

There is no 'kick' in the Assembly without KCR. There would have been fun if KCR had attended the session. BRS leaders have become motherless children due to the absence of the Leader of the Opposition (LOP). Harish Rao is a senior BRS leader but they will not give him the LOP post. The party will be 'destroyed' if the LOP post is given to Harish Rao or KTR. KCR is the decision maker and he has answers for everything.

- Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy, Munugode MLA



P2

**'Only Centre can validate facts related to it'**

**'NOW, I WANT TO DO SOMETHING ROMANTIC ON CELLULOID'**

**Tharun Bhascker's new film ANNOUNCED**

**DON'T MISS...**

**3,076 kids rescued through...**

A total of 3,076 children were rescued through Operation Muskan-X in Telangana. Operation Muskan-X is led by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which takes place every July to trace and rescue missing and trafficked children and ensure their proper rehabilitation. The aim is to stop human trafficking and child kidnapping and to safely rehabilitate vulnerable children. This year's Operation Muskan-X ran in Telangana was held from July 1 to July 31, 2024. It was overseen by Shikha Goel, ADGP, Women Safety...

-PAGE: 3

**Centre wants to put CM ...**

Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Friday alleged that the Centre wants to put Chief Minister Siddaramaiah behind bars and is therefore 'digging out small things' against the opposition but protecting its own people who indulge in 'big crimes'. "They (BJP leaders) are misusing the governor, Income Tax (dept), Directorate of Enforcement only to topple the government. You know what they tried to do in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Delhi, West Bengal and Kerala," Rao told reporters ...

-PAGE: 5

**New record of over 7.28 crore ...**

Income tax returns (ITRs) touched a new record of over 7.28 crore, 7.5 per cent higher compared to previous fiscal, by the July 31 deadline, the income tax department said on Friday. The total number of ITRs for assessment year 2024-25 filed till July 31, 2024 is more than 7.28 crore, which is 7.5 per cent higher than the total ITRs for AY 2023-24 (6.77 crore) filed till July 31, 2023, the department said in a statement. "Out of the total ITRs of 7.28 crore filed for AY 2024-25, 5.27 crore have ...

-PAGE: 8

**Manu qualifies for 25m sports ...**

Indian shooter Manu Bhaker kept herself on track for a hat-trick of Olympic medals, coming up with one of her most memorable performances in her favourite event, the 25m sports pistol, as she booked a place in the final placed second at the Chateauroux shooting range here on Friday. The 22-year-old, who has already made history by becoming the first Indian athlete to win two bronze medals in one edition of the quadrennial showpiece, can add to her aura if she wins a third medal on Saturday, something ...

-SPORTS

## Job Calendar for 2024-25 presented in TG Assembly

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu addressed the Assembly regarding the Job Calendar on Thursday. He said that the Job Calendar is being announced in advance and is currently being implemented.

He highlighted the issues faced under the BRS government, including question paper leaks and exam postponements and emphasised the efforts to reform the TG Public Service Commission.

In his speech, Bhatti pointed out the commitment of the government headed by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to fulfilling the hopes of the unemployed by releasing the Job Calendar.

He mentioned the problems during the BRS government's tenure when job notifications were cancelled or postponed, question papers leaked and exam dates overlapped. Specifically, he noted that the Group I exam was cancelled twice: once due to a paper leak on March 17, 2023, and again on February 19, 2024, due to a High Court ruling over the failure to capture candidates' biometrics.

The Chief Minister and the Civil Supplies Minister consulted the

UPSC Chairman to solve these problems and established a committee consisting of senior IAS officers to study the procedures of the UPSC and the Kerala Public Service Commission. Consequently, an additional 60 posts were added to the Group I notification bringing the total to 563 vacancies for which a new notification was issued and its results were announced.



2

### KTR leads protest from House to Gun Park

The BRS expressed strong displeasure over the Congress's failure to announce jobs as promised in their Job Calendar.

BRS working president KTR led a protest at the Gun Park voicing the concerns of the unemployed. "Rahul Gandhi himself came to Ashok Nagar and promised 200,000 jobs in the first year to the unemployed. Nine months ago, you saw how much drama they did in the name of jobs. They falsely propagated that KCR did not provide any jobs at all. When the Congress came to power, they boasted in newspapers about 200,000 jobs with large ads.



Continued on Page 2

1. Group I Mains: Oct 21-27, 2024 (Notified: Feb 2024)
2. Group III Services: Nov 17-18, 2024 (Notified: Dec 2022)
3. Lab Tech/Nurse/Pharmacist: Nov 2024 (Notified: Sept 2024)
4. Group II Services: Dec 2024 (Notified: Dec 2022)
5. Engineer posts in TGTRANSCO: Jan 2025 (Notified: Oct 2024)
6. Gazetted Engineer Services: Jan 2025 (Notified: Oct 2024)
7. Teacher Eligibility Test: Jan 2025 (Notified: Nov 2024)
8. Group I-Prelims: Feb 2025 (Notified: Oct 2024)
9. Gazetted Other Services: Apr 2025 (Notified: Jan 2025)
10. DSC of Teachers: Apr 2025 (Notified: Feb 2025)
11. Forest Beat Officer: May 2025 (Notified: Feb 2025)

Continued on Page 2

## 'All Hyd businesses except liquor shops can remain open till 1 am'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy highlighted the rapid development of Hyderabad and said that restaurants will be open up to 1 am in Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda. However, he said that the liquor shops will close at their regular time.

He also announced the establishment of the HYDRAA, an initiative aimed at addressing the city's long-term development for the next 100 years.

"I am making a promise that all establishments including restaurants other than liquor vendors across Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda commissionates will be allowed to function till 1 am. Liquor shops will close at the same time, I am against liquor. If liquor shops remain open more people will drink. I am officially giving orders. There will be no problem for anyone. I promise there will be no problems," said the Chief Minister.

The government plans to construct a 2.6 km suspension bridge over Mir Alam Tank and a tower like the London Eye, promising genuine development for Hyderabad.

**Revanth instructed officials to design harvesting wells to prevent waterlogging on roads during heavy rains and identified 141 areas for disaster management alerts.**



Emphasizing the encroachments on the city's lakes, he said that HYDRAA would be responsible for controlling these encroachments. The current drainage system designed for 2 cm of rainfall per hour, is inadequate for the increasingly severe weather resulting in flooding. HYDRAA will implement robust steps to provide a permanent solution, he said. "We aim to create a system which will deter encroaching on drains," he stated.

He recounted the historical contributions of the Congress in providing drinking water to Hyderabad through projects like Manjeera in 1965, Singur in 1982, Krishna Phase-1 in 2004 and Krishna Phase-2 in 2008.

2

## HP cloudburst: Death toll up to 8; 45 missing



PNS ■ SHIMLA

Rescue operations were underway on Friday to trace over 45 people missing following flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts of Himachal Pradesh, officials said on Friday.

With recovery of three more bodies, the death toll due to the flash floods in Nirmand, Sainj and Malana areas in Kullu, Padhar in Mandi and Rampur in Shimla districts of Himachal Pradesh has increased to eight.

While five bodies were found in Rajban village in Mandi, one was found in Nirmand in Kullu and two in Rampur in Shimla. The two bodies recovered in Rajban were identified as that of Aman (9) and Aryan (8), officials said on Friday.

Relatives of the missing persons are camping at the sites with hope fading with every passing hour.

"Bodies of my father-in-law and mother-in-law have been recovered but my son, my brother-in-law, his wife and their six-year-old son and two-month-old daughter are still missing," a wailing woman told PTI Videos.

Continued on Page 2

## 'KCR deceived farmers using Dharani portal'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that former Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao deceived farmers in the name of the Dharani Portal.

He said that KCR who thought that he knew everything and would not lend his ear to anyone and his sycophant CS (former CS Samesh Kumar) introduced the Dharani Portal arrogantly.

He said that these bigwigs who were expected to guard the assets of

the public introduced the Dharani Portal and did extreme injustice.

Launching the discussion on 'Dharani' on Friday in the Assembly, Ponguleti said the BRS government looted the meagre assets of the poor

**Due to the unjust policies of the BRS government, every commoner in every village has now landed in land disputes, the Revenue Minister said.**

using the Dharani Portal. Due to the unjust policies of the BRS government, every commoner in every village has now landed in land disputes, the Revenue Minister said.

Continued on Page 2

## CAG FLAGS FISCAL SQUEEZE

## In 10 years, Telangana must repay Rs 2.86 lakh crore loans!

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government is obligated to repay over Rs 2.67 lakh crore loans borrowed from the market, both principal and interest by FY33, even as the Gross State Domestic Product (at current prices) grew at an average growth rate of 15.09 per cent from Rs 8.60 lakh crore in 2018-19 to Rs 13.13 lakh crore in 2022-23, said CAG report on Friday.



**The state government will have to repay Rs 2,67,018 crore as principal and interest on the market borrowings in the next ten years by 2032-33," the auditor said.**

According to the report (for 2022-23) by Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) which was placed in the state legislature, besides market borrowings, the state government will also have a liability to repay Rs 19,210 crore as principal in the next nine years in respect of borrowings taken from some financial

institutions such as National Small Saving Fund and LIC.

"As can be seen from the above table, the state government will have to repay Rs 2,67,018 crore as principal and interest on the market borrowings in the next ten years by 2032-33," the auditor said.

2

## Revanth meets Anand Mahindra

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy held a meeting with Anand Mahindra of the Mahindra Group at his Jubilee Hills residence. They discussed investments and other aspects of the Mahindra Group in the state. Anand Mahindra agreed to adopt the automotive department at the Young India Skill University. He revealed that his team would soon visit the Young India Skill University for an assessment. He also expressed interest in expanding the Club Mahindra Holiday Resort in Hyderabad.

## CM, IT Minister to visit US, South Korea for investments

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Minister for IT and Industries, D. Sridhar Babu, are set to visit the US and South Korea from August 4 to 13. The trip is focused on attracting investments and fostering business relationships with global corporations.

The itinerary begins on August 3 with the delegation departing from Hyderabad to New York via Dubai.

They will arrive in New York on August 4. The schedule for August 5 includes a diaspora event in New Jersey, a breakfast meeting with the CEO of Cognizant, and meetings with Cigna Senior Leadership, RCM, and Arcesium.

Additionally, a CEO roundtable lunch will be hosted by the Consul General of India, followed by meetings with Corning, Zoetis and ARG Investment Management.

Continued on Page 2

## 'CHAKRAVYUH' SPEECH BACKLASH

## ED 'insiders' tell me raid planned: Rahul

**Waiting with open arms; 'chai and biscuits on me, says Leader of Opposition in LS**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday claimed that an Enforcement Directorate raid is being planned against him after his 'chakravayuh' speech in Parliament. The BJP dismissed his claim saying he is creating a new narrative to distract people from asking about his accountability as the MP from Wayanad following the devastating landslide tragedy there.

In a post on X early Friday, Gandhi said, "Apparently, 2 in 1 didn't like my Chakravayuh speech. ED insiders' tell me a raid is being planned."

"Waiting with open arms @dir\_ed ..Chai and biscuits on me," he said.

In another development, Congress MP Manickam Tagore submitted a notice to move an adjournment motion on "the BJP government's misuse of agencies like the ED, CBI, and Income Tax for political harassment".

"The opposition condemns the BJP government's misuse of agencies like the ED, CBI, and Income Tax for political harassment.

2

## He is seeking people's sympathy: BJP leader

PNS ■ NAGPUR

Maharashtra BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule on Friday said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is spreading rumours about Enforcement Directorate (ED) action against him to gain people's sympathy. Earlier in the day, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, in a post on X, claimed that an ED raid is being planned against him after his 'chakravayuh' speech in Parliament. Addressing the media after attending a meeting of the Nagpur District Planning Committee, Bawankule, a former state minister, hit out at Gandhi, saying he will not get any sympathy from people with such theatrical antics.

Continued on Page 2

## JOB ASPIRANTS PREPARING IN HYD MISS HOME

## Cutting corners and dreaming big in tiny rooms

CHITHALURI REVANTH ■ HYDERABAD

They will be the next generation of government employees, private sector employees and may be even political leaders, but they are living life minimally now. They are the ones who hope for government jobs in the city.

They are living in small rooms which cost Rs 3,000 every month. It has a rice cooker, a rice bag, a fan, one tube light and a pile of books. That's life for them now, but they are the ones who will run the government in future. If their parents see their plight they would certainly feel sad about their kids.

They have food to satisfy their appetite but not their taste. Daily

they get free food in the morning and lunch for Rs 5.

"At the Chikkadpally bus stop every morning the Ram Ram Trust gives us free breakfast and for lunch we go to a nearby Annapurna for Rs 5 meals. For Rs 350, curry points give 30 curries for 30 days. Likewise, we are studying at the Chikkadpally library and using money carefully,"

said a hopeful named Shiva who is now 26 years.

They do not go to their homes even during festivals. Venkata Ramana, 28, said that he went to his home for Sankranti in January. "It has been seven months since I came back from home.

**They do not go to their homes even during festivals. Venkata Ramana, 28, said that he went to his home for Sankranti in January. "It has been seven months since I came back from home. During every celebration my family calls me but I think what would I do there? If I am here I can read some books and learn something.**



2

# Why is Congress govt not probing graft in BRS regime?

**NO RACE FOR PARTY PRESIDENT POST IN BJP: ARVIND**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Nizamabad MP, Dharmapuri Arvind, asked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy why he is not investigating the BRS government's corruption. He asked the CM to prove his sincerity instead of appointing commissions regarding the BRS admin's corruption.



**Recalling that the BRS government had arrested Revanth Reddy several times, Arvind asked the CM to explain why he is not taking action against the BRS government's corruption.**

Recalling that the BRS government had arrested Revanth Reddy several times, Arvind asked the CM to explain why he is not taking action against the BRS government's corruption. He said that almost nine months have passed after Revanth came to power. Speaking to the media on Friday in New Delhi, Arvind said the BRS still exists like a pest but the people got freedom from it. He said that there is a need to bury the BRS as it is not good

for Telangana.

Replying to a question, Arvind said there is unity in the Telangana BJP and that he will respond to the Farm Loan Waiver Scheme only after getting data on it.

The BJP will keep tabs on the Congress government not only regarding the farm loan waiver scheme but also on its 6-guarantees, he said revealing that farmers, women and youth are now opposing the

CM.

Arvind said that it is good for democracy as the Telangana Assembly held sessions over many days. The Assembly was never convened like this in the last 10 years, he said.

He hailed BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy saying that Maheshwar spoke well in the Assembly and that the government threw out BRS MLAs from the Assembly for disturb-

ing the House.

He recalled that Revanth Reddy said that former minister KTR is trying to ensure that his MLC sister Kavitha does not come out of jail and that there is no need for KTR to touch the feet of the BJP high command regarding this. Kavitha has been in jail for the last six months as she was arrested in two cases.

He made it clear that there would not be any race in the BJP for the post of party president.

"The party will speak to me if it wants to give the post to me and then I will give my answer to the high command. It is good if the party gives the BJP President post to a Hindu. Every Indian is a Hindu. I will give my opinion to the party if it asks my opinion about whom to give the President post," he said.

## Make voter I-D enough proof for citizenship: TMC MP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A TMC MP on Friday pitched for making a valid identification used to cast a vote in assembly or general elections as sufficient proof for granting citizenship, saying adding conditions like producing ancestral documents and being sent to detention camps for failure is dehumanising.

Raising the issue through a zero-hour mention in the Rajya Sabha, TMC MP Mamata Thakur said enforcing conditions that degrade anyone is unacceptable.

"Those who vote, those who have any kind of valid identification, which we use to vote and elect the Prime Minister, or the Chief Ministers or governments of the states, forcing them to furnish documents over again, or making them renounce citizenship in order to apply for citizenship all over again is degrading," she said speaking in Bengal.

She was referring to using voter ID cards as valid proof for giving citizenship.

# Hand over Dharani scam probe to CBI: Maheshwar

**'Govt trying to protect BRS leaders involved'**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress government is trying to protect BRS leaders involved in Dharani Portal irregularities, Bharatiya Janata Legislative Party (BJLP) leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy said.



Portal was launched and handed over to the foreign company Falcon.

"Why is the Congress government going back on revealing details of the Rs 2 lakh crore land scam which is linked to KCR and KTR? Why is the Congress government protecting KCR and KTR?" he asked.

Participating in a discussion on the Dharani Portal in the Assembly on Friday, Maheshwar said the KCR government had launched the Dharani Portal on November 29, 2020, and within three years, that is, till November, 2023, BRS leaders had registered lakhs of acres belonging to poor farmers in their names by threatening them.

Maheshwar asked the Congress government to reveal the details of farmers who lost their lands and the BRS leaders who grabbed them.

He asked the Chief Minister to explain why the government is not revealing details regarding this.

Maheshwar said that lakhs

of acres of government lands, assigned lands, endowment lands, Waqf lands, forest lands and Bhoodan lands were grabbed by BRS leaders in the last 10 years and their estimated value is around Rs 2 lakh crore. He demanded that the Congress government should release a white paper containing details of lands grabbed in the last 10 years during BRS rule.

The BJLP leader said that the Rs 2 lakh crore land scam is the biggest one in the country's history and that KCR was the CM and KTR the IT Minister when the Dharani

Maheshwar asked the state government to reveal whether the organisers of the Dharani Portal are cooperating with the state government or not.

"When will the Congress government introduce Bhoomatha in place of the Dharani Portal as assured in the Congress Abhaya Hastham," he asked.

Recalling the Congress assurance that it will do justice to farmers who lost land through a comprehensive land survey, Maheshwar asked the government to reveal how many farmers had got justice so far.

## In 10 years...

Continued from page 1

The borrowings of the state governments are governed by Article 293 of the Constitution as they borrow money from the market for implementation of various state plan programmes and fulfilment of fiscal liabilities.

"Apart from this, the state government will also have a liability to repay Rs 19,210 crore as principal in the next ten years in respect of borrowings taken from the following financial institutions..." it further said.

The figures suggest that the state government will have to mobilise substantial amount, over Rs 2.86 lakh crore, by 2032-33 for servicing of public debt and this could put significant pressure on the state finances, CAG opined.

# Assembly met for 9 days, 65 hours & 33 minutes: Sridhar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Legislative Affairs Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said the Assembly met for nine days, 65 hours and 33 minutes. He said that the Congress government introduced a full-fledged budget for the first time in Telangana and the Assembly approved the demands of 38 departments.

