

'May give rise to same old...

While the Supreme Court has asked the NTA to overhaul the way it conducts NEET, calls for a return to the old system have seen a revival even as some experts remain apprehensive about states' ability to take care of the logistics and adhere to the domicile rule.According to the NEET domicile rule, 85 per cent of medical seats are reserved for students who are bona fide residents of the state and have completed their class 12 from a school there. The rest 15 per cent are earmarked. -PAGE: 2

Need for lane discipline...

Volunteers on the roads tackling traffic jams in most affected areas under Hyderabad sought lane discipline, speed limit management and cops' efforts to reduce petty road cases. With the traffic violations leading to deaths and injuries occurring in the areas of Hyderabad raise questions on what do drivers know about driving. The city traffic volunteer's and road safety trainers' elaborate to The Pioneer on the efforts for road safety. Under every police commissionerate there are 20 to 25 volunteers.



Adopt guidance while dealing...

Income-tax department officials should make renewed efforts to come across as responsible. responsive, transparent apart from undertaking an approach of "guidance over intimidation" while taxnavers the (chairman has said. Ravi Agrawal, the head of the direct taxes administration body of the country, suggested a 'PRUDENT' approach to be followed by the taxmen as the income tax regime completed 164 years in India. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chief spoke to his colleagues ... -PAGE: 8

Team Revanth headed for SK

A fter netting massive investments and securing assurances from big business houses in the US, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his team are now embarking on a threeday tour of South Korea. The team aims to garner investments and commitments from the companies there to set up shop in Telangana. Enthused by the encouragement from the US companies and investment proposals, the Chief Minister is hoping for the same kind of response from big firms in South Korea.

Around 50 biz meetings, 3 roundtable meets, field visits during CM's trip Concludes 19 investment

deals/MoUs worth Rs 31,500 crore Pitches Telangana as Future State and Hyd 4.0 to US businesses

 Strengthens partnerships in ITES, AI, Pharma Life Sciences, EVs, datacentres & manufacturing

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy concluded his successful business tour of the United States securing investment offers worth around Rs 31,500 crore that can create around 30,750 new jobs. The CM and his team are now heading to South Korea to meet the heads of prominent companies there and to seek investments in Telangana. The delegation, compris-

ing IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu and officials had over 50 business meetings and three round table conferences in New York, DC, Dallas and California and won backing for major initiatives like the creation of a Future City, AI City, rejuvenation of the Musi River, and to present Telangana as the right place for the quest of America Inc for a China Plus One alternative.

The delegation held round table conferences on business, AI and semiconductors and met CEOs, company founders and business alliances and groups and invited them to Hyderabad and consider Telangana

in their plans. The delegation pitched Hyderabad and Telangana to business heads and investors across different sectors and clinched new deals in IT, GCC, Life Sciences, Pharma, Data Centres, AI, Cloud and Data Centres, electric vehicles and batteries, green energy, FMCG and manufacturing.



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on a driver-less car - Waymo - in San Francisco, USA. D. Sridhar Babu also watched the demonstration of the vehicle

Amazon to expand data centre in TG

Expect massive expansion: Sridhar Babu



Person, Vice President, AWS Data Centre Planning and Delivery and others

mazon has expressed interest in expanding its data centre and workforce in Hyderabad. After meeting with Amazon's senior leadership led by Kerry Person, the Vice President of AWS Data Centre Planning

and Delivery, the Telangana delegation led by IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, convinced Amazon to give a stronger thrust to their data centre operations in Telangana. Continued on Page

Bid to build up Cong

• AICC calls crucial meeting on Aug 13 O Revanth may go to New Delhi on Aug 16

PNS HYDERABAD

The All India Congress Committee is conducting a meeting with AICC General Secretaries, In-charges and PCC Presidents on August 13, that is, on Tuesday from 10.30 am onwards at the AICC headquarters. Congress President Mallikarjuna Kharge will preside over the meet-

ing. AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal sent a communiqué regarding this to AICC General Secretaries, In-charges and PCC Presidents to attend the meeting without fail.

The Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy, who is also the TPCC President, is not attending the AICC meeting as he left the US for South Korea on Sunday. The Chief Minister will return on August 14. It is learnt that the Chief Minister

may visit New Delhi on August 16 on a two-day tour. The CM may discuss many things like appointing the new TPCC president, cabinet expansion and appointments to



P2

the remaining nominated posts

AICC in-charge General Secretary Deepa Das Munshi will attend the scheduled AICC meeting on August 13. It is not yet known who will attend in place of TPCC President Revanth Reddy from Telangana in case he fails to attend the August 13 meeting. Sources said the meeting was summoned to discuss ways to strengthen the Congress across the nation. Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President YS Sharmila has already come to New Delhi to attend the August 13 meeting.

Pak pushing terrorists into J-K to destabilize **P5** security: LG



If Amara Raja leaves TG, Will irrigate every acre in TG: Uttam it will be a disaster: KTR PNS HYDERABAD

It will be a disaster for Telangana if Amara Raja leaves the State, BRS Working President KT Rama

state being in a debt trap, equating it with a cancer patient etc when in reality we are a 'vibrant revenue surplus state' with the highrapita income

crous statements about the

ful spending by pointing

out that the Seetharama

Project's cost was inflat-

ed from Rs 2,400 crore

Ponguelti praised the

Congress government's efforts to secure all

approvals and water

allocations keeping costs

in check. He noted that

the Congress govern-

to Rs 18,000 crore.

CM to launch Seetharama Project's pump houses on August 15 Govt committed to irrigating every acre under Seetharama Project by

Ministers conduct trial run of Seetharama Project pump houses



It's a dream to compete with...

Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra hoped to compete with other prominent international names in India sooner than later following his silver medal-winning effort in the Paris Olympics. Chopra bagged the silver at the Paris showpiece with a throw of 89.45m behind Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem. who hurled the javelin to 92.97m, an Olympic record. Anderson Peters of Grenada came third with a throw of 88.54m among the field that included some high-profile javelin throwers like Julian Webber Jakub Vadlejch and ... SPORTS

regarding this on Sunday KTR said, 'We had worked hard to convince Amara Raja to invest Rs 9,500 crore in Telangana. The government must ensure policy continuity and Brand Telangana should not suffer because of political differences. I hope the Congress admin will honour the commitments given to all investors who have invested in our state. I request the CM to stop making ludi-

PNS HYDERABAD

destruction

Alleging that the BRS

government created

Telangana in the name

of irrigation projects, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas

Reddy criticised the

BRS administration's

inefficiency and waste-

in

Rao sa

a post on X Posting

country. We already saw Kaynes Technology leave Telangana for Gujarat, lost the Corning plant to Chennai and if Amara Raja leaves now it would be a disaster."In another post, KTR condoled Susan Wojcicki, the former CEO of YouTube saying, "Saddened to hear of the demise of the dynamic Susan Wojcicki, the former CEO of YouTube who I had the pleasure of meeting on a few occasions.

PNS HYDERABAD

Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Tummala Nageswara Rao and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy conducted a trial run of the three pump houses of the Seetharama Lift Irrigation Project on Sunday. The trial run, held in Bhadradri



Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy switches on for trial run of Seetharama project lifts on Sunday along with Ministers Tummala Nageshwara Rao and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy

Kothagudem district, marked a key Minister Revanth Reddy on milestone ahead of the project's August 15. formal inauguration by Chief

Continued on Page 5

'Bulk of Telangana govt's BRS wrecked TG in the name income comes from Hyd' of irrigation projects: Ponguleti • BRS & Cong spent state funds on ment has ensured that the project personal interests, alleges Kishan will benefit a wider area and meet

PNS HYDERABAD

Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said that most of the revenue of Telangana comes from Hyderabad city and that Hyderabad is very important for the country as it has a vital role to play in the country's economy.

Continued on Page



PNS NEW DELHI

Former External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh passed away on Saturday night after a prolonged illness, family sources said. He was 93.

He breathed his last at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram near Delhi, where he had been admitted for the past couple of weeks, they said.

Singh was born in 1931 in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan.

He was a career diplomat, who brought a wealth of experience in diplomacy to his political career and a prolific author on subjects ranging from the life of a maharaja to nuances of foreign affairs.

During his distinguished career, he wore many hats, and for his service to the nation, the former external affairs minister was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1984.

"His son is there at the hospital, and many more family members are coming to Delhi from his native state for the last rites planned in Delhi.

Bangla govt's adviser Yunus acquitted in graft case

PNS DHAKA

Muhammad Yunus was Sunday acquitted in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission over the misappropriation of funds from the Grameen Telecom Workers and

Employees Welfare Fund, three days after he took oath as the head of Bangladesh's interim government, according to a media report.

Judge Md Rabiul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 of

seeking to withdraw the case under to the prime minister. the Code of Criminal Procedure, an official of the anti-graft agency was

quoted as saying by The Daily Star newspaper.

On August 7, the Labour Appellate Tribunal acquitted the Nobel laureate and three top officials of Grameen Telecom - Ashraful Hassan, M Shahjahan and Nurjahan

Éegum - in a lábour law violation case in which they were sentenced to six months' imprisonment and fined Tk 30,000 each in January.

Yunus, the 84vear-old economist, on Thursday took

Dhaka gave the order after accept- oath as the interim government's ing the graft agency's application, chief adviser - a position equivalent



FRESH ALLEGATIONS Hindenburg triggers political heat Oppn demands SEBI chief's resignation, JPC probe

He said that the long-standing

desire of the farmers of Khammam

district is going to be fulfilled on August 15 and that Chief Minister

Revanth Reddy would launch the

Sitarama project, which will bring

Godavari water to the Krishna

PNS NEW DELHI

The US-based short seller Hindenburg Research's allegations against SEBI chief Madhabi Buch triggered a political slugfest on Sunday with the Congress and other INDIÁ bloc parties demanding her removal and a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe and the rul-ing BJP accusing the opposition of being a part of a conspiracy to create financial instability and chaos in India. The opposition parties also urged the Supreme Court to step in after Hindenburg Research on Saturday alleged that the SEBI chairperson and her husband had stakes from time to time when dealing in obscure offshore funds used in the alleged Adani money siphoning

Dhaval dismissed the charges as baseless and alleged that Hindenburg Research is attacking capital markets regulator SEBI's

character assassination of its chief instead of replying to a show cause notice served to it for "violations in India".

SEBI said allegations

Adani terms charges malicious, manipulative

Adani Group on Sunday termed US short-seller

Hindenburg Research's latest allegations as malicious and manipulative of select public information, saying it has no commercial relationship with SEBI chairperson or her husband.

Continued on Page 5

KTR to Rahul: Why red carpet welcome to Adani?

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KT Rama Rao asked Rahul Gandhi to reveal why the Adani group which faces accusations of a nexus with the SEBI chief is being given a red-carpet welcome in Telangana by the Congress.

KTR posted regarding this on X saying, "More skeletons tumble out. SEBI chief implicated in nexus with Adani. This is shocking. Needs to be

investigated by an agency monitored by the Supreme Court. Why is Adani getting a red carpet welcome in Telangana by your government @Rahul Gandhi Ji?"

KTR also said that the "Integrity of the Congress has been compromised by its CM in Telangana who's been actively campaigning for Adani Ji. Do you have an answer for these double standards @Rahul Gandhi Ji?"

NDA expects majority in **Rajya Sabha after bypolls**



scandal. Madhabi Buch and her husband

the needs of farmers

basin.

against the Adani Group have been "duly investigated", and its chairperson disclosed and recused herself

credibility and attempting a

with matters.



hyderabad 02

Monday Mirchi

CHANDRABABU NAIDU'S THROWBACK TO THE NINETIES LEAVES BABUS SHAKEN

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has been remarkably active and highly energetic, disproving naysayers' concerns over his advancing age. Within two months of taking over as the Chief Minister, he chaired the first District Collectors' conference. Those who attended the conference got his message loud and clear when he declared that officials would see him as hands-on as he was in 1995. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The conference, which began at around 11:00 am, continued until 11:30 pm, with only a brief breaks. The Chief Minister also drew parallels between the pre-1995 era, when economic reforms were not yet in place and the country's growth rate was a mere 3 per cent, and the post-reform period, which saw substantial economic growth. He expressed his confidence that by 2029, the State would emerge as the third-largest economy in the country, leveraging its historical advantages and natural endowments.

STRIKING WHILE THE IRON IS HOT

In what is seen on hindsight as an attempt to strike while the iron is hot, senior IAS officer RP Sisodia made eyebrow-raising comments during the recent Collectors' conference in Andhra Pradesh. His remarks, "People have lost trust in IAS officers and hence are hesitating to approach the District Collectors with their grievances", have understandably gone viral among bureaucratic circles. The bold observation of the Special Chief Secretary of Revenue Department evoked a positive response from Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who endorsed the comments and even advised the District Collectors to start rebuilding the system to engender trust among the people. A little bird told us that Sisodia made the comments about trust deficit only to grab the attention of the Chief Minister and to be in the good books of Chandrababu Naidu. For, the present Chief Secretary NK Prasad, who had been given extension for six months, will retire in four months. Sisodia seems to be eyeing the CS post.

KAUN BANEGA CS RACE IS ON IN TG

In sync with the times driven by social media, in a sudden and historic shift, two telltale videos were released by senior bureaucrats who have withstood regime change so far --- one by Jayesh Ranjan and the other by Ramakrishna Rao. Both shared details of how their US trip panned out. Of course, bureaucratic circles are divided over whether they, or for that matter, any babu should do such videos. Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president KT Rama Rao was asked: "How do you see the videos?". He promptly said, "Oh it's a race for Kaun Banega Chief Secretary" and went on to add: "Why CS Santhi Kumari did not do it is because she is done and dusted". As things stand, it seems the better the video, the better the chances. By the way, if the video trick works, the next game among ambitious babus would be 'Kaun baneyega video?'

RETIRED ENGINEERS LOBBYING FOR EXTENSION Lateral hiring as well as extensions given

to retired officials do block assembly-line promotions in the administrative hierarchy, presuming those in the second and lower rungs are competent to fill the void. Yet, two senior officials, Chief Engineer and Superintendent Engineer, who retired last month from the Telangana State Housing Department, are seeking extension of their services. While lobbying is on through two key ministers, the officials' moves have attracted backlash from other officials in the department who argue that reappointing retired officials will block promotions for those currently in service. One retired Chief Engineer, who had served for 14 years, is seeking extension through a Minister and seeking extension through a superintendent is also advocating for a Superintendent Engineer who retired along with him. Discussions in the Secretariat suggest that the files on these appointments have reached the Chief Minister's Office. Apprehensive officers recall that under the previous government, many officials retired without there being scope for their promotions due to similar reappointments. In view of pervasive dissatisfaction in various departments, some officers are urging the government to refrain from continuing the pernicious practice to stem discontent in administration.

FINISH WHEN THE GOING IS GOOD

Is Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner Kata Amrapali Reddy not here for the long haul? In what could be a Freudian slip, Amrapali gave away the uncertainty of her tenure. At a presser, responding to a query on why GHMC is speeding Rs 22 crore on GIS survey at a time when the corporation has debts, its staff are fighting for increase in salaries and other expenses, Amrapali said without mincing words:"Yes the survey announced earlier was to be finished in eighteen months but I am not confident that will be in the department until then; so, before I leave I want to finish the project and give a never-before-seen initiative for bet-terment of Hyderabad." She wants to complete the project within six months. In amplification of her answer, she pointed out that initiatives are being left midway and GIS survey was among them. Yet, she had picked it up as a challenge. It looks like she will move heaven and earth before she is moved.

ONLY ONE PERSON SHOULD SPEAK TO THE MEDIA

In some of the wings of the TG government, there seems to be an unofficial ban on talking to the media. Although IPS officers have typically been more media savvy than other AIS officials, the situation is quite different in TG Cyber Security Bureau, Women Safety Wing and of late CID. For, only one official is allowed to speak to the media. A little bird told us that only the Director will speak to scribes, while others are barred from coming in media glare. Interestingly, this runs counter to the initial brouhaha that in Praja Palana "officials have more freedom" and, at one point, media too felt it briefly. Maybe, all of it was for photo-op. --Yours truly

'BRS left irrigation projects incomplete'

Irrigation projects were not completed in Nalgonda district due to the negligence of the KCR government, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

He said the Congress government will show special interest in developing extremelv backward areas like Devarakonda and Munugode.

Uttam attended a review of irrigation projects at the Social Welfare Residential School in Dindi mandal headquarters on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said the government will soon complete irrigation projects in Devarakonda, Munugode,

trying to overcome technical problems and that as Irrigation Minister he will put in his 100 per cent to complete irrigation ojects. He said that he would sanction

Miryalaguda, Nalgonda and

Nagarjunasagar on priority. He said the government is

funds for the Bothalapalem-Vadapalli Lift Irrigation Project, the

Veerlapalem Lift Irrigation Project, the Thopucharla Lift Irrigation Project and the Keshavpuram-Kondrapole Lift Irrigation Project.

He said these projects will be completed by August 2025, will provide water to 45,000 acres and that the government will release Rs 490 crore for them.

He said that he had failed to develop Miryalaguda as an MP and would try his best to develop his constituency as a Minister. He said the govern-ment will provide water for two crops this year as Nagarjuna Sagar is full.

MLAs Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, Balu Naik and Bathula Laxma Reddy were also present.

Sanjay cautions students against opposing Agnipath

PNS HYDERABAD

Hailing the Centre's Agnipath scheme, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, said that students should not fall into the opposition's trap and that the opposi-tion is trying to incite students against the

Agnipath scheme.Speaking to the media on Sunday in Karimnagar, Sanjay commented that soldiers are the country's real heroes and called upon youth to join the army.

He said that Prime Minister Modi is known for his daring decisions and that the scrapping of Article 370 is the best example for that.

Sanjay is an agent of Revanth, says BRS



BRS MLA KP Vivekanand addressing the media along with fellow MLA Muta Gopal in Telangana Bhavan on Sunday

PNS HYDERABAD

Lashing out at the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, for saying that the BJP will declare war if Chief Minister Revanth Reddy fails to jail BRS Working President KT Rama Rao, the BRS said that Sanjay is an "agent of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy."

The BRS said that Sanjay is working as Minister of State for Revanth Reddy instead of as a Union Minister of State. The BRS said that it would send a letter to Prime Minister Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah regarding Sanjay's remarks. Addressing the media at

the Telangana Bhavan along with Musheerabad MLA Muta Gopal on Sunday,

standing of the Constitution. "The friendship between the Congress and the BJP was exposed in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. Revanth praised BJP MLAs during the Assembly session. Revanth had worked for the BJP earlier," Vivekanand

Qutbullahpur MLA KP Vivekanand asked Sanjay

whether he has any under-

said. "Sanjay should reveal why KTR should be arrested. Should KTR be arrested for developing Hyderabad city? Is Sanjay giving orders to Revanth to arrest KTR? The

Congress and the BJP are engaged in conspiracy politics in Telangana. KCR has faced big leaders and the current leaders are not fit for KCR's toes.

mason for three years at The

Arab Engineering and

Contracting Company. Despite his work permit expiring in August 1999, he

continued working there. His

passport expired in 2001, but

the Indian Embassy in Bahrain

renewed it. However, the

renewed passport also expired,

and passport, Bahrain police

arrested him for staying illegal-

ly in the country and jailed

him. His wife Lakshmi, daugh-

ters Sona and Aparna, and son

Babu have appealed for his return to India.

After learning of Narsayya's plight, KTR pledged full sup-

port to bring him back to

Without a valid work permit

and Narsayya lost it.

