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'It was a challenge to dub for an ape IN TELUGU



Special tourism packages for IT ...

Explaining that Telangana Tourism department has designed customized weekend getaway packages with discounts for IT professionals, Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said while encouraging techies to partner and promote tourism through social The Minister interacted with IT professionals during the Weekend Getaways from Hyderabad programme themed "Ready for a Deccan Recharge," at Raheja Mindspace on Tuesday. Addressing IT professionals, Jupally emphasised...

Youth must strive to make India...

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched the BJP's 'Tiranga Yatra' in Ahmedabad and called upon youth to come forward and strive to make India a developed nation by 2047. The 'Tiranga Yatra' is a way to energise youth and commit themselves to nation building. asserted the senior BJP leader while addressing a gathering before flagging off the yatra in Independence Day. launched by.. -PAGE: 5



The market of major domestic appliances saw an 18 per cent value-based growth in the first half of 2024, helped by a strong demand for essential household items, according to a report from domestic appliances) market was led by Key categories such as airconditioners and refrigerators. which reported a growth of 30 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively. "This growth is 3X of growth in 2023 over the previous year," said the report from GfK, which is now an NIQ Company...

-PAGE: 8

High hopes, disappointing...

The Indian boxing contingent, that featured two reigning world champions in Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain, entered the Olympics hoping for an unprecedented medal haul, only to crumble under pressure, leaving behind a trail of disappointment in a medal-less campaign Boxing became a medal hone for India after Viiender Singh's historic bronze at the 2008 Beijing Games MC Mary Kom added a women's bronze to it in 2012. Although the 2016 Rio Games saw the boxers return without a..

'Repairs cannot proceed without releasing water'

K'taka assures AP,TG on Tungabhadra Dam repair work

PNS HYDERABAD

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday assured the Agriculture Ministers of Andhra Pradesh Telangana about the restoration work of the Tungabhadra Dam gate.

"Our farmers are no different than your states' farmers. We will take measures to ensure that they are not troubled in the wake of damage to the Tungabhadra Dam gate," the Chief

Minister told media persons in the presence of Agriculture Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

He also instructed the officials to expedite the repair work of the Tungabhadra Dam gate at the ear-liest. "Water from the Tungabhadra Dam was previously released

through the gates. However, the 19th gate of the dam, which prevents water flow, has been damaged," the Chief Minister





CAS verdict on Vinesh deferred again

To be delivered on 16th

PNS PARIS

Suspense continued on the fate of Vinesh Phogat's appeal against her Olympic disqualification with the ad-hoc division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport extending the time limit to deliver its decision till August 16 without specifying the reasons for continuing to defer the matter.

The 29-year-old was disqualified from the women's 50kg free-style final for being 100gm overweight at the time of weigh-in on Wednesday last week.

'The CÁS ad hoc division president has allowed Hon.



CM Revanth returning with flying colours

□ 12 - DAY TOUR FETCHES INVESTMENTS AND ASSURANCES

In the US itself, the Telangana Chief Minister was able to net investments totaling 32 thousand

 Cognizant expansion plan will create an additional 15,000 jobs and include a new campus spanning 1 million square feet

PNS HYDERABAD

After successfully showcasing the conducive business ecosystem in Telangana as well as the efforts of his government to adopt proactive policies, Team Revanth is returning with flying colors by bagging thousands of crores of investments and assur-ances from the US and South Korean investors.

The 12-day tour of Chief Minister Revanth's team has been successful beyond expectations and there is the immense possibility that the govern-ment will be taking follow-up

actions to materialise the agreements entered into with the business honchos in both the nations.

In the US itself, the Telangana Chief Minister was able to net investments totaling 32 thousand crores and with the same spirit he went to South Korea, where also he got immense response from business houses.The foundation stone will be laid for Cognizant's new facility at GAR Building, Kokapet on Wednesday.



CM to switch on Sitarama Project's pumps tomorrow

PNS HYDERABAD

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy has refuted the claim of former minister Harish Rao that 90% of the Sitarama project work had been completed under the Bharat Rashtra Samithi regime, calling it 'ludicrous'. He asserted

that only 39% of the work had been completed under the BRS government. Uttam Kumar Reddy announced that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would switch on the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project's pumps on August 15. The project would be fully operational by August 15, 2026, he

AMIDST RISING DEMAND

TG staring at shortfall of 7K MU power by 2032

- Telangana's electricity demand is projected to grow at a CAGR of 6.17% over 2023-24 to 2029-30
- Peak demand in Telangana is projected to reach 27,059 MW by 2031-32 Telangana needs to add 4,676 MW of solar, 4,590 MW of

wind, and 1,655 MW of hydro

TG needs additional 1,655 MW hydro capacity to meet 2032 energy goals

PNS HYDERABAD

With the Bharat Rashtra Samithi

and the Bharatiya Janata Party

openly demanding action against

Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) --

the contracting agency under a cloud over the Sunkishala retaining

wall collapse -- a Minister in the

Congress government has hit back,

asking why BRS did not take action

when the pumphouses (built by the

Kaleshwaram project were sub-

Key pumphouses of the

same agency) were submerged.

capacity by 2031-32



PNS HYDERABAD

MINISTER HITS BACK

Why didn't BRS blacklist MEIL when

pumphouses were submerged?

merged during the BRS regime. At that time, why didn't BRS blacklist Gandhi directly.

Telangana's electricity demand is a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 6.17% over 2023-24 to 2029-30, according to a recent report by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The report out-

the contractor? Isn't it the same con-

tractor against whom they are mak-

ing demand", a prominent Minister

asked. The Minister said that it was

BRS which had given the contract.

the government why it was hushing

up the incident and going soft on

the agency involved. KTR pointed

to the glaring inaction despite the

severity of the incident, raising

concerns about the government's

apparent reluctance to hold MEIL

accountable. He addressed All India

It may be mentioned here that BRS working president KT Rama Rao had posted on X, questioning lines a comprehensive Resource Adequacy Plan, highlighting the need for immediate capacity expansion to ensure reliable and affordable power supply through 2031-32.
Telangana's power demand is

heavily influenced by its agrarian economy, leading to seasonal and diurnal fluctuations, particularly from January to March, with the lowest demand observed in July. The state's current power scenario with a total contracted capacity of shows a significant reliance on coal (48%) and solar energy (33.2%). However, the report indicates that the existing and planned capacities, including renewables,

No milk, eggs served in govt hostels

Officials of the Anti Corruption

Bureau (ACB) conducted surprise

searches in 10 government hostels

on Tuesday and found shortcomings in the quality and quantities

of food items served as well as mis-

appropriation of funds on Tuesday.

Hostel for SC Boys at Jambagh;

Hostel for BC Boys at Medipally;

Hostel for BCs Boys, Koyala konda;

Hostel for SC Girls, Tipparthi;

Hostel for ST Boys, Vemana Palli;

Hostel for SC Boys, Ippala palli;

The hostels raided include

Poor hygiene in kitchens and no

proper toilets

PNS HYDERABAD

AP relieves TG employees

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Andhra Pradesh government has issued orders relieving 122 non-gazetted employees who, despite being locals of Telangana, were allocated to Andhra Pradesh against their options following the state's bifurcation.