The House met for a record 17 hours on a single day and 24 MLAs participated in the debate for the first time in the history of the state. The Speaker gave opportunities to first time MLAs to speak on demands, he said.

Speaking to the media after the Speaker adjourned the Assembly sine die on Friday

along with Whips Beerla Ilaiah, Ramachandru Naik, A. Laxman Kumar and MLC T. Jeevan Reddy, he said that the Assembly approved five Bills in the budget session. The government released a job calendar and introduced a Bill for Skill University.

However, the BRS politicized proceedings in the Assembly to mar the good name the Congress government is getting. The BRS also did politics on the job calendar. The government extended the House meeting for two more days taking suggestions from everyone. The BRS tried to create din in the House and tried to dictate to the Chair by entering the podium.

The government did not

suspend BRS MLAs even though they created ruckus. He said that they are expecting that BRS MLAs would change their attitude by the time the next session starts. Opposition leader KCR came and went but failed to respond on the Union Budget. The government expected that KCR may speak on the categorization of SC reservations issue.

The BRS tried to justify its existence but failed to give constructive suggestions. The BRS failed to play the role of an opposition. Ruling party MLAs actively participated in debates. The government provided legitimacy to the job calendar through the approval of the Assembly. However, the BRS tried to mislead youth.

# Raj Gopal says no 'kick' in the House due to KCR's absence

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Munugode Congress MLA, Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, commented that there is no 'kick' in the Assembly due to the absence of BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao.



him the LOP post. KCR, who took wrong decisions, would have had to answer if he was in the House. The discussion on power would have gone well if KCR had attended the House," Raj Gopal said.

He said the BRS government had destroyed the state in the last 10 years and looted it as much as possible. BRS MLAs are creating havoc in the Assembly fearing that their misdeeds will get exposed, he added.

During a chat-chat with journalists in the lobbies on Friday, Raj Gopal said that BRS MLAs made KCR sit in the sky by praising him as 'Jaathi Pitha'.

"KCR is still living in an imaginary world. They would not have changed their party if they had to resign their posts. How can they quit the party when the party is in trouble after enjoying power when the party was ruling," he said.

# 'KCR deceived...

Continued from page 1

Stating that the Dharani Portal which was introduced in 2020, became a curse on farmers, Ponguleti said the farmers are now hanging around officials for a solution to Dharani-created land issues and are finding that there is no solution.

These issues were created by an 'intellectual' (KCR) and an 'officer' (Somesh Kumar), he said. Telangana was in the clutches of KCR during the last 10 years who said that he will show the nation its direction, he said. However, farmers are now facing severe problems due to the Dharani Portal Act.

He said the government is receiving thousands of applications seeking solutions to land issues. KCR handed over the Dharani Portal to ILFS by bringing in the ROR-2020 Act. Later, Dharani went into the hands of Terrosis, a bankrupt

foreign company. KCR handed over the details of 2.50 crore farmers to a bankrupt company even though he knew that the company was bankrupt as he wanted to hand over lands to his sycophants, he said.

"Dharani was started with three heads and it increased to 33 heads. Dharani became a devil who made the assets of the poor invisible. They kept the entire land of farmers in the prohibited list if there was a problem in one survey number. Lakhs of farmers are facing problems due to keeping their lands in the prohibited list. We will give the disappeared lands to the poor. The lands of the poor went into the hands of Doras," he said.

Ponguleti said the BRS government had accepted applications assuring that it will give title deeds to sada bynams, however, the BRS admin did not give an option to do it in the new Act.

## He is seeking...

Continued from page 1

Asked about the Congress MP's post, Bawankule said, "Why are you afraid? Why are you spreading rumours... all this is being done to gain sympathy. Rahul Gandhi ji is doing drama to burnish his image, attract people's sympathy and set some narrative against Modi ji (Prime Minister Narendra Modi). But he will not get sympathy." In the post, Gandhi said, "Apparently, 2 in 1 didn't like my Chakravayuh speech. ED insiders' tell me a raid is being planned."

Using the 'chakravayuh' (an impregnable war framework mentioned in the Mahabharat) metaphor as a leitmotif, Gandhi on Monday had claimed in the Lok Sabha that an atmosphere of fear prevails all around with a group of six trapping the entire country in a 'chakravayuh' he promised would be broken by the opposition INDIA bloc.

## HP cloudburst...

Continued from page 1

"Fear of death kept us awake all night as we climbed to a mountain to stay safe," said another villager who came out after hearing screams to see houses swept in flash floods. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu along with Education Minister Rohit Thakur visited Samej on the border of Shimla and Kullu district to take stock of the situation and talk to the victims. At the site of the Malana II power project in Manikaran area of Kullu district, 33 stranded people were rescued on Thursday night and this morning, Deputy Commissioner, Kullu, Torul S Raveesh, said on Friday.

A wall and way to a tunnel was damaged due to rains and water entered the barrage but the teams of the NDRF and home guard managed to rescue the people.

## ED 'insiders' tell me raid...

Continued from page 1

Despite their reduced number from 303 to 240 seats and the reliance on alliances with TDP and JDU, the government continues to deploy these agencies to intimidate opposition leaders and force compliance, undermining democratic principles. This misuse of state power is unacceptable and threatens the integrity of our institutions," the notice read.

Reacting to Gandhi's claim, BJP leader and former Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the former Congress chief might have been told that people are asking questions about his accountability so he has sought to create a new narrative. However, several Congress and opposition leaders rallied behind Gandhi and accused the government of "misusing" probe agencies.

Rashtriya Loktantrik Party and Nagaur MP Hanuman Ramdev Beniwal said Gandhi was right and probe agencies are being misused by the Centre.

"Two CMs were in jail and it is well known they try and shut up any person who speaks against them.

# Revanth justifies Danam's outburst against BRS MLAs

**Danam apologises for using objectionable words in Assembly**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy responded to the Danam Nagender episode in the Assembly by asking BRS MLAs to explain whether it is right to disturb him while he was speaking on Hyderabad's development.

The CM said that Danam had been in public service in

Hyderabad for the last 30 years and knows every street of Hyderabad. Danam knows the problems of the people and has served the people of Hyderabad as Minister and as an MLA.

The Speaker gave a chance to Danam to speak on the development of Hyderabad. How can BRS MLAs ask the Speaker not to give the mic to

Danam, the CM asked.

"We remember how the BRS government behaved in the House. Now BRS MLAs are losing their control. How can they ask the Speaker not to give a mic to Danam? In what way is it right to ask the Speaker not to give the mic to BRS MLAs? BRS MLAs are making noise by entering the podium.

# Cutting corners and...

Continued from page 1

During every celebration my family calls me but I think what would I do there? If I am here I can read some books and learn something. So I will not go there," he said.

The hopefuls say that they do not buy clothes. "I bought my clothes after I earned Rs 5,000 for five days of political campaigning in December 2023. Before that I bought it in 2020. As I am not going anywhere I did not even think about that," said hopeful Venkata Ramana.

They live tough lives and do not spend money on travelling. They simply walk from Chikkadapally to Kacheguda Railway Station, which is around two km. "I know many

friends who walk to the railway station from Chikkadapally. If we go by bus it would cost three times more, so we opt for trains," said a hopeful named Sai Teja who is also now 26.

Sharath, another hopeful said, "For my basic needs including recharge I need less than Rs 3,000 every month. When I need money, I feel awkward asking my parents. So I usually ask my friends. They give me money, and when I go for catering work I repay them."

Surya Kumar, 25, said, "It is five years since I started my mission to get a government job. I completed BA in 2019, then I went for coaching and preparing for jobs. Although it is not useful as of now, I do not have any other alternative.

**TODAY ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha  
Tithi: Chaturdashi: Aug 02 03:27 PM to Aug 03 03:50 PM  
Amavasya: Aug 03 03:50 PM to Aug 04 04:42 PM

Nakshatram: Punarvasu: Aug 02 10:59 AM to Aug 03 11:59 AM  
Pushya: Aug 03 11:59 AM to Aug 04 01:26 PM

Rahukalam: 9:11 AM to 10:46 AM  
Yamagandam: 1:57 PM to 3:33 PM  
Varjyam: 08:28 PM to 10:10 PM  
Gulika: 5:59 AM to 7:35 AM  
Abhritakalam: 09:29 AM to 11:09 AM  
Amhijit Muhurtham: 11:56 AM to 12:47 PM

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy  
Temp: 85°  
Humidity: 73%  
Sunrise: 5:56 AM  
Sunset: 6:48 PM  
Updated: August 2, 2024 5:00 PM

# 'All Hyd businesses...

Continued from page 1

He claimed that 90% of Krishna Phase-3 was completed by Congress in 2014, but TRS leaders took credit for it in 2015.

Despite differing opinions, leaders like Chandrababu Naidu and YS Rajasekhar Reddy worked for the city's development. Revanth assured that as per a solid plan, Hyderabad would see significant growth. He instructed officials to design harvesting wells to prevent waterlogging on roads during heavy rains and identified 141 areas for disaster management alerts.

Measures like physical policing during rains have been implemented to mitigate issues. He criticized BRS leaders for blaming

murders and rapes on others while ignoring similar incidents under their rule.

He cited the lack of support for families affected by crimes, like the rape incident in Singareni Colony and the Disha case, highlighting a failure to address such issues effectively. Under BRS, Hyderabad had seen a substantial rise in drug-related crimes. However, the CM claimed his admin has created a safer environment where dealing drugs is now feared.

He asserted that HYDRAA would serve society with innovative thinking and enhance Hyderabad's brand image. The government plans to develop a 55 km Musi Riverfront Project with global tenders and has identified encroachments to provide alternatives.

# Job Calendar...

Continued from page 1

The main exams are scheduled from October 21 to 27 this year. After taking office, appointment orders have been issued to 32,410 unemployed youth. Additionally, the recruitment to 13,505 posts is in the final stages. A DSC notification was released to fill 11,022 teacher vacancies. Due to insufficient time between Group 1, Group 2, and Group 3 exams, the Group 2 exams scheduled for August 7 and 8 were postponed to December as per the request of the unemployed.

The Cabinet meeting held on August 1, 2024, discussed and approved the Job Calendar for 2024-25 and issued it to all Members.

# KTR leads protest from...

Continued from page 1

Rahul Gandhi, I'm asking you, where are the 200,000 jobs you promised? Dates are changing in the calendar, but where are the 200,000 jobs in a year? Unemployed people are ready to beat up Congress members if they are seen outside. That's why they wrote something on four sheets of paper and called it a Job Calendar in the Assembly on Friday.

If your Job Calendar is real, why are there not even two jobs in it? If they have the guts, Rahul Gandhi and Revanth Reddy should come to Ashok Nagar. We will all come too. If you say you have given even one job, we will resign. They claim that 30,000 jobs were given as theirs. Revanth says when he talks, 'If you are a

man, if he is a man, he should come to the City Central Library. If you come there, students will beat you up. Last night, candidates protested in large numbers at Dilsukhnagar demanding amendment of GO No: 46. They are trying to deceive the unemployed by talking about changes.

They deliberately provoked the unemployed to get votes and come to power. Your Job Calendar is bogus, it has nothing but dates. When we demanded a discussion, the Speaker didn't even give us two minutes. What is more important in the state than the issue of 200,000 jobs for the unemployed? They ran away when it came to discussing this issue. They promised to increase the number of jobs in Group-1, Group-2 and

Group-3. They avoided increasing the ratio to 1:100 in Group-1. They came to power promising to amend GO No: 46. When we asked to discuss the job calendar, they insulted us with a party-switching MLA Danam Nagender from our party. That MLA spoke cheap language. Our MLA Kova Lakshmi said she couldn't hear that language and asked us to leave. When we question the government on behalf of Telangana youth, do you insult us with such language?" KTR said.

"Never have we seen such a degraded, bankrupt, sadistic Chief Minister. This sadistic Chief Minister is inciting everyone and enjoying it sadistically using offensive language. Such sadistic actions will not last long. Revanth should remember this.

- 12. Teachers Eligibility Test: Jun 2025 (Notified: Apr 2025)
- 13. Group I-Mains: Oct 2025 (Notified: July 2025)
- 14. SI Civil Posts: Aug 2025 (Notified: Apr 2025)
- 15. PC Civil Posts: Aug 2025 (Notified: Apr 2025)
- 16. Academic posts in degree colleges: Sept 2025 (Notified: June 2025)
- 17. Degree Lecturers in res colleges: Sept 2025 (Notified: June 2025)
- 18. Group II (Incl. Forest Range Officers): Oct 2025 (Notified: May 2025)
- 19. Group III (w/ Group IV): Nov 2025 (Notified: July 2025)
- 20. Exec Cadre Posts: Nov 2025 (Notified: July 2025)

ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education's 14<sup>th</sup> Convocation

Chief guest: Dr TG Sitharam, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education  
Presided by Dr C Rangarajan, Chancellor  
On Saturday, August 3 at 11 am. Venue: OM Convention, Narsingi

Graduation Day-2024

On Saturday, August 3, at 3:00 pm, Assembly Hall, Main Building, University College of Engineering (Autonomous), Osmania University, Hyderabad  
Chief Guest: N Balram, IRS Chairman & Managing Director, Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., Hyderabad  
President: M Dana Kishore, Vice-Chancellor (I/c), OU & Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration & Urban Development, Govt. of Telangana

Job Mela

To be conducted by District Employment Exchange on August 3 at 10.30 am at Employment Exchange, Hyderabad, for LIC of India

Book release function

Jupaka Subhadra's poetry collection 'Telangani' to be released by Minister for Panchayat Raj, Women and Child Welfare D Anasuya Seethakka on Saturday at 6 pm at Ravindra Bharati mini hall

Protest programme

Telangana BC Samkshema Sangham to conduct meet at BC Bhavan, Vidyanagar, at 12.30 pm on Saturday to seeking to declare immediate caste census schedule, hike in BC quota up to 42% in local bodies and constitutional protection on schedule 9 in Parliament.

Akhil Bharatiya Terapanth Yuvak Parishad To hold press meet at Bhasheerbagh Press Club at 11 am on Saturday, to be addressed by Abhinandan Nahata, President, TYP, Hyderabad.

# City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | AUGUST 3, 2024

03



GO-46 case victims staging a protest seeking a proper response from the government at Prajavani in Hyderabad on Friday

SEEK AG'S ATTENDANCE IN HIGH COURT ON AUG 7

## After 24 adjournments, GO 46 victims reach out to Prajavani

SAMUEL JOSHUA  
■ HYDERABAD

In all, 50 victims of the GO-46 case regarding constables' selection, reached out to Prajavani, asking for the Attorney General's attendance in High Court, stating that the case has been adjourned 24 times. The victims said, "We will sit here on the steps until we get a proper response."

Sandeep from Suryapet, explained that after the final police constables' selection, the President's letter stated that CD-1 (Contiguous District Cadre) and CD-2 results would be given according to GO

172. He said that after the State's bifurcation, the State government set aside the President's order, which required treating contiguous districts as a unit.

He said that students from villages have been adversely affected. He said that results should not be based on the population ratio and that, according to the 2022 GO-46 notification, they requested that merit students should not be disadvantaged and had filed a case in court.

However, while the case was in progress, the results were released. When the High Court asked about the basis for the results, the

government initially said it was the 2011 ratio but later claimed it was the 2014 survey, which was not mentioned in the notification about any surveys.

Sandeep stated that the case had been adjourned 24 times till now, with only one significant discussion where the Judge recog-

nised the injustice and ordered to act.

Despite this, the Attorney General said in court that they were unprepared, and he eventually stopped attending. Sandeep mentioned that they had been protesting and holding rallies for 14 months, leading to mental

stress. Even the sub-committee established to address the issue had not responded properly.

In response to the 50 victims' plea at Prajavani, Sandeep urged the government to ensure the Attorney General is prepared and attends the case on August 7. The group demanded that if they win the case, they should be granted jobs.

Meanwhile, 472 people submitted their grievances at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Prajabhavan on Friday, many with concerns about 2BHK housing, land issues and pension approvals.

- 107 applications received related to revenue issues, 64 to civil supplies department, 59 to electricity department, 31 to social welfare, 26 to minority welfare, and 165 to other departments
- High Court's GO-46 case adjourned 24 times due to absence of Attorney General

## Man on death row for 2013 Hyd terror attack acquitted

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Indian Mujahideen (IM) operative Aijaz Shaikh, who was sentenced to death for the February 2013 Hyderabad terror attack, was on Friday acquitted by a Mumbai court in a 2010 case related to sending an email on behalf of the banned outfit and warning about terror strikes in New Delhi.

Special MCOCA judge BD Shelke on Friday acquitted Shaikh for want of evidence. However, the detailed order was not available yet.

Aijaz Shaikh, who once worked in a BPO and is considered tech savvy, is currently lodged in a jail in Hyderabad.

In February 2015, Shaikh was arrested by the Mumbai Crime Branch in the terror mail case, which was registered on October 10, 2010 in connection with a mail sent to United Kingdom-based BBC news channel warning that IM would carry out terror strikes in the national capital.

A probe suggested the email was sent from south Mumbai and police zeroed in on Shaikh, who is accused of sending it from his mobile phone.

Shaikh was charged with forgery for obtaining a SIM card in the name of another person and using it for sending threat mails.

The prosecution examined eight witnesses, which included the owner of shop from where Shaikh purchased SIM cards on fake identity documents.

Advocate Hasnain Kazi, appearing for the accused, had contended the IP address mentioned in the FIR showed it belonged to Norway.

No expert witness was examined to prove the email was sent from Mumbai, Kazi further argued.

Shaikh was made a scapegoat because the investigating authority failed to trace the true accused, Kazi submitted.

Shaikh is also facing trials in the July 2011 serial explosions in Zaveri Bazar, Opera House and Kabutar Khana in which 21 people were killed.



## 3 drug peddlers arrested in boys' hostel

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Excise Police arrested three drug peddlers on Friday and seized Rs 12 lakh worth of 115 grams of MDMA and 250 grams of ganja from them. Police said that accused Mohith Lokesh Rao, Pasupuleti Yagnadhatthu and KM Rawoof were supplying drugs from Bengaluru.

On a tip off, Special Task Force (STF) excise superintendent Pradeep Rao and his team raided a private boys' hostel in SR Nagar.

The accused told the police that they were bringing drugs from Bengaluru and selling them to youth in Hyderabad. Police found out that Rawoof was in touch with Nigerian native Neggin.