Tungabhadra Dam KTR to EAM: Get Sircilla resident gate washed away



PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chandrah

The Tungabhadra Dam, a critical source of water for both Pradesh and Andhra Karnataka, has experienced a major issue following the loss of Gate No. 19 on Saturday night. The incident occurred when the chain attached to the crest gate broke due to rising flood levels, causing the gate to be washed away. This event has led to a substantial wastage of approximately 75,000 cusecs of water daily, totalling 9 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water per day. Chief Minister

Chief Secretary of the Water Resources Department. Prasad informed the Chief Minister that the washedaway gate was old, unused, and poorly maintained. This revelation highlights concerns about the dam's maintenance and raises questions about oversight. To address the immediate

issue, the Chief Minister has recommended that a design team be dispatched to the site without delay. Officials have briefed Naidu that the water level in the reservoir had reached up to 6 meters, necessitating urgent measures to er water wastage

Sirisilla resident Narsayya stuck in Bahrain jail after losing passport KTR assures efforts to bring Narsayya back to India KTR requests help from Chief Secretary's office

PNS HYDERABAD

Vote for AAP to

Sunita Kejriwal

build 'new Haryana':

Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president KTR has assured help for 62-year-old Narsayya, a resident of Cheerlavancha village in Thangallapally Mandal of Sircilla district, who is currently stuck in a Bahrain jail after losing his passport. KTR wrote a letter to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, urging immediate



bring Narsayya back to India.

Narsayya, who had been untraceable for several years, was found in a Bahrain jail due to passport issues. He had gone to Bahrain 28 years ago for work but got trapped there without a valid passport and work permit.

Narsayya, who went to Bahrain in 1996, worked as a

Centre asks states to focus on schemes for women and

Îndia.

NDA expects majority in Rajya Sabha after bypolls

PNS NEW DELHI

The BJP-led NDA is expected to achieve a clear majority in Rajya Sabha after bye-elections for 12 seats scheduled next month, which would help the party get the nod for key legislations such as the Waqf (Amendment) Bill.

In the upper house with the current effective strength of 229, the BJP has 87 MPs and with its allies the number is 105. Six nominated members, who usually cast their vote with the government, take the strength of the NDA to 111, with 11 members and BJD with



four short of the half-way mark of 115.

The Congress has 26 members in the Upper House and its allies add another 58, taking the opposition alliance numbers to 84. Among the key fence-sitters are the YSR Congress Party



Commission has announced 12 separate elections for each of the seats, handing over a clear advantage to the ruling party in the state.

Naidu has urgently addressed the situa-As a temporary solution,

tion, expressing deep concern seven additional gates have over the potential risks posed been raised to alleviate presby the incident. In response, sure, with one lakh cusecs of he has instructed officials to water being released through eight gates, including the damimmediately alert residents in aged one. low-lying areas of the erstwhile Kurnool district, including

A team of experts has arrived at the dam to mini-Kosgi, mize water wastage by placing and iron sheets as an interim measure. It is anticipated that a new gate can only be installed after releasing 60 TMC of water from the reservoir, highlighting the scale of the challenge faced.

The situation has been further complicated by the fact State Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu that Andhra Pradesh is has been actively involved in responsible for 35% of the the response, communicating with Sai Prasad, the Special maintenance costs for the Tungabhadra project.

PNS HISAR

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal on Sunday accused the BJP government in Haryana of "not undertaking any develop-ment work" in the last 10 years and asked the people to vote for the AAP in the upcoming assembly polls to build a "new Haryana".

Assembly polls in Haryana are due later this year and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has announced that it will contest all the 90 seats in the state. The party has contested several polls in Harvana, but it has vet to taste electoral success in the state.

children's nutrition, safety

PNS NEW DELHI

their nutrition.

to focus on three missions of

the ministry i.e on children's

protection, women's safety and

For effective implementa-

tion of various schemes and

programmes of the Ministry of

Women and Child Development, all major

schemes have been classified

under three umbrella schemes

-- Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission

Vatsalya and Mission Shakti.

emphasised the importance of WCD Minister Annapurna collective efforts and strategic Devi on Saturday met her planning to enhance the mincounterparts from states and istry's schemes. union territories and other She said the states should administrators, urging them

focus should on the three verticals and sought regular reports from them on the matter.

During the meeting, Devi

"Our objective is to ensure that the benefits of our efforts reach the grassroots level. It is essential to work in collaboration with the states, which will not only foster the development of individual states but also contribute to the overall progress of our nation, aligning with the prime minister's vision of a developed India," she said.

TODAY ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:	Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Saptami:	Aug 11 05:45 AM
	to Aug 12 07:55 AM
Ashtami:	Aug 12 07:55 AM
	to Aug 13 09:31 AM
Nakshatram:	
Swati:	Aug 11 05:48 AM
	to Aug 12 08:33 AM
Vishaka:	Aug 12 08:33 AM
	to Aug 13 10:44 AM
Rahukalam:	7:36 AM to 9:11 AM
Yamagandam:	10:46 AM to 12:21 PM
Varjyam:	02:39 PM to 04:24 PM
Gulika:	1:55 PM to 3:30 PM
Amritakalam:	01:08 AM to 02:53 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham:	11:55 AM to 12:46 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER



Updated: August 11, 2024 5:00 PM

'May give rise to same old problems'

Experts on demand for decentralised medical entrance tests

PNS NEW DELHI

While the Supreme Court has asked the NTA to overhaul the way it conducts NEET, calls for a return to the old system have seen a revival even as some experts remain apprehensive about states' ability to take care of the logistics and adhere to the domicile rule.

According to the NEET domicile rule, 85 per cent of medical seats are reserved for students who are bona fide residents of the state and have completed their class 12 from a school there. The rest 15 per cent are earmarked for aspirants from own medical entrance exams. other states.

In the wake of the NEET when DMK member Rani fiasco. Tamil Nadu,



Srikumar slammed NEET, alleging that it has shattered the dreams of many students. In a debate in the Lok Sabha on August 2, Srikumar said the Tamil Nadu Assembly had passed a law Such a proposal also found exempting the state from mention in the Lok Sabha, NEET which was not sent to the President by the Union

government for approval. Let the state governments decide the process of medical entrance," she had said.

The idea is nothing new. Before NEET was introduced in 2016, medical entrance exams used to conducted by several entities, including states.

However, some experts say that returning to the old system may give rise to the same old problems that became the reasons for scuttling it.

Former AIIMS director Dr M C Mishra said there is nothing wrong with states asserting their right to conduct an exam, provided they take care of the logistics that they to failed do even earlier.

DHANKHAR-JAYA FACE-OFF Opposition must apologise to VP:Scindia

chairman has been treated is

very sad. "He is not only the

Speaker of the House but also

the Vice President of the coun-

try. Every person in the

Opposition should apologise

for this behaviour. This is not

an insult of the Speaker of the

House and Vice President but

Scindia said that the people

PNS ■ GWALIOR (MP)

Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia on Sunday demanded that the Opposition apologise to Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice President Jagdish Dhankhar, referring to a spat between the chair and Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan.

Dhankhar and Jaya Bachchan on Friday locked horns after the actor-politician accused him of speaking to her in the Upper House in an unacceptable tone inviting an angry retort that he can't be schooled. The vice president also said even a celebrity has to follow the House decorum.

The Opposition had then of the Constitution and our triwalked out calling the matter colour," he said. "disrespect to democracy and of the country understand Constitution".



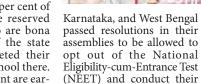
Responding to a question everything about the noise here about the face-off, Scindia and insults in the House. said the way the Rajya Sabha

The public taught them a lesson in 2014, 2019 and now in 2024, and will teach them in the coming times too, he said. The angry exchange hours

before the Upper House was adjourned sine die on Friday added to the strain between Dhankhar and the INDIA bloc parties, with sources saying the Opposition is considering submitting a notice for moving a resolution to remove the Vice President from his office.

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CITY EVENTS

Business & Entrepreneur Forum

Join the Business & Entrepreneur Forum for insights networking and growth opportunities. Connect with industry leaders gain expert advice and discover innovative strategies to drive success.

Venue

The Headquarters Space Orbit 10th Floor Plot No 30/C Sy 83/1 Knowledge City Rd Shilpa Gram Craft Village Serilingampalle (M) on August 12th

Book launch

'India @100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse' by Professor KV Subramanian. Venue

ISB, Hyderabad Campus Date: August 12, 2024 Time: 3:30 pm

Silk of India

Handloom Expo organ-ised by Bengal Handloom Årt by Tollywood actress & Bigg Boss fame Ashwini Sree.

Venue

Classic Gardens, Secunderabad August 12, At 03:30 pm

National Librarians Day

In memory of Father of Library Science Dr SR Ranganathan's 133th birth anniversary. Telangana State Transport & BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar to be chief guest. Dr.Riyaz, Chairman Telangana Grandhalaya Parishad to be the chairperson . Best librarian best employee awards to be distributed.

Venue State Central Library Hyderabad at 11.00 am. August 12



City Pioneer

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | AUGUST 12, 2024

Need for lane discipline stressed

VOLUNTEERS IN CITY SEE GAPS IN TRAFFIC REGULATION

DEEPIKA PASHAM deepikapasham2015@gmail.com HYDERABAD

olunteers on the roads tack-ling traffic jams in most affected areas under Hyderabad sought lane discipline, speed limit management and cops' efforts to reduce petty road cases. With the traffic violations lead-

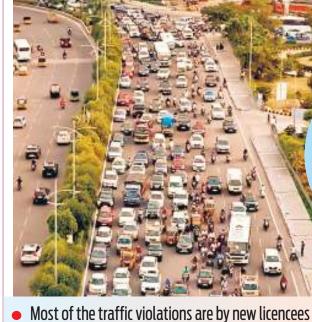
ing to deaths and injuries occurring in the areas of Hyderabad raise questions on what do drivers know about driving. The city traffic volunteer's and

road safety trainers' elaborate to The Pioneer on the efforts for road safety

Under every police commissionerate there are 20 to 25 volunteers working with Security Councils, such as Hyderabad City Security Council, Cyberabad Security Council and Rachakonda Security Council.

The experts have said that traffic cops cannot once in a while conduct special drives on traffic violations. Instead they conduct check-ups regularly. Secondly, they said the Road Transport Authority (RTA) must screen a movie on Right of Way and Traffic literacy and make it compulsory to watch for road user so that the youngsters applying for license know the traffic rules.

Lokendra Singh, Road Safety



- Lane discipline, speed limit lost on ground
- Traffic cops must enforce daily check-ups
- A proposal for compulsory traffic education sought

"At most of the junctions under Advocate, who volunteers to stand Hyderabad, starting from Outer on traffic junctions of Hyderabad, Ring Road (ORR), Mehidpatnam, speaks with The Pioneer, saying,

Masab Tank and Gachibowli, traffic jams are a common phenomenon because there is no lane discipline. For example if there is а three-lane

road and three Road **Safety Trainer** Naresh Raghavan said, "We have met Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and requested him that RTA should come up with an order for increasing awareness on traffic rules. We also requested that under CSR funds, movies can be made on traffic rules

vehicles in each lane following the speed limit, then the traffic will reduce, but our people on the road never follow the speed limit which causes shock waves such as load at the

junctions. Explaining a situation at Moazzam Jahi Market, the expert where there are nearly four cops managing the traffic, the intersec-tions will not get locked. There are days when traffic cops also do not interfere when a commuter is jumping the signal when it says to stop. So, the system on ground

Ajai Kumar appointed as FTCCI panel chief for over 107 years. FTCCI has consis-

PNS HYDERABAD

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) has appointed Dr Ajai Kumar Àgarwal as the Chairman of its Public Relations Committee. The appoint-ment was extended by FTCCI president Suresh Kumar Singhal, who emphasised the organisation's significant role in shaping Telangana's



Rallies held for promoting use of clay Ganesh idols

PNS HYDERABAD

To create awareness and promote the purchase of clay Ganesh idols for the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi, environmentalists organised a cycle ride and walk awareness rally on Sunday. This event was organised by members of Kapra Lake Revival Group, in collaboration with members of Hyderabad Cycling Revolution. The ride was taken out from ECIL to Neredmet and during their ride and walk, one of the activists tried to explain to the locals about the ill-effects of

must be strict in stopping the

Another Road Safety Trainer Naresh Raghavan said that traffic literacy is 2 per cent out of 80 per cent literacy in India. "We have met Transport Minister Ponnam Depheder and results to him that

Prabhakar and requested him that

RTA should come up with an

order for increasing awareness on

traffic rules. We also requested that

under CSR funds, movies can be

made on traffic rules. If this is

mademandatory for new licencees

to watch and learn then there is

a long run solution. With govern-

ment collaboration, NGOs can

tently supported the interests of indus-

work on ground."

motorists.

Revolution pointed out that the aim of the rally is to draw people's attention to the harm caused to the water bodies by immersing Ganesha statues made of PoP. By doing such actions, the lake ecosystem is getting deteriorated, "Hence, we want to promote awareness among people to purchase and use clay Ganesh idols. "Despite PoP idols being banned, we can still find them flooded in the markets. The State government has not taken a decision to Plaster of Paris (PoP), curb it. So, we urged them to adopt clay idols and also planned to start the come up with susawareness camtainable alternatives paign," said Manognya Reddy, a for idol immersion. K Prakash, an environmember of Kapra

Lake Revival Group.

per cent reservation

reservation is not pro-

Hanamkonda, joined this mission.

Hyderabad Cycling

The members of

12% quota sought for Madigas in TG

PNS HYDERABAD

mental activist of

for Madigalas in the State. If 12 per cent Dr Pidamarthi Ravi, former chairman of SC Corporation and founder of Madiga JAC, said that if 12 per cent reservation is not being provided to Madigas in Telangana, the 30-year-old classification movement will be wasted. He said this during the conference of Telangana Madiga Sanghas held at Babu Jagjeevan Ram Bhawan, Banjara Hills on Sunday. He said that accord-

ing to the 1994 census of SC, ABCD classification, which started 30 years ago, Madigas are seven per cent. But in the 2014 comprehensive family survey conducted by the Telangana government, Madigas are 12 per cent in Telangana. Therefore, they demanded a fair 12

vided, injustice will be done to the Madiga movement. "We welcome the verdict given by the 7-member Supreme Court Bench that the SCs can be classified," he added. Similarly, they demanded reservation for Madigas in education, employment, political and welfare sectors run by the Central government in proportion to their population. An open meeting will be held in Hyderabad city with 10 lakh Madigas in the State soon. Former minister A

Chandrasekhar, AICC general secretary Sampath Kumar, Praja Sanghas JAC chairman Arepalli Mohan were among those who participated.

Plans to launch dialysis centres within 20 km range

PNS HYDERABAD

The Health department is planning to come up with new dialysis centres in essential areas of cities and districts, said Health Minister Raja Narasimha.

Addressing the media on Sunday, Minister Raja Narasimha said that the Congress govern-ment is committed to sanction six guarantees to all beneficiaries in Telangana. As part of it, in



ters range. The focus is on the highways where the victims of accidents can access an ambulance. For every 35 kilometers, trauma care centre regulations have been announced by the Health department.

try and commerce, playing a key role in the State's rapid industrial growth. Suresh Singhal said, "Our organisation has always strived for excellence and strong public relations are crucial to our mission. Given Dr Agarwal's achievements and esteemed reputation in the field, we are honoured to have him as our Chairman of the Public industrial and commercial landscape Relations Committee.

DRI seizes 1kg gold from passenger's shoe at city airport

PNS HYDERABAD

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized over one kilogram of gold from a passenger at the Hyderabad airport in the early morning of Sunday.

According to the statement, Officers from the DRI's Hyderabad Zonal Unit (HZU) intercepted the passenger in the exit area of the International Arrival Hall at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. The individual had arrived from Dubai.

Upon inspection, two yellow-coloured metal bars, shaped like batteries, were found concealed-one in the passenger's left shoe and the other in his backpack. A yellow-coloured metal chain was also recovered.

TGSRTC to launch 300 metro deluxe buses soon

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Road Corporation (TGSRTC) is going to introduce 300 more Metro Deluxe buses in the city to increase the ticket revenue. A TGSRTC source said that around 50 buses are already running from Kushaiguda, Ranigunj, Hayathnagar-1 and other depots.

After the Telangana govern-nent introduced the ment Mahalakshmi scheme, the ticket revenue of the corporation was reduced by around 70 per cent. The corporation conducted an internal inspection. Only 30 per cent of passengers are paying to the corporation by ticketing.

To increase the ticket revenue, the TGSRTC is introduc- around 14 lakh women pas-

ing Metro Deluxe buses in phases. In these buses every passenger, including women, should pay the fare for travelling. A TGSRTC official said that the Mahalakshmi scheme would not be applicable to women in these buses.

A TGSRTC source said that

sengers are daily using the Mahalakshmi scheme in the city. The scheme is applicable in City Ordinary and Metro express buses. More than 80 per cent of the buses are of these two types only. These Metro Deluxe buses

would not come under the Mahalakshmi scheme.

Father, two daughters run over by train

PNS HYDERABAD

A fatal accident took place in Gowdavalli village under Medchal police station limits where a father and his two daughters were hit by a train at the railway station on Sunday, killing them on the spot.

The deceased has been identified as Krishna of Raghavendra Nagar Colony in Medchal town. Locals say that he works as a railway track checker at the railway station in Gowdavalli.

As it was Sunday, Krishna took his two daughters -Varshini and Varshita to work. They were run over by a train killing them on the spot. Railway police reached the spot, registered a case and started investigation.

courses

Muslims excluded from State Cabinet: Amjed to Rahul

PNS HYDERABAD

Amjed Ullah Khan, spokesman of Majlis Bachao Tahreek, raised his grievances on excluding Muslim leaders from the State Cabinet and other roles, in a letter to Rahul Gandhi, chief of the Indian National Congress (INC) on Sunday.

He stated that the Congress government has not met the expectations of the Muslim community and appears to be functioning more like the BJP government. Prior to elections, Muslims have supported the Congress en masse in both the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The community, having rejected the BRS due to its increasing proximity with the BJP, anticipated that the Congress government would



bring the necessary changes. However, we regret to report that the Congress government has completely neglected Muslims since coming to power in December 2023.

He also pointed out that under the Congress govern-ment in the past eight months, we have seen- no Muslim minister or Muslim MP in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, no Muslim MLA and no Muslim MLC. The Muslim communi-

minority institutions such as the Wakf Board, Urdu Academy, Haj Committee and Minorities Finance Corporation, are bound to have Muslims as chairman. However, in remaining over 50 corporations, only one Muslim was appointed as Chairman of the Food & Civil Supplies Corporation, and another was given an irrelevant post in libraries. Furthermore, none of the promises made to the Muslim community have been fulfilled, he said. The Congress released the Minority Declaration with specific promises such as increasing the minority welfare budget to Rs 4,000 crore with a dedicated minorities sub-plan, but they were not implemented.

ty has been neglected in nom-

inated posts as well. The

Value of industry-academia cooperation emphasised

PNS HYDERABAD

Guru Nanak University organised an HR conclave on 'Preparing the workforce for the future' on Sunday. The event witnessed participation of prominent industry leaders, academic professionals and corporate executives who discorporate executives who dis-cussed the evolving workforce landscape and the skills required to thrive in a rapidly changing world. The agenda included a series of expert talks and panel discussions aimed at equipping students and professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary for future success.

for future success. Guru Nanak University Chancellor Sardar Gagandeep Singh Kohli underlined the

The agenda included a series of expert talks and panel discussions aimed at equipping students and professionals with knowledge and skills necessary for future SUCCESS

value of industry-academia cooperation. Keynote speaker Mayank Gupta emphasised the need for adaptability in the volatality, uncertainty, com-plexity and ambiguity (VUCA) world, while Shamika Nammdas stressed the importance of fostering a growth

mindset in new graduates.

