the production.' I assured him that I'd take care of any problem related to the production. I wanted him to understand that there was no pressure from my end. On the day of the shoot, we lit up the set, fixed the shots and told him, 'Do it for as long as you want. All we want is these three or

four dialogues. You could still improvise? That's how we prepared and there was pin drop silence on the sets. I even asked him not to say, 'Ready'. I asked him to give me a heads up before he was ready so that we could start rolling. I didn't want him to be distracted in any way. That's how we shot the scene."

Venu Yeldandi wants to take some time off before he could direct any other film. "This kind of success adds up a lot of responsibilities on you. I've got to weigh var-ious factors, relax for a while and then get started. I'm basically in a dilemma. I want to take some time first and arrive at a decision," signed off Venu.

VD's ride to work in Alleppey for

tollywood

next co-starring Samanth

Prabhu in Kushi. The actor has now shared a few pics of himself from the sets as he filmed major scenes in Kochi. He posted a video and pic as he enjoyed the boat ride in the backwaters of Alleppey

Vijay Deverakonda looks super dapper and handsome as always in a yellow shirt as he posed while sitting in a boat. He also added black sunnies to beat the heat. The actor captioned the pics, "Ride to work - In Kerala." Nobody looked so cool heading to work, what a sight. The *Liger* actor never misses to make women go weak in their knees.

Kushi is one of the most anticipated and awaited films in Telugu. Jayaram, Sachin Khedakar, Murali Sharma, Lakshmi, Ali, Rohini, Vennela Kishore, Rahul Ramakrishna, Srikanth Iyengar, and Saranya are part of the film in significant roles. Hesham Abdul Wahab is on board as the music composer and Provise Dudies Leader board as the music composer and Prawin Pudi is looking after the editing. *Kushi* will be released in theatres on September 1.

Yentamma: Ram Charan, Salman & Venkatesh recreate the Naatu Naatu hookstep

Superstars Salman Khan and Venkatesh have tightened their 'lungis' as they did a revamped version of the *Naatu Naatu* hookstep with Ram Charan for the song Yentamma from Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan. Yentamma features Salman, Venkatesh and am in bright vellow shirts white with gold

comes in a different frame. The song also features Shehnaaz Gill,

Palak Tiwari, Raghav Juyal and Siddharth Nigam.

Directed by Farhad Samji, the film marks the Bollywood debut of Shehnaaz Gill and Palak Tiwari and will also star Jagapathi Babu,

Sam denies commenting on Chay-Sobhitha dating rumours

 $oldsymbol{\cap}$ amantha Ruth Prabhu has been the Samantha has clarified that she did not her professional and

personal develop-

ments. The actress, who

has had a

great run profession-

ally, has

been

experienc-

tough time

on the per-sonal fron,

which began

with the end of

the actress' mar-

riage of four years

to actor Naga

Chaitanya. The

couple separat-ed in 2021,

and later

being diagnosed with

Now, with rumours of

N a g a Chaitanya dat-

ing actress Sobhita

Dhulipala gaining

Α report had

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Samantha Ruth

Prabhu appears

to be caught in the whirl-

wind, once

earlier stated that the

actress has finally reacted

to the rumours

and even attrib-

uted a quote to her. However,

again.

Mvosists.

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Stalk of the town for the past sever-al months due to automatic during the past sever-quote attributed to her, Samantha quote attributed to her, Samantha tweeted: "I never said this."

The news report stated Samantha Ruth Prabhu as saying: "I am not bothered as to who is in a relationship with whom. Those who do not know the value of love will be left in tears irrespective of the number of people they date. At least that girl should be happy. If he changes his behaviour and looks after the girl without hurting her, it will be good for

evervone." Rumours of Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala dating gathered steam over the last few days after images of the two stars at a restaurant in London went viral. Naga Chaitanya was captured in a photo with chef Surender Mohan at a restaurant, and it was Sobhita Dhulipala sitting at a table in the background that caught everyone's attention. The picture was taken in London, as indicated by the geotag of the hotel in the chef's Instagram post. As soon as the post was shared, followers were quick to spot Sobhita in the background and one user even asked, "Is that @sobhitad behind vou?

con star Allu Arjun's pan India movie kers Pushpa The Rise created a sensation at the box office. The makers are currently 9 busy with the Ë filming Part 2 -Pushpa The Rule. 3

Allu Ariun'

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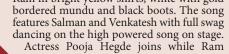
Everyone is well aware that makers are planning to release a special concept teaser for Allu Arjun's birthday. This glimpse will set the tone for the much awaited part 2 and it's going to increase the hype and craze on this Pan-India biggie.