The Task Force team included B Balaraj, Jayakrishna, P Arun, NLN Maheshwar Rao, B Koushik, K Laxman, Nithan Chandhra Goud and Sai Kiran who raided the hostel.



CREDAI members at the property show inaugurated in Hyderabad on Friday

## CREDAI Hyd property show inaugurated

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers Associations of India (CREDAI) inaugurated the first of its series of 'CREDAIAbility' themed property shows at Hitec on Friday. The event will run until August 4, 2024.

The inauguration was led by C Sekhar Reddy, Vice-Chairman of IGBC National, along with G Ram Reddy, Secretary of CREDAI National, Ch Ramachandra Reddy, EC Member of CREDAI National, and other CREDAI members, and representatives from financial institutions.

The show features RERA-registered projects from CREDAI member developers, ensuring transparency and reliability for buyers. The property show will feature over 200 exhibitors showcasing more than 800 projects, including affordable housing, luxury

apartments, villas, open plots, and commercial complexes. Leading financial institutions will also participate, offering competitive home loan schemes.

Following this event, two more property shows are scheduled from August 9 to 11 at Shree Conventions, Kompally, and August 23 to 25 at Nagole Metro Station. These locations will host a range of real estate professionals showcasing the latest industry developments.

President of CREDAI Hyderabad, V Rajashekhar Reddy, highlighted the show's role in promoting transparency and innovation. He noted Hyderabad's impressive growth, citing it as the fourth fastest-growing city globally. The real estate sector's brightness is evident from the registration of over 45,000 properties from November 2023 to June 2024 and an 8% year-over-year price increase.

## GHMC to start cleanliness drive from August 5

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) will be organising 'Swachadhanam-Pachadhanam' programme from August 5 to 9. GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata held a teleconference with zonal commissioners and additional commissioners on Friday and made suggestions on the management of the programme.

She said that the government will undertake the programme with an aim to increase cleanliness and greenness in the State. Teams should be formed with the officers of all departments to manage the programme in which saplings should be distributed from door-to-door to the people.

She ordered the officials to submit a report every day at 4 pm as the government directed one innovative programme for each day. The departments concerned will go as a team and create awareness to the representatives of the Residential Welfare Associations.



## 3,076 kids rescued through Operation Muskan-X in TG

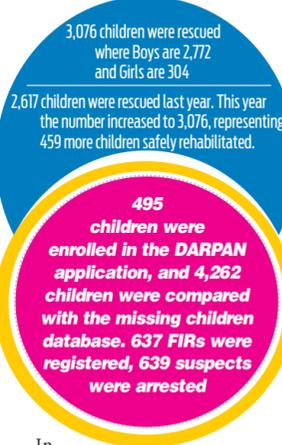
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A total of 3,076 children were rescued through Operation Muskan-X in Telangana. Operation Muskan-X is led by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which takes place every July to trace and rescue missing and trafficked children and ensure their proper rehabilitation.

The aim is to stop human trafficking and child kidnapping and to safely rehabilitate vulnerable children.

This year's Operation Muskan-X ran in Telangana was held from July 1 to July 31, 2024. It was overseen by Shikha Goel, ADGP, Women Safety Wing.

The Women Safety Wing coordinated 120 Sub-Divisional Police Teams with 676 officers. These teams worked with the Women Development and Child Welfare department, Labour, Health, Child Welfare Committees (CWC), District Child Protection Units, and local NGOs.



rescued (boys: 44, girls: 3). In all, 115 children were rescued from begging (boys: 82, girls: 33).

Over 2,510 children were rescued from child labour (boys: 2,307, girls: 203) and 33 children were rescued from brick kilns (boys: 29, girls: 4). Meanwhile, 371 children were rescued from other industries (boys: 310, girls: 61).

Similarly, 2,106 children were rescued from other types of child labour (boys: 1,968, girls: 138).

Additionally, 495 children were enrolled in the DARPAN application and 4,262 children were compared with the missing children database.

During the operation, 637 FIRs were registered, 639 suspects were arrested and 767 children were rescued in these cases.

Last year, 2,617 children were rescued.

This year, the overall number increased to 3,076, representing 459 more children safely rehabilitated.

## Students create awareness on seasonal diseases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Student volunteers (GHMC heroes) in many schools across GHMC went door-to-door in many colonies on Friday to educate people about mosquito prevention, precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of seasonal diseases and activities to be taken up on Friday and Tuesday.

They educated them on the reasons for the prevalence of seasonal diseases like dengue, malaria, chicken pox and explained the precautions to be taken to prevent water stagnation to the public.

They advised the people to separate the wet and dry waste and hand it over to Swachh autos instead of throwing the garbage outside houses. Mosquitoes breed due to insanitary conditions. Dengue, malaria, viral fever, chicken pox and other diseases prevail with mosquitoes.

## Data science plays vital role as a research tool, says Min Damodar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Medical, Health and Family Welfare C Damodar Raja Narasimha said that education with human values contributes a lot for the elevation of an individual in the society. It was a pleasure to speak at Mahendra University, he added.

He was the chief guest in the third Annual Convocation - 2024 organised by Mahendra University in Hyderabad along with prominent businessman, Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra and Apollo Group Chairperson Shobhana Kamineni.

Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha said, "Today is a happy day for students and parents. The degree obtained with this knowledge and skills you have acquired is the foundation of your future tomorrow." The



Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha at the Mahendra University on Friday

Minister called for the development of skills and capabilities to meet the challenges of the rapidly changing world in the 21st century.

He said, "Over the past few decades, the industrial age has

given way to the information age. That change has connected the world across all kinds of borders. Knowledge and information transcend national boundaries and reach international boundaries. The global

situation and business transactions can be viewed in the palm of one's hands due to the Internet of information from all over the world. Our intellectual resources are not keeping up with this information explosion. In order to deal with them, there should be a suitable intellectual cultivation." He said that data science is playing a vital role as a research tool. In astronomy, it will help identify new stars and galaxies.

He also said that analytical skills should be developed in accordance with the revolutionary changes through science in all fields. "We should focus on the values of agile living suitable for the fast changing world. All of you graduates are embarking on a most exciting journey. You don't have to be afraid to compete with the world. Your strength, ability, and skill will come in handy," he added.

## FIR against 'X' user for morphing Minister's video

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police registered a criminal case against a 'X' handle on Thursday for circulating a morphed video of Minister for Women Welfare Seethakka. Advocate Tejvath Venkata Naik filed the petition in the police station.

In the complaint, he said that the accused trolled Seethakka thereby causing outrage. On August 1, while he was browsing social media platform 'X', he found a video tweeted by Madhuri Madhu. In that video Seethakka was



Minister Seethakka

talking in Assembly and meanwhile MLA Raj Thakur was behind her and bent down to talk with Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar. But, the doctored video clip was morphed with some audio and trolled with a

kiss sound showing that Raj Thakur was kissing Seethakka from behind. The account holder put a caption "What's happening here?", which amounts to causing outrage to women's modesty.

So he requested the police to suspend that profile and take action against those who are trolling Seethakka. Police registered the case under BNS 79 (Word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman), 336 (4) (knowingly harming a person by forging electronic record), 353(1) (circulate false information) and 66 C of IT Act.



ACROSS THE STATES



Doctors, nurse assaulted at Thane hospital; two booked

At least four doctors and a nurse were assaulted by two female relatives of a patient at the civic-run Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital in Thane, police on Friday. The women attacked the hospital employees on Thursday afternoon accusing them of not taking care of the male patient, an official said. According to the complaint filed by a doctor from the hospital in the city's Kalwa area, two female relatives visited a patient in the male ward. They alleged that he had not been fed for three days and questioned why he had not been shifted to the ICU. The women, aged 36 and 40, beat up a male doctor when he tried to explain the situation and the treatment. They then turned to three more female doctors and a nurse who rushed to save the male doctor. The women have been booked for assault under the Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita, and the Maharashtra Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Act, said the station house officer of Kalwa police station.



Small bridge on state highway collapses in Gondia

A small bridge built on a state highway in Arjuni Morgaon Taluka of Gondia district in Maharashtra has caved in, following which traffic on the route has been diverted, officials said. The bridge on the Navegaon-Kohalgaoon-Keshori Road caved in late Thursday night, in which nobody was injured, they said. A passerby informed the authorities about it, following which a team of officials visited the spot and the traffic was diverted via Khairi-Sukdi village, an official said. The exact cause behind the incident was not known yet. The bridge was around five decades old and it had become weak as it was constructed as per the old method, he said. The region witnessed heavy rains in the last fortnight. "There is a small nullah on the side of this bridge. It caved in probably as a result of heavy rains and movement of vehicles might have weakened it further," Sub Divisional Officer Varunkumar Shahare said.



Govt forwards panel's report on staggered vacation for judges

The government has forwarded recommendations of a parliamentary committee on staggered vacation for judges to the secretary general of the Supreme Court and registrars general of 25 high court for "appropriate consideration". In a written reply in Lok Sabha on Friday, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said the standing committee on law and personnel had referred to the suggestion of former chief justice of India R M Lodha that instead of all judges going on vacations, all at one time, individual judges should take their leave at different times of the year so that the courts are constantly open and they are always present to hear cases. The committee was of the opinion that Justice Lodha's suggestion on court vacations should be considered by the Judiciary. "Accordingly, the recommendation of the Rajya Sabha DRPSC (department-related standing committee) in respect of the aforementioned subject was forwarded by the government to the Secretary General, Supreme Court and all Registrars General of the respective High Court for appropriate consideration," Meghwal told the House.

WAYANAD TRAGEDY

GPS coordinates, aerial drone pictures used to locate survivors

PNS ■ WAYANAD (KERALA)

Rescue teams used GPS coordinates from aerial drone pictures and cell phones, including the last location of people who lived in the landslides-hit areas of Wayanad on Friday to help locate survivors trapped under the debris, amidst accelerated search operations after the completion of the 190-foot-long Bailey bridge by the Army.

A family of four was rescued from an isolated house in an area near Padavetti Kunnu on the fourth day of the deadly landslides, giving hope to hundreds of rescuers, racing against time to search for survivors. With nearly 300 persons still missing, the death toll is expected to go up.

As many as 201 people have died and 264 were injured in the massive landslides that hit Wayanad district in the wee hours of July 30. Additionally, 130 body parts were also recovered, according to the Kerala Health Department.

The search and rescue operations that resumed early morning received an impetus as the Bailey bridge helped the rescue teams to move the heavy machinery, including excavators, and ambulances to the worst-affected Mundakkai and Chooralmala hamlets.

According to official sources, the extent of human loss will emerge when rescuers clear houses covered by debris and wooden logs using heavy machinery.

Authorities reported that many more body parts had been collected and genetic testing was underway to identify the remains. Earlier in the day, Kerala ADGP M R Ajith Kumar said 300 people were still missing.

Around 40 rescue teams



along with cadaver dogs are conducting search operations in six zones of the landslides-hit areas -- Attamala and Aarammala (first), Mundakkai (second), Puchirimattam (third), Vellarimala village (fourth), GVHSS Vellarimala (fifth), and riverbank (sixth), officials said.

The joint teams include personnel from the Army, NDRF, DSG, Coast Guard and Navy.

In addition to this, a three-pronged search operation has also been launched, focusing on the Chaliyar river. The eight police stations, along the 40-km stretch of the river, have joined forces with local swimming experts to search for bodies that

may have flown downstream or trapped along the riverbanks. Simultaneously, another search operation is being conducted using a police helicopter.

Besides this, the Coast Guard, Navy, and Forest Department also jointly conducted

a search operation focusing on the riverbanks and areas where bodies may be trapped.

District Collector Meghashree D R said GPS coordinates from aerial drone pictures and cell phones, including the last location of people who lived in the landslide-hit areas, have been used to identify spots where search and rescue operations can be focused.

She also said aerial photographs taken by drones have helped identify GPS coordinates of specific search locations. "We mapped this data and gave it to all the teams so that the search and rescue operations can proceed efficiently and speedily," she said.

Wayanad landslides a terrible tragedy, will request Delhi to treat it differently: Rahul

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday described the landslides in Wayanad district of Kerala as a "terrible tragedy" of such magnitude that the state has not seen till now in a single area, and said that it should be treated differently. The Congress MP said he is going to raise the matter in Delhi and also with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan as "this is a different level of tragedy and should be treated differently". Right now the focus is on finding the bodies and potential survivors, making sure the displaced persons are comfortable in the camps, and rehabilitating them, he said. The Congress MP said that rehabilitation is going to be very important, as a lot of the survivors told him they did not want to go back to the landslide-hit areas. "So, I think it is important that they are rehabilitated in a safe area and are not forced to go back. These are the things that



Centre wants to put CM Siddaramaiah behind bars: Minister

Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Friday alleged that the Centre wants to put Chief Minister Siddaramaiah behind bars and is therefore "digging out small things" against the opposition but protecting its own people who indulge in "big crimes". "They (BJP leaders) are misusing the governor, Income Tax (dept), Directorate of Enforcement only to topple the government. You know what they tried to do in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Delhi, West Bengal and Kerala," Rao told reporters in Dakshina Kannada district.

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Around 40 rescue teams

Karnataka deputy CM Shivakumar kickstarts Cong agitation against BJP

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The ruling Congress in Karnataka on Friday staged a demonstration in Bidari in Ramanagara district against the alleged injustice done to the state by the Centre including tax divulsion and attempts to destabilise the government.

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is also the Congress state president, kickstarted the six-day agitation starting from Friday. He rode a pillion as the party leaders took out a motorcycle rally in the town adjacent to Bengaluru.

The agitation, which the Congress state unit has called 'Janandolana' (people's movement) is also against corruption during the BJP and JD(S) rule in Karnataka.

Shivakumar had directed all the senior leaders, ministers, MPs, MLAs, Legislative Council members, former ministers, former MLAs, Lok Sabha and Assembly, KPCC office-bearers and the district and block Congress Committee presidents and representatives of local bodies to take part in the agitation without fail.

Posters and banners dotted the areas where the agitation took place in Bidadi. The protest will also be held in Ramanagara, Channarayana, Maddur, Mandya and Mysuru.

The demonstrations will take place at the locations from where the proposed BJP and the JD(S) march against the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam will pass through from August 3 to August 10. The Congress protests also comes against the backdrop of a show-cause notice issued by the Karnataka Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot against the MUDA site allotment scam in which Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi is allegedly a beneficiary.

Based on a petition filed by advocate-activist T J Abraham, the Governor issued the notice on July 26 directing the chief minister to submit his reply to the allegations against him within seven days justifying why permission to prosecute him should not be granted.

The Karnataka government on Thursday "strongly advised" the Governor to withdraw his show-cause notice issued to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the MUDA 'scam', and alleged that it was part of a concerted effort to destabilise the Congress government.



Railways experimented with baby berths for ease of travel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways provided two baby berths in Lucknow Mail on trial basis to facilitate ease of travel for mothers travelling with babies, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

Vaishnaw was responding to questions raised by BJP MP Sumer Singh Solanki, who wanted to know if the government is considering installing baby berth seats in train coaches.

"To facilitate ease of travel for mothers travelling with their babies, two baby berths were provided as attachment to two lower berths in one coach of Train No. 12229/30 Lucknow Mail on trial basis," the minister said in a written reply.

"Initial passenger feedback appreciated the effort. However, inter-alia issues of restricted luggage space below the seat and reduced knee space between the seats causing inconvenience to passengers have been observed," he added.



According to Vaishnaw, modification and upgradation in passenger coaches is a continuous process for the railways

Two die, 28 others fall ill due to 'diarrhoea outbreak' in Odisha's Ganjam

PNS ■ BERAHAMPUR (ODISHA)

At least two persons died and 28 others fell sick due to a suspected diarrhoea outbreak in the last few days in Odisha's Ganjam district, officials said on Friday.

A medical team from Berhampur was sent to Adapada village in Sanakhemundi block of the district on Thursday to provide treatment to the affected people, they said.

Of the 28 people who were taken ill, 20 were undergoing treatment at the Adapada community health centre and one of them was referred to MKCG Medical College and Hospital here as his condition was critical, said Sarojini Devi, additional district medical officer (ADMO), Ganjam.

Others were under medical observation at their residences. The deceased were identified as Kenchu Nayak and Kanchan Nayak, both above 70 years of age, another official said.

The two elderly persons, who died in the village due to suspected diarrhoeal infection, were also inflicted with some other diseases, he said. Consumption of water from wells was suspected to be the cause of the outbreak while the area witnessed rain in the last week.

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VAISHNAW ON PIB'S FACT CHECK UNIT

'Only Centre can validate facts related to it'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is best suited to determine whether a particular fact related to it is correct or wrong, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday while making the government's stand clear on the PIB's Fact Check Unit.

He was replying to a supplementary query during the Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha related to the Supreme Court's stay on the Centre's notification on setting up a fact-checking unit.

"The amendment in the IT Intermediary Rules which has been stayed by the Supreme Court, that is still under contest but the fundamental principle is, our point is, anything related to the government of India, only the government can say whether it is a correct fact or a wrong fact. That is our stand," Vaishnaw, the Union Information and Broadcasting Minister, said.

The Supreme Court in March this year stayed the Centre's notification on setting up a fact-checking unit under the Press Information Bureau (PIB)



The Fact Check Unit was notified on March 20 under the Information Technology Rules, 2021, by the Ministry of Electronics and IT

to identify fake news about the Union government.

The Fact Check Unit was notified on March 20 under the Information Technology Rules, 2021, by the Ministry of Electronics and IT.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud set aside the March 11 order of the Bombay High Court which had refused to grant interim stay on setting up the FCU under the amended IT Rules to identify fake and false content on social media about the Union government.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA  
WANAPARTHY DISTRICT GAZETTE  
EXTRAORDINARY  
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 14/2024 WANAPARTHY SATURDAY DATE: 20-07-2024  
No: G/888/2024 Dated: 20-07-2024

The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013  
As per Section -11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013) and sub Rule (1) of Rule -25

FORM - VI  
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Where it appears to the Government of Telangana collector, Wanaparthi that a total of Ac. 26.9725 gns land is required in the village namely Sakredipally village of Kothakota Mandal, Wanaparthi District and Division for land acquisition of excavation of FTI of Krishna Soudam Tank upto a 308.06 M and capacity by 0.85 TMC and make it a balancing Reservoir as a part of the Birna Lift Irrigation scheme.

Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project the village namely Sakredipally village of Kothakota Mandal, Wanaparthi District and Division land measuring more or less (Ac 26.9725 Gns) of standard measurement, whose detail description is as follows is proposed for acquisition

Sl. No.	Patta No.	Syo. No.	Gvt. Dry	Extent to be acquired	Name of the Paddar with Father's name	Boundaries				Total Area
						North	South	East	West	
1	203	Patla	Dry	0.12	A.Meghaya S/O.A.Chandru	312	204	204	206	No
2	203	Patla	Dry	0.10	Laxman S/O.Hemba	312	204	204	206	No
3	203	Patla	Dry	0.295	Sheshu S/O.Sakru	312	204	204	206	No
4	203	Patla	Dry	0.065	Shankar S/O.Laxman	312	204	204	206	No
5	203	Patla	Dry	0.10	Shankar S/O.Surya	312	204	204	206	No
6	203	Patla	Dry	0.095	A.Ramesh S/O.Vaikunth	312	204	204	206	No
7	203	Patla	Dry	0.08	Devulu S/O.Kishan	312	204	204	206	No
8	203	Patla	Dry	0.08	Ramulu S/O.Kishan	312	204	204	206	No
9	203	Patla	Dry	0.11	A.Ramji S/O.Hemamba	312	204	204	206	No
10	203	Patla	Dry	0.03	A.Ramesh S/O.Naya Nani	312	204	204	206	No
11	203	Patla	Dry	0.12	Gowdu S/O.Pappu	312	204	204	206	No
12	203	Patla	Dry	0.09	Pandya S/O.Bajpa	312	204	204	206	No
13	203	Patla	Dry	0.095	Shankar S/O.Kishan	312	204	204	206	No
14	203	Patla	Dry	0.10	Others	312	204	204	206	No
15	204	Inam	Wk	2.04	Menkala Lakshmana Chary S/O.Rama Chary	303			205	No
16	205	Inam	Dry	1.35	Menkala Lakshmana Chary S/O.Rama Chary	305	203	205	304	No
17	206	Inam	Dry	0.95	Menkala Lakshmana Chary S/O.Rama Chary	207	203	205	304	No
18	207	Inam	Dry	1.21	Menkala Lakshmana Chary S/O.Rama Chary	208	203	205	304	No
19	208	Inam	Dry	1.31	Menkala Lakshmana Chary S/O.Rama Chary	210	203	207	204	No
20	209	Inam	Dry	2.23	Menkala Lakshmana Chary S/O.Rama Chary	218	200	208	210	No
21	210	Inam	Dry	1.09	Menkala Lakshmana Chary S/O.Rama Chary	213	206	208	211	No
22	211	Inam	Dry	2.14	Menkala Lakshmana Chary S/O.Rama Chary	212	210	304	302	No
23	212	Inam	Dry	2.09	Menkala Lakshmana Chary S/O.Rama Chary	216	213	211	302	No
24	304	Patla	Dry	0.03	Shankar Nani S/O.Narayana Nani	208	207	314	303	No
25	304	Patla	Dry	2.1025	Others	208	207	314	303	No
26	304	Patla	Dry	0.33	Gowdu S/O.Pappu	208	207	314	303	No
27	304	Patla	Dry	0.10	Laxman Nani S/O.Hemba	208	207	314	303	No
28	304	Patla	Dry	0.08	Devulu S/O.Kishan	208	207	314	303	No
29	304	Patla	Dry	0.08	Ramulu S/O.Kishan	208	207	314	303	No
30	307	Patla	Dry	0.13	Manemma W/O.Sukka Reddy	314	314	314	308	No
					Karkala Pratima Reddy S/O.Gopal Reddy					
					Karkala Srinani Reddy S/O.Gopal Reddy					
					Karkala Shanji Bahan Reddy S/O.Sudhan Reddy					
					Manemma W/O.Sukka Reddy					
					Karkala Indhresh W/O.Chandru Shankar Reddy					
					Karkala Krishna Reddy S/O.Jagananna Reddy					
					K.S.Sagar W/O.Sudhan Reddy					
					Karkala Ranga Reddy S/O.Sudhan Reddy					
					Karkala Pratimatho Reddy S/O.Sudha Reddy					
					K.Rajagender Reddy S/O.Kishna Reddy					
					K.Rajender Reddy S/O.Kishna Reddy					
32	308	Patla	Dry	0.23	Manemma W/O.Sukka Reddy	314	307	309	314	No
33	308	Patla	Dry	0.06	No enjoyment	314	307	309	314	No
					Bovalahalli S/O.Kishan Reddy S/O.Venkaiah S/O.Balaji Thakala Manemma W/O.Kishan Reddy					
34	311	Patla	Dry	0.05	T.Gandanna W/O.T.Srinu, T.Chinna Nalliah S/O.Kashanna T.Kashanna S/O.Kashanna	310	314	314	314	No
35	311	Patla	Dry	0.35	Chavibanda Balaji S/O.Chinniah (Died) Jangiper Venkaiah S/O.Balaji	310	314	314	314	No
Total :						26.9725				

Such advertisement relates to whatsoever it may concern under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013) and following an exemption as per the Section -11 (1) to inform the concerned people.

The plan related to the lands and other details can be inspected at the office of the District Collector, Wanaparthi and the Special Deputy Collector (LA), RLSP-II, P. P. S. The Telangana Government / Collector and his Staff are authorized to enter into the land mentioned in the above schedule survey and take the measurements or to dig the land to check sub-soil and lay a bore to find out the quality of the land and are permitted to take up necessary steps under Section -12 of Act.

As per Section -11 (4), no one is permitted to do any kind of transactions such as sales, purchases, mortgage with reference to such land in the above schedule without the notice of the District Collector, after the date of issuance of this notification. As per Section -15) the owners of the land in the above mentioned schedule should bring to the notice of the Land Acquisition Officer / District Collector, Wanaparthi, or the official concerned, in writing, if they have any objections with regard to the acquisition of their land, duly submitting the necessary proofs within 60 (Sixty) days of the issuance of this preliminary notification.

Self-Special Deputy Collector (LA), Wanaparthi  
RLSP - II, P. P. S. Self-Add. Collector, Self-Dist. Collector, Wanaparthi  
DIPR No.1741A/PP-Pub/2024-25



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## SC removes creamy layer

The Supreme Court's decision to approve sub-categorisation of SC/STs for reservations will pave the way for greater inclusivity

In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court has declared that sub-classification within Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is permissible. Justice Pankaj Mithal emphasised that reservations should benefit only the first generation within a category and called for periodic reviews to ensure subsequent generations have reached parity with the general category. This ruling overruled the EV Chinniah case, where the Court had previously held that all castes formed a single homogeneous group that could not be subdivided. This decision has significant implications for the socio-economic upliftment and political representation of these historically marginalised communities. The judgment addresses the issue of the creamy layer within a caste. It is argued that the caste quotas are often usurped by the creamy layer within a caste as some people within a caste are uplifted and have education, means and resources to prevail upon the rest of their ilk. India's Constitution, through Articles 341 and 342, recognises certain communities as marginalised. The government is permitted to make special provisions for the upliftment of these communities which have been historically deprived. These measures include reservations in educational institutions, government jobs, and legislative bodies. Over the years, concerns have been raised regarding the unequal distribution of these benefits. Some sub-castes or sub-tribes within the broader SC/ST categories have been perceived as cornering a disproportionate share of the benefits, leaving others behind. This has led to calls for sub-classification.



The petitioners had argued that such sub-classification would undermine the unity of these communities and contradict the principles of equality and non-discrimination enshrined in the Constitution. However, the Supreme Court, in its judgment, emphasised that the primary objective of reservation policies is to ensure social and economic justice. By sub-classifying a caste, the government can design more nuanced policies that ensure benefits are equitably distributed among all sub-groups within the SC/ST categories. The decision can also lead to better political representation for sub-groups within SCs and STs. It opens the door for more inclusive policies that reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of these communities. However, the Supreme Court's decision may need additional provisions to address several gaps. The concept of the "creamy layer" or privileged group, particularly regarding the second generation, is not clearly defined and is open to interpretation. This lack of clear definition of "creamy layer" makes it subjective and may lead to varying interpretations which may again be challenged in the court. The Supreme Court has left it to the states to define the "creamy layer" for exclusion. It remains to be seen how this decision will be implemented and interpreted by different governments. While the Court has set the stage for a more inclusive and equitable distribution of affirmative action benefits to SC/ST, it may take time to reach the execution stage.

### PICTALK



Devotees stand in queue to offer prayers on the occasion of Shivratri, in New Delhi

# Kamala emerges as front runner for US Presidency



KALYANI SHANKAR

As the first woman Vice President, Harris is now poised to break another glass ceiling by becoming the first female President of the United States

The US Vice President Kamala Harris ended the week by declaring, "I am Kamala Harris and I am running for President." This historic moment, ending the suspense after President Biden withdrew from the Presidential contest and endorsed her as the candidate, marks a new chapter in American politics. It is now official.

Many influential Democrats, including former Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, fund giver George Clooney, have thrown their weight behind her candidacy. She now has the Party firmly behind her in her fight, instilling confidence in her potential to lead. It's worth noting that in its 248-year history, the US has never elected a female President. Even Hillary Clinton, who ran for President in 2008 and 2016, was unsuccessful. Kamala made history four years ago when she became the first woman Vice President.

Will she make history again by running for President? Can she win? She has to do two things. First, she needs to get the Democratic Party's nomination, and then she needs to win. Time is short, with only four months left before the election on November 5. Indian-origin Kamala Harris has several strengths and a few weaknesses. Her current position as Vice President and her qualifications to assume the role of President in an emergency are her essential advantages. Four years ago, Kamala hoped Biden would finish one term and say goodbye to the White House. However, Biden stuck to his decision and insisted on running for a second term. But he surprised everyone by recently withdrawing and endorsing his Vice President.

One significant advantage was that she could break the glass ceiling by becoming the first woman president. She must work hard to appeal to Black, Asian, and female voters and gain support from other minority groups and undecided and



younger voters. This could help her chances against Trump in swing states.

Secondly, another significant factor in Kamala Harris's favour is her strong connection to Biden's legacy, which is not entirely negative. This association could play a pivotal role in her candidacy. She could bring together moderate and conservative members of her Party and act as a unifying force. To defeat Trump, her Party must unite and support her.

Thirdly, Obama was the first Black President, and John F. Kennedy was the first Catholic President. They could be her role models, inspiring hope in the hearts of many. Fourthly, and importantly, Kamala is 59 years old, which works in her favour compared to Trump, who is 78. Her age is not a drawback, but a substantial age difference could bring about change.

She can attract undecided voters by highlighting her achievements to gain their support. Fifthly, she can have Biden's war chest of about \$100 million. She has raised \$200 million in the first week of her candidacy and signed up 17000 volunteers.



THE RACE FOR PRESIDENT BETWEEN KAMALA HARRIS AND DONALD TRUMP IS CURRENTLY TIED, ACCORDING TO A RECENT POLL BY THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. THIS TIE IS SIGNIFICANT. THE POLL SHOWS INCREASED SUPPORT FOR HARRIS AMONG NON-WHITE VOTERS

Still, she must instil confidence in other fundraisers for the enormous poll expenditure. Kamala Harris has strong ties to Silicon Valley since the beginning of her political career.

She is tapping into this support for her battle against Donald Trump. Above all, she must choose the right candidate for her running mate. The right combination should enhance the chances against the Trump-Vance team. Kamala also pledged to do "everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party and our nation, to defeat Donald Trump and his extreme Project 2025 agenda."

Harris's mission is urgent and crucial. She must gain the support of those who are uncertain or critical to achieve her goal. The race for President between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump is currently tied, according to a recent poll by the Wall Street Journal. This tie is significant. The poll shows increased support for Harris among non-white voters and a substantial rise in enthusiasm for the campaign among Democrats. Harris faces challenges such as her past

unsuccessful bid for the 2020 nomination, her approval ratings, and the need to secure significant funding for her campaign.

According to a recent NBC News poll, Trump was ahead of Biden by 45% to 43%, and Trump also led Harris by the same two-point margin of 47% to 45%. But slowly, this is changing. The time is short, as the campaign has just 100 days left. Before the November election, the vice president's team should strategise how to defeat Trump. Trump's team may criticise Harris as inexperienced and risky. She should be ready to face racism from the Trump campaign and run as a Democratic nominee who is a Black and South Asian American woman. This election is a critical decision that will shape America's future. Biden's exit has energised the Democratic. It is up to Kamala to seize the moment to surge forward. Can she step in and be the natural leader in America? Her capacity to lead the next few weeks will show whether she can.

(The writer is a popular columnist, views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WAYANAD TRAGEDY: FIXING THE BLAME

Madam — Apropos to "CM refutes Shah's alert claim on Wayanad tragedy" published on 1st August, here is my response. One can do very little when mountain ranges receive unexpected & torrential rain like this, as the forecast was for 64-204 mm rain but Wayanad received 372 mm rain on that fateful night. But such events turning into human tragedies can certainly be minimised and prevented.

What is really tragic is the fact that a warning given by the state disaster management authority four years ago was not heeded where 4000 families were asked to leave landslide prone areas including Mundakkai. As recently as on 23rd July Centre also warned Kerala about excessive rainfall or landslides but nothing was taken seriously. In recent past severe deluge leading to flooding caused serious damage in almost each district of the state and Kerala saw statewide floods in 2018 and 2019 but nothing seems to have been done on disaster prevention in hilly areas. Nature has warned us time and again to keep our house in order and maintain an ecological balance, but sadly we are hell bent on playing havoc with nature.

Bal Govind | Noida

### HALWA POLITICS

Madam — This refers to the editorial, 'Halwa politics' (1-8-24). Parliament is a place where meaningful discussions and debates take place to decide the livelihood and the course of the country. Those who are privileged to be a member of the house are supposed to be committed to the national priorities and display their utmost respect to the house, decency and focused attention on the development of the country rather than focusing on personal agenda.

The ruling dispensation is supposed to give due respect to all the members and all the parties in the house as they are also elected representatives of the people. The leader of the opposition talks

### World breast feeding week



celebrate the diverse experiences of breastfeeding mothers throughout their journeys while highlighting the crucial role families, societies, communities, and health workers play in supporting them. Despite the natural act of breastfeeding, mothers often face societal stigma, particularly when nursing in public.

This stigma affects not only men but also women who may stare or pass judgment when mothers nurse in public, discouraging them from feeding their babies when needed. This cultural barrier needs to be dismantled to empower mothers to breastfeed confidently and freely, without the necessity of designated feeding rooms. Breastfeeding is a source of pride and a vital aspect of maternal and child health. Ensuring mothers can breastfeed without shame or hindrance in any setting is essential for promoting the well-being of infants and supporting maternal health.

Jayanthy Subramaniam | Chennai

about the necessity of carrying out Caste Census. The member from the treasury bench instead of spelling out the opinion of the government and the convincing statistics or supportive logic. The ex-minister's expressions, unfortunately, lack decency and take the etiquette of the Parliament to its lowest ebb. The leader of his party should have corrected him if not admonished. There can be no civilized person who can encourage, appreciate or support such uncomplimentary expressions.

Such expressions display the lack of convincing reasons to oppose the demand of the opposition party. It is known to all that every party has its caste base and in every stage of its functioning caste plays its predominant role.

If the reservation system should be a meaningful one a the latest numerical, economic and social status of all the castes. All political parties should train those peoples' representatives in their parties on the dos and donts in the house.

AG Rajmohan | Anantapur

### PRIORITISE ROAD SAFETY

Madam — Because it saves lives, road safety is vital. In 2022, there were 4.23 lakh injuries and 1.71 lakh fatalities from traffic accidents in India. Road accidents can be avoided by taking real safety precautions, such as proper road design, speed restriction, and sufficient visibility. How can we increase road safety is becoming a subject for concern. Enforcing current standards—for example, local authorities needing qualified personnel and appropriate equipment—is one method to improve road security. Transport operators who don't adhere to safety regulations should face harsh fines. Proper data collection is another strategy to increase road safety. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways should better gather and disseminate information on vehicle registrations, safety certificates, and accident reports.

Neha Tomar | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## The rise and impact of political memes in the digital age

The recent surge of memes following President Biden's withdrawal from the race underscores their increasing use for expressing public sentiments

In her book "Memes in Digital Culture," Communications Professor Limor Shifman highlights the significance of political memes, noting that they play a crucial role in shaping discussions about societal norms and the future. The recent surge in memes following U.S. President Joe Biden's decision not to run for the upcoming presidential elections illustrates the increasing use of this medium for expressing public sentiments, including likes, dislikes, and frustrations. The concept of memes dates back to the late 20th century, introduced by Richard Dawkins in his 1976 book "The Selfish Gene." Dawkins described memes as cultural units that spread and evolve similarly to genes. The formal introduction of "Internet Memes" occurred in 1994, thanks to Mike Godwin. These early memes, like the "Nazi comparison memes," circulated rapidly online and laid the foundation for the meme culture we know today. The creation and spread of internet memes began in



the 1990s and early 2000s on forums and imageboards like 4chan and Reddit. These platforms were among the first to host meme-like content, such as humorous images with captions and inside jokes. As the internet and social media expanded, so did the reach and diversity of memes, evolving to include various formats like GIFs, videos, and TikToks. Meme-making has become a popular form of self-expression, communication, and connection online. Some even view it as an art form, with certain memes becoming part of mainstream culture. As the U.S. presidential elections approach, the relevance of political memes becomes increasingly significant. The digital age has revolutionized political communication, shifting it from traditional media to the dynamic realm of social media. This transformation, fueled by internet accessibility and information democratization, has empowered individuals to engage in political dialogue more freely. It is crucial to understand both the profound implications and challenges of this new landscape. Humor, especially through memes, has emerged as a potent tool in this era. Memes distill complex ideas into easily shareable and often humorous content, making them a staple of online political communication. They serve as entertainment and vehicles for critique and satire, simplifying intricate issues and making them more accessible to a broader audience. For example, AI-generated images of Donald Trump at a concert or wordplays like "Joeever" and "Kamencing" illustrate how humor is used to navigate serious political situations. The impact of this shift on political campaigns is profound. Today's political actors understand the power of social media in

shaping narratives. The rapid spread and viral potential of online content make social media a crucial battleground for political communication. In this arena, the perceptual environment created by social media often outweighs the significance of the political events themselves. A viral meme about U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris involving a coconut, once used derogatorily, now helps promote her case. Her remark during a widely watched speech, "You exist in the context of all in which you live and what came before you," encapsulates the essence of present-day social media and meme culture. Elections have always been fertile ground for PR stunts, and meme sharing. While there is little evidence to suggest that memes directly impact electoral behavior, they undeniably contribute to digital discourse. Depending on their virality, memes can become part of everyday conversations and even enter mainstream media.