Different keynote addresses and sessions discussed industry expectations from new graduates, the critical role of effective communication in securing and excelling in job roles, strategies for a seamless transition from academic life to the corporate world. The event concluded with

Eshwar Kandkuri offering strategies for a seamless transition from campus to corpo-rate life. GNU Vice-Chancellor Dr HS Saini reiterated the university's commitment to

skill development. The conclave included inter-active Q&A sessions, network-ing opportunities, panel discussion on diversity in hiring, skill-based hiring and upskilling strategies.

GHMC to hold meet with truck drivers on waste disposal

PNS HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Corporation Vigilance Municipal (GHMĊ) Commissioner Ranganath announced that a meeting will be held with tractor and tipper operators to address the waste disposal problem in the twin cities.

Ranganath mentioned that they have a database of vehicles previously used to dump construction debris and garbage. Penalties have been imposed on those who dumped waste in lakes.

The Commissioner's response came after someone reported that waste was being dumped on open land.

OU sports students demand fairplay and funding

ust like academics, sports are important in students' am a final-year student. Ever since I joined the departlives. However, it is not ment, there has been no he case at Osmania proper training, no University, as the students of

proper conduct of tournaments or inter-colle-

Speaking to The Pioneer correspondent, Raja (name changed), a student said, "I

grievances to the VCs (previous VCs), but they haven't taken any action.

Another sports stu-dent said, "The main drawback here is the admissions and regulations of OU. In regards to the physical education department, during admissions, most of us will be paying our fees for all facilities and services provided by the varsity; however, the varsity doesn't offer all services such as funds, allowances to sportspeople, special budgets, or basic facil-

sportswear and others for students. The officials are collecting students' money

facilities to us. The varsity also receives funds from the Telangana government and the UGC, apart from the students' money. We don't know where the funds or budget are going. Due to these issues, we are losing interest in sports and we are focusing on cracking government exams to pursue high-er education. We want a union for sports students to solve this issue."No proper coach, training and matches. OU physical education students voice their grievances about a lack of allowance and funds.

but are not offering sufficient

Rashmi Bhumireddy bhumireddyrashmi@gmail.com Mobile:9502380615

Sugmer

the Physical Education department are fighting for giate matches. Also, the varsity is not providing allowances to us. Apart from that, there is no proper coach at the university to train us. In the post-pandemic period, the varsity has not been organising any tournaments and this attitude diverted

students' attention. They have started pursuing higher education

or attempting to crack the ities such as food, rooms,

allowances for sports people, especially gold medallists, funds for the department, proper coaches and so on. Apart from that, the university has failed to organise proper training and tournaments. Due to this, the students' attention has got diverted from sports to other aspects, such as trying for government jobs and pursu-ing higher education in other

lelangana the pioneer HYDERABAD | MONDAY | AUGUST 12, 2024

Two migrant workers from UP killed in road mishap

PNS PEDDAPALLI

Two young migrant workers were killed on the spot in a road accident that took place on Rajiv Rahadari in Godavarikhani of Peddapalli district late on

PNS SIDDIPET

project.

project."

Kaleshwaram project.

farmers' faces: Harish Rao

of the Kaleshwaram Project.

Saturday night. They were identified as Sattender and Kumar hail-

ing from UP. They have been working in a shop-ping mall at Mancherial. They were killed on the spot when an unidentified

vehicle dashed the twowheeler on which they were travelling at the conclusion of their duty on Saturday night, the police said. The police said that the inci-dent had taken place while they were on their way to attend a get-together underway at 8th Colony area of the district. The bodies have been shifted to Government General Hospital in Godavarikhani for ana autopsy. Godavarikhani One-Town CI Indrasena Reddy is investigating the case. Former Minister T Harish Rao came down heavily on the Congress leaders for spreading on BRS worked to see happiness on He made the comments after visiting Ranganayaka Sagar project. He said that the project brought back the smiles on the faces of farmers. He inspected the flow of Godavari water into Ranganayaka Sagar in the district on Saturday. The Minister inspected the lift-irrigation of Godavari waters into the Later addressing the gathering, he said that the Ranganayaka Sagar project stands as an example that the BRS strived to provide irrigation to every acre. He said, "I am so glad to see the flow of water into the

Former minister T Harish Rao at Ranganayaka Sagar in Siddipet on Sunday

'Ranganayaka Sagar project

brought smiles on farmers' faces'

It may be noted that 3150 cusecs is pumped into Nandi Mid-Maneru project, where the reservoir, from where the water is total water stored was put at 17.06 Ranganayaka Sagar was built as part The lift-irrigation of Godavari reaching Gayatri pump house in waters into Kaleshwaram Project Lakshmipur of Karimnagar district. Link-2 is under way. Water from At Gayatri pump house, a single

SripadaYellampalli reservoir is motor is being used to pump 3150 reaching Nandi Pump House at cusecs of water into Srirajarajeswara Nandimedaram through two tun-nels. Using the heavy-duty motor, over 13 tmc of water pumped to trict.

total water stored was put at 17.06 tmc against the full reservoir level of 27.54 tmc ft.

discharged into Annapurna project Anantagirimandal of in Illantakuntamandal of Siricilla dis-

reservoir, which opened its gates to discharge water into the Ranganayaka Sagar.

Land grabbing becomes rampant in Rangareddy dist

PNS RANGAREDDY

Over the past few years, Rangareddy district has been plagued by widespread illegal land grabbing. Government lands in areas like Maheshwaram, Rajendranagar, Chevella, Shadnagar, Shamshabad, Narsingi, and Shankarpalli are particularly are falling into the hands of land grabbers. Reports suggest that nearly 50 per

cent of government lands in these regions have

been

cials promising action but failing to do so. The inaction has led to a growing sense of frustration and helplessness among the community, who see their environment being degraded and public lands being lost to private interests.

Adding to the residents' frustrations, some officials have made public statements asserting that action would be taken against the encroachers.

activity are scattered across the district, with lakes and streams being filled in and converted into real estate ventures. These developments not only threaten the natural landscape but also risk exacerbating the region's water scarcity issues, as the destruction of these water bodies disrupts

local hydrological cycles. Environmentalists and activists have expressed their alarm at the situation, calling for immediate government intervention to prevent further

encroachments and lands. They argue that

MP lays emphasis on



_ok Sabha member Kadiyam Kavya speaking at a meeting in Hanamkonda on Sunday



Safety of coal miners is paramount: SCCL CMD



PNS PEDDAPALI

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) chairman Balram Naik has put the safety of the SCCL workers above the coal production and appealed to coal miners to follow the safety standards and work together with team spirit to achieve production targets. He made it clear that the

SCCL management is ready to spend any amount of money for the safety and security of the coal workers

Responding to a news report appeared in *The Pioneer* with the title: Concern over mounting mishaps in SCCL in its Saturday's edition, the SCCL chairman called for a marathon meeting of the SCCL officials and reviewed the safety and security of the workers and cautioned the officials to take parecautions for the safety and security of the coal miners. He said that the lives of the SCCL workers are the most precious and the management would not hesitate to spend any amount of money for their safe-ty and security.

For the first time in the annals of the SCCL history, the Chairman held a meeting via video conference mode with security committees of various wings of 40 coal mines in 11 coal mining areas, worksmen inspectors, mines committee members and other security supervisors

and reviewed the safety and secu rity of the coal miners.

Earlier, the SCCL used to hold safety meeting in coal mines in the presence of the managers. For the first time, the CMD of the SCCL held the safety meeting and issued suggestions and advice to the workers.

Balram Naik admitted that the SCCL, inspite of making rapid strides in all other aspects, lagging behind to an extent in preventing industrial accidents. But, he put the blame on human errors for the phenomena.

To handle every task there are some safe operating procedures have been fixed, but the coal managers are not paying attention to follow them, causing accidents in coal mines. He wanted every worker to follow these procedures. He reiterated stating that the SCCL management would provide all amenities for the security of the workers unmindful of the expenses involved. He clarified that special medical experts are being appointed to SCCL hospitals. The Ramagundam Area Hospitals. The Ramagundam Area Hospital is going to be groomed as a superspecialty hospital, he assured the coal miners. The macting want on for four hours

meeting went on for four hours. SCCL directors from Kothagudem NVK Srinivas (Operations and Personnel), D Satyanarayana Rao (E and M), G Venkateswar Reddy (P & P) and others spoke.

Consumer forum directs SBI Life to pay Rs 2 lakh to a nominee

PNS NALGONDA

The Nalgonda District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, consisting of Mamidi Christopher, S Sandhya Rani and K Venkateshwarlu ordered SBI and Group Operations (PMJJBY-SBI Life) to pay Rs 2 lakh insurance policy money, Rs 20,000 for mental agony and Rs10,000 towards costs to the nominee of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyothi Bima Yojana polpplainant Maran Jayamma said that her husband Marapaka Mallaiah met with an accident and died on May 17, 2018 while undergoing treatment. He submitted that her husband had insured with Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyothi Bima Yojana policy (PMJJBY-SBI Life) with the SBI Life. Her deceased husband paid a premi-

um of Rs 330 per year which was debited from his account on May 31, 2015 and for a second time on June 25, 2016. Then the SBI has not debited Rs 330 even after having the sufficient balance in his account.

Group Operations (PMJJBY-SBI Life) told the court that Mallaiah is reported to have died on May 17, 2018, whereas the Insurance cover lapsed on June 1, 2017. Thus, as on the date of death of Mallaiah, there was no insurover existing on his l Group Operations (PMJJBY-SBI Life) had admitted that the deceased paid two premiums towards the policv. The sum assured amount cannot be paid as the premium was not paid either by the bank or by the deceased. After hearing from both parties the court ordered the opposite parties to pay the money to the nominee.



From Mid-Maneru water is being

inter-caste marriages





upon t land grabbers. One of the most

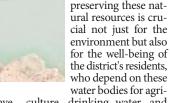
alarming aspects of land grabbing is the occupation of full tank levels (FTL) of lakes and streams, crucial natural resources that play a vital role in the

region's water management and ecology. Despite numerous complaints from concerned citizens, the authorities have turned a blind eye to the crim.

Local residents have repeatedly voiced their concerns to district officials, warning of the long-term consequences of such unchecked land grabbing. However, these pleas have largely fallen on deaf ears, with offi-



However, these assurances have done little to placate the community. Many residents are now questioning why the authorities failed to act when the land grabbing was initially taking place. They argue that proactive measures could have prevented the current situation, rather than allowing it to reach such alarming proportions. Visible signs of this illegal



culture, drinking water, and other essential needs. As the land grabbing continues unabated, the future of

Rangareddy's lakes and streams hangs in the balance. Without decisive action from the authorities, these vital natural resources could be lost forever, with devastating consequences for the district's environment and its

people.

PNS WARANGAL

Congress MP from Warangal Kadiam Kavya and former deputy chief minister Kadiam Srihari on Sunday expressed the opinion that social change is feasibly only through ideal marriages.

She was taking part as the chief guest at a model marriage held in Hanamkonda on Sunday. The marriage of Apurva, who is the daughter of Telangana Mahila Samakhya State general secretary Nedunuri Jyoti, with Sridhar in the presence of CPI national executive member Chada Venkat Reddy.

She appealed to the youth to unite themselves in bond of marriage with mutual understanding and respect. Children's happiness should be important for parents, she said.

It is not important how lavishly the marriage was performed, but how the newly-weds have mutual respect for each other.

Kadiam Srihari quoted the example of how two of his three daughters chose their classmates as their life partners and suggested encouraging inter-caste and inter-religious marriages.

CPI state secretary and Kothagudem MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao stressed the need to encourage ideal marriages.

Vardhannapeta MLA KR Nagaraju CPI National Committee member and former MLA Palla Venkat Reddy and others were present on the occasion.

ACB court orders 14-day remand for Dasari Narender

PNS NIZAMABAD

The ACB court at Nampally in Hyderabad has remanded Nizamabad Municipal Corporation office superintendent and in-charge Revenue Dasari Officer Narender in judicial custody for 14 days. He was arrested in duced before the special court for ACB cases in Hyderabad. The court sent him to judicial remand for 14 days.

It may be recalled that the ACB officonducted cials simultaneous raids at four places and unearthed wealth worth Rs 6.7 crore amassed Narender.

The ACB is likely

ACB Deputy commissioner of to file a petition in the ACB court seeking the custody of Narender to question him further.

Sanitation worker drinks pesticide by mistake, dies

PNS KOTHAGUDEM

In a case of mistaken identity, a sanitation worker who consumed pesticide which is used in anti-mosquito operations and it proved fatal.

The authorities rushed her to hospital without any delay, but she died while undergoing treatment.

She was identified as Battula Odemma, a contract worker in Bhadradri-Kothagudem municipality.

As usual, she reported for work on Friday. To quench her thirst, she came across a bottle, containing pesticide in liquid form, mistaking it to be drinking water, she drank the solution. In fact, there are no any indications or labels on the bottle. But the bottle contained mosquito spray.

As she became severely indisposed, she was immediately rushed to a hospital, where doctors asked those who admitted her to the hospital to bring the mosquito spray container so that they could save her life extending appropriate treatment.

The municipal authorities were busy and forgot to send the contain-er to the hospital. As she did not receive appropriate treatment, her condition worsened on Friday night and died. Official negligence was attributed for the death of the sanitation worker. The doctors felt that they would have saved her life had the authorities sent the container to the hospital in time.

Student's death: Action initiated against tribal school officials PNS BHADRADRI

KOTHAGUDEM

Bhadrachalam ITDA project officer B Rahul said that a show cause notice has been issued to headmaster Narasimha Rao and deputy warden Harikrishna following the death of Class 8th student at Kothapalli Tribal Boys Ashram School in Dummagudem mandal.

The student hailed from Bandarugudem village, Dummugudem mandal.

It may be recalled that an Class 8th student Kunja Deepak (13) died, while three others Kunja Anil, K Karthik and K Jaswanth, all studying at the school, were injured when an auto-rickshaw they were travelling in met with an accident at Thunikicheruvu in the mandal on Saturday.

The boys were going to their native village from the school without prior permission

Shortage of doctors, dysfunctional devices plaguing MGM Hospital

PNS WARANGAL

A shortage of doctors and paramedical staff has been plaguing the MGM Hospital in Warangal. It is the biggest hospital equipped with the latest medical devices. Patients from Maharashtra and Odisha make a beeline for hospitals during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Every day, between 2,000 and 3,500 patients visit the hospital from as far as Karimnagar and Adilabad district, apart from people from Warangal.

The hospital is devoid of sanitation. Though the government provided the latest medical equipment to the hospital, most of it is under repair. There are no adequate stocks of medicine.

District Collector D Satya Sharada recently inspected the hospital and stressed the need to improve the functioning of the hospitals.

Two days ago a newborn baby was found partially eaten by stray dogs on the premises of a state-run hospital in



MGM Hospital

Warangal district of Telangana on Friday, police said.

The policemen manning a police outpost at the hospital found stray dogs eating the newborn at a secluded place in the hospital premises and chased away the canines, a

police official said. It was not clear whether the

baby was alive or dead and how it came to be in that spot, the official said adding that they were examining CCTV footage. The police are investigating

whether someone abandoned the newborn at the hospital. This incident creates panic among the patients.

Teenager succumbs to viral fever

PNS ASIFABAD

In a shocking incident, a 16-year-old girl, who battled with viral fever, succumbed to it as she was allegedly denied proper medical treatment. Parents of the girl have been weeping inconsolably for their dear one recalling her last words "Father same me at any cost from the viral fever.

During the current rainy season, viral fevers have broken out in Telangana and they claimed lives of many across the state. The deceased was identified as Puja, an

SSC student of Tribal Welfare Hostel in Asifabad, daughter of Jade Kishore and Surekha of Gundayipeta of Asifabad district.

Recently, she contracted fever during her stay in the hostel. Last Saturday, she called up her father saying, "Father, I have contracted fever. I am not able to tackle it. My hands and legs are pulling. Please take me home." Her father immediately rushed to the hostel and brought her home. He showed her to the local RMP and got her treated, but of no use. Her fever increased.

Her family members immediately rushed her to a private hospital in Chandrapur in Maharashtra. But, her conditioned worsened by Saturday afternoon. On the direction of the hospital doctors, she was rushed to Hyderabad, but she died en route.

Before she breathed her last, she held her father's hand appealed to him earnestly "Father save my at any cost."

'disproportionate assets' case. policeSekhar Goud told reporters on Saturday that Nerender was pro-



Nation 05

ACROSS THE STATES



Downpour in Delhi, traffic crawls, several areas waterlogged

eavy rain lashed many parts of the national capital on Sunday afternoon, leading to waterlogging and traffic snarls in several areas as the weather office predicted more showers in the Delhi-NCR area in the evening. The city recorded a low of 26 degrees Celsius, while the maximum temperature is likely to settle at 32.0 degrees Celsius, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The humidity was recorded at 92 per cent at 8.30 am. The IMD has issued an 'orange' alert for the city that signifies 'being prepared' for extremely bad weather and potential disruptions to transport, rail and road. Central, south, southwest and east Delhi received heavy rainfall today as the latest weather alert from the weather department predicted more showers in the Delhi-NCR areas towards the end of the day. "Moderate to heavy rainfall, accompanied by moderate thunderstorms and lightning, is very likely to occur across Delhi and NCR in the next two hours," the weather officer said



Next round of Assam-Mizoram border talks by January: Bora

ssam Minister Atul Bora said on Sunday that the next round of discussions to resolve the state's border Adispute with Mizoram will be held in Guwahati in January next year. Bora, the border protection and development minister, said both the state governments wanted a solution to the decades-old dispute to ensure permanent peace and security for those residing near the inter-state boundary on both sides. The minister was talking to reporters here after returning from Aizawl, where he had led a delegation from Assam, which engaged in talks to resolve the boundary dispute with a team of the Mizoram government, led by its Home Minister K Sapdanga, last week. "The border talks remained stalled due to the assembly elections in Mizoram last year. Now. we are on track again. A ministerial group of Mizoram will visit Guwahati for the next round of talks by January. We have extended our invitation to them." Bora said.





HYDERABAD | MONDAY | AUGUST 12, 2024

Releases seed varieties to increase productivity, farmers income

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday released 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient and biofortified seed varieties of agricultural and horticultural crops, aiming to enhance farm productivity and farmers' income. Developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), these vari-eties span 61 crops, including 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops.

three experimental agriculture plots at Delhi's Pusa Campus, where he also interacted with farmers and scientists.