The glimpse showcases the world of Pushpa and his Rule along with the Sukumar Masterclass taking and making. The concept teaser confirmed for April 7th to kickstart the celebration for Icon star birthday.

Meanwhile, the makers are also planning to release the first look of Pushpa Raj on April 8. This is going to be double treat for the fans who are eagerly waiting for the film.

And the team need more 200 days needed to complete production and post production. The makers of Mythri are ready to release the film in a big way, with no compromises in terms of production.

There is a possibility that the movie business will be huge as the release date approaches. Sunil, Ajay, Anasuya Bharadwaj, Fahad Faasil, Dhananjaya and others are playing key roles in this film, with Rashmika Mandanna as the heroine. Devi Sri Prasad is composing the music for this film.



Bhumika Chawla and also have glimpses of Abdu Rozik, Bhagyashree and others.

The film will be released in theatres on April 21



Regina Cassandra joins hands with Democratic Sangha as its co-founder

egina Cassandra is an actor with a big heart. The Tollywood diva, Regina Cassandre Tollywood diva, big heart. The Tollywood diva, who impressed everyone with her lowing no opportuacting skills, is now leaving no opportu-

nity to bring a smile on someone's face. The *Evaru* actress recently joined Democratic Sangha as a Co-Founder and took part in the Rural Women's Leadership Program. Regina interacted with women in the rural areas and become a part of a noble initiative. The pictures of the star meeting people and actively speaking on behalf of Democratic Sangha went viral and several appreciated her for joining the cause. On the work front, Regina Cassandra

will next be seen in multiple Tamil films namely, Borrder, Flashback, Karungaapiyam and Soorpanagai.





grade bowlers.

of Shami's calibre.

And it's not Sarfaraz alone.

Even Prithvi Shaw isn't inspiring confidence while facing a bowler

Powerplay and the job was

ally played and missed during

the first few overs, still used

Skipper Warner, who liter-

done.

rid of him.

GT RESTRICT DC TO 162/8 RR ready for Punjab Kings challenge against international bowlers is



PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

elhi Capitals top-order's struggles against gen-uine quick bowling worsened as the home team managed a below-par 162 for eight against Gujarat Titans on a spicy Feroz Shah Kotla track

in the IPL here on Tuesday. Had Axar Patel (36 off 22 balls) not used his long handle to good effect, even 150 would have looked a distant reality for DC. Mohammed Shami (3/41 in 4 overs) and Alzarri Joseph (2/29 in 4 overs) intimidated the top-order in the first 10 while Rashid Khan (3/31 in 4 overs) hardly faced any trouble

while keeping the batters under check for the better part of the innings.

Just a month after Kotla produced a turner for the Test against Australia, the change in nature of the track was palpable as the balls literally flew off the surface. At times, it felt that it wasn't David Warner (37 off 32 balls) or a Sarafaraz Khan's (30 off 33 balls) bat that hit the ball

but the other way round. Shami literally beat Warner's bat for fun in his first two overs, often cutting him into half while Alzarri twice forced umpires to call for concussion checks as

Sarfaraz and Abhishek Porel

(20 off 11 balls) were hit on the

head by well-directed bouncers. To be fair, both looked dazed. Even an international like

Rilee Rossouw (0) got a Test match like bouncer first up and was snapped brilliantly at backward point by a diving Rahul Tewatia

Not being able to avoid the short ball was more due to lack of technique and not regularly facing bowlers of Shami or Alzarri's quality became their undoing.