(The author is a poetess, journalist and a writer; views are personal)



ARPITA CHOWDHURY



## FIRST COLUMN FINDING TRUE SHELTER

The divine presence of God offers the ultimate refuge and gives true solace



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

I would like to draw attention to where our thoughts normally go to, what we consider is our shelter and what it should ideally be. Where do our minds routinely take us to? The body has to be the first, because of the mind-body connection. We all know that our minds affect our bodies, and our bodies do likewise. For example, there is a fever. The mind will naturally go to it and think about dealing with it. Similarly, if one is feeling depressed, bodily changes will take place like becoming fearful. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 2.1) The next target is sense enjoyment; our senses are forever seeking their sense of objects. Mind is their leader. (15.7) Our so-called intelligence is no friend; it will justify whatever the uncontrolled mind cooks up.

Emotions are not far behind. All of us have some pronounced weakness, be it lust, greed, anger, hate, etc. If not controlled our actions will be controlled by them. And there will be consequences. The ego cannot be left behind for long. I am superior and I will prove it, though no one is big or ever can be; only God is big. The rest of us can excel in something but remain small eternally. One can become very rich, powerful, famous, etc. but will be helpless in other matters. The connected topic is what we consider our shelter to be. Is a home our shelter? In physical terms it is. A famous golfer was asked by a reporter after a famous win achieved after a great deal of physical exertion, "What will you like to do now the most?" He replied, "I will like to sleep long in my own bed in my home." Some world leaders carry their own beds with them when they travel. Their shelter is their beds. But are beds, homes, etc. our real shelters? The wife of a world leader replied, "I get very depressed sometimes." Shelter is mainly a mental issue.

Shelter of a home does not prevent mental illness. Many genuine 'sannyasis' (saintly persons) don't have a fixed home; they keep on travelling. Yes, this is not for the majority, but the idea is proper shelter. God is the real shelter. A small soul needs a very strong shelter, a very big shelter, which only God can be. Loneliness is becoming a major issue worldwide, especially in Western countries. In the USA, twenty-nine per



cent of households have single occupancy. Upwards of 40% of marriages end in divorce. And 25% plus people have some kind of mental problem. Why is it so? Because the real shelter is being ignored. We are seeking shelter in material objects like money, power, fame, etc. When we take shelter from God, He teaches us the quality of love. We begin to accept people as they are because all of us have faults; only God is perfect. Seeking perfection in a human being is a lost cause. And we can easily get God's company, as I have done. Just hang a large photo of God near your bed, and look at Him. Then, many changes will begin to happen. God is attractive beyond imagination. Unfortunately, we don't exercise this option. Did you know that God's name Krishna means one who attracts? Soon there will be attachment, because 'atmabala' (inner strength) will flow into you. This strength is the mother of all strengths, i.e. intellectual, mental, physical and even to tolerate.

As this is a spiritual practice, one will make spiritual progress. Slowly, we will begin to consider God as our own, which He is; God is waiting for us. If this practice is so great, what 'naman' (namaskar) can do? Lord Krishna has asked us to do just that in verse #18.65, "Offer obeisance to Me." Our worst enemy in taking shelter from God - the ego will get gradually controlled. We will develop the quality of humility, which will also help in our dealings with others. God will bless us as we remain in His company. We can also pray to Him anytime because in a way God considers it appropriate. Grant of our specific prayers is a tough ask but over a period of time, we will get there. So where should we direct our attention? Whose shelter should we seek?

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

# Venezuela elections: Plagued by disorder and discontent



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

Following Nicolás Maduro's victory over right-wing candidate Edmundo González, there is confusion and chaos in the country fanned by Western media

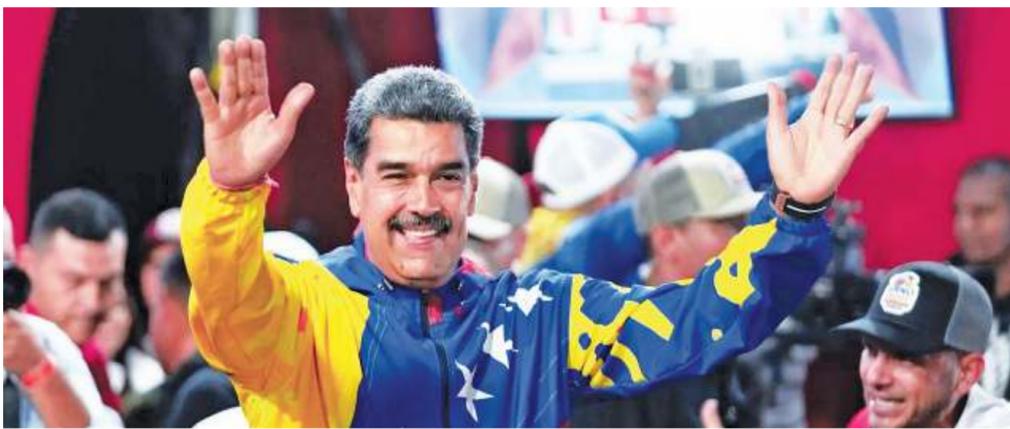
In Venezuela, last Sunday was more than just a day of elections; it was the 70th birth anniversary of Hugo Chávez, the transformative leader who revolutionised Venezuela's social fabric. Chávez, who died prematurely from pelvic cancer at the age of 58, left an enduring legacy that continues to shape the nation's history. Unsurprisingly, the Western media is once again engaging in its usual tactic of misleading the public regarding Venezuelan elections to serve its interests. When a leader elected through a free and fair process but who rejects the Western model is demonised as undemocratic, while a leader who aligns with Western ideals is hailed as democratic despite questionable means of coming to power, it reveals a clear bias.

This pattern was evident in the aftermath of Venezuela's recent elections, where protests, statue removals, and airport blockades dominated the news because the outcome did not align with Western expectations. Following Nicolás Maduro's victory over the right-wing candidate Edmundo González, the opposition—who had promised to accept the results only if they won—immediately denounced the election as fraudulent without presenting credible evidence. Their claims centre around alleged discrepancies between paper ballots and electronic results, which they use to suggest tampering. Venezuela's voting system aims to prevent fraud with electronic voting, ID and fingerprint verification, and paper receipts for cross-checking. Election observers from 95 countries reported a calm process, while opposition claims of having three-quarters of the paper ballots remain unsubstantiated.

Media reports, including an Edison Research exit poll showing González leading by over 30%, are questioned due to their ties to U.S. state media and the fact that exit polling is illegal in Venezuela. The opposition and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken quickly declared the election illegitimate, reflecting a pattern of U.S. interference, such as the 2019 recognition of Juan Guaidó over Maduro and past support for coups against Venezuelan leaders. The U.S. has consistently sought to control Venezuela's vast oil reserves, the largest in the world. Chávez's 1990 election disrupted the elite and foreign corporations' exploitation of these resources, redirecting oil revenue to the Venezuelan people. U.S.-backed coups in 2002 and 2019 aimed to reclaim control over Venezuela's oil. John Bolton, Trump's national security advisor, openly expressed desires for U.S. companies to dominate Venezuela's energy sector, revealing economic motives behind political actions. Chávez's anti-imperialist stance and Maduro's continuation of these policies challenged U.S. dominance in Latin America.

Venezuela's support for global South nations and opposition to U.S. wars in Afghanistan and Iraq inspired regional progressive movements. The U.S., under the guise of humanitarian concern, enforces sanctions causing severe poverty and scarcity in Venezuela, driving migration and economic collapse. These sanctions have decimated Venezuela's oil sector and government income, exacerbating the very crises the U.S. claims to address.

The U.S. strategy of manufactured poverty and social crises is a well-worn tactic to justify regime change. The United States' obsession with overthrowing Venezuela's



government stems from multiple factors, with oil being a significant one. Venezuela holds the largest oil reserves in the world, and many U.S. companies have long desired access to these resources. Despite the U.S. being a major oil producer, the nationalisation of Venezuelan oil under Hugo Chávez and the subsequent exclusion of U.S. oil corporations have driven American interests in destabilising the Venezuelan government. This nationalisation was seen as a direct challenge to U.S. economic interests and a disruption of the global oil market that the U.S. seeks to dominate. Beyond oil, Venezuela's push for a multipolar world presents a direct challenge to U.S. hegemony.



OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES, WASHINGTON HAS SPONSORED SEVERAL COUP ATTEMPTS, OFTEN VIOLENT, TO OVERTHROW VENEZUELA'S GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING TARGETING FORMER REVOLUTIONARY PRESIDENT HUGO CHÁVEZ AND HIS SUCCESSOR, NICOLÁS MADURO

Since the Bolivarian revolution led by Hugo Chávez, Venezuela has sought to forge alliances with countries such as China, Russia, and Iran. Additionally, Venezuela has been instrumental in the creation of regional organisations like CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) and ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America). These efforts are aimed at reducing dependency on the U.S. economy. This ideological shift threatens the traditional power structures maintained by U.S. influence in the Western Hemisphere. In response to these obstacles, the U.S. has imposed severe sanctions and blockades on Venezuela, much like its long-standing policies against Cuba.

These measures are designed to suffocate Venezuela's economy, incite political unrest, and ultimately force a change in government. The deepening of Venezuela's relationships with major powers such as China and Russia further threatens U.S. geopolitical interests. These partnerships offer Venezuela economic and military support, making it increasingly resilient against U.S. attempts at destabilisation. The U.S. perceives these multipolar alliances as a direct affront to its global dominance and has consequently intensified its efforts to undermine the Venezuelan government. It is in this context that the U.S. government is backing yet another coup attempt in

Venezuela, after their "disappointing elections" result.

Over the past two decades, Washington has sponsored several coup attempts, often violent, to overthrow Venezuela's government, including targeting former revolutionary president Hugo Chávez and his successor, Nicolás Maduro. In 2002, the U.S. backed a military coup that briefly overthrew Chávez, Venezuela's democratically elected president. Despite mainstream acknowledgement from sources like The Guardian that the Bush administration supported this coup, it lasted only two days as the Venezuelan people reinstated Chávez, who continued his Bolivarian revolution.

Following the presidential elections on 28 July, where Maduro was re-elected, the U.S. and its Latin American allies refused to recognise the results. Instead, violent extremists, supported by powerful figures like billionaire Elon Musk, have been burning down public institutions, government buildings, and hospitals, and destroying buses while looting offices to overthrow Maduro.

This aligns with Musk's history of supporting U.S.-backed coups in Latin America, as seen in his 2019 backing of the Bolivian coup to access lithium reserves for electric vehicles. Independent analysts have reported that the unproven claims of electoral fraud in Venezuela originate from Edison Research, a New Jersey-based firm with reported close ties to the U.S. government and the CIA. This firm works with U.S. government propaganda outlets like Voice of America and Radio Free Europe, which were established by the CIA. Despite these baseless allegations, independent international electoral observers, including the National Lawyers Guild and human rights activists, have confirmed the transparency and fairness of Venezuela's electoral process. They condemned the U.S.-backed opposition's refusal to accept the results, which undermines Venezuela's democracy. Donald Trump, during his presidency, admitted the U.S. aimed to take

over Venezuela and its oil. His administration recognised right-wing opposition figure Juan Guaidó as the supposed president of Venezuela, despite his lack of electoral participation. The Trump administration's coup attempt in 2019 failed, as Guaidó never gained power. The Biden administration continues to back far-right extremists like María Corina Machado, who allegedly collaborates with oligarchs and calls for military intervention to overthrow Maduro. Historically, U.S.-backed coup attempts in Venezuela have been violent. After Chávez died in 2013 and Maduro's election, far-right extremists launched another coup attempt in 2014, burning government buildings and attacking supporters of the government. Leaders of these coup attempts, like Leopoldo López and María Corina Machado, have close ties to the U.S. government.

Despite engaging in violent coup attempts, these opponents walk free in Venezuela, which starkly contrasts with the U.S.'s portrayal of the country as a dictatorship. U.S. sanctions have severely worsened Venezuela's economic crisis. Ironically, these sanctions have led to a U.S. energy crisis, as sanctions on Iran and Russia have made affordable energy scarce for Europe. Despite the high cost and insufficiency of U.S. liquefied natural gas, Venezuelan oil remains blocked from European markets due to the sanctions. In June 2022, the U.S. pivoted its strategy by permitting the transport of Venezuelan oil to Europe to compensate for the void left by reduced Russian supplies.

This strategic recalibration paved the way for the Barbados Agreement in October 2023, which initiated a gradual easing of sanctions. The elections held on 28 July were a direct result of this process. However, the U.S. encountered significant challenges in realising its typical political objectives through overt manipulation, while it continued to exert its influence through covert channels.

(The writer is a journalist and author. Views are personal)

# Operation Safedsagar: The Indian Air Force's triumph in the Kargil war

This operation highlighted the bravery, ingenuity, and strategic importance of the IAF, cementing its legacy in modern warfare

The Kargil War of 1999 marked a significant milestone for the Indian Air Force (IAF), which participated in large-scale combat for the first time since the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971. In April 1999, around 1500 Pakistani soldiers infiltrated Indian territory in Kargil, Jammu, and Kashmir to sever the connection between Kashmir and Ladakh.



DEEPAK KUMAR PANDEY

The air operations in the Kargil region by IAF were named 'Operation Safedsagar'. In the 1990s, covert intruders from Pakistan stationed at high-altitude peaks made it difficult for the Indian army and IAF to carry out military operations in the challenging mountainous terrain of J&K since it was impossible to pinpoint their exact locations.

Operation Safedsagar marked a revolutionary use of aerial capabilities in a distinct and demanding setting. The IAF's successful use of air power in the Kargil conflict is a source of pride for India. The strategic deployment of air power became essential in the War, as it effectively provided direct air support to ground troops and executed highly precise bombings on enemy targets, thereby exerting a substantial

impact on the final result of the battle. The IAF encountered notable challenges due to its operational areas' geographical and environmental factors.

The Kargil region is known for its very intricate topography. Engaging in operations at high altitudes invariably presents formidable obstacles, such as the notable deterioration of both aircraft and weapon efficacy. The delivery of a weapon to the target is significantly influenced by weather at higher altitudes. The winds are usually powerful and higher than the original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) required 'minima'. Given this, manoeuvring is necessary to complete the essential launch. Despite challenging geographical and meteorological condi-



tions, the operation exemplified exceptional bravery, persistence, and commitment. By July 23, 1999, the Indian forces successfully recaptured the Kargil Heights, a testament to their unwavering commitment and bravery that is sure to inspire.

Innovations for Technical

**Asymmetry Dividends**  
The IAF demonstrated exceptional ingenuity and resourcefulness during the Kargil conflict by successfully deploying several unique innovations. The IAF aimed to develop and use several weapon launch strategies. The Indian Air Force effectively used laser-

guided bombs deployed from Mirage-2000 aircraft to significantly impair the adversary's logistical routes, a testament to their innovative tactics.

The laser-guided missile pods were modified to carry 1000-kilogram bombs from the World War II era, particularly for storage aboard the Ajeet aircraft.

The Mirage-2000 aircraft used these bombs for the first time after making immediate modifications. The IAF reportedly chose weapon-impact zones that may trigger a domino effect leading to avalanches or landslides. To establish firing limits for rockets and weaponry at high heights, a meticulous process is needed to determine specific mountain peaks that closely resemble the height of enemy fortifications.

Performing real-time shooting trials in such conditions enables the acquisition of crucial data to enhance and improve the efficiency of these weapons.

Using laser designators installed on MiG-29 aircraft to guide the ammunition released by Mirage-2000 combat fighters was an incredible achievement. By using this innovative methodology, the precision and efficiency of the impacts were significantly improved. The Mirage-2000 aircraft were outfitted with Litening pods that enhanced target detection and facilitated the precise launching of guided missiles. This was the first-ever deployment of cutting-edge targeting technology by the IAF in combat operations. During air operations in the

Kargil War, the capabilities of precision strikes helped the IAF reduce the amount of collateral damage and neutralise hostile positions. The efficient use of air power has averted more casualties considerably reduced the duration of the Indian Army has achieved substantial progress on the battlefield. An in-depth understanding of the Kargil operations is crucial for appreciating India's changing alignment in aerospace power. This battle serves as an exceptional case study for analysing the use of airpower in joint engagements in extremely mountainous regions.

(The writer is Retd Group Captain, IAF and Senior Fellow, Centre for Air Power Studies; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



Apple sees record revenue in India and 2 dozen nations

Phone maker Apple has seen record revenue growth in India and over two dozen countries in the quarter ended on June 30, 2024, its CEO Tim Cook said on Friday. Apple posted a 7.8 per cent growth in net income to US\$ 21.44 billion in the June quarter of 2024 compared to US\$ 19.8 billion in the year-ago period. The company recorded 4.8 per cent growth in total net sales at US\$ 85.77 billion during the reported quarter from US\$ 81.79 billion in the June quarter of 2023. "Apple is reporting a new June quarter revenue record of US\$ 85.8 billion, up 5 per cent from a year ago and better than we had expected. We also set quarterly revenue records in more than two dozen countries and regions, including Canada, Mexico, France, Germany, the UK, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand," Apple CEO Tim Cook said during the company's earnings call. The revenue of Apple from 'Rest of Asia Pacific' geography, which includes India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand, grew by US\$ 760 million in the June quarter compared to the year-ago period.



NCLAT approves Byju's settlement with BCCI

In a major relief to Byju's, the NCLAT on Friday set aside insolvency proceedings against the troubled edtech major over a sponsorship deal and approved a Rs 158 crore settlement with the Board of Control for Cricket in India. The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), however, passed the order with a caveat that any failure to make payments on the specific dates mentioned in the undertaking would automatically lead to a revival of the insolvency proceedings against Byju's. The appellate tribunal also dismissed the allegation of round-tripping levelled by Byju's US-based lenders, saying they failed to provide any evidence for the same. The tribunal further said the money was paid by Riju Raveendran (brother of Byju Raveendran) through sales of his shares. "In view of the undertaking given and affidavit, the settlement between the parties (is) approved and as a result appeal succeeds and impugned order (passed by the NCLT) is set aside," said a two-member Chennai bench in its order in the open court. As per the undertaking, Riju Ravindran has made a payment of Rs 50 crore on July 31 against the outstanding dues owed by Byju's to BCCI.