According to an official statement, Modi stressed on the significance of value addition in agriculture while discussing the importance of these

Continued from page 1

The Adani Group also

termed the allegations mali-

cious and based on manipula-

tion of select public informa-

tion. The company said it has

no commercial relationship

with the Securities and

Exchange Board of India

(SEBI) chairperson or her

husband. In the wake of the allegations, the Congress said

the government must act

immediately to eliminate con-

flicts of interest in the regula-

tor's investigation of the Adani

Group and renewed the

demand for a JPC probe into

the entire matter.

new varieties with farmers. Farmers present on the

being involved in it.

agency SEBI is itself accused of

It asserted that in the wake

of such "serious allegations",

Buch cannot remain in her

position. Leader of Opposition

in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi

said the integrity of SEBI has

been "gravely compromised"

by the allegations against its

chairperson and asked

whether the Supreme Court

would look into this matter

suo motu once again following

country have pressing ques-

tions for the government: Why hasn't SEBI Chairperson

Madhabi Puri Buch resigned

"Honest investors across the



lower input cost. The Prime Minister discussed the importance of mil-lets and underlined how people are moving towards nutri-tious food. He also talked

about the benefits of natural farming and the increasing faith of common people towards organic farming. Modi noted that people have started consuming and demanding

Adani terms charges ... Continued from page 1

"The latest allegations by Hindenburg are malicious, mischievous and manipulative selections of publicly available information to arrive at pre-determined conclusions for personal profiteering with wanton disregard for facts and the law. "We completely reject these allegations against the Adani Group which are a recycling of discredited claims that have been thoroughly investigated, proven to be baseless and already dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in January 2024," the group said in a filing. Hindenburg on Saturday stat-

ed that SEBI head Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband invested in offshore entities that were egedly part of a fund structure

before Madhabi's appointment as a whole-time member of SEBI in 2017 and the subsequent elevation as chairperson in March 2022. It said Bermuda-based Global Opportunities Fund, which allegedly was used by entities connected to Adani Group to trade in shares of group companies, had sub-funds. Buch and her husband were investors

KVKs should proactively

inform farmers about the ben-

developed every month to cre-

ate awareness about their ben-

efits, the statement said.

efits of the new varieties being

organic foods.

in one of these sub-funds in 2015. Citing "whistleblower documents", Hindenburg said, Madhabi and her husband had stakes in both obscure offshore funds used in the Adani money siphoning scandal. SEBI, it claimed, has "shown a surprising lack of interest in Adani's alleged undisclosed web of Mauritius and offshore shell entities." onding to the s

Pak pushing terrorists into J-K to destabilize security: LG PNS 🗖 JAMMU

Pakistan has been pushing highly foreign trained terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir to destabilize its security situation, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha claimed Sunday and said a strategy has been formulated and security forces being redeployed to foil the neighbouring country's nefar-

ious designs. In an exclusive interview here, he asserted that there would be a "big change in the situation in the next three months'

The Jammu region, previ-ously known for its peaceful atmosphere, has seen a surge in terror incidents, particular-ly in the border districts. Áttacks on an IAF convoy, a pilgrim bus and the killing of soldiers in Kathua during the last few months highlight the

evolving threat. On Saturday, two soldiers

and a civilian were killed during an encounter between terrorists and security forces in Anantnag in south Kashmir. Pointing to the terror inci-dents in the Jammu region, Sinha said, "The incidents are sad. We acknowledge them and want to assure the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the country that these incidents will definitely be controlled. The neighbouring country will not succeed in its evil designs.

BJP govt always tries to weaken fight for reservation: Akhilesh

PNS LUCKNOW

SP president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday attacked the rul-Farmers appreciated the ing BJP amid the efforts of the government in controversy over promotion of natural farming. They also lauded the role sub-classification and creamy layer played by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in creating in SC-ST reservation and alleged the BJP governawareness, the release said. Modi suggested that the

ment always tries to weaken the fight for reservation through its vague statements and lawsuits.

Yadav wrote on 'X' in Hindi, "The main objective of

the division or disintegration of that society, this violates the basic principle of reservation itself.' The former

any kind of reservation

should be the empowerment

of the neglected society, not

Uttar Pradesh chief minister was apparently referring to the recent Supreme Court judgment allowing sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes

(SCs)

BRS wrecked TG...

Continued from page 1

Speaking to the media after a trial run of Seetharam Project Pump House-2 at Poosugudem in Bhadradri Kothagudem on Sunday along with Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Tummala Nageshwara Rao, he said that not a single Rupee will be wasted by the Congress government. "We will use every Rupee carefully. We will lay the foundation stone for Indiramma Houses in the last week of August," he said.

The ministers expressed confidence that the Seetharama Lift Irrigation Project would transform Telangana's agricultural landscape by providing a reliable water source, enhancing productivity, and improving the livelihoods of farmers across the region.

Uttam credited the Congress government for securing crucial approvals and allocations that had been neglected by the BRS admin. He assured that the project would be completed by August 2026, marking a new era of agricultural prosperity in Telangana.

l run event was attended by prominent officials The ti

Hindenburg triggers...

Modi unveiled the seeds at

t Party Of India (Marxist) Polit Bu

2

On Bangladesh Situation

sty is the wake of the channe and

CPI(M) expresses concern over attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh

he Politburo of the CPI(M) on Sunday expressed concern over the attacks on Hindu places of worship in Bangladesh, and demanded that the country's interim government ensure safety of minorities. The CPI(M) Politburo also said the Government of India must pursue this matter with Bangladesh. "The Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) expresses its serious concern at the reports of several attacks on Hindu places of worship and the minority community in Bangladesh since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government," the CPI(M) said in a statement. "It is evident that fundamentalist forces are targeting the minority community in the wake of the chaotic situation which developed consequent to the fall of the government," they said. "Immediate and firm steps should be taken by the interim government that has been installed to ensure the security and safety of the minorities, their houses and places of worship.

party also said the Supreme hard-earned money, who will be held accountable -- PM Court should take suo motu cognisance of the "entire scam" Modi, the SEBI Chairperson, and get it probed under its or Gautam Adani?" the former aegis as the investigating Congress chief said.

the revelations.

vet? If investors

managed by India Infoline and in which Vinod Adani, Gautam Adani's brother, also had investments. These investments reportedly date back to 2015, well numerous public documents."

Adani filing said: "It is reiterated that our overseas holding structure is fully transparent, with all relevant details disclosed regularly in

including Telangana State Irrigation Development Corporation Chairman Muvva Vijay Babu, Irrigation Principal Secretary Rahul Bojja, Bhadradri Kothagudem Collector Jitesh V. Patel, SP Rohit Raju and ITDA Project Officer Rahul.

Amazon to expand data ...

Continued from page 1

Amazon already has a strong presence in Telangana as indicated by their largest corporate building in the world in Hyderabad. Amazon launched its dedicated air cargo network 'Amazon Air' in Hyderabad in 2023.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) has designated Hvderabad as a strategic region and three big data centres are already operational. They shared plans for further expanding their business, including a new hyperscale data centre in Hyderabad that is critical for AI/MLenabled services.

Industries Minister Sridhar Babu who led the discussions said, "Our talks with Amazon were positive. We assured

the corporation that we would provide them with the best incentives and total support to make their goals in Hyderabad successful. We expected a huge expansion of their presence in our state." Speaking after the meeting,

Kerry Person, the Vice President of Data Centre Planning and Delivery of Amazon Web Services, said, "I am excited by the opportunity to expand our cloud infrastructure in Hyderabad as an integral component of AWS's strategy in India. We expect the AWS region in Hyderabad will play an increasingly important role in supporting the growth of AWS's cloud services in India, including Artificial Intelligence soon. AWS is committed to contributing

to Telangana's digital ambitions, empowering our customers and partners across the State and country to drive towards India's trillion-dollar digital economy goal."

With the expansion of Amazon Web Services in Telangana, the state is set to consolidate its position as a leading hub of cloud and data centre infrastructure in India.

Amazon provides a range of cloud business services like computing, storage, databases, networking, machine learning, analytics and other services which will now also include AI. Amazon, headquartered in Washington DC, US, has a market capital of around USD 1.89 trillion and an over 1.5 million workforce across the globe.

Bulk of Telangana...

Continued from page 1

Speaking to the media on Sunday, Kishan said that Hyderabad city developed significantly in the last 20 to 30 years in IT, Pharma, Education, Defence and real estate sectors.

He said the Centre is first in extending all kinds of help to Telangana although the BJP government did not create the state. He said that 80 per cent of the state's revenue is from Hyderabad. However, the state government is not using the revenue to meet the needs of the people, he said.

He said the BRS and the Congress government spent state funds for the personal interests of their leaders, throwing public welfare to the wind. Earlier, Kishan Reddy launched the Tiranga Rally at the Ramnagar Chowrasta on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, he appealed to the people to hoist the national flag on the top of every house and that the BJP is organising Tiranga rallies across the nation through the BJP Yuva Morcha. He said Tiranga rallies will continue till August 15 and appealed to voluntary organisations and student unions to take part in the rally to protect national integrity.

Team Revanth headed...

Continued from page 1

announcements by global IT

sector saw fresh investments

from nearly a dozen US com-

skilling and flow chemistry

reiterates the company's com-

mitment to expand its facilities

in Telangana and also rein-

forces the city's R&D capabil-

The announcement by

Amgen, a top biotech compa-

ny, to set up a new R&D tech

facility is a breakthrough for

the leader in the animal health

sector, and significant expan-

Thermofisher will give a boost

to the life sciences ecosystem

Another major takeaway

from the visit was the decision

The new GCC of Zoetis Inc,

by HCA

and

The MoU with Corning on

rations.

Arcesium

panies.

ities.

Hyderabad.

of Telangana.

sions

IT/GCC space.

centre in Hyderabad and to use the city as a hub to drive The major announcements in the IT sector are the Charles its India presence. Schwab GCC, one of the US's Aurum Equity too made a leading financial sector corpo-

significant announcement to set up an AI-powered green The Trinet deal opens major data centre. forays in the HR solutions sec-Monarch Tractors added a

by Amazon to expand its data

crucial step to Telangana's tor. The significant expansion ambition to expand its highmajor Cognizant, and end manufacturing business.

reinforced The delegation led by Chief Hyderabad's edge in the Minister Revanth Reddy also engaged with Apple, Google The pharma/life sciences and Stanford University.

> "The trip opened a myriad of areas for accelerated partnerships, setting new horizons and showcasing our potential. From our plans in AI to building the Future City, corporations, start-ups, business leaders, tech and business associations and influencers have agreed to take our vision to more people," said Revanth Reddy before leaving for South Korea.

D. Sridhar Babu, the IT and Industries Minister said, "We have exceeded our goals. I am delighted that we could generate so much excitement in the US business world which will lead to a multi-fold impact in investments and new jobs. We will rigorously follow up to ensure many more deals in the coming months."

Continued from page 1

The Ministers first visited the Seetharama Sagar project at the Poosukudem in Mulkalapalli mandal of Aswaraopeta, where they launched the second pump house trial run. They then proceeded to Kamalapuram village, also in Mulkalapalli mandal, to launch the trial run of the third pump house.

The final leg of their tour was in Wyra in Khammam district where they inspected arrangements for the public meeting scheduled for August 15, which will be addressed by the Chief Minister during the project's inauguration.

Addressing a press conference, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy reiterated the Congress government's com-

mitment to providing irrigation to every acre under the Seetharama Project by August

2026. He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would not only inaugurate the project on August 15 but also launch the Rs 2 lakh loan waiver scheme for farmers. This initiative is expected to offer substantial

relief to the farming community and reinforce the government's support for agricultural development.

Uttam said that the Seetharama Project, which the Canal BRS government left incom-

plete, is now about to be completed. He emphasised the need to speed up construction to ensure that water reaches

Will irrigate every acre ...

every acre aligning with the government's commitment to agricultural development.

The Seetharama Lift Irrigation Project, now fully approved by the Godavari River Management Board, will receive 67 TMCs of water from the Godavari River.

Uttam stressed that this is crucial for ensuring water availability all over the project's command area by the August 2026 deadline. The project also includes renaming the Enkoor Link Canal as the Rajiv

He emphasised the need to peed up the construction of distributary canals and critical infrastructure components, such as the Yatalakunta and

Zloorupadu tunnels, which are vital for bringing Godavari under cultivation. water to the Palair region. He also addressed challenges related to railway crossings and asked officials to collaborate

with the railway authorities to prevent construction delays. Uttam urged officials to focus on obtaining clearances from the Supreme Court and the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests. He also stressed the importance of resolving issues related to railway crossings at 34.561 and 37.551 km to prevent construction delays

He stressed the need for immediate land acquisition for Packages 1 and 2, involving 3,000 acres, to meet the pro-

ject's targets on time. He noted that the completion of this would stabilise irrigation for 3.40 lakh acres and bring an additional 2.60 lakh acres

A key point is the immedi-

Irrigation Project will be a game-changer, bringing water to millions of acres and transforming Telangana's agrarian landscape," he said.

reliable source of water for nearly six lakh acres, which will help increase agricultural productivity and improve the livelihoods of farmers. The Congress government is committed to ensuring the success-

Hasina government due to Nurjahan Begum, who was obscure reasons while also an accused in the graft authorities initiated a series case, is a member of the 16of investigations against him member Council of Advisers, after she came to power in which will assist Yunus in 2008.

running the state's affairs. Yunus had been in a prolaunched a review of the

tracted row with the Sheikh statutory Grameen Bank's activities in 2011 and fired Yunus as its founding managing director on charges of violating the government retirement regulation.

Yunus was charged under Bangladesh authorities dozens of cases during Hasina's regime.

'The Seetharama Lift

Bangla govt's adviser Yunus ... 'The project will provide a Continued from page 1

ful execution of the project," Uttam said.

ate acquisition of the remaining 1,658 acres required for the project's Packages 1 and 2.

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he pioneer

pinion 06

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Catastrophe revisited

Prime Minister Modi visits Wayanad, pledges full Central Government support for recovery efforts

rime Minister Narendra Modi recently visited Wayanad, Kerala, which was devastated by landslides that left more than 200 dead. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a review meeting after conducting an aerial and ground survey of the landslide-hit areas in Wayanad. Recalling the devastating 1979 Morbi dam disaster in Gujarat, Modi empathised with the affected residents, assuring them of full support from the central government. During his day-long visit to Wayanad, Modi surveyed the destruction caused by the July 30 landslides. Modi's visit included a trek through the severely impacted Chooralmala region, where he assessed the damage and interacted with rescue personnel, officials, and residents. He also visited a relief camp in Meppadi, offering comfort to survivors, including children who had lost family members. PM Modi emphasised the need for better preparedness and resilient infrastructure to mitigate the impact of such natural disasters in the future.



Wayanad is perhaps the worst hit as the incessant rains triggered landslides, damaging homes and infrastructure and causing extensive agricultural losses. The region's economy, heavily dependent on agriculture and tourism, has been severely impacted, with farmers facing significant losses and tourists staying away due to the adverse weather conditions. However, Wayanad is not the only place that has endured losses. This year's monsoon has brought unprecedented destruction across the country. From north to south, no region has been spared from the monsoon fury. The Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have also endured losses. Torrential rains,

landslides, and flash floods have resulted in significant loss of life and property. In Himachal Pradesh, an entire village was tragically wiped off due to a deluge after a cloudburst. The heavy rainfall has also caused rivers to overflow, leading to widespread flooding and disruption of daily life in the plains. Roads have been washed away, leaving many remote areas inaccessible, and thousands of people have been displaced from their homes. The increasing frequency and intensity of monsoon-related disasters in India can be attributed to a combination of factors, including climate change, deforestation, and unplanned urbanisation. India must continue to invest in and implement strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy sources. International cooperation is also crucial in addressing the climate change. Besides, ensuring that development projects, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas like the Himalayas must be properly evaluated before being commissioned. This includes stricter regulations on construction and deforestation. In the given scenario what is of utmost importance is preparedness-strengthening disaster management capabilities at the local, state, and national levels. This includes improving early warning systems, enhancing infrastructure resilience, and conducting regular disaster preparedness drills.



When heroes defy their legacies



SANTHOSH MATHEW

History is a tapestry of contradictions and ironies, offering few clear heroes or villains. Instead, it presents figures whose actions and legacies are deeply intriguing

sistory, much like a tapestry, is interwoven with threads of contradiction, paradox, and irony. It refuses to offer a simplistic narrative of heroes and villains, instead presenting us with figures whose actions and legacies are often at odds. Even as we try to categorize these individuals within neat labels, the complexities of their lives and the contexts in which they lived often defy such easy classifications. In delving into these paradoxes, we uncover the profound dichotomies that have shaped our world. Here, we explore some of the most striking examples of such contradictions.

The Pulitzer Prize is one of the most prestigious awards in journalism, representing the pinnacle of recognition for investigative reporting, public service, and literary achievement.

It stands as a symbol of journalistic integrity and excellence. Yet, the man behind this esteemed award, Joseph Pulitzer, was a pioneer of "yellow journal-ism"—a style characterized by sensationalism, exaggeration, and a sometimes tenuous relationship with the truth. Pulitzer's newspapers, including the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the New York World, became synonymous with this sensationalist style, prioritising scandal, shock, and spectacle over factual reporting.

Pulitzer was, in many ways, a shrewd businessman who used his media empire to captivate, excite, and often inflame public opinion.Yet, despite his role in fostering yellow journalism, Pulitzer's legacy is paradoxically one of promoting journalistic excellence.

The award that bears his name has honoured countless journalists who have exposed corruption, championed the underdog, and stood as defenders of truth against tyranny. The irony is profound: a man who built his career on sensationalism is now celebrated as a patron of journalistic integrity. This duality highlights the complexities of human nature and the ever-evolving landscape of media. The Nobel Prizes, particularly the Nobel



Peace Prize, embody the highest aspirations of humanity. They honour individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the betterment of the world through science, literature, and the pursuit of peace. However, the man behind these prestigious awards, Alfred Nobel, accumulated his wealth from an invention that has caused immense destruction: dynamite. Nobel's invention revolutionized construction and engineering, but it also became a powerful tool in warfare. The devastating impact of dyna-mite weighed heavily on

Nobel's conscience. It is said that his decision to establish the Nobel Prize was influenced by a premature obituary that labelled him "the merchant of death" after his invention became synonymous with violence and destruction.By creating the Nobel Prizes, particularly the Peace Prize, Nobel sought to reshape his legacy from one of destruction to one of hope and

Yet, the contrast between his contribution to the prolifera-

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who was award-ed the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019. Abiy was recognized for his efforts in resolving the long-standing conflict with neighbouring Eritrea, earning international acclaim as a peacemaker. However, within two years of receiving the prize, Abiy found himself leading his nation into a bru-JINNAH'S PERSONAL tal civil war

The conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region has been marked by atrocities, displacement, and a humanitarian crisis of staggering proportions.

STRICT RELIGIOUS United States The Constitution and the Bill of VALUES THAT Rights are celebrated as mon-WOULD LATER umental achievements in the history of human rights, COME TO enshrining the principles of freedom, equality, and justice. Thomas Jefferson, one of the DEFINE THE COUNTRY HE Founding Fathers and the principal author of the FOUNDED. Declaration of Independence, JINNAH WAS A played a crucial role in shaping these foundational docu-HIGHLY ments. Yet, Jefferson was also WESTERNISED lifetime, owned over 600 enslaved people.

freedom and human dignity, yet he continued to benefit from an institution that deprived others of these very rights.

Similarly, Muhammad Ali Jinnah is revered as the founding father of Pakistan, the world's first Islamic republic. He is celebrated for his role in establishing a nation for Muslims in the Indian subcontinent, based on the idea of Muslim nationalism.

However, Jinnah's personal life was far removed from the strict religious values that would later come to define the country he founded.Jinnah was a highly WesterniSed individual who enjoyed the finer things in life. He was known to smoke cigars, drink alcohol, and reportedly favoured pork-a practice contrary to Islamic teachings. His second wife, Maryam, was a Parsi, and his only daughter, Dina, married a Parsi as well, sparking considerable controversy given his public role as a Muslim leader. These episodes remind us a slave owner who, during his that even the greatest leaders are not without their contradictions. In the end, history greatest of icons are not immune to contradiction-it is in their complexity that their true humanity shines through. (The writer is an associate professor, views are personal)

tion of powerful weapons and his desire to reward peacemakers serves as a poignant reminder of the paradoxes that can define a person's life.A recent example of this paradox can be found in the story of

progress.

INDIVIDUAL WHO ENJOYED THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE

LIFE WAS FAR

REMOVED

FROM THE

This glaring contradiction reminds us that even the between his public advocacy greatest of icons are not for liberty and his private practice of slavery has sparked intense debate among historians and scholars. Jefferson's writings espoused ideals of

An elderly woman spins tricolour yarns ahead of the Independence Day in Nadia district

A Heartfelt reflection on the changing face of Nainital



Over the decades, relentless deforestation and unchecked construction have turned Nainital's once verdant landscapes into tinderboxes

oummers were harsh this Syear. Fire rained from the skies. Cities were burning. So were the mountains.My first holiday to the mountains was in the summer of 1970. We boarded the train in the evening, excited about the trip.