Sarfaraz, a heavy-duty scorer in domestic cricket, couldn't improvise as he found the pace too quick to manoeuvre or improvise his shot selection. The first two games in IPL

miss entire IPL and WTC final PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Tndia batter Shreyas Iyer will I miss the entire IPL as well as the World Test Championship final in June against Australia as he is set to undergo a back surgery abroad, according to BCCI sources.

Iyer, who is the captain of IPL side Kolkata Knight Riders, is expected to be out of action for at least five months. That

would mean that his participation in the 50-over Ŵorld Ĉup in India in October-November

'Yes, he will have his back surgery abroad. He is likely to be out of action for at least five months with full rehabilitation," a BCCI source PTI on

lyer to undergo surgery abroad, to

conditions of anonymity. The WTC final will be played between India and Australia in London from June 7.

The recurring lower-back injury had forced Iyer out of the final Test of the Bordercould be touch and go.

Gavaskar Trophy last month, before ruling him out of the ODI series against Australia that followed. His injury surfaced in December last year, following

India's tour of Bangladesh. In Iyer's absence, Nitish Rana was named interim KKR captain ahead of this IPL season.

 $R^{ajasthan}_{banking on their near-per-}$ a proof that why former chairman Chetan Sharma's commitfect combinations in almost all tee or even the current quartet departments of the game to put of selectors are wary of picking up another commanding perhim for international assignformance when they take on a ments. A good domestic player, strong Punjab Kings side in an IPL match here on Wednesday. who is out-of-depth against top-

The Royals would be buoved by the massive 72-run victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad, who were outsmarted by last year's runners-up in every

Shaw's (7) inept technique aspect of the game on Sunday. With Yashasvi Jaiswal, red-hot England white-ball skipper against fast rising deliveries was once again exposed by the seasoned Shami, who pitched Jos Buttler and captain Sanju one back of length at a fair Samson smashing half-centuries pace. The delivery kept climbagainst SRH, the Royals' domiing on Shaw as he top-edged a pull-shot that was gleefully nance with the bat was there for all to see, while their bowlers, led accepted by Alazarri at mid-on. by Yuzvendra Chahal (4/17) Mitchell Marsh was and New Zealand quick Trent bowled for the second time, Boult (2/21), were more than a this time played on off Shami's handful for SRH. bowling as skipper Hardik Pandya very wisely gave him a

But with Punjab Kings also giving an indication of their third over within the immense firepower with both the bat and the ball in their seven-run DLS win against Kolkata Kinght Riders at Mohali, the match on Wednesday promises to give the spectators in experience to ride on the pace ad bounce before Alzarri got Guwahati good value for money. With RR playing two of their 'home' matches in the



Northeastern city, a winning performance from Samson's side will not only build their brand value in Guwahati, it will also expand their fan base in the region, which has seen pre-cious little IPL action over the vears

Barsapara Cricket Stadium. While the experience of top-order India batter Shikhar Dhawan will come in handy along with the bowling The depth in Royals' batting is such that it can withstand any prowess of young left-arm India pacer Arshdeep Singh, bowling attack. If young Yashasthe team would be eagerly awaiting the return of England

Royals can soften up the most

resolute batting sides. And PBKS

know they have an uphill task

when the two teams clash at the

power-hitter Liam Livingstone,

who missed the opener against

KKR after not getting the fit-

ness clearance from the

England and Wales Cricket

Board (ECB). The batter had

suffered a knee injury in

Livingstone and pace bowling

all-rounder Sam Curran -

The English pair of

December last.

vi's 37-ball 54 at the top showed how quickly he has matured as an opener, Buttler seemed to be carrying on from where he had left off in the previous season, smashing a 22-ball 54. The only weak link, if any,

seemed to be their middle where Devdutt Padikkal and Riyan Parag were both dismissed cheaply, before West Indian Shimron Hetmyer took the team beyond the 200-run mark.

With a bowling lineup the most expensive buy ever in boasting of one of the premier IPL history at Rs 18.50 crore could be PBKS' trump card this pacers in the world in Boult season along with the lanky along with two Indian stalwarts in Chahal and R Ashwin, the left-arm quick Arshdeep.