Hydrogen-compliant grades steel pipes developed

Tata Steel and Welspun Corp have jointly developed hydrogen-compliant grade steel pipes for transportation of the gaseous hydrogen, a statement said on Friday. The development assumes significance as hydrogen transportation is critical for its usage in different sectors. "Tata Steel and Welspun Corp achieved the significant milestone of developing hydrogen compliant API X65 grade pipes, which successfully surpassed all necessary critical sour service and fracture qualification tests for transportation of 100 per cent pure gaseous hydrogen under high pressure at RINA, Italy," Tata Steel said in a statement. Tata Steel and Welspun Corp have become the first Indian companies to produce electric resistance welded (ERW) pipes for transportation of gaseous hydrogen, it said. In 2022, Tata Steel and Welspun Corp entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to develop hydrogen-compliant API-grade pipes through the ERW Pipe route. As part of the partnership, Tata Steel said it has supplied hot-rolled coils for the project from its Kalinganagar plant in Odisha, while Welspun Corp manufactured ERW pipes.

NIIT Q1 profit rises to Rs 7.75 cr, revenue climbs 32% to Rs 82.47 cr

Talent development company NIIT on Friday reported a three-fold rise in its consolidated net profits at Rs 7.75 crore in the June 2024 quarter. It had reported a net profit of Rs 2.18 crore in the year-ago period. Revenue from operations for the quarter under review came in at Rs 82.47 crore, up 31.86 per cent from Rs 62.54 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. Seen sequentially, revenue grew 10.93 per cent, but net profit declined 30.5 per cent. "The growth was driven by expansion in number of customers across private banks, GCCs, Tier II GSIs and large Indian enterprises. All round growth in the business led by 94 per cent YoY growth in BFSI and other programmes and technology programmes up 13 per cent YoY. BFSI & other programmes contributed 34 per cent of revenue in the quarter," the company said in a statement. NIIT vice chairman and managing director Vijay K Thadani, during the company's earnings press conference, said the revenue is in harmony with expectations and is pleased with the recovery in the business despite the challenging environment.



Universal Pictures lands the rights for Britney Spears' memoir 'The Woman in Me' biopic

PNS ■ LOS ANGELES

Pop star Britney Spears is getting a biopic with director Jon M Chu attached as a director and Marc Platt attached as a producer. Universal Pictures acquired the movie rights to the singer's bestselling memoir "The Woman in Me" after a competitive auction. Spears, 42, recently hinted about the biopic through her 'X' handle where she announced a "secret project" with producer Marc Platt. "Excited to share with my fans

that I've been working on a secret project with #MarcPlatt. He's always made my favorite movies... stay tuned." In the book, which Spears published last year, the singer honestly chronicles her early stardom, her relationship with Justin Timberlake, her marriage and the infamous conservatorship, which gave the right to her finances and well-being to her father Jamie Spears. The singer rose to fame after two of her albums "Baby One More Time" (1999) and "Oops!... I Did It Again" (2000)

became the top-selling studio album releases of the time. She later went on to work on albums "In the Zone" (2003), "Circus" (2008) and "Crossroads" (2020). Spears, however, had a rough patch in 2007 after her divorce from her second husband Kevin Federline, with whom she had two sons Sean Preston and Jayden James. The duo tied the knot in 2004 but filed for separation in 2006. She was previously married to her childhood friend Jason Allen Alexander in 2004 but they separated the same year.

TAX ISSUE

Karnataka authorities withdraw notice to Infosys

Tell company to file a response to DGGI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Karnataka authorities have withdrawn the pre-show cause notice served to Infosys, and directed the IT company to submit a fresh response to DGGI central authority on the issue, involving about Rs 32,400 crore GST demand. The DGGI is the apex intelligence and investigative agency for matters relating to violation of the Goods & Services Tax, Central Excise Duty and Service Tax, and has been entrusted with the task of improving compliance with Indirect Tax laws. "The company has received a communication from Karnataka State authorities,

withdrawing the pre-show cause notice and has directed the company to submit a further response to DGGI central



authority on this matter," Infosys said in a BSE filing on Thursday evening. India's second-largest IT company grabbed headlines on

Wednesday after GST authorities slapped a Rs 32,403 crore notice on it for services availed by the company from its overseas branches for five years starting in 2017. The company had earlier described the notice as a 'pre-show cause' notice and, all through, categorically maintained that it believes that GST is not applicable to the expenses mentioned. Narinder Wadhwa, Managing Director and CEO of SKI Capital said thorough investigations and clear evidence are crucial before proceeding with cases against companies with significant international exposure to maintain market stability and investor confidence.

Nirmala to address RBI board

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to address the Reserve Bank of India's central board on August 10 and highlight key points of the Budget FY25, including the fiscal consolidation roadmap. The post-budget meeting has been scheduled for August 10 where the finance minister will address the board members and talk about announcements made in the Budget 2024-25 that strike a fine balance between growth, employment, and fiscal prudence, sources said. It is customary for the finance minister to address the Reserve Bank of India board after the budget. Unveiling the Budget on July 23 in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said the total receipts other than borrowings and the total expenditure are estimated at Rs 32.07 lakh crore and Rs 48.21 lakh crore, respectively, for 2024-25. The net tax receipts are estimated at Rs 25.83 lakh crore, she said, adding that the fiscal deficit is estimated at 4.9 per cent of the GDP. The gross and net market borrowings through dated securities during 2024-25 are estimated at Rs 14.01 lakh crore and Rs 11.63 lakh crore, respectively. "The fiscal consolidation path announced by me in 2021 has served our economy very well, and we aim to reach a deficit below 4.5 per cent next year. The government is committed to staying the course. From 2026-27 onwards, our endeav-

our will be to keep the fiscal deficit each year such that the Central Government debt will be on a declining path as a percentage of GDP," she had said. She had presented an interim Budget on February 1 before the general elections were announced.

New record of over 7.28 cr income-tax returns filed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

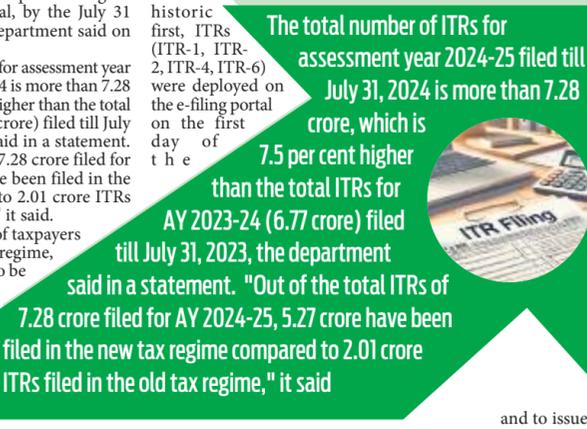
Income tax returns (ITRs) touched a new record of over 7.28 crore, 7.5 per cent higher compared to previous fiscal, by the July 31 deadline, the income tax department said on Friday. The total number of ITRs for assessment year 2024-25 filed till July 31, 2024 is more than 7.28 crore, which is 7.5 per cent higher than the total ITRs for AY 2023-24 (6.77 crore) filed till July 31, 2023, the department said in a statement. "Out of the total ITRs of 7.28 crore filed for AY 2024-25, 5.27 crore have been filed in the new tax regime compared to 2.01 crore ITRs filed in the old tax regime," it said. Thus, about 72 per cent of taxpayers have opted for the new tax regime, while 28 per cent continue to be in the old tax regime. The filing of ITRs peaked on July 31, 2024 (the due date for salaried taxpayers and other non-tax audit cases), with over 69.92 lakh ITRs having been filed on a single day.

The department also received 58.57 lakh ITRs from first-time filers, a fair indication of the widening of the tax base.

In a historic first, ITRs (ITR-1, ITR-2, ITR-4, ITR-6) were deployed on the e-filing portal on the first day of the

Financial Year i.e. on April 1, 2024.

Out of the 7.28 crore ITRs filed for A.Y. 2024-25, 45.77 per cent of ITRs are ITR-1 (3.34 crore), 14.93 per cent are ITR-2 (1.09 crore), 12.5 per cent are ITR-3 (91.10 lakh), 25.77 per cent are ITR-4 (1.88 crore) and 1.03 per cent are ITR-5 to ITR-7 (7.48 lakh). Over 43.82 per cent of these ITRs have been filed using the online ITR utility available on the e-filing portal and the remaining have been filed using offline ITR utilities, it said. During the peak filing period, the e-filing portal successfully handled huge traffic, providing a seamless experience to taxpayers for filing of ITRs. On July 31, 2024 alone, successful logins stood at 3.2 crore. The process of e-verification is important to commence the processing of ITRs and to issue refunds, if any, it said.



Rupee settles 2 paise lower at 83.75 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee settled 2 paise lower at 83.75 (provisional) against the US dollar in a range-bound trade on Friday as massive sell-offs in domestic as well as global equity markets negated gains from a weak American currency. The Indian currency resisted the fall due to a sharp decline in the dollar after the latest US data showed slower manufacturing growth in the world's largest economy, forex traders said. Foreign capital inflows also favoured the local currency, they said. At the interbank currency exchange, the domestic currency opened at 83.74 and traded in the narrow range of 83.72 and 83.76 against the green-

back during the session. The unit finally settled at 83.75 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a loss of 2 paise from the previous closing level. On Thursday, the rupee declined 5 paise to settle at 83.73 against the US dollar. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said a slight decline in the US dollar amid disappointing economic data from the US may prevent a sharp fall in the rupee. Any fresh intervention by RBI may also support the rupee. "Traders may take cues from US non-farm payrolls data which is expected weaker than the previous month's reading. US\$-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.50 to Rs 84," Choudhary added.

Markets snap five-day rally; Sensex tumbles

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty halted their five-day rally to close with deep cuts on Friday in line with a global sell-off as investors dialled back risk exposure in metal, auto and IT stocks after weak US job data. Amid widespread selling pressure, the 30-share BSE Sensex plunged 885.60 points or 1.08 per cent to close at 80,981.95. During the day, it nosedived 998.64 points or 1.21 per cent to hit an intraday low of 80,868.91. The broader Nifty of NSE slipped 293.20 points or 1.17 per cent to end at 24,717.70.

European markets were quoting lower in mid-session deals on Thursday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude rose 0.77 per cent to US\$ 80.13 a barrel. In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul ended lower on Thursday

HDFC Bank, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Nestle India and Asian Paints were among the gainers. The European markets were quoting lower in mid-session deals on Thursday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude rose 0.77 per cent to US\$ 80.13 a barrel. In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul ended lower on Thursday

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
E PROCUREMENT NOTICE  
NIT No. 11/EE/CIR-20/SLPZ/GHMC/1-5/2024-25 Date: 02.08.2024  
Category of work: Civil Works, Estimate Amount: Rs. 228.75 Lakhs, Start Date / Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 03.08.2024 @ 1.30 PM / 12.08.2024 @ 1.30 PM. Name & Address, Officer Cell No: EE, CIR-20, SLPZ, GHMC, 9849906745. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Circle-20, CHMC

OFFICE OF THE NARSINGI MUNICIPALITY, RANGAREDDY DISTRICT  
E PROCUREMENT NOTICE  
Notice No. E1/114/2024 Date: 02-08-2024  
The Commissioner of Narsingi Municipality, Ranga Reddy District, invites tenders through e-procurement platform for execution of six works worth Rs. 650.00 lakh. Prospective tenders can download the tender schedules with e-procurement plan www.tender.telangana.gov.in and can get further information. The last date for submission of tenders is up to 11.00 am on 14-08-2024. Sd/- Commissioner, R.O. No: 25/PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 Dt: 02-08-2024 Narsingi Municipality

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
Public Notification  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT File No. 001795/PPHMDA/0381/SKP/2024  
Sri. Satyanarayana Hanumanthu previously applied for approval of Residential Building permission consisting of 881 + 4 Upper floors of Plot no. 5 in Sy.No. 135 situated at Narsingi Village, Gandepet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District to an extent of 418 Sq Mts and same was approved by this office vide file no.005214/PPHMDA/1113/SKP/2023, dt. 07.05.2023. Vide application dt. 19.02.2024 Sri. Satyanarayana Hanumanthu applied for Approval of Residential Apartment Building for One Additional Floor (5<sup>th</sup> Floor TOR) on an area permitted over 581 + 4 Upper floors of Plot no. 5 in Sy.No. 135 of Narsingi Village, Gandepet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District to an extent of 418 Sq Mts. Therefore, the Flat owners / Purchasers / Agreement Holders of said Building of Plot no. 5 in Sy. No. 135 of Narsingi Village, Gandepet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District may file their objections / suggestions in writing if any within (15) days to this office from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections / suggestions are received within the above period the request of the application for approval of Residential Building of Plot no. 5 in Sy. No. 135 of Narsingi Village, Gandepet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District to an extent of 418 Sq Mts will be considered basing on the material papers available with this office. Sd/- For Metropolitan Commissioner, Director, Planning, L.H.H.D.



## 'POLE DANCING COMMUNITY IN HYD HAS GROWN, CITY WAS WAITING FOR THIS TO HAPPEN!'

TEJAL SINHA

If you think of pole dancing as women gracefully twirling on a pole with soft smiles in soft lighting, well, it's much beyond! Despite the passage of time, pole dancing remains a controversial art form, primarily acknowledged for the reasons it should always be remembered. While the elegant moves and alluring stances are still present, the emphasis should now be on the remarkable athleticism and strength needed to excel in pole art.

And guess what? There have been changes in the world of pole dancing. But you may be asking yourself, How can we be so sure of that? Hyderabad recently welcomed its first pole dance academy, according to Pound Kakar, the founder of Pole Fit Bold Fit Academy and the city has responded positively ever since.

Having been born and raised in Mumbai, her connection with the city goes back to approximately 2006, when she visited her grandfather with her family. "We were basically from Mumbai," begins Pound during a quick chat with *The Pioneer* for our Hyderabad segment. "My twin sister, Dollar, and I had studied there. We were here in Hyderabad for the first time. I guess we were around 11 when we shifted here to Hyderabad. My parents had liked the city a lot more, too. Being these healthy kids grow-

ing up, we had a lot of allergies and Bombay was sort of contributing to pollution. When we came to visit our grandfather, my parents liked how spacious the city was, how the schools were bigger and how they sort of encouraged sports and other activities. I initially did cry my lungs out when we got to know we were shifting, but Hyderabad turned out to be a beautiful place."

Without a doubt, each city possesses its own unique charm. Yet, we inquire about what sets the city apart from others, and she responds that Hyderabad's laid-back atmosphere is what she truly appreciates about the city.

"What I have personally noticed is that people here can balance out their lives pretty well," says the Polerina. "People here know how to balance their professional lives and also the time when they need to relax. More than anything else, this is what I love about Hyderabad. Here, it's not about all obsessive and hustle work."

Hyderabad, she recalls, had welcomed her with open arms during the initial days when she had started the academy. "The response has been tremendous and people have been appreciating me for what I do," says Pound in regard to the overwhelming response and support the city has provided to her. "I have not real-



ly faced any nasty comments from anybody in Hyderabad. I might have come across them on social media, but not from people here.

Hyderabad professionally was very intrigued in the beginning and now the community has grown tremendously in the last two years. The love that the city has shown us is so overwhelming. It feels like the city was waiting for this to happen."

Also holding a Master's degree in Media, it was during the pandemic that she realised taking up pole dancing was the calling that she's been waiting for. And so, it was always in her mind to bring this dance form to the city.

"But I only got confident when I got my first invert on the pole. It is a deadlift chopper, where you are lifting your entire body weight using your lap muscles and biceps and you sort of go upside down." And then, there was no looking

back as she sat down with her parents, telling them about her inclination towards it. With her parents being very supportive of her, she went ahead and turned her passion into her profession.

Well, going ahead, one thing that bombards her mind every time she thinks of the city is 'Biryani and Haleem beside Charminar'. Ah, we are sure many of you feel it too!

As we head towards the head of the chat, Pound, for whom Hyderabad has certainly been 'home', says, "I love the work-life balance in Hyderabad and this could also be a drawback if they are way too laid back."

I can't really say I don't like that. In my personal experience in Hyderabad, it is open to new things and also safe for women as compared to other places I've been to. It warms up to the idea of any new activity coming up."

Hailing from Mumbai initially, Pound Kakar has found Hyderabad to be her home now. For our weekly segment of Hyderabad Bond, she discusses her allure for the city and how it has helped her professionally

## 'Now, I want to do something romantic on celluloid'

AARTI SREENATH

In an illuminating interview, Raghav Juyal, the multi-talented actor and dancer, opens up about his latest venture, *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, which will soon start streaming on Zee5, a series that promises to challenge viewers' perceptions of time, reality and existence. Known for his eclectic roles and charismatic presence, he dives deep into the intricacies of the show and the enigmatic character he portrays.

Reflecting on the complexity of *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, Kill fame describes it as "mind-boggling," a term he doesn't use lightly. "When I was reading the script, I started questioning my own existence. The entire series is a rollercoaster through time, where the past has already gone, the future is yet to come and the present is perpetually unfolding. This narrative structure is so compelling that it forces both the characters and the audience to grapple with existential questions. It raises the eerie possibility of whether you're actually there or not," he explains. The series, produced by the dynamic duo Karan Johar and Oscar-winner Guneet Monga, underlines the kind of high-caliber production that is rare in Indian entertainment. The *Nawabzaade* fame's character in the series stands out for its depth and layers. He describes his role as that of a "dukhi aatma," a soul laden with sorrow, burdened by a tumultuous past filled with traumas and guilt. "The character is incredibly intriguing and curious, constantly questioning his reality and even his role as a police officer. He is not your typical hero; he's vulnerable, sensitive and full of contradictions. This cop isn't just about catching the bad guys; he's grappling with his inner demons," he shares. The role required him to undergo a significant transformation, both physically and mentally. "I had to wash out the body language of my previous character, Phani from *Kill*, and imbue a new rhythm into this character. The challenge was immense, but it was equally rewarding."

The series, an official adaptation of the acclaimed Korean drama *Signal*, brings together a talented team led by Umesh Bisht, known for his sensitive storytelling in *Pagglait*. Juyal elaborates on how Bisht's nuanced approach to human emotions and

experiences adds a rich layer to the series. "Umesh Sir has a unique way of bringing out the subtleties of human life. His understanding of cinema and life itself makes him an exceptional director. Working with him was an enlightening experience," he notes.