The first glimpse of the distant mountains the next morning kept us awake for the remaining journey, as the faint outlines turned prominent.The bus ride from the railway station was equally exciting. Sometimes we travelled hugging the mountains, and at other times we looked down with fear, as the bus moved literally at the edge of the road.

After what felt like an impatiently long time, as we turned a bend, I gasped looking with awe at the majestic lake spread out before me. We had arrived at Nainital. I had fallen in love with the hills. I would return several times in the following years, till I realised that there were many other equally beautiful hills to explore. Things started changing fast. My first view in the summer of 1970 faded into a fond memory, which I would often draw upon to mourn a lost days in peak summers, and immune to the rapid march



time. I still remember very then for a better part of the vividly the green shades covvear

ering the hills, even in the was unaware of the ecological disaster that was in the summers, much before the onset of monsoons. There making at that stage in life. However, I could intuitively was not even a speck of brown visible beneath the sense that it was not somethick curtain of foliage. I also thing desirable. A few wilddo not remember the presfires in earlier years started ence of fans, coolers, refrigerincreasing in numbers and ators, much less air conditionintensity. It was easy to ers. The only cooling devices attribute these to the locals were the soft ice-cream setting off accidental fires. machines along the Mall road. The high and mighty of the The subsequent visits were a land are seldom blamed. stark contrast. We could see Wildfires in the mountains the rapid pace of deforestation are not new; but not to the and the mushrooming of extent that they now ravage. construction activities along A trickle in the previous centhe roads. There was a hazy tury is now a raging river. curtain of dust as dumpers Fires in the Nainital region carried their load from the alone engulfed vast tracts of innumerable quarries in the land even entering residential hills. Fans started making areas. Other mountains in the their entry in homes and north also faced the same fate. hotels, initially only for a few Even the plains are not

and the greed of the unscrupulous. I remember going to view Ram Lila wearing half-sleeved sweaters. We would wait with baited breaths for Diwali. However warm it was the previous day, we would invariably take out heavier woollens from Diwali. With time, winters started setting in later than we were used to.Our beautiful planet is nudging us with innumerable omens to wake up and look after her.

of unplanned urbanisation

Hills are sinking under the heavy burden of unplanned construction of houses, hotels, and resorts. Sea levels are going up. Many coastal cities may submerge over the next few decades. Water tables are fast going down resulting in conflicts for drinking water.We need to act to live a better future for the coming generations. Let us remember British historian, explorer and activist Robert Swan, 'The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

LETTERS

Neeraj Chopra for the silver medal (for the

Madam — India's star javelin thrower

Neeraj Chopra clinched a silver medal at

the Paris Olympics, performing in front of

an enthusiastic crowd at Stade de France.

Neeraj's throw of 89.45m earned him sec-

ond place on the podium. Although it was

his best performance of the season, it was-

n't enough to secure gold, which went to

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem with a throw

of 92.97m, (will be hard to beat in the near

future) setting a new Olympic record. It's

a pity for 145 crore Indian that we have not

won a single gold but we plan to hold the Olympics in India! It is quite evident that

Neeraj Chopra has given his best (though

too much pressure of expectations was put

PV Srinivas Sreelekha |Secunderabad

athletic 89.45 m throw).

NEERAJ WINS SILVER

BAIL NOT JAIL SHOULD BE THE NORM

Madam - Recently, while an assistant director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) was swiftly remanded to CBI custody over a bribery charge involving Rs 20 lakhs from a Mumbai-based jeweler, the ongoing case of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia raises serious concerns. Despite being accused of money launder-ing in the Delhi excise policy scam, Sisodia has languished in jail for 17 months without any progress toward a trial, as observed by the Supreme Court.

The Court emphasised that personal liberty is paramount, and delaying bail without commencing the trial is unacceptable, leading to Sisodia's release on bail. This case highlights a troubling disparity in the justice system: while some accused individuals evade legal consequences due to the laxity of investigative agencies and courts, others, potentially innocent, remain imprisoned for years, leaving their families to suffer. As we have seen in numerous cases, delayed justice is effectively denied justice. A P Thiruvadi | Chenai

HATS OFF TO INDIAN OLYMPIC SQUAD

Madam- Hats off to the Indian Hockey team for regaining it's past international glory via winning a medal in the Paris -Olympics - 2024. Their defeating the great - proven - teams such as Australia and England elucidates their resolve, dedication, determination. It could not enter the final and had to settle for bronze (due to sheer bad luck of the day). This is the 13th Olympic medal for India in hockey (8 gold, 1silver, 4bronze).

Arman Sherawat's bronze in wrestling, cooled the hearts of Indians, which otherwise wallowed in pain over the disqualification of Vinesh Phogat, (the gold medal sure shot).

Hats off to the Indian magnificent 6, who won 5 bronze medals and 1 silver in the Paris Olympics - 2024. Also kudos to all the national and international participants of the prestigious grand gala Olympics (sports festival). (Such as the functional participants) too inder pressure of expectations was part too inder pressure of expectations was part on the guy). But the most important thing to note is that India is very poor in suc-cession planning and finding alternatives,

A world in turmoi

ground in the conflict. Across Europe, a similar surge sees immigrants clashing with native populations. But the most alarming development this week has been the chaos and coup in our neighboring country-once a close friend and an Islamic nation that upheld peaceful coexistence among all religions, now plunged into turmoil. These are difficult times where unrests and upheavals have become order of the day.

Amidst this global unrest, our own opposition leaders are calling for insurrection, openly demanding the removal of our elected Prime Minister. These are the same voices that champion democracy and preach about love. Yet, we believe that Indians will never tread that destructive path. We stood strong during the Emergency, showing our love for the nation and our willingness to fight for it if necessary.

C K Subramaniam | Bengaluru

not just in sports but in every field. If the sports administration could not find a sinle alternative between Tokyo and Paris then it's an utter failure (sadly Vinesh Phogat's golden hope mar by 100 gram over weight) for the sports authority. Among Indians Neeraj Chopra is a champion player but what he failed to do is to up his game and cross 90m during the last four years. It is a classic case of a person sitting on his laurels and not pushing himself. Last 4 years he has not even crossed 90m marks once and the government has spent (Rs. 5,21,72,457 crore) so much money on him. One has to agree that 8th August was the Pakistani's day but fact is that Nadeem crossed 90m earlier and today in the crucial moment he did it twice while winning the gold. He had not even half the support that Neeraj got. India stands behind Pakistan in the medal tally at Olympics. What else, wondering, though it's sports!

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

he world seems to be in flames. In the UK. violent clashes between communities are intensifying, with immigrants gaining Manu, Sarabjot, Swapnil Kusale, wrestler

Aman Sehrawat and the hockey team for the 5 bronze medals, star javelin thrower HYDERABAD | MONDAY | AUGUST 12, 2024



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FIRSTCOLUMN HAVE A INTREPID AND ROBUST MINDSET

Through spiritual practices, one can find strength to continue the journey of life



RAVI VALLURI

lways be associated with people who are good at heart. This is what Swami Vivekananda said.My mother shares her birthday with Aswami Vivekananda who was born on 12th January 1863. Association, Sangha, and Satsang were her strong points. She nurtured strong bonds with all religious faiths and spiritually inclined people.She wanted to pursue medicine but life did not take that trajectory instead she became a qualified medical social worker. She used to tell patients and their children, 'Fear is only as deep as the mind allows.' Thus, patients afflicted with TB, but not bedridden, participated in the projects. This was what she called 'Diversionary Therapy'.

The TB Hospital became a unique template for the methods adopted by doctors, para-medic staff, social workers, government bodies and NGOs, all to contribute to the rehabilitation of the patients. Climate changes, civilizations collapse, governments change political affiliations alter and even the best possible model collapses. This is inevitable. As Buddha says, 'The only permanent thing in life is impermanence.' The lofty objectives were not approved by a new set of hospital administrators and the beacon of hope collapsed but she tried hard with a robust mindset. This was extremely traumatic for my mother and she became a patient of Paroxysmal Atrial Tachycardia (PAT). This is a type of arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat).

Paroxysmal means that the episode of arrhythmia originates and terminates abruptly. Atrial implies the arrhythmia starts with the atria or in the upper chambers of the heart. The tachycardia results in a signifi-



cant increase in the heartbeat per minute. It abnormally increases the pace, like in an athlete on a treadmill. PAT significantly increases the heartbeat of an adult from the normal 60 to 100 to 130 to 230 and among infants and children, it shoots up from 100 to 130 to 220 beats per minute.It is accompanied by sweating, dizziness, palpitations, angina and acute breathlessness.

Normally, a patient suffers from such a condition owing to emotional upheavals, physical exhaustion, deep anxiety, and consumption of cafteine or alcohol. I saw my mother suffering from this condition on several occasions and being admitted to the ICU. It was a distressing and disturbing sight. While it is not a life-threatening affliction, it certainly disorients the psychology and attitude of the patient. During her suffering, we saw her clutching onto her rosary as a lifesaver, while we prayed fervently for her recovery. She was administered medication but it worked only to an extent. The real help came in the form of a pentagon-shaped talisman. That is through Siddha Healing, Pranic Healing, the ten-day Vipassana Course and the Part 1 and Part 2 Art of Living courses. This is the unique, amazing and scientific power of the breath. Breathing techniques, meditation, medication, and proper diet changed the trajectory of the life of the patient and brought back the mojo in her life.'When you take a breath in, let it become your meditation that all the suffering of all the beings in the world is riding on that incoming breath and reaching your heart, and see a miracle happen,' says Osho. Till her final days, she continued with these practices. Senior citizens, those in pain and agony and even the able-bodied should undertake the courses mentioned.Swami Vivekananda took Yoga to America and spread the Ramakrishna Mission. He was the Arjuna of Shri Rama Krishna Paramhansa. My mother imbibed the trait of service to mankind by reading extensively about Shri Ramakrishna Paramhansa and Swami Vivekananda and the Almighty God blessed her with an intrepid mind. (The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Populism will not let food subsidy reforms take off



analysis 07

UTTAM GUPTA

Leakages can be curbed if the subsidy is given directly to the beneficiaries using 'direct benefit transfer' mode. The potential for reducing food subsidies is immense



n the full Budget presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 23, 2024, the government has pegged the budget estimate (BE) food subsidy for FY 2024-25 at Rs 205,250 crore which is no different from the estimate given in the interim Budget. Though slightly lower than the revised estimate (RE) of Rs 211,394 crores for FY 2023-24, this is no consolation as invariably, the RE for any financial year turns out to be higher than the BE. For instance, while presenting the budget for FY 2023-24, Sitharaman kept the BE for food subsidy at Rs 197,000 crore. Against this, RE has turned out to be Rs 14,394 crore more. The moot point is that the expenditure incurred by the Central government during the last five years under this head has been consistently over Rs 200,000 crore mark every year 2020-21: Rs 529,000 crore; 2021-22: Rs 372,000 crore; 2022-23: Rs 287,000 crore; 2023-24: Rs 211,394 crores and 2024-25: Rs 205,250 crore (BE). During 2024-25, food subsidy will acco Under the

for 4.2 per cent of its budget (Rs 4820,000 crore), 5.5 per cent of its revenue expenditure (Rs 3709,000 crore) and consume nearly 8 per cent of its estimated net tax receipts (Rs 2583,000 crore).Reining in food subsidy is no less important than the goal it seeks to achieve namely providing 'food security'. The uncontrolled rise in the former leads to an unsustainable increase in fiscal deficit (excess of total receipts over total expenditure) which can injure the economy in multiple ways through high inflation, high interest rates, a slowdown in growth, fewer jobs, low incomes and so on. This, in turn, can lead to a demand for higher financial assistance including food subsidies from the government thereby exacerbating the vicious cvcle. There exists a huge scope for reducing food subsidies. To assess this, at the outset, let us see how it is administered. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), the Centre asks the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other state agencies to procure food from the farmers at MSP (minimum support price) and organize its distribution to around 820 million people for free.

The entire cost i.e. MSP paid to farmers plus handling and distribution cost (HDC) is reimbursed to the FCI/other state agencies as a subsidy. The money comes from the Union Budget's allocation for 'food subsidy'. While, the PMGKAY has been in force since January 1, 2023, before that, the Centre was giving food to 820 million persons (7 kg of cereals per person per month to 120 million poorest of the poor persons covered under the **REINING IN FOOD** Antyodaya Anna Yojana or AAY families and five kg of cereals per SUBSIDY IS NO person per month to the remain-LESS IMPORTANT ing 700 million) at a heavily subsidized price of Rs 2/3/1 per kg for THAN THE GOAL wheat/rice/coarse cereals under the National Food Security Act IT SEEKS TO (NFSA). In addition, since April ACHIEVE NAMELY 2020, it has given 5 kg of food per person per month for "free" to all 820 million beneficiaries under PROVIDING 'FOOD PMGKAY to mitigate the conse-

Further, during the last nine-anda-half years of the incumbent government, 250 million persons have come out of poverty (as per a recent report by Niti Aayog). These per-sons can be excluded from the list of beneficiaries.

Doing a back-of-the-envelope calculation, giving free food to a mil-lion persons entails a subsidy of Rs 200 crore per annum. Excluding 250 million will help save Rs 50,000 crore. The existing beneficiaries list of 820 million is based on 2011 Census estimates while the Supreme Court (SC) has directed that the Centre should take into account the population during 2021. On this basis, it needs to give free food to an additional 100 mil-

That will cost Rs 20,000 crore. Even

after providing for this, it will save

Rs 30,000 crore annually. Second,

lion.

Scheme was that FCI et al would buy only the quantity needed for meeting beneficiaries' requirements under NFSA plus maintain some 'strategic' buffer to meet emergencies.

It was never meant to be an 'openended' procurement which it has become today. This has also contributed to the avoidable increase in subsidy besides stocking problems. Shunning 'open-ended' purchases can yield significant savings. Fifth, currently, FCI/state agencies are paid HDC on an 'actual' basis. This leads to payment for inefficien-cies in the system and even cost padding.

The stories of loaders being paid hefty salaries by the FCI are still fresh in memory. A shift from 'actual' to reimbursement of cost to agencies on a 'normative' basis can save a lot of subsidy. Finally, the availability of a nmoth of

SECURITY'. THE quences of Covid-19 pandemic. From January 1, 2023, it merged the UNCONTROLLED free part of PMGKAY with the reg-**RISE IN THE** ular food security schemes under NFSA. FORMER LEADS

Now, food is available to all 820 milto an lion beneficiaries for free under the new incarnation of NFSA namely UNSUSTAINABLE the PMGKAY. This arrangement will continue for five years till the **INCREASE IN** end of CY 2028 as per the **FISCAL DEFICIT** announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November (EXCESS OF 2023. Avenues for saving in TOTAL RECEIPTS subsidyFirst, fundamentally, subsidized food is meant for the poor. **OVER TOTAL** The number of poor isn't more than 15 – 20 per cent of India's popula-**EXPENDITURE**) tion. Yet, the number of beneficiaries under the PMGKAY at 820 WHICH CAN million works out to nearly 59 per **INJURE THE** cent of the population. Even as per the Shanta Kumar Committee ECONOMY IN (2015), the number of people eligible for subsidized food under MULTIPLE WAYS NFSA shouldn't be more than 40

per cent. The excess of 19 per cent comes to around 270 million. Fourth, the initial idea under the

why every beneficiary should get free food? The Shanta Kumar around 60 million tons (the quan-Committee had recommended that non-AAY persons should pay 50 per cent of the MSP. Other than AAY are 700 million persons. Minus 250 million (who shouldn't get a subsidy at all) and adding 100 million (as per SC order), we get 550 million. Making them pay 50 per cent of MSP or Rs 11.4 per kg (wheat), will save Rs 37,600 crore annually. Third, the NFSA legislation enacted in 2013 required beneficiaries to pay Rs 2/3/1 per kg for wheat/rice/coarse cereals. It froze these rates for three years.

Since 2016, there has been no legal bar on increasing the price. Yet, far from increasing, the Modi - government has reduced the price to zero. Are they all (read: 820 million persons) so poor that they can't pay even a fraction of the cost (in the case of wheat at Rs 2 per kg, it is 1/15th)? Even if you make them pay a notional Rs 1 per kg, this will yield savings of Rs 5000 crore per annum.

tity distributed under the PMGKAY) in the supply chain with zero price tag is an open invitation to dubious operators to siphon off and sell in the open market raking in a moolah. The PDS scam in West Bengal involving the diversion of subsi-

dized food grains worth tens of thousands of crore currently under investigation by the central agencies provides a classic example. This can be curbed if the subsidy is given directly to the beneficiaries using DBT (direct benefit transfer) mode. The potential for reducing food subsidies is immense. The government can go for any of the above measures or all of them depending on how much savings it targets. But, ALAS under the current political scenario, Modi won't dare to take even a baby step like charging a notional price of Rs 1 per kg.

(The writer is a policy analyst; *views are personal)*

Implications of upheaval in Bangladesh on its trade relations relations with India

The sudden turn of events have raised concerns about the potential impact on trade, economic stability, and the broader geopolitical dynamics of the region

Cince Sheikh Hasina Sassumed office as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in 2009, the country has been a key ally of India. Her leadership has seen significant progress in bilateral relations, with a focus on infrastructure, connectivity, and trade. However, the recent political crisis in Bangladesh has raised concerns about the

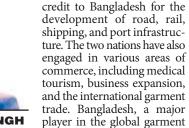
future of this partnership. On January 8, 2024, Sheikh Hasina declared that boosting the country's economy would be her top priority for the next five years. Yet, by August 2024, the nation was engulfed in violent demonstrations over a quota system for government positions, leading to a deepen-Hasina resigned and sought has extended \$8 billion in saw a flourishing of com-



ADITYA PRATAP SINGH

refuge in India, raising concerns about the stability of Bangladesh and its impact on Indo-Bangladesh relations. The Evolution of Indo-**Bangladesh Relations**

Over the past decade, India and Bangladesh have fostered ing domestic political crisis. As role in strengthening their tensions escalated, Sheikh relationship. Since 2016, India



Ministry of Commerce.

The Impact on Trade

ton imports from India. The textile and garment sectors account for 56% of India, making it a vital trading partner in South Asia. In the financial year 2023-24, bilater-

strong economic ties, with infrastructure and connectivity projects playing a crucial

merce between India and Bangladesh, leading to a significant trade surplus for India. However, the ongoing political turmoil in Bangladesh threatens to disrupt this economic partnership. The civil unrest and worsening economic situation have created security concerns that could impact industry, relies heavily on cot-Indian exports, commerce, and infrastructure projects in the neighboring nation. One of the major challenges will be on the bilateral trade Bangladesh's total exports to

front. After reaching \$12.21 billion in 2022-23, India's exports to Bangladesh dropped to \$11 billion in al trade between the two countries reached \$13 billion, 2023-24. Similarly, according to the Union Bangladesh's imports decreased from \$2 billion in the previous year to \$1.84 bil-Sheikh Hasina's leadership lion in the most recent fiscal year. Indian exporters have



voiced concerns about the situation in Bangladesh, fearing that the instability in the country will negatively affect commerce between the two nations.

A significant scarcity of dollars in Bangladesh, as noted by the think tank GTRI, has already curtailed the country's ability to import goods, particularly from India. Uncertainty Surrounding the

Free Trade Agreement

In October 2023, India and Bangladesh discussed the possibility of a free trade agreement (FTA) during a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade meeting in Dhaka. An FTA could streamline regulations, encourage investment and commerce, and potentially remove customs tariffs, boosting trade between the two countries. According to a 2012 World Bank working paper, a full-product FTĂ could enhance Bangladesh's exports to India by 182%, while a partial FTA might grow them by 134%. This would contribute to strengthening Bangladesh's trade transport infrastructure and commerce links, leading to a significant rise in exports. However, the current political crisis has cast doubt on the

future of the FTA proposals. Sheikh Hasina's exit might slow or pause this development, affecting the expansion of commerce and trade in new areas between the two nations.