The decision follows a request from the Telangana government to allow these employees to return to their native state.

leading to their prolonged stay in employed in Telangana.

FINDINGS OF STATEWIDE ACB RAIDS

'Quality compromised, funds misused'

Hostel for SC Girls, Hostel for ST

Boys; Karepalli, and Hostel for BC

Boys, Hostel for SC Girls;

Inspector Legal Metrology,

Sanitary Inspector, Food Inspector

and Auditor to check the quality,

quantity of the food, sanitation

conditions, strength particulars of the students, and records of the

hostels, according to an official

A report will be submitted to

improve conditions in the hostels.

numbers were inflated. No prop-

er hygiene was maintained in the

kitchens, store rooms, wash

It was found that students'

statement

The ACB teams were assisted by

the neighboring state. The Telangana Non-Gazetted Officers' Union had appealed for the reallocation of these employees, which was thoroughly considered by the Telangana government before a formal request was made to Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh government, after careful examination, agreed to the request. The Heads of Departments (HoDs) in Andhra Pradesh have been directed to obtain undertakings from the According to G.O.Rt.No.1412, identified employees, as per the prodated August 13, 2024, the Telangana government had earlier undertakings confirm the employundertakings confirm t conveyed through a letter from its ees' willingness to accept postings Chief Secretary that these employ- in Telangana and to assume the last ees had been allocated to Andhra rank in their respective cadres, Pradesh against their preferences, aligning with those already

rooms and toilets. Even proper

drinking water is not being sup-

plied. There was no sufficient

lighting and ventilation in the rooms. The teams found misap-

propriation of funds in purchas-

es. The prescribed food menu was

not being maintained. The students were supposed to be given

egg and milk every day, but the items were never given. The bath-

rooms of girls' hostels were not in

tained. The wardens who are

supposed to be available in the

hostels were not found. The

teams found that they come "once

a week or once a month"

There are 18 types of registers

a condition to be used.

the authorities of the government, or records to be maintained, but

along with suggestions to none of them was being main-



Ranga Reddy JC held for taking bribe

PNS ■ RANGA REDDY

Two government officials, including the Joint Collector of Rangareddy district, were arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 8 lakh, the ACB said on

ACB Director-General CV Anand said on 'X' that the Anti-Corruption Bureau trapped and arrested Joint Collector MV Bhoopal Reddy and Senior Assistant Y Madan Mohan Reddy of Ranga Reddy who colluded and abused their official positions. They were caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 8 lakh from the complainant for removal of 14 guntas land from prohibited list in Dharani portal.

The duo took many precautions to receive the money without getting exposed, the ACB DG said adding that the ACB teams remained one step ahead and spontaneously strategised throughout the night and trapped them.

Dharani' is an Integrated Land

Records Management System.

NATIONWIDE SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED PHARMACISTS

Upskilling pharmacy assistants need of the hour

PNS HYDERABAD

Healthcare experts have raised concerns over the acute shortage of qualified pharmacists across India, warning that the gap between demand and supply could impact severely the country's healthcare delivery system. With nearly nine lakh pharmacies operating nationwide, the country requires over 30 lakh qualified pharmacists to adequately staff these establishments. However, experts estimate that there are only about 17.5 lakh registered pharmacists, and less than one-third of these are diploma holders qualified to work in retail pharmacies. "The disparity between the number of qualified pharmacists and the demand is



alarming," said a leading healthcare

bachelor's or master's degrees are absorbed into the pharmaceutical "Most of the pharmacists holding manufacturing and marketing sec-

tors due to better incentives and the and Tier 4 towns, leaving these areas perception that retail jobs are less prestigious for those with advanced degrees. This shift leaves retail pharmacies critically understaffed, particularly in smaller towns where the need is most acute."

Experts also pointed out that the distribution of pharmacists varies significantly across states, with some like Maharashtra and Gujarat having a higher concentration of pharmacists, while others face severe shortages. The situation is further exacerbated by the declining enrollment in pharmaceutical diploma rograms, which are considered ideal qualifications for retail pharmacy positions. "Urbanization is driving pharmacists away from Tier 3 qualified pharmacists.

with an acute shortage of qualified professionals," noted a healthcare expert. "This trend is particularly concerning because smaller towns heavily rely on pharmacists for both medical advice and medication, given the limited reach of doctors in these regions." In light of this pressing issue, experts have proposed an innovative solution aimed at bridging the gap: upskilling the 20 to 30 lakh pharmacy assistants who currently man retail outlets across the country. These assistants, who typically have a 10th or 12th-grade education, have gained valuable practical experience in dispensing medicines by working alongside

Cong to garner support to corner Modi

Plans to organise public campaigns on Adani issue, caste census

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress announced on Tuesday that it will organise public mobilisation campaigns over its demands for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Adani issue, a caste census, and adherence to the Constitution in letter and spirit, as it held a key meeting on its preparedness for the

upcoming Assembly polls. Amid a raging row over Hindenburg's allegations, the opposition party also said it will hold a nationwide agitation on August 22 demanding ŠEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch's resignation and a JPC

probe into the Adani issue. The assertions came after

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge held a meeting with all party general secretaries, state unit chiefs and AICC state in-charges here to discuss organisational matters and various issues of national importance for election preparedness. Elections are due in Haryana,

Maharashtra, and Jharkhand later this year. Polls could also be held in Jammu and Kashmir this year.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, and general secretaries Jairam Ramesh and K C Venugopal, among others, were part of the meeting at the AICC headquarters here. The Congress also urged the BJP-led Centre to take all possible steps to ensure that targeted attacks on religious

Quota sub-categorisation may affect unity efforts among SCs

gorisation of reser-Agorisation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled (SCs/STs) may appear to be the right way for bringing the fruits of quota to targeted sections, it has potential to thwart unity efforts among Dalits, who have failed to emerge as a strong political force across the nation. All along, political parties have seen to it that downtrodden sections remain

so as they can be used as mere vote banks. The recent verdict of the Supreme Court has paved the way for sub-categorisation. In the backdrop of the move for sub-categorisation, we need to look at social and political factors.

Prominent Dalit leader and

founder-president of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Kanshi Ram had made concrete efforts to make Dalits a viable political force. **POINT** Most of the political parties are known to be controlled

by people belonging to forward castes. The seeds of subcategorisation had been sown by political parties under the influence of forward castes in the backdrop of the 1994 Assembly elections.

Kanshi Ŕam had made substantial efforts to bring Dalits under one umbrella. Two major sub-castes of SCs, Mala and Madiga, had played a vital role in the combined state of Andhra Pradesh. Kanshi Ram held a series of meetings in Hyderabad to unite downtrodden sections of society by

Prominent Dalit leader and founderpresident of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Kanshi Ram had made concrete efforts to make Dalits a viable political force. Most of the political parties are known to be controlled by people belonging to forward castes.

creating awareness among them on the wish of the architect of Constitution Dr BR Ambedkar that Dalits could find a way to become rulers of this country by effectively using statutory provisions. Political circles then sensed that BSP could make an impact in at least 100

Assembly constituencies, thus

becoming a viable force in AP. This created a flutter among all political parties in AP, including the principal ones. So, the seeds of sub-categorisation of quota for SCs were sown in the backdrop of the possible outcome of those elections. The then state government headed by N. Chandrababu Naidu decided to bring sub-categori-



sation of the reservations for SCs. Soon it was felt that Madiga caste will benefit most by the implementation of subcategorisation of SC quota. The Madiga community was very happy, but the Mala com-

headed the movement against sub-categorisation. Subsequently, two organisations were floated: one, for; and the other, against sub-categorisation of SCs. These developments drove a wedge between the two major subcastes in SCs. Chandrababu implemented

the sub-categorisation of SC quota for four years, benefitting Madiga community and hurting the Mala community, until the SC put a full stop over sub-categorisation.