The filming of *Gyaarah Gyaarah* brought its own set of challenges, especially for Juyal, who found himself back in his hometown of Dehradun, a place that holds a special, albeit relaxed, place in his heart. "Being in Dehradun was nostalgic but also challenging. I'm used to a more laid-back lifestyle there, surrounded by friends who bring me momos and bun tikki. It's hard to stay disciplined in such a familiar environment. But it was a learning experience, and next time, I'll approach it with a different mindset," he admits. The production itself was a test of endurance, as the team shot in freezing temperatures in the mountains, adding a layer of authenticity to the series' suspenseful and mysterious atmosphere.

He also reflects on the camaraderie on set, especially with co-stars like Dhairya Karwa. "I've been very lucky with my co-stars. They're not just talented but also wonderful people. Dhairya, for instance, has a special connection with Dehradun, just like me. We all shared a bond over our love for the place, even having bonfires during the shoot. Despite the cold, we stayed in character and delivered our best performances," he recalls.

When asked if he resonated with his character, he candidly responds, "Not much, to be honest. But as an actor, you learn to tap into similar emotions or incidents from your own life to bring authenticity to your role. I drew upon my experiences as a Dehradun boy,

incorporating some of those traits into the character. It was a challenging but enriching process."

As for what the audience can expect, Juyal is confident that *Gyaarah Gyaarah* will captivate viewers. "These days, content is king. No amount of promotion can compensate for weak content. This series, with its unique blend of time, space, mystery, thriller and suspense, is unlike anything Indian audiences have seen before. It's an experience that will flip your perception of reality. I urge viewers to 'Pehle istemal kare, phir vishwas kare'—watch it and then judge. The show will captivate you with its intricate plot and rich storytelling," he promises.

As for his future projects, Juyal reveals a desire to explore new genres. "I've played a range of characters, but now I'd like to do something romantic. I've been a villain, a critically acclaimed actor, and a protagonist too; now it's time for something different. Let's see, *kuch rumani karte hai ab*," he says with a smile. For his fans and viewers of *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, the *Kill* fame has a special message: "Enjoy the story, close all the curtains, make some popcorn, and binge-watch it. The series will blow your mind with its suspense and mysticism. It's an experience you won't want to miss." As Raghav Juyal continues to explore new horizons in his acting career, *Gyaarah Gyaarah* marks another significant milestone, showcasing his versatility and dedication to his craft. With its rich narrative and complex characters, the series is poised to leave a lasting impact on audiences, making it a must-watch in the Indian OTT landscape.

Raghav Juyal discusses his most recent endeavour, *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, in an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer*. The Dehradun native explores the distinct difficulties and exhilarating encounters of bringing this enigmatic and dramatic series to life. Juyal offers frank insights about his persona, the camaraderie on set and his developing acting career



## HEALING POWER OF MEDITATION

Take a deep breath. Expand your belly. Pause. Release slowly, count to five with each exhale. Repeat four to five times. Congratulations. You've just taken the first step towards healing. Meditation, to many, is a simple word, yet you could spend a lifetime trying to understand its depths. For centuries, yogis have practiced the art of breath control, or pranayama, to harness the powers of healing. Similarly, the teachings of Buddha have long advocated breath-meditation as a pathway towards enlightenment. In this day and age, emerging scientific evidence increasingly gives credence to the healing powers of this ancient practice.

Whether it's through the gentle observation of breath or the devout practice of prayer, the benefits, spanning mental, physical, and spiritual realms, are undeniable. Yet, for many, meditation remains an elusive exercise.

### Lifelong Pursuit of Stillness

Taking the first step in meditation doesn't have to be daunting—it can start with as little as five minutes when you wake up each morning. If you're living in a bustling city filled with the hustle and bustle of daily life, breaking into the habit of meditating can seem like a mountain to climb. But starting off is easier than you might think.

As you feel more comfortable, you can gradually increase the duration of your meditation sessions over time. Remember, consistency is key here, allow the practice to deepen and evolve naturally.

### Mental, Physical and Spiritual Benefits

The impact that meditation has on mental health is beyond a shadow of a doubt. This practice helps the mind improve focus and live in the present, decreasing the mental clutter that time and again leads to negative thought processes. Studies have also found that meditating on a regular basis has a vast impact on physical health; it can improve immunity and heart health as well as lower blood pressure.

When it comes to spiritual well-being, meditation lets people get in touch not just with their inner selves but their surrounding environment. The key to spiritual enlightenment is meditation. If we are to seek enlightenment, we must start meditating on a regular basis to achieve the results we desire.

### Fasting for Deeper Meditation

Fasting, especially intermittent fasting, can lead to the induction of a process called autophagy, where the body regenerates new cells and cleanses itself of damaged cells.

This process reduces inflammation, enhances mental clarity and boosts metabolic health. These physiological benefits thereby create an optimal internal environment that refines the meditative experience.

The human body can channel more energy towards mental and spiritual practices when not preoccupied with constant digestion. Intermittent fasting, like the 16/8 method, complements meditation by promoting a clearer mind and a more balanced physical state.

### Conscious Eating for Mindful Living

Conscious eating means savouring every meal and being aware of how different foods affect the body. A balanced diet that includes vegetables, fruits, carbohydrates, proteins and vitamins is essential for overall health. Eating thoughtfully not only benefits digestion and energy levels, but it also promotes attention and intentionality in daily activities, which are important to meditation principles. Individuals can avoid the physical and mental fatigue that interferes with a focused and successful meditation practice by avoiding processed foods and sugary drinks.

(The author, Dr. Manjula Pooja Shroff, is known for her exclusive work called SHROFFism.)

# what's brewing?



Actresses Varsha, along with Miss Supranational Asia-2023 Praganya Ayyagari and other fashionistas came together for the launch of JKJ Jewellers exclusive exhibition of 'Fine Polki Diamond Jewellery' at Hotel Park Hyatt, Banjara Hills, Road No: 12 in Hyderabad. The expo will end on August 4.

PARTY  
Photos by- SV Chary



Kavya Kishan Reddy, Chairperson, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Foundation inaugurated Hyderabad's premier shopping extravaganza - Deep Mela 2024, which will end on August 4, 2024 at Hall No 3, Hitec Exhibition Grounds in Kondapur. Under the leadership of the incoming President Radhika Malani, the club members are organising this 3-day fundraising exhibition.

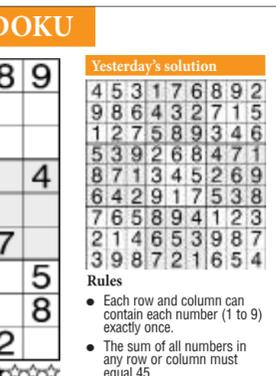
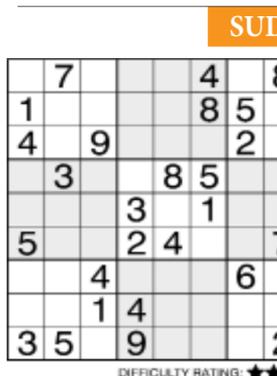
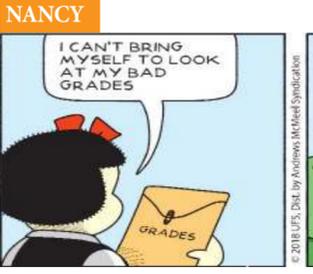
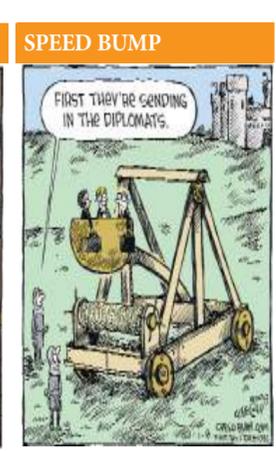
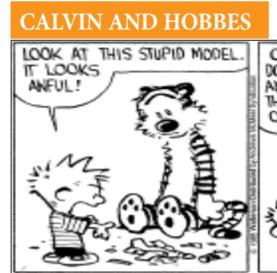
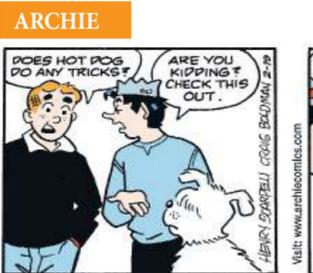


Minister of Agriculture Tummala Nageswara Rao, marked his presence at the 16th Exceed Green Future Environment, HR and CSR Awards and conference 2024, which was held in the city. The awards to the winning companies were distributed by the Agricultural minister, along with Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, Former DG & CEO of IICA and other dignitaries.



A fun and engaging musical therapy training session was organised by The Djembe Circle for a group of Senior citizens from the Dignity Foundation in Dignity Chai Masti Centre, Banjara Hills Road No 14. The djembe is one of West Africa's best-known instruments.

## FUN



# IT'S ALL ABOUT FOCUSING ON ONE PROJECT AT A TIME FOR ALLU SIRISH!

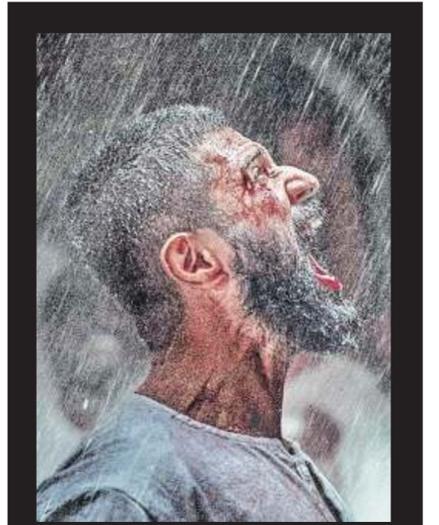
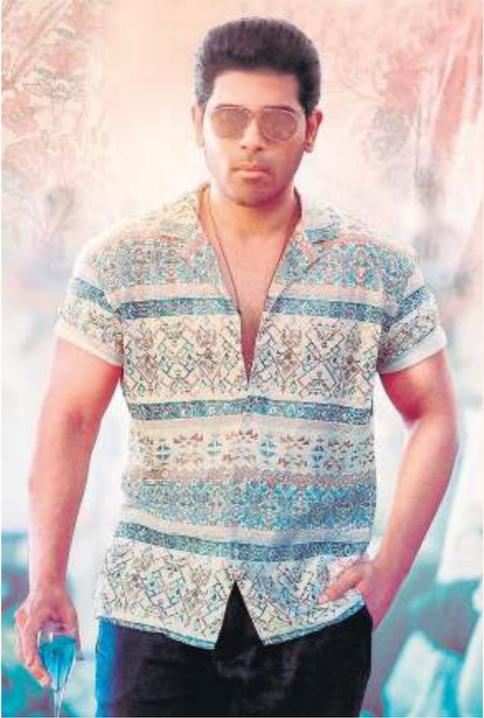
K. RAMYA SREE

Actor Allu Sirish is back to entertain the audience with his latest film, *Buddy*. In a recent conversation ahead of the release, Allu Sirish, the charismatic star known for his diverse roles, shared intriguing details about his latest film, *Buddy*. The movie, directed by Sam Anton, is produced by KE Gnanavel Raja and Adhana Gnanavel Raja under the Studio Green Films banner. With Gayathri Bharadwaj and Prisha Rajesh Singh playing pivotal roles

**Allu Sirish's latest film, *Buddy*, has now hit cinemas. Ahead of the release, the talented actor shares insights on the production journey of the film, dismissing rumours around the film being a remake and more**

alongside Sirish, the film promises an adventurous and action-packed ride. Allu Sirish recounted the production journey of *Buddy*, which began in March last year and wrapped up by July. "Initially, we aimed to release the film in December, but with over 3,000 CG shots and the intricate animation required for the *Buddy* character, we faced delays. We wanted to ensure that *Buddy* met international standards, which is why we moved the release to August," Sirish explained. The extra time allowed for meticulous work, ensuring that the film's visual effects are top-notch. When asked about the storyline, Sirish emphasised the unique aspects of *Buddy*. "Director Sam Anton brought a fresh perspective to the concept of a Teddy Bear coming to life. Although similar themes have been explored before, *Buddy* stands out with its unique conflict, characterisation and narrative. I was excited to portray a pilot, adding a new layer of intensity to my role," he said. Despite the film's similarities to other works, Sirish assured that *Buddy* offers a distinct experience. Recent buzz suggested that *Buddy* might be a remake, a notion Sirish was quick to address. "There have been speculations about whether *Buddy* is a remake. We understand the confusion, especially with the release of our poster. However, I want to assure the audience that *Buddy* is an original film. We've put a lot of effort into creating a unique experience that combines both class and mass entertainment," Sirish clarified.

In response to changing viewing habits, Sirish discussed the importance of the theatrical release for Telugu audiences. "We've focused on making *Buddy* accessible in theatres at affordable prices. Unlike the North, where theatre attendance is relatively low, Telugu moviegoers still prefer watching films on the big screen. We want to ensure that *Buddy* reaches as many viewers as possible," he noted. While *Buddy* includes a love story, Sirish explained that it plays a secondary role. "Director Sam included just enough romance to support the story without overshadowing the main plot. The film is designed to be fast-paced, with a runtime of 2 hours and 8 minutes, which suits the concept-oriented nature of the movie," he said. Sirish praised the director for maintaining a brisk and engaging narrative. The film features several high-octane action sequences, which Sirish and his team approached with a focus on realism. "We worked closely with the action choreographers to design natural and impactful sequences. The production quality is exceptional, with the acquisition of an old airplane for key scenes, including the climax fight," Sirish added. Reflecting on his career, Sirish mentioned his preference for focusing on one project at a time. "I believe in giving each film the attention it deserves, which sometimes leads to gaps between releases. Delays are a part of the industry and it's essential to ensure that each project is completed to the highest standard," he concluded.



## Vijay Deverakonda, Gowtam Tinnanuri's film locks in a release date

Vijay Deverakonda, who has captured hearts across India with his remarkable performances, is preparing to dazzle audiences once again with his upcoming film, *VD12*. Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Gowtam Tinnanuri, known for his National Award-winning work in *Jersey* and *Malli Raava*, *VD12* promises to be a riveting action drama. Currently, the film is being referred to by its working title, *VD12*. With the shoot largely completed in the picturesque settings of Sri Lanka, the production team has announced a grand release date of March 28, 2025. Fans can look forward to the official title and first look of the film, which are set to be unveiled in August. Rockstar Anirudh Ravichander, celebrated for his musical genius, is composing to dazzle audiences once again with his upcoming film, *VD12*. Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Gowtam Tinnanuri, known for his National Award-winning work in *Jersey* and *Malli Raava*, *VD12* promises to be a riveting action drama. Currently, the film is being referred to by its working title, *VD12*. With the shoot largely completed in the picturesque settings of Sri Lanka, the production team has announced a grand release date of March 28, 2025. Fans can look forward to the official title and first look of the film, which are set to be unveiled

## Sree Siri Sai Cinemas to release Vijay Antony's *Toofan* on August 9

Actor Vijay Antony's latest venture, *Toofan*, is generating significant buzz ahead of its grand release. Produced by Kamal Bora, D. Lalitha, B. Pradeep, and Pankaj Bora under the Infinity Film Ventures banner, this film marks their third collaboration with Vijay Antony, following the successful releases of *Raghavan* and *Hathya*. Directed by Vijay Milton, *Toofan* is poised to captivate

audiences with its unique blend of poetic action and compelling storytelling. The film promises to deliver an engaging and fresh cinematic experience. Scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on August 9, *Toofan* is being distributed by Sree Siri Sai Cinemas. The new unveiled sneak peek has already garnered a tremendous response, further heightening anticipation for the film's debut.



## Anupam Kher begins shooting for *The India House*

Veteran actor Anupam Kher has kicked off the shoot of the highly anticipated movie *The India House*, marking his 542nd film. On the official Instagram handle, production house Abhishek Agarwal Arts treated fans to Anupam Kher's video. The BTS clip shows Anupam Kher getting into a vanity van to get into an avatar in which he is completely unrecognisable. It also features a close-up of Kher's face. Sharing the video, he wrote, "The 'Timeless Titan of Indian Cinema' @anupampkher Ji begins shooting for *#TheIndiaHouse*. The National Award-winning actor plays a powerful and key role in the period drama." Anupam Kher also shared the video from the film's set on his X handle. He wrote, "Announcement: Delighted to announce my 542nd film, *#TheIndiaHouse*, a pan India period

drama!" He further went on to thank the makers including producer Ram Charan, actor Nikhil Siddhartha, producer Abhishek Agarwal and director Ram Vamsi Krishna. Sharing the experience, Anupam Kher stated, "Abhishek Agarwal believes that I am his lucky mascot. I believe it too. But he is also a wonderful producer to work with. She is understanding, affectionate and has a great sense of creativity. I hope *The India House* turns out to be another blockbuster like *The Kashmir Files* and *Karthikeya 2: Jai Ho!*" Anupam Kher will play the character of Shyamji Krishna Varma. The film set against the backdrop of India's struggle for independence, *The India House*, is expected to offer a riveting story filled with emotion, sacrifice, and patriotism. Speaking of *The India House*, the pan-Indian historical drama will star Nikhil Siddhartha (*Karthikeya 2* fame) in the lead role, with Anupam Kher portraying the prominent character. Directed by Ram Vamsi Krishna, the film is being produced by Abhishek Agarwal and Vikram Reddy under the banner of Abhishek Agarwal arts and V Mega Pictures. The film, presented by RRR star Ram Charan, is slated for a mega release in 2025.