Starc, Zampa will be Australia's go-to bowlers during ODI WC: Ponting

PTI NEW DELHI

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting expects his country's pacebowling stalwart Mitchell Starc and legspinner Adam Zampa to do the star turn when the ODI World Cup is held in India later this year. Starc, 33, was in sublime form during the three-match ODI series against India recently picking up eight wickets, including a fivefor in the third game at Visakhapatnam, as the visitors won the series 2-1. The juick made Indi

and he swings the new ball back in as Suryakumar found out (during the ODI series)," Ponting said on the ICC Review on Tuesday.

The tall quick had claimed the most scalps at the 2019 World Cup, after sharing the honour with New Zealand's Trent Boult in the 2015 edition.

"When he's on song, he's as good as anyone in the world and has been for a long time. For lots of strange reasons, there has always been people willing to sit back and take potshots at Mitchell perfo if you have a cold hard look at the facts, particularly in white-ball cricket, his numbers are absolutely outstanding," added Ponting. "He's shown in that series (against India) just how dangerous he can be with the new ball, regardless of the conditions.



year-old showed how big a threat he can be in Indian conditions, taking four wickets in the ODIs and restricting India to only 4.88 runs an over.

The tweaker has surged to the top of the wicket-takers list in the World Cup Super League, with 41 scalps in 18 matches at an average of 19.73. "He's probably been Australia's key bowler in all white-ball cricket for a long time, along with Mitchell Starc," Ponting said.

'Starc has been great but Adam Zampa for four or five years now has been a real revelation. He's been the

Angry Dhoni warns bowlers to bowl fewer no-balls, wides

PTI 📕 CHENNAI

218. Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has CSK had conceded four wides and two no-balls in the issued a stern warning to his opener against defending chambowlers to drastically cut down pions Gujarat Titans in a close on no-balls and wides in their match, which Dhoni's side lost upcoming IPL matches, saying by five wickets. if they continue to give away free runs to the opposition, they will

Young CSK pacer Rajvardhan Hangargekar bowled three wides and a no-ball in that while

ed to 205 for 7 while chasing

middle-order batter Suryakumar Yadav look like a sitting duck, dismissing him for nought in the first two fixtures.

Zampa, after being ignored for the four-Test Border-Gavaskar series, also packed a punch in ODIs, grabbing four wickets in the third game at Chennai as Australia won the decider by 21 runs.

"It's the overall package of Mitchell Starc. He's six-foot-five, bowls in the high 140-km per hour, he's a left-armer

Zampa was visibly disappointed after being given a cold shoulder by selectors for the Border-Gavaskar series, but on his return for the ODIs, the 31backbone of the Australian bowling attack which probably led to him being a little bit disappointed not to be picked on a Test tour to India.

"But he's an outstanding performer. baram stadium on Monday. For a leg-spinner to become a very, very consistent performer, it's very rare that teams get on top of him and get hold his bowlers sprayed the ball all of him. He's going to be one of Australia's trump cards (for ODI World over the place, sending down three no-balls and 13 wides, Cup) for sure," added Ponting. though LSG were still restrict-

Dhoni's warning came even against LSG, he bowled three as the four-time IPL champions more wides. defeated Lucknow Super Giants

have to play under a new cap-

Another CSK quick Tushar by 12 runs at the MA Chidam-Deshpande, while taking two wickets on Monday, was guilty The wicketkeeper-batter of bowling four wides and three vas not amused with the way no-balls.

Veteran CSK bowler Deepak Chahar too was wayward on Monday, giving away five extra runs through wides.

RCB's Patidar ruled out for entire season

PTI BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) top-order batter Rajat Patidar was on Tuesday ruled out of the entire IPL season due to an Achilles heel injury, dealing a big blow to the team.

The 29-year-old was RCB's third-highest scorer last year with 333 runs in eight matches at 55.50, including two fifties. He hit the fastest century by an Indian in IPL in the Qualifier 1.

"Unfortunately, Rajat Patidar has been ruled out of IPL2023 due to an Achilles Heel injury," said RCB in a statement.

"We wish Rajat a speedy recovery and will continue to support him during the process. The coaches and management



have decided not to name a replacement player for Rajat just yet," it added.