Challenges for the Textile and Garment Industry

The ongoing crisis in Bangladesh could also have a negative impact on other sectors, particularly the textile and garment industry. In the fiscal year 2021-2022, Bangladesh exported garments worth \$42.613 billion, solidifying its position as the second-largest apparel exporter globally. However, the recent incidents of factories being set on fire have raised concerns about the future of this industry. Many of these textile units are owned by traders associated with the

Awami League Party, making them particularly vulnerable in the current political climate. While India has the potential to step in and provide garments to developed economies, there are certain drawbacks to this shift. Bangladesh, as a Least Developed Country, benefits from zero-duty advantages, while Indian goods face tariff barriers. If borders remain closed and duty-free exportimport activities are suspended, there is a possibility of increased demand for Indian garments. However, it is still too early to make definitive predictions about the opportunities and gains that might arise from this situation.

(The author is a PhD scholar at HBTU, Kanpur; views are *personal*)



Money 08

IN BRIEF



Steel prices trade at 3-year lows on increased supplies

omestic steel prices have dropped to a three-year low on account of increased imports, according to a report. Hot rolled coils (HRC) prices have fallen to Rs 51,000 a tonne from a peak of Rs 76,000 a tonne in April 2022, markets research firm BigMint said in a report. The rate of cold rolled coils (CRC) is trading at Rs 58,200 a tonne from the peak of Rs 86,300 a tonne in April 2022. The prices exclude the 18 per cent GST on the commodity. "The rates of HRC and CRC in India are trading at their three-year low graph. The surge in imports has impacted the domestic prices hitting the demand," BigMint said. According to the data, imports during the April-June quarter surged by 68 per cent to 1.93 million tonnes (MT) from 1.15 MT in the same period of 2023-24. Steel imports rose by 38 per cent to 8.319 MT in 2023-24, making India a net importer of the commodity.



Godrej Properties to launch Rs 21K cr worth housing projects

odrej Properties aims to launch Rs 21,000 crore Gworth of residential projects by March across cities to encash strong consumer demand and in sales bookings this fis worth of residential projects by March across major achieve 20 per cent growth in sales bookings this fiscal In an interview with PTI, the company's executive chairperson Pirojsha Godrej expressed confidence that the company would achieve the targeted sales bookings of Rs 27,000 crore for the current fiscal. In the last fiscal, the company's sales bookings jumped 84 per cent to a record Rs 22,527 crore, the highest among listed realty firms in 2023-24. Asked about the launch pipeline, Pirojsha said, "We are targeting to launch projects worth Rs 30,000 crore this fiscal year. We have already launched around Rs 9,000 crore worth of projects in the first quarter of this fiscal." The launch pipeline for the remaining three quarters is strong, he said.

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | AUGUST 12, 2024 'An attack on Sebi's credibility'

PNS MUMBAI

US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research is attacking capital markets regulator Sebi's credibility and attempting a character assassination of its chief, Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval said on Sunday. In a detailed statement issued

this evening, the Buchs clari-fied on the raft of allegations made by Hindenburg in a report on Saturday.

"They have chosen to attack the credibility of Sebi and attempt character assassination of the Sebi chairperson," the statement said.

Hindenburg had alleged that it suspects Sebi's unwillingness to act against Adani Group may be because Madhabi had stakes in offshore funds linked to the conglomerate. The Buchs had immediately termed the allegations "baseless" in an early morning statement.

While Madhabi serves as the chairperson of Sebi, her husband is a senior advisor with Blackstone.

In the fresh statement, the Buchs said their investment in a fund promoted by IIFL Wealth Management was as Singapore-based private citizens, and made two years

PNS NEGOMBO (SRI LANKA)

Rapid adoption of Artificial

Intelligence has powered growth

but opened avenues for cyber-

criminals to misuse AI for

sophisticated attacks, Kaspersky

has said spotlighting the need

for businesses to invest in proac-

tive cybersecurity defences to

meet new-age challenges. Kaspersky, a global cybersecu-

rity and digital privacy compa-

ny, said it has been infusing AI

across its products and harness-

ing AI models to counter threats

and safeguard users by making

technologies more resistant to

ADOPTION OF AI SPOTLIGHTS



before Madhabi joined Sebi as fied as the founder and Chief a whole-time member in 2017. According to the statement, Buchs decided to invest in the two funds on advice of Dhaval's childhood friend, Anil Ahuja. Ahuja is the person who the Hindenburg report has identi-

360 ONE denies making any investment in Adani shares

Wealth management entity 360 ONE on Sunday said its IPE-Plus Fund 1 did not make any investments in Adani Group shares.

In a statement released after the latest claims made by short-seller Hindenburg Research, the firm, formerly called as IIFL Wealth Management, said

(potentially capturing messages,

passwords, and bank codes) -

cybercriminals are using AI in

novel ways, the company cau-

Citing the data for 2023, the

company said it protected

220,000 businesses across the

globe and prevented around 6.1

billion attacks with its solutions

tioned.

and products.

Investment Officer of Mauritius-based IPE Plus Fund and who the Adani Group also in its statement said was a nominee of 3i Investment Fund in Adani power (2007-2008) and served as a director of

Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch's invest-October 2019. ments were less than 1.5

per cent of the total inflow into the fund and no investors had any involvement in investment decisions. It said the fund was fully

In a detailed statement issued this evening, the Buchs clarified on the raft of allegations made by Hindenburg in a report on Saturday. "They have chosen to attack the credibility of Sebi and attempt character assassination of the Sebi chairperson," the statement said

Adani Enterprises for three terms spanning nine years ended June 2017.

Citing Ahuja's statement, the Buchs said that at no point did the fund invest in any bond, equity, or derivative of any Adani Group company.

On the Hindenburg report's concerns surrounding Dhaval's association with Blackstone, the Buch couple said the

appointment was on account of his deep expertise in supply chain management and pre-dates Madhabi's elevation of becoming the Sebi chairperson. "At no time has Dhaval been associated with the real estate side of Blackstone," they added. They also clarified that immediately on Dhaval's appointment, the Blackstone Group was

added to Madhabi's "recusal list"

maintained with Sebi. Making it clear that all the regulations in Sebi are approved by its board and not by the and that it was operational chairperson, the statement said between October 2013 and insinuations of a handful of the decisions concerning the Real "Throughout the fund's Estate Investments Trusts tenure, IPE-Plus Fund 1 industry are favours to specific party are "malicious and made zero investments in any shares of the Adani motivated". They said in the Group either directly or last two years, Sebi has issued indirectly through any over 300 circulars across the entire market ecosystem and business initiatives.

IIM-K to host 'Coop Pitch 224' for youth entrepreneurship

PNS NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode (IIM-K) will host 'Coop Pitch 2024', a competition aimed at promoting cooperative entre-preneurship among youth, from October 16-18, 2024.

Organised by ICA Domus Trust (IDT) and Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society (ULCCS) Limited, the event is part of ULCCS' centenary celebrations. The competition will focus on five key areas: agritech and safe food, care economy and social sector, platform cooperatives, sustainability and green economy, and education and skills, an official statement said.

Participants will engage in hands-on activities guided by experts in cooperative busi-ness models. The top three teams will receive cash prizes totalling Rs 1,00,000, with the first prize being Rs 50,000, second Rs 30,000, and third Rs 20,000, the statement added. Winners will also benefit from a year-long mentorship program to help develop their cooperative enterprises.

fund," the statement to these include ease of doing compliant and regulated, exchanges said.

Macroeconomic data to drive market sentiments

announcements, the last batch of Q1 earnings and global trends are the major factors that would influence trading sentiments in the equity market in a holiday-shortened week ahead, analysts said. Besides, trading activity of

a crucial factor in dictating movement in the market. Equity markets would

Independence Day. "This week, all focus will be on the global markets as we can see the extension of weakness after a long period of stability.



escalating, but markets are not reacting significantly, which is reflected in the declining crude

he added.

"Additionally, institutional flows will play a crucial role in market dynamics," Gour said. Vodafone Idea, NMDC, IRCTC, SJVN and PC Jeweller

would also announce their quarterly earnings during the week.

From the macroeconomic front, industrial production data for June and inflation rate for July will be announced on Monday. WPI inflation data will be out on Wednesday.

Indian inflation data is due this week, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

"Moving forward, the direction of the domestic market will be influenced by global markets," Nair added.

Major cement companies report volume growth □ REVENUE REMAINS MUTED DUE TO LOWER PRICE



new and evolving forms of cyberattacks.From leveraging ChatGPT for writing malicious software and automating attacks against multiple users to misusing AI programmes to track users' smartphone inputs foreign investors would also be

remain closed on Thursday for

The Indian equity market

could also witness some bit of

levelling off this week as investors process recent gains and contend with high prices. Geopolitical tensions are also

oil prices," said Pravesh Gour,





Govt transfers over 60 CCIT/DGIT I-T dept officers

he government has transferred more than 60 senior-most Income Tax officers in the rank of principal chief commissioners and chief commissioners including nine directors general of investigation, according to official orders issued recently. The Department of Revenue, which comes under the Finance Ministry, issued two orders to this effect on August 9. The first order was about posting of 40 officers as chief commissioner of Income Tax (CCIT) or its equivalent designation of director general of I-T (DGIT) on promotion. Twenty other CCIT/DGIT were transferred. Twenty-two CCIT/DGIT-rank officers of the department also got additional charge under the order.It also issued posting orders for nine DGIT (investigation) rank officers for regions like Mumbai, Bengaluru, Jaipur, Chennai, Patna, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Hyderabad while the charge for Bhopal and Kochi was given to two other DsGIT as additional capacity.

PNS NEW DELHI

Leading cement manufacturers reported single-digit volume growth in the June quarter, though their topline was muted on account of the continued downtrend in the price.

Listed manufacturers such as UltraTech, Ambuja Cements, ACC, Shree Cements, and Dalmia Bharat - in their latest quarter earnings reported gains in volumes, ranging from 3 to 9 per cent and increase in capacity utilisation.

However, soft cement prices have put their topline under pressure in the April-June period. Besides, raw material costs went up marginally due to an increase in the cost of fly ash and slag.

The all-India average cement price was at around Rs 348 per 50 kg bag in June 2024, down around 3 per cent year-on-year. However, this was higher when compared to Rs 335 per bag in May 2024.

For the first two months of FY25, the average cement price was at Rs 340 per bag, down 8 per cent YoY. In FY24, the average price was Rs 365 per bag



and Rs 375 per bag in FY23, according to the report.

Moreover, intense heatwave and general elections also slowed the pace of construction activities in April-May.

UltraTech Cement reported a flat consolidated net profit of Rs 1,696.59 crore for the June quarter. The leading cement maker's revenue from operations was up 1.87 per cent at Rs 18,069.56 crore for the period. Volume sales were up 7 per cent to 31.95 million tonne (MT), said the Aditya Birla Group firm which has

announced an open offer for the South-based rival India Cements Ltd after acquiring the promoter's stake.

Adani Group firm Ambuja

Cements Ltd reported a con-

solidated net profit of Rs 789.63 crore and its revenue from operations was at Rs 8,311.48

crore. Though its results were not comparable due to past acquisitions of Sanghi Industries and ACCPL, its consolidated revenue from operations was at Rs 8,712.90 crore in the corresponding June period of FY24.

Ambuja Cement's consolidated sales volume, including its subsidiary ACC, was at 15.8 MT, up 2.6 per cent. This was "highest ever clink-

er & cement sales in Q1 over last 5 years," said the Adani group firm in its latest earning statement. On a standalone basis, Ambuja Cements' own

sales volume was at 9.3 MT in the June quarter, up 2.2 per cent.

ACC reported a decline of 22.46 per cent in its net profit to Rs 361.40 crore and its revenue from operations was marginally down to Rs 5,154.89 crore in the June quarter.

ACC's sales volume from Cement & Clinker in April-June was up 9 per cent at 10.2 MT, which was the "highest ever volume" of the company over the last five years.

Bangur family-promoted Shree Cement's consolidated net profit was down 51.31 per cent to Rs 278.45 crore in the June quarter. However, its revenue from operations was up 1.73 per cent to Rs 5,123.96 crore.

In June quarter, Shree Cement's "total sale volume increased by 8 per cent from 8.92 MT to 9.64 MT," the company informed in its earning statement. Besides, sale of premium products stood at 7.6 per cent of total trade sale volume, it said. Dalmia Bharat's income from operations was marginally down to Rs 3,621 crore.



Rs 1.30 L cr in stock market

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) MD and CEO Siddhartha Mohanty has said that the corporation is looking to make fresh investments of around Rs 1.30 lakh crore in equities during the current

financial year. During April-June FY25, the insurance behemoth made an investment of about Rs 38,000 crore in shares as against Rs 23,300 crore in the same period a year ago. LIC earned a profit of Rs

15,500 crore from its investments in equity markets during the first quarter. The profit from its investment was higher by 13.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter. "We are sure-

ly looking at the markets and price movements...we are looking to invest a good amount at least whatever we had invested in last financial year...LIC made an investment of around Rs 1.32 lakh crore in FY'24," he said. Market value of LIC's

investment in stocks of various companies stood at around Rs 15 lakh crore at the end of June, he said. LIC has exposure in 282 companies through investment in their shares as of June 30, 2024. The Assets Under Management (AUM) increased to Rs 53,58,781 crore as at June-end as compared to Rs 46,11,067 crore at the end of same quarter previous year, registering an increase of 16.22 per cent.

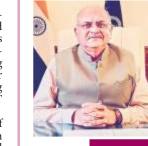
CBDT CHIEF TO OFFICIALS Adopt guidance while dealing with taxpayers

PNS NEW DELHI

Income-tax department officials should make renewed efforts to come across as responsible, responsive, transparent apart from undertaking an approach of "guidance over intimidation" while dealing with taxpayers, the CBDT chairman has said.

Ravi Agrawal, the head of the direct taxes administration body of the country, suggested a 'PRUDENT' approach to be followed by the taxmen as the income tax regime completed 164 years in India.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chief spoke to



Direct Taxes (CBDT) chief spoke to his colleagues via an online video 'Samvaad' session -- The Chairman Speaks -- on the occasion of the 165th Income Tax Day that was observed on July 24

The Central Board of

his colleagues via an online July 24. He said the tax departvideo 'Samvaad' session -- The ment has undergone "transfor-Chairman Speaks -- on the occasion of the 165th Income mational" change, adopted technology in its processes, Tax Day that was observed on increased taxpayer base and

that its orientation has changed from being largely an "enforcement and adversarial" department to largely a service department facilitating taxpayer compliance through non-intrusive tax administration. Agrawal said revenue under the direct tax category has been growing and there were about 65 crore PANs and more than 8.5 crore ITRs were filed during 2023-24 fiscal.

"Our role as part of the tax administration is critical. It is incumbent on us to service the citizens as well as business with professionalism as we embark on our journey to fulfil honourable Prime Minister's

vision of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 and with the beginning of 'Amrit Kal', I take this opportunity to present an approach to be adopted by each one of us irrespective of rank in the

department," he said. The approach, he said, has been encapsulated under the acronym PRUDENT and it will guide the officials as they continue to navigate the "complexities" of tax administration. Explaining the acronym PRUDENT, Agrawal said P stands for professionalism, R for being responsible and responsive, U for understanding transactions and

businesses

Mcap of 8 firms erodes by Rs 1.66 L crore

RELIANCE, LIC BIGGEST LAGGARDS

PNS NEW DELHI

The combined market valuation of eight of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by Rs 1,66,954.07 crore last week, with Reliance Industries and Life Insurance Corporation of India emerging as the biggest laggards, in line with weak

trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark slumped 1,276.04 points

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Reliance Industries tanked Rs 33,930.56 crore to Rs 19,94,765.01 crore, the most among the top-10 firms. The valuation of Life



Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) slumped Rs 30,676.24 crore to Rs 7,17,001.74 crore.

State Bank of India lost Rs 21,151.33 crore from its valuation which stood at Rs

7,35,566.52 crore. The market valuation of Infosys dived Rs 20,973.19 crore to Rs 7,35,277.28 crore and that of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) tumbled Rs 19,157.77 crore to Rs 15,30,469.11 cr.

or 1.57 per cent.



AARTI SREENATH

am Sampath, a name synonymous with innovation in the Indian music industry, is a composer who has consistently pushed the boundaries of creativity and emotion. With a body of work that spans advertising jingles, film scores, and independent music, Ram's compositions are known for their ability to capture the essence of a brand or narrative. His latest work on the Make Life Beautiful jingle for Birla Opus Paints is a shining example of his artistic genius, blending the vibran-cy of colour with the soul of music.

The story behind the creation of this jingle is one that Ram recounts with passion and fond-ness. He describes it as one of the most beautiful briefs he has ever received in his career. "As musicians, we dream in colour," he says, reflecting on the project. The brief wasn't just about promoting a product; it was about capturing the beauty of wonder, the curiosity of magic and the essence of colour-all deeply connected to paint. For him, this project was more than just work; it was a journey into the emotional landscape that colour can evoke, a rare opportunity to explore the intersection of music and visual art.

His connection to colour and paint is deeply personal, rooted in his earliest memories. He recalls a vivid experience from his youth when he decided to paint his first home studio a bright reddish-pink. His parents and everyone around him were horrified-they thought he had lost his mind. But for Ram. that bold choice of color symbolises something much deeper. It was a statement of creativity, freedom and a break from the conventional. "I've Gaining much accolades for his latest jingle, Make Life Beautiful, Ram Sampath has been ecstatic of the response he has received. In a fun chat with The Pioneer, he discusses the making, his approach to this jingle and more

> always had a strong connection to colour and paint and this project tapped right into that," he reflects.

The brief for the jingle was centered around the tagline "Duniya ko rang do," which translates to "Colour the world." For Ram, this tagline was more than just words;

it was an invitation to celebrate life itself. He believes there's a universal emotion tied to the act of painting, whether it's a wall, a canvas, or even a room. "I don't know a single person whose heart doesn't flutter at the thought of getting something painted. It's an act of transformation and that's what made this project so special," he shares.

When it comes to composing a jingle meant to go viral, Ram emphasises the importance of staying true to classic values while infusing the composition with freshness. "I believe that to create something that touches people, it must come from the heart. If you don't feel it, how can you expect the audience to feel it?" he asks. For him, the music isn't just for listening—it's meant to be sung, hummed and lived with. The idea that people might hum 'Ooh Opus Opus' in their daily lives brings him immense joy. "I love the idea that my jingles become a part of people's lives," he says, clearly delighted by the thought.

by the thought. Ram's approach to creating a jingle often involves crafting a first draft that is more intimate and personal, which then evolves into a more expansive and polished final product. He describes the first draft as a close conversation—intimate and focused. As the project progresses, the final version becomes more expansive, like opening your arms wide to embrace the audi-ence. Working with Sachin Kamble, the creative director of the agency, was a particularly rewarding experience for Ram. Their visions were so aligned that they never found themselves at cross purposes. He also credits Munna, his long-time collaborator and lyricist, for his ability to distill profound ideas into simple, impact-ful words. Together, they have worked on many projects, from Sona Mohapatra's first album to songs for *Delhi Belly* and *Satyamev Jayate*. Mohapatra's first album to songs for *Delhi Belly* and *Satyamev Jayate*. Munna's contribution to the jingle was invaluable, helping to ensure

Munna's contribution to the jingle was invaluable, helping to ensure the final product was both powerful and relatable. When the team reviewed the final project, the feedback was straightforward—just a few minor tweaks and they were good to go. Staying relevant in an industry as dynamic as music requires an acute awareness of evolving trends, but Ram remains stead-fast in his belief that the foundation of any great composition lies in its melody and lyrics. "Melody and lyrics are like the body of a person and the trend, the production, are the clothes. You have to keep track of the latest clothes and the latest trends, but if's more a person and the trend, the production, are the clothes. You have to keep track of the latest clothes and the latest trends, but it's more about perspective—who are you talking to right now? What's the audience you're trying to reach?" he explains. Whether it's a song like *Sajni* from *Laapata Ladies*, which did exceptionally well, or a viral jingle, clarity of mind is crucial. The composition needs a strong melody and simple lyrics that con-yev something profound yet accessible

composition needs a strong melody and simple lyrics that con-vey something profound yet accessible. With the *Make Life Beautiful* campaign gaining millions of views during the ICC World Cup, Ram reflected on the impact such suc-cess has on his future work. He understands that each new pro-ject begins with a blank slate, requiring humility and a willing-ness to explore. "You need to have the humility of looking at a blank page and saying, 'Okay, buddy, any reputation is out the window right now. You have to be answerable to the people and be as truth-ful and sincere as possible,'' he says. For Ram, each new compo-sition is an exploration, a journey into the unknown, driven by curiosity rather than fear.

curiosity rather than fear. Looking back at his career, Ram remains as curious and pas-sionate as ever. Whether working on advertising jingles or film scores, he approaches each new project with a sense of humility and exploration. "The most important thing is to stay true while evolving," he said. "I'm still the same guy who was trying to make *Wadaa Raha* and *Dil Dooba* in *Khakee* and I'm still curious about what's ahead."