## Tharun Bhascker's new film announced

Arrow Cinemas and Dolamukhi Subhultron Films announced their latest cinematic venture, marking the second collaboration for both production houses. This forthcoming film promises to be a wholesome entertainer, featuring the versatile Tharun Bhascker in the lead role and introducing Vamsi Reddy Dondapati as the director. Produced by Boosam Jagan Mohan Reddy, with contributions from acclaimed writer and director Venu Udugula, the film aims to offer a

rich blend of entertainment and emotional depth. As their second joint project, it is set to elevate storytelling and production standards to new heights. The announcement was made in an innovative fashion, showcasing a stamp paper that humorously depicts the character Srinivas Goud's fictional divorce from his wife, Srilatha. Filming is scheduled to commence in October, and the production team is enthusiastic about bringing this project to

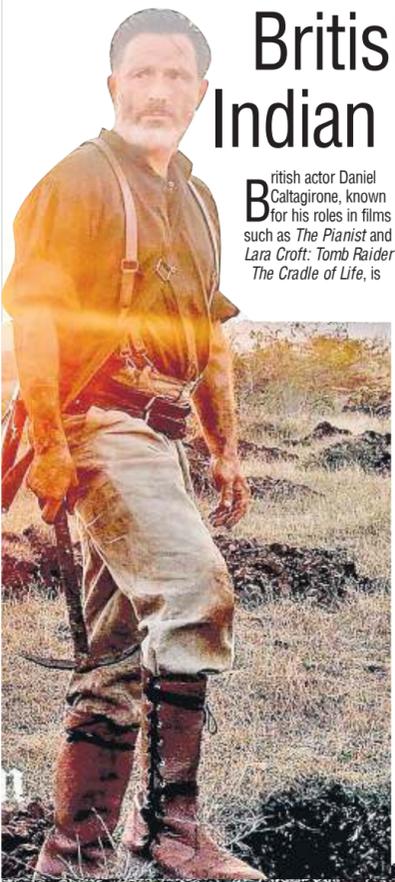
fruition. To uncover fresh talent, an open casting call for aspiring actors has been announced. Further details about the technical crew and other key members of the production team will be unveiled in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for more updates as this exciting project develops.



## Malavika Mohanan onboard *Sardar 2*

Karthi-starrer superhit film *Sardar's* sequel was kicked off earlier in July. Directed by PS Mithran, the makers had announced that actor SJ Suryah has joined the cast. Now, on Friday, the makers had announced that actress Malavika Mohanan has joined the cast and will be playing the female lead in the film. Produced by Prince Pictures, the sequel will have music composed by Yuvan Shankar Raja. The rest of the cast of *Sardar 2* are yet to be announced. Meanwhile, in one of her latest interviews, Malavika shared her desire to play a gangster role. Apart from from *Sardar 2*, she will also be seen in *The Raja Saab*, starring Prabhas and Vikram's *Thangalaan*.

## British actor Daniel on his Indian debut film *Thangalaan*



British actor Daniel Caltagirone, known for his roles in films such as *The Pianist* and *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider - The Cradle of Life*, is

making his Indian cinema debut as the antagonist Lord Clement in the highly anticipated Tamil film *Thangalaan*. Directed by Pa Ranjith and starring Vikram, the film promises an epic drama set against the backdrop of the Kolar gold mines, a setting previously popularised by the Kannada franchise KGF. Caltagirone, who is currently in Chennai for the film's promotion, shared his thoughts on the role and his experience working on the project. In a recent interview with PTI, Caltagirone emphasised that his portrayal of Lord Clement in *Thangalaan* is far from a stereotypical villainous role. "When Pa Ranjith first approached me, we had an extensive conversation about the character. I didn't audition; Ranjith simply called my agent and expressed interest. I was keen on understanding the portrayal of British characters in Tamil cinema. I was cautious about stepping into a role that might end up being cliched or tokenistic," Caltagirone revealed. He praised Ranjith's vision, stating, "Ranjith made it clear that he wanted me to avoid the

typical British antagonist role. He aimed to showcase something different in Indian cinema and I was excited to be part of that vision." Caltagirone, who had previously worked with international directors like Tarsem Singh and Shekhar Kapur, found Ranjith's approach refreshing and innovative. Caltagirone described Lord Clement as a complex character with a rich backstory. "Lord Clement and Vikram's characters are two sides of the same coin. The film explores how both characters, driven by their desire for gold, are shaped by their harsh experiences. It's not just about being evil; it's about understanding what made them that way," he explained. This nuanced portrayal contrasts with the more straightforward villain roles often seen in cinema. The actor spoke candidly about the challenges and the extensive time commitment involved in *Thangalaan*. "Shooting for *Thangalaan* took over a year. I arrived in India in October 2022 and wrapped up in November 2023. It felt like working on a project for a century due to the demanding schedule and the

physicality of the role," Caltagirone joked. He also shared insights into the rigorous stunts he performed, expressing his admiration for Indian actors, who often undertake demanding roles without relying heavily on stunt doubles. Caltagirone expressed his respect for the Indian film industry and its actors. "My experiences in India have always been profound. The actors here push boundaries and I have immense respect for their dedication. Indian filmmakers are incredibly passionate, and that enthusiasm has made each project I've been part of truly memorable," he said. Reflecting on his previous experiences in India, including working with Tarsem Singh on *The Fall* and Shekhar Kapur on *The Four Feathers*, Caltagirone noted a deep connection with the country. "India has always felt like a second home to me. There's something about Indian cinema and culture that resonates deeply, and working here has always been a significant part of my career," he shared.

## Kriti's cyberpunk avatar in *Love Insurance Kompany* hints at futuristic love



The long-awaited movie *Love Insurance Kompany (LIK)*, helmed by Vignesh Shivan, features Pradeep Ranganathan, Kriti Shetty, and SJ Suryah in key roles. The movie has been creating a lot of excitement, as the initial posters of Pradeep and SJ Suryah have received great feedback from both fans and critics. On Friday, the makers revealed the initial glimpse of the movie's female protagonist, Kriti Shetty. The poster displays Kriti in a futuristic environment, looking at her "love score" on a modern, spatial mobile device, with the backdrop of September

2035. This romantic comedy with a science fiction twist centers on a love story involving time travel. The film has been highly anticipated due to the positive reception of its promotional material. The movie *LIK* is a collaboration between Rowdy Pictures and Seven Screen Studio, with a strong supporting cast consisting of actors like Yogi Babu, Myskin, Seeman, Anandaraj, Malavika, Sunil Reddy, Gouri G. Kishan and Sha Ra. Anirudh Ravichander writes the musical score, Sathyan Sooryan handles cinematography and Pradeep Ragav edits the film.



# Manu qualifies for 25m sports pistol in second position at Olympics

PTI ■ CHATEAURoux

Indian shooter Manu Bhaker kept herself on track for a hat-trick of Olympic medals, coming up with one of her most memorable performances in her favourite event, the 25m sports pistol, as she booked a place in the final placed second at the Chateauroux shooting range here on Friday.

The 22-year-old, who has already made history by becoming the first Indian athlete to win two bronze medals in one edition of the quadrennial showpiece, can add to her aura if she wins a third medal on Saturday, something which is well within her grasp after her commanding performance in the qualification round. Manu, who continued to dominate the event and remained among the top three almost throughout the qualification phase of 'precision' and 'rapid' rounds,



aggregated 590 to be placed second behind Hungary's Veronika Major who equalled the Olympic record with a score of 592. Manu, who has seen a marked improvement in her shooting after patching up with legendary former shooter-turned-coach Jaspal Rana, has won the 10m women's air pistol bronze and 10m air pistol mixed team bronze pairing Sarabjot Singh. She was in impregnable form in the sports pistol qualification rounds, firing 294 in the gruelling 'precision'

round with scores of 97, 98 and 99.

The 'rapid round' brought out the best in her as she shot a perfect 100, followed by two 98s for an aggregate of 296.

India's upcoming shooter and multiple Hangzhou Asian Games medallist Esha Singh faltered to aggregate 581 (291 in precision and 290 in rapid) to finish 18th among 40 shooters and miss the eight-shooter final by a distance.

Just after winning her second bronze medal here, in 10m air pistol mixed team event, Manu had urged the countrymen not to be "disappointed" if she can't add more medals to the tally. But going by her imperious form, the Jhajjar shooter could well be in line to win a gold or silver.

Bhaker's sterling performance here has come after a failed campaign at the Tokyo Games in 2021 where a pistol malfunction stopped her from achieving her Olympic dream. She said that heartbreak made

her value the medals here even more.

Manu, the second youngest Indian athlete to win an Olympic medal after shuttler PV Sindhu, had added that she looks up to ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and Sindhu because they have "proved themselves".

India has won all three medals so far in shooting, with Manu bagging two and Swapnil Kusale taking the bronze in 50m rifle three-positions on Thursday.

Legendary India cricketer Rahul Dravid had also termed Manu's performance "incredible" following her second Olympic bronze medal.

"Manu's story is incredible after the disappointment of Tokyo Olympics, to come here and be able to get over that and compete and bronze is a phenomenal achievement," Dravid, the former India coach, had said during a panel discussion at India House in Paris.

# I should have controlled mistakes in defence: Sindhu

PTI ■ PARIS

PV Sindhu has no regrets regarding her preparations for the Games as she did everything she could to be in the best shape but admitted defence let her down in the pre-quarterfinal against China's He Bing Jiao, here Thursday. Sindhu ran the Chinese world number 9 close in the first game but unending unforced errors meant that Bing Jiao ran away with the match 21-19 21-14 in 56 minutes. Sindhu even dictated a few points but had no answer to Bing Jiao's superior attack.

"I should have controlled in terms of a little bit of mistakes on my defense is what I felt," Sindhu said, reflecting upon the reason for her defeat. Sindhu had a training camp in Germany and also joined forces with mentor Prakash Padukone for better preparation.

"Everybody worked hard, so we've done whatever we could. Rest is destiny. I don't regret it," she said.

"I kept fighting still because you never know anything can happen. Both of us were fighting for each point because until the end you can't expect. It's not easy win or easy

points, you can't think that you have finished the game."

Bing Jiao's smashes and soft drops had Sindhu scurrying on both sides of the court. But when Sindhu attacked, the Chinese defended well.

"She has that jump smash. Even my smashes, I think, which were mid-court, they were just going out when she was challenging.

"I should have hit them inside and I should have got those points where I've made those unforced errors.

"She got much more confident in that because when I was hitting, she was defending, but still some points which were really mid-court also, I was hitting just out or just into her hand."

It was neck-and-neck in the first game with Sindhu and her rival locked 19-19. The two-time Olympic medalist said winning the game from that position could have changed things for her.

"It's sad that I couldn't convert it to win, especially in the first game because it was 19 all at some point.

"I think if it would have been the other way, especially when I challenged it. If I would have won the first set, maybe it would have been different. But I think it was... I mean, there

were rallies and it was going on well, but only one can win."

Asked if she would try to play in the next Olympics in the USA, Sindhu was non-committal.

"It's still four years away. So for me, right now, I just go back and rest for a bit, maybe just take some break and then come back and let's see what it is because four years is a very, very long time. So let's see," the 29-year-old said.

"It's sad. The result, I couldn't get what I expected, but it's a journey, isn't it?"

"It's been a wonderful journey so far. There were ups and downs, and I came back from an injury, and everything was going on well. You can't expect easy wins or picking the form at the right time. Sometimes it might not be your day. We all really worked hard."

In game two, Sindhu tried to unsettle Bing Jiao with smashes but her opponent was picking up all those low shots as well.

"Her defense was really good today. She was taking everything and I had to be even more patient. Sometimes I was changing and I was getting points. I was dictating and I was getting a few points, but I think it was not enough today."

PTI ■ PARIS

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh scored a brace as the India men's hockey team registered a famous 3-2 win over Tokyo Games silver medallist and nemesis Australia in its final Pool B match here on Friday.

Already assured of a quarterfinal berth before Friday's encounter, the Indians played valiantly and dominated the proceedings for major part of the match to stun the Kookaburras, against whom they last won in Olympics in the 1972 Munich edition. It seemed India had saved their best for their last pool match, as it delivered a power-packed performance, playing attacking hockey from the beginning, and defending well throughout.

Abhishek (12th), skipper Harmanpreet (13th, 33rd) scored for India while Tom Craig (25th) and Blake Govers (55) found the net for Australia.

With this win, India most likely will finish their pool engagements in the second position with nine points, finishing behind table toppers Belgium (12), who are yet to play a match. The pole position will not change even if Belgium loses its match against Argentina. The goal difference after that match will determine the final placing. The Indians started on an aggressive note and made two circle entries in the first two minutes.

Veteran India custodian PR Sreejesh, who is playing his last international

# Hockey: India stun Australia, register first win in 52 years in Olympics



tournament, was rock solid in front of the goal, making some vital saves to deny the Kookaburras.

In the 11th minute, Sreejesh made the first save to deny Tom Wickham, which resulted in a penalty corner. But the resultant effort from Jeremy Hayward was off target.

Jarmanpreet Singh then fired a pass to Sukhjot Singh from the right flank. He just needed to deflect the ball but he could not stop the powerful strike. The strong Australian defence easily foiled his attempt by the time he

gathered the ball and was ready to strike.

Australia created two back-to-back opportunities, but the Indian defence was rock solid. India stunned Australia by taking the lead through Abhishek in the 12th minute. It was Lalit, who received a pass in an empty D, he attempted a shot but that was saved by goalie Andrew Charter. Abhishek got the ball on rebound, turned, and hammered the it past rival goalkeeper Andrew Charter.

A minute later, India got a penalty corner when the ball touched the foot of Jake Harvie and Harmanpreet beat Charter's defence with fierce grounded flick.

Tim Brand had an opportunity to reduce the deficit early in the second quarter but he struck the ball wide. Australia earned their second penalty corner of the match in the 19th minute but Govers' shot was blocked Sreejesh.

Vice-captain Hardik Singh was a livewire in the mid-field, feeding the forwards consistently.

Australia got their third short corner in the 25th minute. It was a poor injection from skipper Aran Zaleski but it turned into a goal as the Australians recovered quickly to pass it to an unmarked Craig at the second post, who deflected the ball in.

India also got a penalty corner soon but this time Harmanpreet's strike was kept at bay by Charter. India led 2-1 at half time.

India got their third penalty corner when Manpreet Singh was tackled by an Australian defender. Harmanpreet's goalmouth strike was obstructed by Flynn Ogilvie. India took a referral, which resulted in a penalty stroke. And Harmanpreet made no mistake by converting the chance.

## OTHER SPORTS

AP ■ PARIS

# FIFA offers talks to leagues, player unions amid legal filings and threats in soccer politics

FIFA offered talks with global groups of soccer leagues and player unions to end a three-month deadlock after they threatened legal action over adding to the packed competitions calendar. In a letter seen by The Associated Press, FIFA told the World Leagues Association and FIFPRO on Thursday "our offer to engage in dialogue remains on the table" amid a swirl of legal filings and threats in international soccer politics. "FIFA believes there is a more productive way forward for football than the threat of legal action," soccer's world body said in a statement to the AP.

In May, the leagues and union said FIFA was "inherently abusive" for continuing to add games and competitions that forced their members to adapt. FIFA has expanded the 2026 World Cup, hosted across North America, to 48 teams from 32, and added a 32-team Club World Cup that will also be played every four years. It launches next June in the United States. Also in the coming season, UEFA is expanding its three season-long club competitions



with extra teams and more games that squeeze domestic schedules.

The European groups of leagues and player unions also have targeted FIFA - but not UEFA - in a formal legal complaint to Brussels. That is being handled by the European Commission, the executive arm of the 27-nation European Union that can intervene on alleged breaches of competition law. FIFPRO member unions in England and France also filed

suit against FIFA at a commercial court in Brussels, seeking a referral to the European Court of Justice. That court in Luxembourg was critical of FIFA and UEFA last year in a ruling in the Super League case brought by some storied soccer clubs.

FIFA manages the calendar of international matches, which mandates when clubs must release players to national-team duty through 2030. The global groups of leagues and unions want talks on it reopened with them getting a greater say.

On Thursday, FIFA said it "serves and balances the overall interests of world football, including the protection of players."

# SL players' cricket awareness needs sharpening: Jayasuriya

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Interim coach Sanath Jayasuriya said Sri Lankan players will have to work on improving their "cricket awareness" in the wake of their collapse in the recently-concluded T20I series against India.

Sri Lanka were in good positions during the three-match rubber but they lost wickets in a heap to suffer a 0-3 defeat.

"I don't see a lack of commitment, but they have got to tackle pressure better. Their cricket awareness also needs sharpening. We are taking the responsibility; you can't go away from that," Jayasuriya was quoted as saying by 'ESPNCricinfo' as his side entered the three-match ODI series against India.

"As long as they realise that, and make sure that, we'll have to keep giving them the confidence and support," he added.

Jayasuriya said batsmen need not worry about hitting sixes constantly as large Sri Lankan grounds offer ample chances to score off through boundaries and twos.

"When you talk about power hitting, I don't think you need that much (in SL). If you hit enough fours and enough twos, you get the total that you need."

"The Sri Lankan grounds are a little bigger. There's no reason why you can't hit boundaries, or twos, or threes. If you can do that, you can get by without hitting so many sixes," he said.

The former Lankan captain said the players should be



ready to accept criticism after a shoddy show such as theirs in the T20Is series.

"We have to take the criticism as well, as a coach, as a support staff, as a team. I had to go through this (phase) in my time as a cricketer, every cricketer has to go through this. When criticism comes, you have to take it," he said.

Jayasuriya backed newly-appointed captain Charith Asalanka to come good sooner rather than later.

"Charith Asalanka is one of our best players in this format, and we need to remember that. But there is some pressure when you get captaincy. You have got to give him a little time."

"There are ten more players in the side, and 16 in the squad. We all have to get together and give him confidence. At any moment, the captain could click. Asalanka is someone who works really hard, professional and communicates well," he added.

# If T20 produces attacking Test players, then I will not mind: Sehwag

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Virender Sehwag wouldn't mind if youngsters starting with T20 cricket develop an aggressive streak which helps them grow as Test players who can be crowd-pullers in future. One of India's greatest Test openers, Sehwag, who was unveiled as Brand Ambassador of the inaugural Delhi Premier League, said one can't blame youngsters who are attracted to the shortest format which also provides financial viability.

"The manner in which England is playing Test cricket, scoring at five runs an over. In our playing days, Australia used to score at 4 runs per over. I have always believed that if you can attack, then you give your team more chances to win the Test matches," Sehwag told mediapersons on the sidelines of an event to announce the league.

The inevitable question was whether too many T20 leagues would drive the youngsters away from the red-ball game.

"Look my elder son is 17 and he played three-day cricket for Delhi



U16 but there are a lot of boys who might be waiting for that opportunity. When we were 18, there was no IPL. But, now, a youngster might think of playing IPL, and DPL gives you that opportunity.

"So, if anyone develops an aggressive game that can suit Test cricket then why not? After all, we would like people to come and watch Tests," said the Nawab of Najafgarh. But didn't Sehwag play that aggressive

game in Test even before IPL? "Was it good or bad? I scored a triple ton in 270-odd balls. Today's kid might score 400 if they play that many balls," said Sehwag, whose son, Aaryavir, will be a part of the