Chandrababu Naidu also picked up then Lok Sabha member from Amalapuram (SC) constituency GMC Balayogi for the Speaker's post, after having joined hands with the Bharatiya Janata Partyled National Democratic

Alliance at the Centre. During the mid-term polls for the Lok Sabha in February 1998, Chandrababu had fought elections against BJP and Congress by aligning himself with the Left parties. But immediately after the elections, in sync with the outcome, he shifted his stance and declared his support to the NDA govern-ment headed by AB Vajpayee. In turn, Naidu's TDP was offered the Lok Sabha Speaker's post, which Balayogi (who hails from Mala community) occupied. This was questioned subsequently by then TDP leader K. Chandrasekhar Rao (who went on to float Telangana Rashtra Samithi

and become chief minister of

Telangana after bifurcation).

He had faulted Chandrababu

"for not selecting a member

from the Madiga community due to regional discrimination

shown by Naidu". That way, both Madiga and Mala communities are predominant in the Telugu states by virtue of their population. In Telangana, at present the Madiga community would get a major share of 15% (approximately 10%) reservations for SCs. In the same way, the Mala community would benefit in Andhra.

The implementation of 'creamy layer' in quota for SCs while implementing subcategorisation may not be an easy task without constitutional amendments. Whatever it be, the issue of sub-categorisation has once again exposed the wide gap between the two major castes among SCs in Telugu states.

'Prepare list of homeless poor'

Centre will allot houses: Kishan Reddy

PNS HYDERABAD

Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy asked the State government to participate in the survey to be conducted by the Centre and prepare a list of homeless poor in villages so that the Centre will allot houses to

Kishan Reddy has written a letter to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy regarding the cooperation of the State government in providing the fruits of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) (Rural) to the homeless poor in the rural areas of Telangana on Tuesday.

In his letter, Kishan Reddy said that the Centre decided to

build another 2 crore pukka houses for the poor families in rural areas and thus benefit at least 10 crore people between April 2024 and March 2029 as part of the second phase of PMAY. As part of it, a special survey will be conducted for those who are currently in need of houses in the rural areas and houses will be grant-

ed to them, he said. Kishan Reddy said although there are lakhs of poor families in rural Telangana who need houses, the previous BRS government was not part of the Central government's housing survey in 2018. Therefore, no list of houses was sent by the State government to the Centre.

Focus on land acquisition for RRR Project

Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari directs Collectors to expedite the process

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Regional Ring Road (HRRR) project has been given top priority, with instructions to complete the necessary land acquisition by the second week of September.

Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari directed the district collectors to expedite the process during a high-level review meeting on Tuesday at the Secretariat. The review meeting was held to assess the progress of the Regional Ring Road construction. The meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary of Roads and Buildings department Vikas Raj, Government Advisor



ATTACK ON HINDUS IN BANGLADESH

Cong condemns Bandi's

Srinivas Raju, Principal Secretary of Revenue Department Navin Mittal, Additional Secretary of Forest department Prashanti, R&B Special Secretary Harichandan, Joint Secretary Harish, and the collectors of Ranga Reddy,

Medak, Sangareddy, Yadadri and Siddipet districts.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasised the significance of the HRRR project, noting that it is one of the State's most important initiatives. She urged the officials

to accelerate the pending land acquisition process, focusing on ensuring fair compensation to the farmers who are losing their land. "We must ensure that justice is done to the farmers by providing them with appropriate compensation," she stated.

Shanti Kumari also directed the district collectors to form committees under their leadership to ensure that compensation is based on market value, providing a fair deal to the affected farmers. Additionally, she instructed the officials to take special measures to resolve court cases quickly, thereby avoiding any delays in the project.

DELAYED PROMOTIONS

Electricity staff plans massive protest in Sept

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Electricity BC and OC Employees JAC is preparing for a massive protest in September to express their frustration over delay in promotions. The employees, who motions. The employees, who are part of various State utilities including Transco, Genco, SPDCL and NPDCL, have been waiting for promotions for over two years. Despite numerous appeals, the management has not taken any steps to address their concerns. The employees are seeking clarification on two major issues from the government,

which they believe have resulted in injustice towards them. The first issue raised by them pertains to the accelerated promotions granted to SC and ST employees in 2014. They argue that these promotions were given without properly assessing the representation in the feeder cadre, which has affected the seniority of BC and OC employees.

The employees are demanding a review of these promotions and are calling for corrective promotions to be granted to those BC and OC employees who were adverse-

Second all-India drive against fake GST registrations from Aug 16

PNS NEW DELHI

Tax officers will launch a twomonth long special drive against fake GST registrations on August 16, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has said.

With the detection of close

to 22,000 fake registrations involving suspected GST evasion of over Rs 24,000 crore in the first such drive in May, last National the

Coordination Committee, comprising senior Centre and state tax officers, last month decided to launch a second

special drive "to clean up the parameters. Such information tax base". Under the special would be passed on to the drive, GST Network, in coordination with Directorate General of Analytics and Risk Management (DGARM), CBIC, will identify suspicious/ high-risk GSTINs, based on

detailed data analytics and risk

jurisdictional tax officer for further verification. The Centre and State GST officers will then undertake a time-bound verification of the suspicious GSTINs (GST iden-

tification number).

BJP targets 50 lakh membership in TG **PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP is gearing up for party membership registration in Telangana.

A workshop on membership registration will be held in Delhi on August 17. Union Minister Kishan Reddy and party general secretaries attended the workshop.

A total of 50 lakh memberships should be registered in Telangana. Incharges will be appointed for this membership registration. Meanwhile, the BJP hopes to appoint a new national president by December this year. The process started on August 1. It was decided to take up the membership registration programme before electing the

expected to be strengthened. Meanwhile, JP Nadda, who is currently the president, took charge in January 2020. He became the party president with a three-year tenure. As his term ended last year, Nadda's tenure was extended till 2024 in view of the general elections.

'Never worked for publicity'

AGRI MIN TUMMALA TURNS EMOTIONAL

PNS HYDERABAD

Becoming emotional at the allegations made by the former minister T Harish Rao, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao made it clear that he never worked for the sake of publicity, advertisement and politics.