Initially, it was thought that Patidar, who had picked up the injury prior to joining the RCB camp, would at least be avail-able for the second half of the IPL season, but the announcement on Tuesday has added to the team's problems. The news came at a time when

Australian Josh Hazlewood, the team's second-most successful bowler with 20 wickets in 12 matches last season, has indicated that he will not be match-fit till the fourth week of April.

On Monday, RCB's England pacer Reece Topley dislocated his right shoulder while fielding during the team's eight-wicket win over Mumbai Indians here.

PTI NEW DELHI

Mumbai Indians head coach Mark Boucher is confident that the youngsters on whom the franchise has been investing for the past few years will stand up and be counted in this edition of the Indian Premier League

While RCB thrashed MI by eight wickets on Monday, the find of last season, Tilak Varma, once again showed a lot of promise along with Punjab youngster Nehal Wadhera.

Varma cracked an unbeaten 46-ball 84, while Wadehra

MI has invested in youngsters and

time for them to show up: Boucher

scored 21 off 13 deliveries. "The IPL is a massive event and it's going to be a great opportunity for some of our young boys to really show up," Boucher said in a media release issued by MI.

"The way Mumbai Indians have selected their squads over the last few years has been, how you invest in youngsters for the future. It's now time for those youngsters to show up and basically get



the opportunities," the former Proteas keeper said.

MI's bowling coach Shane Bond credited the youngsters for helping MI reaching 171 in

the opening game. "Tilak played brilliantly, and so did the other youngsters," he said.

Speaking after his innings, Varma said, "I always back my shots, and I was doing the same thing here. I was asking my partners what could be a good total here and going accordingly."

Plan to introduce home and away format in WPL from season 2: Dhumal

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Buoyed by the success of the inau-gural Women's Premier League, IPL chairman Arun Dhumal on Tuesday said that they plan to introduce the home and away format from season two but the number of teams will remain five for the next three years.

The first ever WPL turned out to be a hit among fans and players but as the tournament was staged within tough timelines and right after the Women's T20 World Cup, the BCCI decided to organise all the games across two venues in Mumbai. Terming hosting of WPL the

biggest challenge of his tenure, Dhumal said having home and away games immensely help teams in building a fan base and the board wants to take that route as early as next season.

"Well begun is half done. It has been a great beginning for WPL and

going forward it is going to be much better than what we have seen so far. We have started with five teams but going forward there is scope for additional team given the pool of the players that is going to come in the years to follow.

"We are hoping increase in the number of teams but for the coming three seasons will remain five. We are surely looking at home and away format, we will see which time slot is available considering India's international commitment and take a call.

"From a fan engagement point of view it is very important that we go for home and away format," Dhumal said.

Fans turned up in sizeable numbers to watch the games at Brabourne and DY Patil Stadium. The event had garnered massive attention even before the first ball was bowled with the teams rights fetching BCCI close to ₹4700



crore and media rights ₹951 crore.

"It has been a phenomenal ride so far and quite a challenging one given the time slot we had to start the WPL. We are satisfied with the way things have progressed, we did not have much of window as the World Cup was there and the girls had just about a week to comeback and start.

Everything (media rights, team rights, player auction) happened one after the other but the way tournament was received, it was phenomenal," Dhumal said.

One reason for not introducing a sixth team right away could be the lack of quality local talent. The world's best displayed their exemplary skills in the competition but leaving aside Saika Ishaque, Kanika Ahuja and Shreyanka Patil, not many uncapped Indian players were able to turn heads on.

"Our national team has done very well over the last couple of years. U-

19 girls won the World Cup. Given how the WPL was received, we are very hopeful that we will have a bigger pool of players and their fitness and fielding standard will improve immensely going forward."

Three out of five teams are owned by legacy IPL franchisees, who have seen the value of the men's league reach astronomical proportions.

INTRODUCTION OF IMPACT PLAYER

Dhumal added that the introduction of Impact player in the IPL and teams being picked after toss was done to mitigate the toss advantage.

"We have seen dew play a major role. Winning the toss is seen as an advantage and to mitigate that we thought to introduce 'Impact Player' and give the teams chance to pick teams post toss so they can pick the right eleven," he added.