As for the future, Ram is excited about several new ventures, including a romantic comedy with Aamir Khan Productions and an upcoming interview with maestro A.R. Rahman. "I've been fortunate to have a career that allows me to explore different facets of music and I'm looking forward to what's next," he con-cluded, leaving us eager to see where his musical journey will take him next.



Revolutionising quality healthcare!

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY

otivated to make a difference in the world, particularly in healthcare, Aparna Jain has transformed herself into an exemplary leader. Hailing from Lucknow, Aparna Jain completed her B.Tech in Biotechnology at Amity University and received merit-based scholarships throughout her undergraduate and postgraduate education. Upon finishing her studies, she joined a financial services firm and took part in a three-month training program to enhance her industry expertise. However, she still lacked hands-on industry experience. In order to bridge the divide, she sought assistance from an experienced colleague who provided training to improve her technical abilities. She also obtained two national certifications from the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) in investment

advisorv and equity derivatives markets. This resulted in a fivefold increase in her portfolio and an annual growth rate of 10 percent. Being the team's youngest member, she achieved the highest client acquisitions and revenue goals. Apart from her professional career she has been engaged in social services by taking science and personality development classes for slum children during weekends. "Eventually, I realised

In an exclusive chat with The Pioneer, Aparna Jain, who is on a mission to provide accessible healthcare for all, shares her journey and how different roles molded her into a perfect leadership figure.

that Iwanted to work full-time ielping these children access education. This was when I joined the Sarthak Foundation fulltime as a fundraising manager, taking up the leadership role of the entire department. Within five years, I have increased the funding by 15 times, ensuring that all 5000 children from

'All of them were in a state of shock; they had not even clapped when I won'

After a lot of controversies yet again,

TEJAL SINHA

ass, grace, fiery vibes and hair flips-well, Sana Makbul has been all about it! There are no two ways about the fact that her audacious aura has made her emerge as the winner of

her audacious aura has made her emerge as the winner of Bigg Boss OTT 3, holding the trophy rapturously. 'Rishton ki ek jeeti jaati missal, Sana Makbul', just as Bigg Boss had aptly defined her just a few moments before the finale episode, her journey in the house truly spells out the same. "The crown is already heavy (we laugh)," shares the ravishing Sana as we have her onboard. Hot as hell, setting trends and breaking all the spells at the BB House, the trophy for her was everything beyond. Just as in King Khan's acclaimed dialogue, 'Kehte hain agar kisi cheez ko dil se chaho...to puri kainaat usse tumse milane ki koshish mein lag jaati hai...' and since the day she had entered the house, every-one knew her only target was the trophy

one knew her only target was the trophy. We've often heard that *Bigg Boss* is a controversial show and people in talks are the ones who generally enter the show. But that was-n't the case with the *Dikkulu Choodaku Ramayya* actress!

In fact, she too remembers how her close ones asked her, "Sana, you are a non-controversial person; why *Bigg Boss*?" However, being a low-key person, she has a different look to it. "I wanted to comeback with a bang. For the past year, mera kaam kaaj utna kuch high mai nahi tha. I used to work, but it was tiny little ones," she affirms *mai nahi tha.* I used to work, but it was tiny little ones, she affirms as she also confesses, "This was not the first time that I got a call for *Bigg Boss*. It has been happening for a few years and if I remember, I have been getting calls even before I did *Khatron*. I started getting the call after I did *Vish* on Colors. They started approaching me for *BB*, even for the main one. During the pandemic, when I was approached, I wanted to do *Khatron Ke Khiladi*. get rid of the animal fear I have had. Then, in the first OTT season, I still did not feel like doing it. However, over the years, I some-what got convinced and had this attitude that whenever I did *Bigg* Boss, I would be all in."

Boss, I would be all in. Keeping all the other things aside, every season of *Bigg Boss* does see a celebration when the winner gets announced. But as a shock to many, none of the contestants had gotten on stage to congratu-late Sana. With all the talk around it, let's hear what she had to tell us about it: "A lot of people have been clarifying their side of it. Of course, the whole team and makers wanted to capture my moment and I really appreciated this and went with them. They were instructed, apparently. But I would like to say that it was not about 'kaun ed, apparently. But I would like to say that it was not about *kaun* aaya and kaun nahi. Even if you weren't involved in my happy moments at that time, you could have been happy for me. They weren't even clapping for me. I felt bad. *Aapko itni kya nafrat hogayi*. All of them were in a state of shock. How did I win the show? That was really unexpected for me, but at the end, the people who mattered to me. to me—my mom, sister and my three friends who were sitting there— were very happy. Lovekesh was like, 'Arey Chori' in his Haryanvi lanwere very happy. Lovekesh was like, Arey Chori in his Haryanvi lan-guage. Vishal and Shivani were very happy. Naezy, with whom I was standing at the stage, was happy. So people who mattered were happy and the ones who did not were cold to me, which is okay." While she, on one side, was clear about her target, on the other hand, was also targeted by the housemates who often called her fake,

selfish' and 'snake'. These tags did not end there. Post-season, she was termed the 'fixed winner' of the season. "I really don't know why they said that. If I am emerging as a star outside, then you are call-

ing that star a 'fixed winner'. I know my personality. When I walk into that room, people do look at me. Yes, I have that in me and my personality is like that. Even when I was nothing, people used to notice me. All of us were chosen there; the makers had chosen us. I am just not talking about me, but all of us were select-ed. Out of those contestants, I too was one of them and shone amongst them. I was just being me; that was in my hand and I was showing and being myself. It was the realness that people loved. In fact, if I had been the most favoured, meri itni nahi bajate they Weekend Ke Vaar main. I was questioned for what not, even on my character. The whole season and Weekend Ka Vaar, things were against me."

"Joh tutt ke bikhar jaaye woh Sana Makbul kaisi," said Bigg Boss. And her strong personality and mind proved it. We've often seen her during this sea-son and how she's stood boldly against the housemates, especially Ranvir Shorey. She further addressed Ranvir Shorey's decision to hold grudges against her sharing. "See, I'll tell you hon-estly, while we were in the house, even I felt that I would hold my grudges against him. Even though I was like, I am not going to see him outside, I still stand by it. He is not somebody I like or some-body I will sit with. Somebody had asked me if I would work with him. Back in the show, I was like, No, but now I would contradict it. Why should I get the work in between? It's a small world and while work-

ing, if we'd meet, I'd certainly have only that professional attitude. If he is holding it against me, then I would say that man is obsessed with me and has to move on. The show is over and Sana has become the winner. This is something that you need to accept now. I know it is difficult for him, Sai and Armaan. For them, the winner was either them or Ranvir. It's their call, but I don't hold

any grudges against anybody." She goes on to recall how her formative years taught her lessons, making her who she is today. On the one hand, she is kind and sympathetic; on the other hand, she also has a cold and different side to her. In her *Bigg Boss* journey, "I have been myself and real. When all of us entered the show, we had come to win and were very diplomatic. They had no self-love and didn't have the zeal that I had. I had the jigra to say that I had come here to win. My mindset when I entered the show was that I was not here to make relationships. My focus and vision were to win it. But some people cornered me, and again, I did not want people to fight and speak on my behalf. I can do that myself. If people point a finger at me, I'm like, 'aap apne aap ko bhi dekho chaar ungli aapke taraf *bhi hai*. I had that attitude that I was not going to take anyone of them back home."

the third season of Bigg Boss OTT has come to an end, with Sana Makbul emerging as the winner. The Pioneer has her onboard for a quick interview, as she goes on to share her emotions about being crowned the winner and also speaks her heart out on a few controversies

slums and villages did not drop out of sschool," cheerfully shared Aparna in an exclusive chat with The Pioneer. Through her Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, campaigns and digital marketing, she maintained a 100 percent child retention rate. Throughout the pandemic, she spearheaded the effort to raise funds for the COVID Community Care Project, obtaining Rs 50 lakhs in resources to assist 10,000 individuals with both their livelihoods and education. Furthermore, she secured jobs in the corporate sector for 60 percent of young women of working age. Following her time at the financial services company, she transitioned to a health tech startup, where she was instrumental in establishing the business from the ground up. She was in charge of the go-to-market (GTM) strategy and sales planning in three cities in North India, creating a network of more than 100 doctors. Being involved with the health tech startup was crucial in honing her abilities and knowledge, which eventually enabled her to establish various organisations and departments, showcasing her innovative skills. Upon finding out that she required more skills to expand her business, Aparna chose to pursue an MBA to enhance her leadership skills. Throughout her time at the startup, her main obstacle was persuading doctors in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities to utilise their digital platform, Electronic Health Records. Aparna then enrolled in a full-time PGP program at ISB,

focusing on marketing. Sharing her experience at ISB, she shares with great enthusiasm, "My primary motivation for joining ISB was to work with larger organisations where I could scale up with the same entrepreneurial spirit as I demonstrated in smaller setups. Joining ISB opened a world of opportunities, allowing me to interact with individuals from diverse backgrounds and geographies, which significantly broadened my perspectives and enhanced the quality of my learning. The hands-on experience through experiential learning programs and case competitions honed my ability to tackle challenging problems and arrive at structured solutions."

In spite of the obstacles, she achieved notable success in the healthcare startup by overseeing the partnership and functioning with Uber. The idea behind this project was to educate drivers on managing basic first aid and handling emergencies, whether it be for a passenger or someone on the road in crisis. Drivers were provided hospital emergency contact information and received basic health assessments and screenings. This comprehensive method made sure that drivers were adequately equipped to effectively and confidently deal with emergencies, ultimately improving passenger safety and community welfare. Under her guidance, her team provided first aid and emergency services training to more than 500 drivers. This project assisted in kickstarting the organization for a couple of months. Initiating preventive health counseling for women from low-economic backgrounds also led to a 35 percent increase in patient enrollment in her program.

"With my professional skills and education, I aim to work in a healthcare organisation and transform it into a more efficient and automated entity. I envision a system where high-quality healthcare is accessible to all, especially those who cannot afford it," signs off Aparna on a concluding note.



what's brewing?



Lavanya Tripathi, marked her presence at the opening of Narayani Silks' 11th store in Kukatpally. The showroom boasts a breathtaking collection of intricately designed sarees, catering to the diva in every woman.

Bombay Shirt Company has opened its new store in Sarath City Capital Mall, adding as an extension to their existing store in Jubilee Hills. The brand new location showcases all their apparel categories and offers the best customer service level in its segment





The Famous Management Institution of South India "ICBM – School of Business Excellence" is now accorded with "MBA" from AIU (Association of Indian Chary Universities). The famous PGDM Program of ICBM -SBE received the MBA (Master of Business Administration) notos by- SV Accordance from AIU, which enables students to pursue higher studies and doctorates.



DPS Nacharam's campus reverberated with mirth and glee as Feriya Y Fiesta 2.0's celebrations took place! This magnetic event, the brain child of Tribhuvana- Director of DPS Nacharam, enthused about 4500 plus students in the age group of 12 to 19 from over 50 schools. The event was spearheaded by Chairman Malka Komaraiah, Yasasvi M CEO & Director and Pallavi – Director, among the rest.



Sushila Bokadi









The 3rd edition of Hybiz TV Food Awards was announced at an event held at the Mercure hotel in Irram Manzil. The trophy and poster was released by its Managing Director M Rajgopal, along with the team.



At Ravindra Bharathi Samyu and Khushi Kamtam, siblings and students of the Kuchipudi Guru Deepika Reddy, enjoyed an enchanting Rangapravesham. The room was full with people who were supporting and cheering the sisters on as they gave a lovely performance. Samyu and Khushi enthralled the audience with their graceful and abhinaya-infused moves

ARCHIE





AND NOT MERELY THE SIMPLICITY OF THE LINE-

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CALVIN AND HOBBES

FUN



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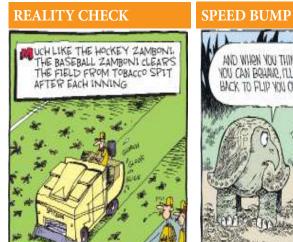
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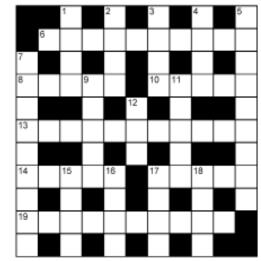
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8 Foe	11 Wide awake and ready
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13 Measure temperatures	12 An animal kept for milk
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14 Player of bagpipes	16 Spoil completely
17 Stairs	17 Gritty stuff on a beach
19 Book of word meanings	18 Your hearing organs
	SOLUTION

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2	All right, but not especially	

- good
- 4 A sign of tiredness
- 5 A big sea bird
- 7 A many-legged creature

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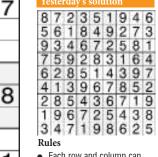
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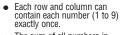
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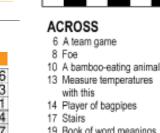
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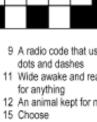
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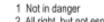
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3 Halt





Hyderabad | Monday August 12, 2024

the pioneer

tollywood **'THE MESSAGE WE ARE CONVEYING IN AAY IS NOTHING GREATER THAN FRIENDSHIP'**

PNS | HYDERABAD

he actor Narne Nithiin star-rer *Aay* is heading for a grand theatrical release on August 15. Bankrolled by GA2 Pictures, the film will see Anji K. Maniputra make his direc-torial debut. Ahead of the film's release, the actor shared insights about the movie and its journey during a recent media interaction in Hyderabad.

"We initially did not consider the title *Aay* for the film. It was Allu Aravind's idea to use this title. The reason is that the word Aay is commonly used in the Godavari slang. You'll also see this term used in various contexts throughout the movie. Hence, we decided to fix this title," Nithin revealed.

The actor emphasised the film's lighthearted nature, saying, "The movie will be full of fun. That's why we used the tagline 'Fun Bath' in the posters. This was the director's idea. On the day of the movie release, everyone will clearly understand this aspect." As Name Nithiin's upcoming film Aay is nearing its release, the lead actor speaks to the Hyderabadi media, sharing more insights about the film



release on the same day, Nithin expressed confidence in their project: "Many movies are releasing on August 15. However, we believe that the audience that is meant for us is ours. It has been a long time since a good, fun movie with a Godavari backdrop has come. We firmly believe that the audi-ence will enjoy it."

Reflecting on his role, Nithin men-tioned his familiarity with the Godavari slang: "From a young age, I have inter-acted with my Godavari friends and listened to them speak. Hence, I did not find it difficult to speak in the Godavari

slang in *Aay.*" On working with debut director Anji K. Maniputra, he shared, "Director Anji K. Maniputra is a young man from Amalapuram. The film *Aay* is a combination of his frustrations and everything he has seen in life. He is a person who gets along easily with anyone and is friendly with everyone on the set."

Nithin also shared that Jr NTR had seen the trailer and enjoyed it: "NTR Garu watched the trailer. He liked com-

With numerous films scheduled to edy a lot. He enjoyed it. It would be great if we got such a response from him after he watched the movie."

On choosing projects, Nithiin stat-ed, "I have no particular preference to work only with debut directors. I choose films based on the story. Whether it's *Mad* or *Aay*, I acted in films whose stories I liked. Regarding music, Ram Miryala provided music for three songs, while Ajay Arasada provid-ed music for two songs and the background score. Music plays a crucial role in the success of a film." He also praised his co-star, Nayanthara: "Heroine Nayanthara is a Marathi girl, but she fits in well like a Telugu girl. Her role will connect well with everyone."

Nithin concluded with a message from the film: "Friendship is far greater than caste and religion. The message we are conveying in Aay is that noth-

ing is greater than friendship." Looking ahead, Nithiin mentioned, "The shooting of the sequel to *Mad* is ongoing. It might be released within this year. No new projects have been finalised yet."

'It's surreal to receive such compliments so early in my career'

Actor Krishna Vamsi, currently gaining much accolades for his movie Alanaati Ramachandrudu, shares the love he has received for his character, being tagged as the 'Cute Lover Boy' of Telugu cinema and more

Spende

AARTI SREENATH

n the ever-evolving landscape of Telugu cinema, every now Land then, a character comes along that resonates deeply with audiences—someone who feels familiar and relatable yet refreshingly new. Enter Krishna Vamsi, the break-

out star of Alanaati Ramachandrudu, whose portrayal of Siddhu' has not only captured hearts but also sparked a wave of admira-tion, particularly among his female fans and making a heartthrob.

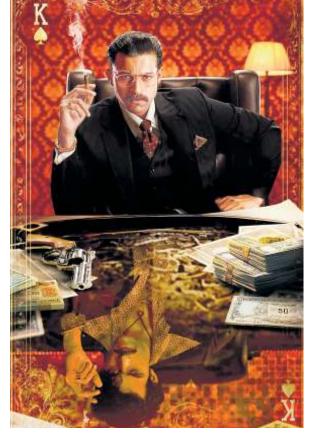
In a candid interview with the Alanaati Ramachandrudu fame and what initially drew him to the role of 'Siddhu,' Vamsi's eyes lit up with enthusiasm. "The moment I heard the narration. I felt an instant connection," he shares. "Siddhu is someone we've all encountered in our lives, whether it's that quiet kid in class with a secret crush or the introverted neighbour who speaks more with his eyes than his words? He realised that Siddhu wasn't just an introvert. He was emotionally layered, a true ambivert and that complexity excited him the most about the character. The challenge was to bring out those subtle nuances and expressions that are more felt than seen. "In a way, it was a blank canvas, with no prior reference and I relished the opportunity to paint it with my own strokes," he shares.