Tummala said, "I worked continuously for the sake of farmers. I took the good works done by any chief minister forward. The comments made by a leader (former finance minister Harish Rao) whom I admire, are painful. Why Harish Rao did not take the credit by completing the Seetharama project. We will sprinkle water on Harish Rao if he comes to the programme



of release of water from the

Seetharama project." Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Tummala said, "My first priority is my constituency and later, district, State and nation. I never chide any politician. I never criticized former chief minister Jalagam Vengala

Rao. However, I completed the projects of the great personalities. I never did cheap politics. I never said that those works are not good because of defeat. But my wish is that the motors should work. Those who are opposing me and insulting me know very well about me. I never beg for anything. I didn't ask for a ticket". The Agriculture Minister

said that he never asked for money from anyone. He said that he did agriculture when he lost elections. The Minister "There is no need to answer the pseudo criticism. The systems collapsed due to the BRS' attitude and corruption." Tummala said that former chief minister NTR gave opportunities politically.

remarks on Rahul

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Congress condemned the remarks made by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar that Rahul Gandhi is keeping silent on the instructions of China though Hindus are being attacked in

Bangladesh. Speaking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday, TPCC senior vice-president G Niranjan demanded Prime Minister Modi to initiate action against Bandi Sanjay and remove him from the ministry for making inappropriate comments.

He said that the develop-

ments in Bangladesh are worrying all. Being a neighbouring country, the conditions there affect our country. Though the current developments are an internal matter of that country, India cannot remain silent in view of the impact on our country, he

Niranjan said that the Congress condemns attacks on minority Hindus and other religions in Bangladesh and expresses its concern. The students who led protests against Sheikh Hasina's government should take initiative and control the attacks on Hindus. Prime Minister Modi should take the initiative.

DGP asked to depute 259 officers to **HYDRAA**

PNS HYDFRABAD

The government ordered the Director General of Police (DGP) to provide 259 police officers to the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection

(HYDRAA) on deputation. On August 8, the government issued an order to provide the officials to the HYDRAA. Out of 259 police officials, one Superintendent of Police (IPS cadre), three Superintendents of Police (Non-cadre), five Deputy Superintendents of Police, 21 inspectors of police, 33 sub-inspectors of police.

bypoll in Banswada PNS HYDERABAD

KTR confident of

Banswada is set to witness a by-election, as stated by BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR). He expressed confidence that the people would teach Pocharam Srinivas Reddy a lesson for switching parties.
"The people of Banswada

will certainly make Pocharam realise the consequences of his actions," KTR stated firmly. KTR also addressed the pain felt by the party workers due to Pocharam's decision to leave BRS. "It's a betrayal to leave the party after winning on the hard work of our ded-

icated workers," he said. "Those who have deserted

us during tough times will not be spared. Our party workers will ensure they face the consequences," KTR warned. Criticising Revanth Reddy's leadership, KTR remarked, "People have now seen through Revanth Reddy's socalled leadership. He's been deceiving the public under the guise of change." He confidently added, "We will definitely defeat Pocharam in the

upcoming by-election." Party workers from Banswada assured KTR that their loyalty remains with BRS, despite Pocharam's departure. "Even if Pocharam has left, our workers in the villages are still with BRS," they informed KTR.

TODAY **ALMANAC** Sukla Paksha Tithi: Navami: Aug 13 09:31 AM to Aug 14 10:24 AM Aug 14 10:24 AM to Aug 15 10:27 AM Nakshatram Aug 13 10:44 AM Anuradha: to Aug 14 12:12 PM Aug 14 12:12 PM

Jyeshta:

Rahukalam

7:37 AM to 9:11 AM Yamaqandam: 05:58 PM to 07:36 PM Varjyam: 10:46 AM to 12:20 PM 03:50 AM to 05:28 AM Amritakalam:

to Aug 15 12:52 PM

12:20 PM to 1:55 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Scattered Showers Temp: 32[∞] Humidity: 72% Sunrise: 5:59 AM Sunset: 6:42 4M

Updated: August 13, 2024 5:00 PM

CM extends support to Gurukula student

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has extended support to Koyyada Karthika, a student who suffered severe injuries after falling from a Gurukula school building. He directed officials at

the Chief Minister's Office to ensure that her treatment is provided at the government's expence. Following his instructions, Karthika underwent surgery at NIMS Hospital in Hyderabad. The student is currently recov-

ering. Karthika, a 9th-grade student at the Telangana Social Welfare Gurukula School in Mulugu district, accidentally fell from the third floor of the school building on



August 9, sustaining serious injuries to her lower back. The Gurukula authorities initially shifted her to MGM Hospital in Warangal and later transferred her to NIMS. A team of doctors, led by Assistant Professor Dr Thirumal, performed surgery on Karthika on Tuesday. Doctors have reported that she is now recovering in the ICU.

"BAIL IS RULE AND JAIL AN EXCEPTION"

Rule applies even to offences under special statutes like PMLA: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The "bail is the rule and jail is an exception" legal principle is applicable even to offences under special statutes like the (Prevention) Act, the Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday while granting bail to a man accused of harbouring suspected ter-

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih said once a case has been made out for the grant of bail to an accused, the court cannot decline the relief. "When a case is made out for a grant of bail, the Courts

should not have any hesitation

in granting bail. The allega-

tions of the prosecution may

be very serious. But, the duty of the Courts is to consider the case for grant of bail in accordance with the law. 'Bail is the rule and jail is an exception' is a settled law," the bench said.

The top court said even in cases like the present one where stringent conditions have been laid down for the grant of bail, the same rule holds good with the only modification being that bail can be granted if the conditions in the statute are satisfied.

"The rule also means that once a case is made out for the grant of bail, the court cannot decline to grant bail. If the Courts start denying bail in deserving cases, it will be a violation of the rights guaranteed under Article 21 (right to life

and personal liberty) of our Constitution," the bench said.

The verdict came while ordering the release of a retired police constable Jalaluddin Khan, who was booked under the stringent provisions of the anti-terror law and those of the now defunct Indian Penal Code for renting out the upper floor of his house to alleged members of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI).

According to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the probe revealed that a criminal conspiracy was hatched with an intention to carry out acts of terror and violence, leading to an atmosphere of terror and endangering the unity and integrity of the

BRS slams govt over unpaid dues to dairy farmers

PNS NEW DELHI

Former minister Srinivas Goud, in a press meet held at Telangana Bhavan, highlighted the plight of dairy farmers, who are struggling in the State. He pointed out that in the past, dairy farming was closely linked to agriculture, providing essential support to farmers.

However, despite dairy farmers supplying milk for the last four months, they have not been paid by the dairies. "In Hyderabad alone, 30 lakh liters of milk are consumed daily, with five lakh liters coming from other parts of Telangana. Yet, the payments for this milk are still pending," he

Cong exploiting public through collection centers

Former BRS legislator Peddi Sudarshan Reddy has criticized Minister Ponnam Prabhakar's comments on former Minister Harish Rao regarding the farmers' loan waiver issue during a press meet held at Telangana Bhavan. Reddy asserted that Prabhakar lacked the moral authority to question Harish Rao's working style.

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CITY EVENTS

The Indie Comedy Show

Stand-up Comedy by Hriday Ranjan, Abhijeet Deshpande, Toby Thomas, Muneer Taufeeq, Sakil Ansari and Kirtiraj for a laughter filled evening.

Venue Navika Cafe & Studio 564a, Road No. 92, behind Ceramic pro, MLA Colony, Jubilee Hyderabad

August 15

Pottery Workshop

Venue

At Feu, Jubilee Hills, By the Pottery Circle August 14

Akan Aahvaanam -A Unique Fund **Raising Feast**

This Independence Day, Akan redefines the spirit of freedom by extending a helping hand to those in need. Akan Aahvaanam is a unique fundraising feast that brings together culinary excellence, artistic expression, and philanthropy. Akan Aahvaanam is a

"pay as you please" lunch experience where chefs and artists collaborate to create an unforgettable experience.

> Venue Akan, Hyderabad Date: Independence Day Time: 12-4 pm

HUMAN FLAG

A photo shoot of a group of Lodge Keys members, their spouses and family members, wearing kurtas of saffron, white, green will form a human flag to celebrate thisIndependence Day uniquely.

Goshamahal Baradari Masonic Building, Goshamahal. Day & Date: Wednesday, August 14th, Time: 9am

CBI registers case against 2 **GST** officers for graft

PNS HYDERABAD

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against Superintendent and Inspector Principal Commissionerate of Central Tax, who are working at GST Commissionerate, GST Bhavan, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad. On Tuesday, the CBI said that both the accused allegedly harassed and extracted Rs 5 lakh from the complainant.

It was alleged that the accused threatened to impose Goods & Services Tax on the complainant for certain alleged irregularity. Further, the complainant alleged that the GST officers sealed his iron scrap shop and accepted Rs 5 lakh as gratification on July 4, 2023. It was also alleged that the accused further demanded Rs 3 lakh to open the seized premises.

The CBI conducted searches at two places in Hyderabad which led to recovery of incriminating documents. Investigation is continuing.

City Pioneer



Explaining that Telangana Tourism department

has designed customized weekend getaway

packages with discounts for IT professionals,

Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said

while encouraging techies to partner and pro-

mote tourism through social media and com-

als during the Weekend Getaways from

Hyderabad programme themed "Ready for a Deccan Recharge," at Raheja Mindspace on

Addressing IT professionals, Jupally empha-

sised that tourism creates peace and helps

bridge cultural gaps. He noted that IT profes-

sionals, who drive technological advancements,

need peace and tranquility. He gave the

example of how people in the US often spend

their weekends camping and visiting tourist

The Minister interacted with IT profession-

PNS HYDERABAD

munity events.

HYDERABAD WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 14, 2024

Telangana has its own Stonehenge, along with temples, heritage sites, and adventure spots around Hyderabad. For those wanting to connect with nature, Telangana offers

tranquil waters of Nagarjunasagar, of Secretary Environment and Forests, breathtaking views from Vani Prasad, said the government Bhadrakali Lake, and the has never reached out to IT professionals like this before to invite them to explore Telangana. She encouraged people to look for discounts and new packages for weekend travand wildlife, el. Vani noted that beautiful places don't require urged long trips, mentioning that Telangana has its

join in explorown Stonehenge, along with temples, heritage sites, and adventure spots around Hyderabad. ing these places, stating that to protect our heritage, people need to

tourist destinations. lush greenery in Ananthagiri Hills, the Principal

> Srisailam reservoir with its greenery, hills, including people to tigers.

take ownership and appreciate

READY FOR A DECCAN RECHARGE

quil waters of Nagarjunasagar, breathtaking

views from Bhadrakali Lake, and the Srisailam reservoir with its greenery, hills, and wildlife,

including tigers. He noted that Bhadrakali Lake

is particularly beautiful for weekend get-

Jupally pointed out that the State has some-

thing for everyone, with many scenic spots in

Telangana's interior that are not widely known.

He highlighted Nagarjunasagar as a prime loca-

tion, offering stunning views, valleys, and a rich history of Mahayana Buddhism, which is the

largest in South Asia. He encouraged techies to visit these places on weekends with their fam-

Jupally announced that a new website will

soon be launched to allow online booking of

hotels and transport, along with ensuring secu-

Special tourism packages for IT techies

Encouraging them to partner in promoting tourism through social media and community events

would be a great help to my

A Kachiguda resident

Haneez Begum said that she

Rs 500 gas bill. "My husband

is handicapped. We are living

on pension. So I came here to

request the government to

provide some work for us," she

that August 13 was the last day

to apply for Mahalakshmi

scheme. A Pahadi Shareef res-

ident Vahidha Begum said, "I

came here to apply for free Rs

2,500 every month. My neigh-

bours told me that this is the

last day to apply for that

total of 475 applications on Tuesday. Out of them, revenue

department received 120

applications, minority welfare

60 applications, social welfare

53 applications, panchayat raj

and rural development 38

applications, consumer affairs,

food and civil supplies 36

applications and other depart-

ments 168 applications.

The government received a

scheme".

Some of them were misled

Jupally highlighted Telangana's rich culture, from the majestic Golconda Fort to Ramoji Film City. He mentioned the State's many historical landmarks and cultural cities. For those wanting The to connect with nature, State Telangana offers lush greenery has Ananthagiri something for Hills, the everyone, with many scenic spots

in interiors that are not widely known.

Nagarjunasagar is a prime location, offering stunning views valleys and a rich history of Mahayana Buddhism, which is the largest in South Asia.



rism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao seen addressing the IT professionals at the Raheja Mindspace on Tuesday.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY **RECYCLING &** URBISHMENT OF WASTES Date: 13.08.2024

Leena Nandan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, and Chief Secretary A Santhi Kumari, at a meeting on circular economy organised by the Pollution Control Board on Tuesday

TG to start tailored courses to boost industry, says CS

PNS HYDERABAD

The officials of the Ministry of Environment discussed various initiatives to address the circular economy and recycling initiatives on Tuesday, at a meeting conducted by Telangana Pollution Control Board.

"We need to focus on skill development in the waste recycling sector and address the challenges in promoting recycling and the circular economy. Policy initiatives and incentives are

Recycling units in clusters can help reduce costs, and capacity utilisation should be maximised, even considering waste imports until a robust local framework is established," said Leena Nandan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change.

"Telangana is committed to the circular economy, with waste segregation facilities at the village level and the elimination of single-use plas-

Despite challenges, we support waste recycling and are ready to start tailored courses to boost this industry," said A Santhi Kumari, Chief Secretary of Telangana.

Incentives offered by the State include reimbursement of stamp duty, land cost rebates and support for cleaner technologies, said Principal Secretary, Environment, Ahmed Nadeem. He also highlighted Telangana's achievements in waste-to-energy and sewage management.

Initiatives in Hyderabad Pharma City and IT industries promote waste reuse, but challenges remain in infrastructure and awareness. Presentations during the meeting emphasised best practices in waste management and the need for public sensitisation and green skills training.

PRAJAVANI

People apply for schemes that are yet to be rolled out

REVANTH CHITHALURI

People are applying for rolled off by the government at the Prajavani held at Praja Bhavan on Tuesday. People applied for the Mahalakshmi scheme and Ambedkar Abhaya Hastham scheme at Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad.

People came to apply for the scheme. Mahalakshmi According to the Congress's manifesto every woman receives Rs 2500 every month. A Sanath Nagar resident named Ruksar Begum said that she came to apply for financial assistance of Rs 2,500. "I knew that this scheme had not started yet but I am applying for it because I do not want to miss it." "I do not have a ration card, I am not a beneficiary of free electricity bill, and LPG gas cylinder for Rs 500 also", she added.