Vamsi is humbled by the compari-son. "Honestly, it's such a flattering compliment. When I first saw Siddhu on screen, I even thought he had this charming, relatable quality. The way he smiles at his loved ones—that's something I think audiences took home with them. It's heartwarming to know that people of all ages found some-thing endearing in him," he said. Comparisons to iconic charac-ters like R. Madhavan's 'Karthik'

from Sakhi have naturally followed. But while Karthik was all extroverted passion, Siddhu's charm lies in his subtlety. "Madhavan Sir is a legend and it's an honour to be mentioned in the same breath," Vamsi says with a smile. "Karthik was bold and direct, while Siddhu was shy and reserved, yet deeply com-mitted. I think today's generation appreciates that kind of quiet intensity, a love that doesn't shout but speaks volumes through a simple lance or a smile. Maybe that's wh

he highly anticipated dark thriller Train, starring Vijay Sethupathi, is nearing the final stages of production. Despite significant progress, the film's shooting is not yet complete. The team is gearing up for an additional ten days of shooting, which is scheduled to take place next month Train promises to be an intense and gripping thriller, adding to the excitement among Vijay Sethupathi's fans. Starring Shruti Haasan as the female lead the film's release is set to precede the debut of *Pisasu 2,* another

eagerly awaited project. With the shooting expected to wrap up soon, anticipation for *Train* is building. The film is set to deliver a captivating narrative and has already garnered significant attention due to its dark and thrilling storyline



Varun Tej's Matka first look makes a bold impression

Mega Prince Varun Tej is set to make his pan-India debut with *Matka*, which is also his most ambitious film to date. Directed by Karuna Kumar and produced by Dr. Vijender Reddy Teegala and Rajani Thalluri anners of Vyra Entertainments and film is being crafted on a grand scale. Production is currently underway in Hyderabad On Sunday, the team unveiled the first look poster for the film, showcasing Varun Tei in two distinct avatars-one as a young man and the other as a middle-aged individual. The film will span the protagonist's journey over 24 years, featuring him in four different looks. The poster highlights two contrasting facets of his character: from an underdog to a powerful overlord, capturing his rise to dominance. In one image, Varun Tej exudes youthful intensity and style, smoking a cigar with a vintage look. On the other hand, he appears aged and affluent, also smoking a cigar but with spectacles and grey hair, and a gun on his desk. The background features a king card from a deck of playing cards. The impressive first look creates a strong visual impact, hinting at Varun Tej's return to roles his fans are eager to see. The film also stars Meenakshi Chaudhry and Nora Fatehi, set against a period backdrop. The cinematography is handled by A Kishor Kumar, with GV Prakash Kumar composing the music and Karthika Srinivas R editing the film. Matka will be released in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada.

The success of Alanaati Ramachandrudu has also given rise to a new tag for Vamsi, the 'Cute Lover Boy' of Telugu cinema.

girls have taken to Siddhu; they can feel those same butterflies he feels on screen," he said. When asked about his best fea-

ture, his captivating smile or his natural screen presence, Vamsi is thoughtfully reflective. "It's surreal to receive such compliments so early in my career," he admits. "Growing up, everyone told me I had a charming smile and I've def-initely used it to get out of trouble a few times!" he laughs. "But now, when people see Siddhu in me, they recognise that natural ease I tried to bring to the screen. It's a validation that keeps me grounded and motivated to give my best in every role." If he had to choose,

though, he'd say it's his smile, it's something that instantly connects with people and he is incredibly grateful for that.

Blushing slightly, Vamsi turns his attention to the fans who have showered him with love and support. "I'm overwhelmed by the affection, especially from my women fans. During our promotional tours, the energy and the love from college girls were unbe-lievable; it boosted my confidence like nothing else." He thanks every-

one from the bottom of his heart and promises to reciprocate that love through his work, bringing characters to life that his audience will continue to adore. "Please keep supporting me on this jour-ney; I wouldn't be here without you," he requests.

As Krishna Vamsi steps further into the spotlight, it's clear that his journey has only just begun. With a blend of natural charm and raw talent, he's set to carve out a niche in Telugu cinema, one smile at a time.



STANDALONE

The city of Hyderabad witnessed a spectacular event as Tollywood cine actress Sreeleela attended the CREDAI Hyderabad Property Show at the Shree Convention Centre in Kompally. The event has been a resounding success, drawing an overwhelming response from attendees and participants alike.

Bekkam Venugopal reveals *Radhe Krishna* climax was reshot for perfection

now. Produced by Voodugu Sudhakar under the banner of SV Creations and directed by Ismail Shaik, the film stars SS Saidulu in the lead role, with Bramarambika and Arpita Lohi as the heroines and music composed by ML Raja. The movie will be released in both Telugu and Banjara languages. The teaser launch event was attended

by several prominent guests, including producers Bekkam Venugopal and Ram Talluri and heroes Sohel and Auto

The teaser for the film *Radhe Krishna*, Ramprasad. Producer Ram Talluri more days, reflecting their passion for cin-emarked, "This film is a product of our ema. They have created a high-quality film district. The teaser looks impressive and the songs are excellent. If newcomers are well guided, we will see even better films in the future. I sincerely hope that this film brings financial success to the producer and a good name to the actors?

Producer Bekkam Venugopal praised the film's production, stating, "I always support small films. When I saw this movie, I felt the climax could have been better. After sharing my feedback, the team revisited the shoot and edited it for three

ema. They have created a high-quality film on a modest budget. I hope it brings success and recognition to the producer."

Hero Sohel expressed his support, saying, "The film's team feels like family to me. Cinema is often seen as a world of colors, but we operate in black and white while delivering those colours. We never know which films will resonate with audiences, but we understand the effort behind making them. This team has worked hard and I hope everyone enjoys the movie and it succeeds?







It's a dream to compete with other international stars in India: Neeraj

PTI NEW DELHI

C tar javelin thrower Neeraj Schopra hoped to with other prominent international names in India sooner than later following his silver medal-winning effort in the Paris Olympics.

Chopra bagged the silver at the Paris showpiece with a throw of 89.45m behind Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who hurled the javelin to 92.97m, an Olympic record.

Anderson Peters of Grenada came third with a throw of 88.54m among the field that included some high-profile javelin throwers like Julian Webber, Jakub Vadlejch and

Julius Yego. "It's a dream of mine to compete with other international stars in India. Hopefully, there will be an international competition soon in India and I can do that," Chopra said during an interactive session with fans organised by the Olympics.Com

But before that, Chopra, whose silver was his second successive Olympics medal after the gold in Tokyo, said he wanted to work on certain areas of his game.



simple rural soul.

PTI PARIS

confirmed.

a Paris hospital.

staff after celebrating his team's first gold medal of the

Paris Olympics, his fighters

The Uzbek team went on to win five golds - more than any Olympic team in the last

20 years - in tribute to Tulkin Kilichev, who is recovering in

"(Kilichev) is more than a

coach or a father, in fact,"

methods or technique. But I because the thought was set in my mind that I had to give hope to improve upon a couple of areas, especially the the best throw because the line of the javelin. competition had already

"You know, the correct angle of throwing so that I get more power in my throw. I will certainly work on it," he said. Chopra said he wanted to give it all in the Paris Games final other's son. despite being below his best physically.

The body conditions (of his) "I am entering a new season were tough. But when Arshad now. So, I don't have that made that throw...I was able much time to change training to hit my season's best

after her marriage. She is not familiar with social media and things like that. She often speaks from her heart. But become very tough." Mothers of Chopra and she understands what families of athletes, even from different countries, feel Nadeem had taken the social media by storm as they showered affection on each towards them."

Praise for Sreeiesh. Manu Chopra said his mother Chopra lauded shooter Manu showing for always spoke from her heart Bhaker perseverance to grab two bronze medals in the Paris as she to date remained a "My mother...she always stayed in a village before and Games after experiencing utter disappointment in the

Tokyo edition. "The way Manu Bhaker prepared her mind and came from her Tokyo setback is impressive. Her mindset appeared to be very strong this time while taking part in back-to-back competitions. I think it's just a start for her think its just a start for her because I saw even people over 50 (age) were participating in shooting. "I hope Manu will play in a lot more competitions, bring a lot more medals for the

country and change the colour of the medal too," he said.

The 26-year-old also hailed Indian hockey team's goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who retired from top-level competition with a bronze at Paris.

"Sreejesh is a very relaxed and funny person. He motivates younger players a lot. Sreejesh bhai had said that he would retire after the Olympics. The players, I think, also felt that they should win it for Sreejesh bhai after doing so many great things for the team."

Chopra said Sreejesh offers a fine example in tackling pressure situations. "He has so many years of experience and he knows how

to tackle the pressure situations. He seemed to be in his zone when I met him before the bronze medal match," he added.

ssAfter another gold, US men's basketball programme will now catch its breath

PTI PARIS

 $T_{\rm men's}^{\rm he \ first \ practice \ for \ the \ US}$ basketball team after arriving in Paris

was one of those workouts that those who were there, watching behind closed doors, will talk about for a long time.

Players were split up evenly. Go play, they were told. What happened next set the tone for the rest of the team's time at the Paris Games.

"We warmed up and then it became competitive," US assistant coach Erik Spoelstra said. "And, that's when you realized, one, that this team really cares and that it felt the responsibility to play and compete at the highest level. And then secondly, the level of talent on that floor ... we knew it could exceed all expectations."

A couple of weeks later, they won gold. The mission was won gotd. The mission was completed Saturday night when the U.S. Won gold for the fifth consecutive Games, holding off France - in Paris, no less - 98-87.

Stephen Curry scored 24 points, all on 3-pointers, while Kevin Durant won his fourth Olympic gold and LeBron James won his third gold and fourth medal overall.

overall. And then, the party started. Before long, it'll be time to start thinking about how to do it again in 2028 when the Olympics return to Los Angeles. Grant Hill will be



back as managing director for the World Cup in Qatar in the men's national team, and 2027. It's safe to say that it'll he's already excited about be sometime in 2025 when he what is looming. "I've done a lot of things in my life," Hill said. "And, this is a thing that containly even starts getting serious about putting together a group for that.

a thing that certainly consumes you, but it is

incredibly rewarding." Especially when the team wins. There will be changes getting away from it a little bit, just letting things play out and see how guys continue to develop and see what kind of between now and 2028. James will be 43 and likely retired by then (though with James, season guys have over the next year or so. And then, at some point, you start that process all over again." never say never).

never say never). It might seem iffy for Curry and Durant to still be playing in four years, but again, who knows? Some players like Anthony Davis and Bam Adebayo already have said they want in; others like Anthony Edwards Devin When he took over, Hill said Anthony Edwards, Devin Booker, Jayson Tatum and Tyrese Haliburton seem to be locked if they want to

continue. No decisions are set, and that won't change for a while. Hill is going to take a well-earned break. The next major international tournament is

he wanted a pipeline for both players and coaches. People leave the program, others move up. Steve Kerr made clear when he agreed to replace Gregg Popovich as US coach, it would be for the 2023 World Cup and the Paris Olympics. It would seem likely that the next national team coach will

"Over four years, a lot can and will happen," Hill said. "Now,

be either Spoelstra or Tyronn Lue, given how both were assistants under Kerr the last two summers.



Gymnast Jordan must return bronze medal after court mandates score change: IOC

PTI PARIS

return the bronze medal she

Landi's inquiry came a minute and four seconds A merican gymnast after the score was posted. Jordan Chiles must The IOC said in a statement

it will be in touch with the

has raised us. He educated us. He has transmitted the sports Uzbekistan's beloved head boxing coach was revived from apparent cardiac arrest by two members of Britain's training spirit to us. He has been with me in my heart, and tomorrow we will be going to

visit him in the hospital." Kilichev fell ill backstage after flyweight Hasanboy Dusmatov won Uzbekistan's first gold medal Thursday. According to GB Boxing, team doctor Harj Singh and physical therapist Robbie Lillis found Kilichev in life-threatening distress. They performed CPR on the coach, and Lillis also used a defibrillator, the team said. Jalolov said Kilichev remained in contact with the



After coach's life was saved backstage,

fighters responded with a best Olympic performance historic performance. since Cuba also won five Jalolov was the last of golds at the 2004 Athens Uzbekistan's five Paris Games Uzbek

Uzbekistan dominate Olympic boxing Garros, starting with Dusmatov on Thursday - a victory followed by that frightening moment for Kilichev.

"This is history for Uzbekistan, and I'm Uzbekistan, emotional because becoming a two-time Olympic champion was my dream," Jalolov said. "Now I feel very happy, and I will continue my career as a professional boxer.'

Lazizbek Mullojonov won the heavyweight title Friday night, joining a remarkable Olympic lineage at that weight including Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Teofilo

"We are building a new generation of boxers," generation of boxers," Mullojonov said. "This is the result of all the federation's work." Indeed, Uzbekistan has

responded sharply to its twisting fortunes in the past two Games under Kilichev's leadership. The team claimed three gold medals in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 to signal its arrival as an international power, but won just one gold medal -Jalolov's first - five years later in Tokvo.

won in the Paris Olympics floor exercise after sport's

The IOC announced early Sunday it was reallocating the bronze from Monday's women's floor final to Romanian Ana Barbosu after the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) said Saturday night it would respect the court's decision and elevate Barbosu to third.

The decision came less than 24 hours after the Court of Arbitration for Sport voided a scoring appeal made by Team USA coach Cecile Landi during the competition that had vaulted Chiles onto the podium. CAS ruled Saturday that the

on-floor appeal by Landi to have 0.1 added to Chiles' score came outside the 1minute window allowed by the FIG. The ad hoc committee wrote that

Olympic US and inguest court said her score was judged improperly, the International Olympic Committee confirmed Olympic Committee Sunday. Paralympic Committee discuss a reallocation honouring ceremony

Barbosu. CAS wrote Saturday that the initial finishing order should be restored, with Barbosu third, Romanian Sabrina Maneca-Voinea fourth and Chiles fifth. The organization added the

FIG should determine the final ranking "in accordance with the above decision," but left it to the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) to decide who would get the medal behind gold winner Rebeca Andrade of Brazil and silver medalist Simone Biles of the US.

The FIG said it was the IOC's call on whether to reallocate the medal. The IOC confirmed Sunday it would respect FIG's decision and seek to have Chiles' medal returned.

Bakhodir Jalolov said after winning his second super heavyweight gold medal. "He team over the past two days while recovering, and his

champions to climb the podium Saturday night in the

final five men's gold medal bouts contested at Roland

PTI PARIS

Stevenson, Felix Savon and Oleksandr Usyk.

cistan won the

crew of gifted young boxers Uzbekistan has returned to dominance.

With Jalolov and Dusmatov

returning alongside a new

Sifan wins women's marathon World Boxing to announce major increase in membership after Paris Olympics

PTI PARIS

Sifan Hassan traded elbows with Tigst Assefa with 150 meters left in the women's marathon, then passed her along the railing to win the race for her third distance medal of the Paris Games on Sunday.

Hassan finished in an Olympic record time of 2 hours, 22 minutes, 55 seconds. She also won bronze in the 5,000 and 10,000. By simply completing the marathon, she ran more than 62 kilometres.

She now has six Olympic medals. In Tokyo, Hassan won the 5,000 and 10,000 and finished third in the 1,500. Assefa got silver, and Kenya's Hellen Obiri took the Breaking bronze.



tradition, the women's Olympic marathon was held on the final day instead of the men's race. Hassan, an Ethiopian-born

racer who runs for the Netherlands, used the same tactic in the hilly, 26.2-mile course as on the oval. She lingered behind the leaders for most of the race before summoning up the energy for a late-race kick that would go down as one of the best the sport has seen. This one, amazingly, had more the look of a crowded race on the oval down the stretch. As Hassan gathered to make her last pass, Assefa, from Ethiopia, tried to block her path. Hassan moved to the inside around a bend. Assefa tried to squeeze her against the barrier separating the course from the cheering fans. The runners traded elbows, and then, Hassan took off past

major membership boost. World Boxing expects to expand its membership base to 50 national federations or more in the weeks after the conclusion of the tumultuous Paris Olympics, President Boris Van Der Vorst told The Associated Press. The organization already has 37 members, including most of the top Western national

federations. Van Der Vorst said he is leaving Paris even more confident his sport can pull off "the greatest comeback story ever in the Olympic Assefa and sprinted in for the win. ever in the

The nascent governing body fighting to keep boxing in the Olympics is about to get a

movement." Van Der Vorst has spent the Games speaking to boxing leaders and federation officials as World Boxing attempts to unify the sport under the only practical alternative to the Russiandominated International

Boxing Association, which has been banished from the Olympic movement.

World Boxing must court each federation individually to accomplish this seismic change to the sport - and the clock is ticking. Boxing is not currently on the

program for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, and the Olympic International Committee has repeatedly said the sport must find a suitable new governing body - likely by early 2025 - to be restored to the lineup for the Games. An IOC unit ran the past two Olympic boxing tournaments. "There's only one reason to join (World Boxing), and that's to save our sport," Van Der Vorst told the AP on Saturday.

Boxer Lin Yu-ting wins gold, concludes an Olympics filled with scrutiny

PTI PARIS

Lin Yu-ting fought to remain poised and calm throughout the Paris Olympics boxing tournament, even when it seemed like most of the chattering world was maligning misrepresenting her and questioning the very nature of

her being. The flyweight shut off her social media, kept up her training and focused on earning one proficient victory after another.

But when she heard Taiwan's anthem while standing on the top podium at Roland Garros with a gold medal around her neck, Lin suddenly broke

tumult of the past two weeks, but for a lifetime in boxing that Lin routed Julia Szeremeta of The

culminated in this gold-medal victory over

unfathomable challenges. "I saw images flashing, and I thought about the beginning of my career when I started boxing," Lin said. "All the difficult practices, the times that I got injured, the competitors I fought against. her. All these images flashed in my head. There are times of great pain. There are times of great joy. I cried because I was so touched."

Lin completed her domination of her division Saturday night, following Imane Khelif's lead a day earlier by giving a glittering response to the intense scrutiny faced by both fighters inside the ring and down in cathartic sobs. around the world over She cried not only for the misconceptions about their womanhood.

Poland 5:0 in the final, capping her four-fight unbeaten run previously through Paris by winning Taiwan's first Olympic boxing

gold medal. On Friday, Khelif won Algeria's first women's boxing medal with a decisive victory in the welterweight division final, beating Yang Liu of China.

Both fighters persevered through an avalanche of criticism and uninformed speculation about their sex during the Paris tournament to deliver the best performances

of their boxing careers. "Every fight is not easy," Lin said. "Winning 5-0 might seem easy, but behind that is a lot of practice and hard work."

World leaders, celebrities and online critics attempted to make it about something other than the boxers' years of work. either

detractors



be in women's competitions or falsely claimed they were men, forcing both women to take unwanted starring roles in a distraction by managing to avoid learning about it almost unwanted starring roles in a

questioned their eligibility to toward gender identity and safety regulation in sports. Lin said she minimized this potentially enormous

entirely. She also said she'll speak with her team about whether to take legal action against some of the claims.

"As an elite athlete, during the competition it's important to shut myself off from social media," she said. "That's extremely important. Some of the noises or some of the news articles, of course I heard some of the information through my coach, but I didn't pay too much mind to it. And I was invited by the IOC to participate in the Games. This

Both fighters were disqualified last year from the world championships organized by the International Boxing Association, a Russiandominated governing body that has been banished from the Olympics since 2019. The IBA said they failed an

eligibility test for women's competition, but it has struggled to defend its claims since they resurfaced at the Olympics, occasionally giving contradictory information or saying they were asked not to give details by the boxers' national federations.

The two boxers' detractors included former U.S. President Donald Trump, "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni. Their presence in Paris became a weapon in a largely Western culture clash over eligibility for women's sports. Khelif said a gold medal would

be the "best response" to the uproar. Both fighters got the last word in Paris, although the chatter and scrutiny could persevere for the rest of their careers.

Lin hadn't been as dominant or her head to the canvas.

as dynamic as Khelif in Paris, but she steadily rolled toward the final as the top seed in the women's 57-kilogram division. The 5-foot-9 (1.75 meter) Lin is usually taller and more slender than her opponents, and she uses those advantages to pick them apart with skill and angles, rather than strength or power. That's exactly what Lin did to

Szeremeta after taking the ring Saturday to loud cheers and dozens of Olympic-style Chinese Taipei flags waving in the stands, with millions more cheering back home.

After having her hand raised and holding open the ropes for Szeremeta's departure in a typical boxing gesture of sportsmanship, Lin went to the center of the ring, knelt on the Paris 2024 logo and touched

is what I focused on."