Some of them went to Praja Bhavan to apply for the Ambedkar Abhaya Hastham scheme. According to the Congress manifesto, under this scheme every SC, ST family would get Rs 12 lakh economic help from the govern-



Vice-Chairman of Telangana State Planning Board (TSPB) Chinna Reddy receiving applications from the people at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan

A Medchal resident Anjaneyulu said that he came to apply for Ambedkar Abhaya Hastham. "If the government would give Rs 12 lakh of financial assistance, it

DSC -2024 key and response sheet released

PNS HYDERABAD

Director of School Education Department on and response Sheet of DSC-2024 on its official website of Telangana Education School Department.

According to officials, DSC-2024 aspirants should go through the official website for verification of their response sheet with the Key and also submit their objections, if any on the official website www.schooledu.telangana.gov.in up to August 20 by 5pm.

Any wrong entries with regard to the name, date of birth, gender, caste, EWS and addition of TET score for who had written TG TET-2024 will be rectified based on the submission of written application with documentary evidences through official email ID: helpdesktsdsc2024@gmail. com up to August 28.

form anti-ragging panels

PNS HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty said that principals of all educational institutions should take

ragging.
On Tuesday, the Cyberabad said that any student convicted and imprisoned under Section 4 of the Telangana Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1997, will be dismissed from the educational institution. In cases where the imprisonment exceeds six months, the convicted student will be barred from admission to any other

educational institution. Police said that as the new

Edn institutions asked to

academic year has begun, students across various educational institutions embark on a journey filled with hope, aspiand oppor Unfortunately, in certain instances, some senior students may attempt to abuse, humiliate, or harass new entrants in the name of rag-

ging.
"It is requested that Anti-Ragging Committees be constituted, comprising the principal, professors, wardens, parents, and students. These committees should work in close union leaders to foster a ragging-free environment. Additionally, educational institutions are encouraged to display posters highlighting antilocations within and around

coordination with student

the campus. The Cyberabad Police is actively conducting awareness programmes on anti-ragging in various educational institutions to eradicate this social

For any assistance or to report incidents of ragging, one can contact the nearest

Indigo & Qatar Airlines asked to pay Rs 3.70 L for missing luggage

The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission II, Hyderabad, ordered Indigo Airlines and Qatar Airlines to pay Rs 3.70 lakh to a passenger for missing luggage.

Complainant Thannir Sriranga Rao said that while he was returning from San Francisco (USA) via Doha to Hyderabad (India) on July 30,



OU dining hall in a 'mess'

Dustbins to be arranged at all apartments

PNS HYDERABAD

GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata ordered officials to speak with apartment associations to install dustbins at every apartment to collect the garbage everyday.

She said that it would be convenient to collect the garbage at one place, instead of going door-to-door in the apartments to collect the garbage.

Commissioner Amrapali held a teleconference with additional and zonal commissioners on Tuesday.

The Commissioner said that the collection of garbage in the apartments is not fully done by Swachh autos due to various

Officials should take appropriate measures to prevent littering near power transformers. The authorities concerned have been directed to provide a detailed report of the transformers without fencing.

The Commissioner ordered the officials to arrange dustbins at parks too. The Urban BioDiversity (UBD) department officials have been directed to arrange flowering plants at the junctions to make it pleasant for the motorists.

PNS HYDERABAD

Once again Research Scholar's mess facility of Osmania University (OU) is in limelight, as a video of the dining facility inundated with water went viral and students began to protest against apathy of OU authorities on Tuesday. The video shows the students dining in the indoor pool of water and they began to protest by alleging the water seepage from the rooftops that led to water logging in the

The students stated that the varsity authorities are not responding to the seepage that has been happening for the past week. In-charge Vice-Chancellor Dana Kishore has taken charge. He has not taken any action despite protesting on this issue for days.

The Congress government, which came to power in the name of change,

has not transformed the education sector. There is no proper appointment of VCs for Telangana State universities by the present government. Hence, the reaserach scholars demanded that the State government immediately appoint regular VC and resolve the issues

students Nelli Chevella Kranti, Yadagiri, Tirupati, Prashanth, Nagaraju and others participated in the programme.



Interglobe Aviation Limited (Indigo Airlines) staff at the airport said that the luggage will be delivered at the destination point. Further, they mentioned that if any such baggage is lost Indigo Airlines and Qatar Airlines would compensate him.

Believing in it, the complainant has given his baggage weighing 32 kgs of various items worth \$4429.58 equivalent to Rs 3,54,062. When he landed in Hyderabad airport he noticed that his luggage was missing. When informed, the authorities assured him that they would let him know after enquiry. But they did not give any response.

After hearing the arguments, the court ordered the Indigo Airlines and Qatar Airlines to pay an amount of Rs 3,12,412, along with interest of 9 per cent per annum from the date of loss of baggage on July 31, 2022 till the date of realisation.

However, the court noted that out of Rs 3.12 lakh, Rs 41,650 was paid by the Indian Airlines under monetary compensation to the

complainant. Along with Rs 3.12 lakh, compensation of Rs 50,000 and legal costs of Rs 10,000 should be paid in 45 days from the date the opposite parties receive the order.

hyderabad | wednesday | august 14, 2024



Khammam District Congress Committee president Durga Prasad addressing the media in Khammam on Tuesday

Make CM's public meeting on Aug 15 a success: DCC chief

PNS KHAMMMAM

Khammam District Congress Committee president Durga Prasad has said that elaborate arrangements have been made for Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's visit to the district. The Chief Minister will address a public meeting in Wyra on August 15. He will announce the third phase of crop loan waiver programme. The farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh lakh would be waived. would be waived during the

third phase. Disclosing this to media on Tuesday, he appealed to the party rank and file to make the CM's public meeting a grand success. The Government of Telangana has earmarked Rs 31,000 crore to extend the loan

PNS KOTHAGUDEM

The 60-year-old Singareni

Collieries Company Limited

(SCCL) main hospital, locat-

ed close to SCCL headquarters

here, is plagued with series of

problems like a absence of

super specialty doctors, car-diac treatment facilities and

facilities to treat chronic ail-

ments. Lack of sanitation in

the hospital and rude behav-

ior of the staff, according to

patients, is brining bad name

decades ago to provide health-

care to the workers and

to the officials.

waiver benefit to 32.50 lakh

In the first phase, Revanth Reddy released Rs 6034.97 crore to benefit 11,14,412 farmers. Under the second phase, Rs 6190.01 crore has been released to benefit 6,40,823 farmers. On August 15, the crop loans of the remainder of the farmers who availed crop loans up to Rs 2

Telangana Government Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nages wara Rao, former legislative council member Potla Nageswara Rao, Balasani Lakshminarayana, district Mahila Congress chairperson D Saujanya and other leaders were present.

collieries. The hospital caters

to the needs of the coal work-

ers in six districts. It also

treats the family members of

the SCCL employees and the

tering in the hospital premis-

DGP for steps to root out drug menace in State

PNS SANGAREDDY

Director General of Police Jitender on Tuesday inspected the district police headquarters here and enquired about the law and order situation under the limits of various police stations.

To prevent smuggling of drugs into the district from other district and States, the policemen should thoroughly check all vehicles entering the district without causing inconvenience to the commuters.

The DGP asked the sub Inspectors of Police to act tough with those who organise gambling, matka and those cultivating ganja.

To prevent road accidents, he directed them to take steps to install CCTV cameras at important junctions, blinking lights and boards. Though effective patrolling, the road accidents should be prevented, he said.

The police personnel should respond immediately on receiving a complaint to police control room on 100. The Blue Colts personnel should reach the crime scene swiftly to. He asked the policemen and officers to behave courteously with the persons visiting the police station. They should listen to their problem patiently before suggesting a solution to the problem.

Later talking to media, he appreciated the police personnel for taking steps to prevent road accidents. He

depend more on private phar-

macies for medicines. It means

that the patents are forced to

buy medicines in pharmacies

patients on a par with corpo-

Patients complain that the

outside the hospital.

Dogs and cats are seen loi- able to provide treatment to

employees of the Singareni es. Often the patients have to rate hospitals. Even in case of ity healthcare to patiens.

SCCL main hospital at Kothagudem cries for attention

Absence of specialist doctors and unhygienic conditions plaguing the hospital



Director General of Police Jitender speaking to the media in Sangareddy on Tuesday

also appreciated the S-Nab to check drug smuggling in the district. He also said that My Auto Safe programme has been started to ensure safety of women in the district. The Society for Sangareddy Security Council has been set up to provide security to industries and employees. He appreciated the efforts of the district SP and the police machinery.

Earlier, he presented rewards to Deputy Superintendent of Police Rammohan, Inspectors Sivalingam, Mallesam, Ramesh and Vijayakrishna, sub inspectors of police Srikant and Asif, head constables Prabhakar and Janakiram, Reseve Inspectors Hanmi Reddy, AO Rajasekhar Reddy, super-

industrial accidents, the injured workers are either

have to go to Khammam or

rupees of profits, are left fum-

ing at the hospital manage-ments for failure to provide

quality healthcare to them.

lament that they would have to spend lakhs of rupees at pri-

vate hospitals for securing

better healthcare and face

to the management to ensure

that the hospital provide qual-

financial difficulties.

The SCCL employees

The coal miners, who have been working hard and help-ing the SCCL earn crores of

Hyderabad for treatment.

intendent Kalyani and others. He went round several new sections

in the district police headquarters, cyber lab, conference hall. Later, he held the crime review

meeting with police officials.

A power-point presentation was made on the modernization of the district police headquarters here. The DGP was explained on S-Nab started to check drug smuggling and ped-dling in the district.

Additional Superintendent of Police A Sanjiva Rao, Sangareddy DSP Sattaiah Goud, Pathanchervu DSP Ravinder Reddy, Zaheerabad DSP Rammohan Reddy, Narayanakhed DSP Venkat and others were present.

Collector inspects

venue of I-Day fete

District Collector Muzammel Khan on Tuesday

inspected the parade grounds here and gave

directions to officials on the arrangements to

be made there for the celebration of Independence Day. All arrangements should

be made without giving room for any trouble,

he said. He discussed the security aspects with

the police. He also discussed the flag hoisting, chief guest address, felicitation of freedom fight-

ers and the cultural programmes to be staged

He said that merit certificates will be present-

ed to the best employees.

He also discussed the sanitation, provision

of drinking water to the people and children

presenting cultural events. Additional DCP A Naresh Kumar, DEO SomasekharaSarma,

DPRO Chandan Kumar, ACP C Susheel Singh

RMO Rajasekhar, Khammam Urban Tahsildar

Ch Swamy and others were present.

PNS KHAMMAM

on the occasion.



Excise and Enforcement Director VB Kamalasan Reddy at a meeting in Warangal on Tuesday

Call to make Warangal district free of illicit arrack by Aug 31

PNS WARANGAL

Excise and Enforcement Director VB Kamalasan Reddy has called upon Excise officials to launch a driver to make Warangal district free of illicit arrack by August 31.

Reviewing the Excise and Enforcement Department's activities here on Tuesday, he appreciated the Excise personnel for their efforts to eradicate illicit arrack.

Further, he asked the officials to keep a strict vigil on the supply of black jaggery and alam which are the main ingredients used to brew illicit liquor and take stern action against the suppliers of these commodities.

Excise officials to invoke the Preventive Detention Act against those brewing illicit liquor. He wanted the Excise officials to frame the chargesheet in foolproof manner to secure convictions for the brewers. He asked the officials

to complete the investigation of the pending cases and prepare the new cases and ensure that the accused get conviction in

The Excise officials should also set their sights on detection of Drugs and NDPS.

The excise superintendents, Assistant commissioners, deputy commissioners should furnish necessary suggestions to ensure progress in the detection of cases.

Warangal City Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha was also present and assured full support to the excise department in its fight against ganja and drugs.

He said that the objective of

the police department is to If necessary, he asked the make Warangal free from ID arrack and drugs.

Excise and Enforcement Joint Commissioner Qureshi, excise deputy commissioner Anjan Rao, assistant commissioner Nagender Rao, excise superintendents, Cis, SIs of five districts were present.

Raghunandan urges people to hoist national flag on every house



Medak Lok Sabha member M Raghunandan Rao leading Har Ghar Tiranga procession in Medak on Tuesday

PNS MEDAK

Lok Sabha member from Medak Raghunandan Rao has appealed to the people of the constituency to hoist the national flag on every house on August 15 in connection with the Independence Day celebrations to e the feeling that the country

belongs to them. Earlier, he led a Har Ghar Tiranga procession from JN Road to Ramdas X Roads in the town on Tuesday with the participation of several college students waving the national tricolour. The rally culminated in a public

meeting at Ramdas X Roads. Addressing the gathering, he appealed to the people to recall the sacrifices made by eminent freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh, Chandrasekhar Azad, Subhash

Chandra Bose for the sake of the country. Modi launched the Har Ghar Tiranga programme to highlight the sacrifices made by them to the nation.

Earlier, elocution contests were used to be organised on patriotism. But, nowadays people compete in such events just for the sake of ranks, but none is bothered to groom peo patriotic individuals who would be able to safeguard the nation. Everyone should feel that he or she would be better off only when the country is

Those who do not honour the national flag need not live in this country, he said.

The history of Babar, Akbar, Birbal, Ghazni are being taught in schools. But, there were no lessons on people like Subhash Chandra Bose and Sivaji Maharaj, he compared.

RBI conducts financial literacy programme

The SCCL management retired employees free of

PNS BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

A financial literacy programme was organised on Tuesday at Government Teachers College in Bhadrachalam under the auspices of Reserve Bank of India Hyderabad. Kamal Prasad Patnaik, Regional

Director of the Reserve Bank of India, participated and spoke as the chief guest in this programme. He said that teachers are the pillars of the country's future. He said that everyone in today's society needs financial literacy. If the teachers are knowledgeable in

financial matters, they will train a few thousand students. He said that if India is to become a developed India by the year 2047, every Indian will have to achieve financial independence by becoming financially disciplined. He suggested that financial affairs should be conducted only with banks and financial institutions authorised by the Reserve Bank.

Books related to financial literacy



Reserve Bank of India Hyderabad Regional Director Kamal Prasad speaking at a meeting in Bhadrachalam on Tuesday

were donated to the college library. Later saplings were planted on the college premises. He said that financial assistance will be provided for increasing greenery in the college premises.

College principal Veera Naik, Lead Bank Manager Ramireddy, Reserve Bank Managers Prithvi, Ali, college staff and students participated in this pro-

PROTEST AGAINST ETHANOL PLANT

Villagers threaten to boycott elections to local bodies

Agitators against ethanol plant in Dilawarpur mandal in the district staged a novel protest by cooking and eating on the

Under the leadership of the joint action committee, the villagers assembled at the centre of the village where relay hunger strike has been going on for the last 21 days and raised slogans against the ethanol plant.

The people took a pledge to boycott the elections to be held to local bodies if the ethanol plant construction is not stopped immediately.

A shutdown was observed in Dilawarpur mandal. Business establishments were shut down. Everyone participated in the shutdown volun-

PNS PEDDAPALLI

Additional Collector GV

ShyamPrasadlal has directed

the officials concerned to take

stringent measures to check the

peddling and smuggling of drugs in the district.

He was addressing the offi-

cials of the narcotics control

department officials at collec-

Since the government is com-

mitted to check the drug smug-

torate here on Tuesday.



Villagers cooking and eating on road to protest against ethanol plant in Nirmal district on Tuesday

tarily, the JAC leaders said. Later, they cooked food on the National Highway at Dilawarpur Bus station and ate

it on the road. Slogans were raised against the construction of the facto-

ry. The villagers expressed anger over the the government and officials not responding to their pleas to stop the construction of the ethanol plant. With an ethanol plant coming up in Dilawarpu mandal in the district, people, particularly the farmers, have expressed fears over the impact on their farms and irrigation tanks, besides borewells.

The construction of the ethanol plant is now progressing at a brisk pace post-Lok Sabha elections. The construction of the plant was halted till the Lok Sabha elections were

Efforts are on to set up IT park, industrial hub in Mancherial

PNS MANCHERIAL

Under the leadership of local MLA K Prem Sagar Rao, efforts are under way to develop Mancherial, which earned reputation as a business center, industrially and from the perspective of IT. Efforts are being made to locate an

industrial hub and IT park close to the

The officials have identified 292 acres on the outskirts of Vempalli and Pochampad villages of Hajipurmandal. On Thursday, the TGIIC officials have inspected the lands. Plans are under way to build an Auto Nagar in the region and build houses for the

If all these projects were to materialize, the contours of Mancherial will be changed completely.

Resources are available locally for development of ancillary units to the SCCL, agriculture sector, food processing units and other medium and minor industries.

Power can be accessed from Singareni thermal power plant at Jaipur, coal from Singareni coal mines and water from Yellampalli project. There are railway tracks linking north India with the south. National highways are being built linking all the towns in Telangana, facilitating easy transportation of goods produced here to other areas.

Hundi collections at Vemulawada Temple put at 1.31 crore

PNS VEMULAWADA

The Rajarajeshwara Swamy Temple Devasthanam here has earned Rs 1,31,19,460 in cash, 92 grams of gold and 9.6 kg of silver during the past 33 days by way of hundi offerings,

the temple authorities said.

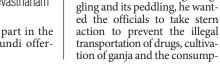
The counting of hundi offerings was done here on Tuesday

According to the temple Executive Officer K Vinod Reddy, Assistant Executive Officer and supervisors and



being counted at Vemulawada on Tuesday temple staff, AC office observ- Seva Samiti took part in the

er Satyanarayana and Sri Siva counting of the hundi offer-Ramakrishna BhajanaMandali





Additional Collector GV Shyam Prasad holding a review meeting in Peddapalli on Tuesday

tion of drugs in the district. Underlining the need for providing de-addiction treatment to the drug addicts and counselling them, he asked the enforcement officials to see to it

that the agriculture department officials check ganja cultivation in remote and border villages. The people should inform the police and excise department in case they come across

Tough measures key to check drug smuggling

ganja cultivation. The forest department personnel should alert the police in case they come across cultivation of ganja in forest lands. He asked additional drugs inspector to check the stock of medicines in district

hosptials and medical shops. Further, he wanted the habits of students in all educational institutions should be checked. They should be counselled on the adverse impact of drugs habit. The securitynear check posts should be heightened to prevent smuggling of drugsand ganja into the district from other districts.

Further, he asked people to

keep away from the habits o gutka, ganja, drugs, cigarette and other bad habits since these habits will destroy the rational thinking. He appealed to the posterity not to get attracted to drugs. Peddapalli revenue divisional officer B Gangaiah, ACP G Krishna, DMHO Dr K Pramod Kumar, drugs inspector P Shravan Kumar, district Intermediate Nodal Officer Kalpana, DEO D Madhavi, district agriculture department officer Adi Reddy, district transport officer, district excise office er, agriculture department officials and others were

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 14, 2024

ACROSS THE STATES



Indian visa centre in Dhaka resumes 'limited operations'

he Indian visa application centre here resumed "limited operations" on Tuesday, days after Bangladesh saw violent clashes which led to the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina. Hasina, 76, resigned and fled to India last week following widespread protests against her Awami League-led government over a controversial job quota system. In a press release, the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) announced the resumption of limited operations in its Dhaka centre. "IVAC (JFP) Dhaka has resumed limited operations. Messages will be sent to individual applicants regarding (the) collection of passports," the press release said. It requested applicants to arrive at the centre only after receiving a text message to collect their passports. "Because of limited operations, the process may take longer. We request your understanding," it said. Last week, the IVAC announced the closure of all visa centres in the country until further notice due to the unstable situation after the fall of the Hasina-led Awami League government, Somoy TV news channel reported.

CM Revanth returning with flying colours



Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister, who will return to Hyderabad on the morning of August 14, is expected to participate in the

groundbreaking ceremony.

It is known that during his visit to the United States, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister for IT and Industries Sridhar Babu met with Cognizant CEO Ravikumar at the company's headquarters in New Jersey on August 5. Following this meeting, the company announced its expansion plan in Hyderabad. Cognizant has campus spanning 1 million square feet. The company has focused on setting up this new campus within 10 days of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state government. Cognizant CEO Ravikumar may also attend the event. The new center will focus on advanced technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Digital Engineering, and Cloud Solutions, as announced by Established in 1994 with

revealed that the expansion

plan will create an additional

15,000 jobs and include a new

its headquarters in Chennai, Cognizant has since expanded globally. The company began its operations in Hyderabad in 2002 and currently operates five campuses in various parts of the IT corridor. Cognizant employs approximately 18,000 people in Hyderabad and is recognized as one of the largest employers in the city's IT sector.

CAS verdict on...

Continued from page 1

Dr Annabelle Bennett, Sole Arbitrator in the Vinesh Phogat vs United World Wrestling (UWW) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) matter, an extension until 6:00 pm (Paris time) on Friday, August 16, 2024," a release from the IOA said. This is the third deferment in the case and no reasons have been given. In her appeal, Vinesh has demanded that she be given a joint silver with Cuban wrestler Yusneylis Guzman Lopez, who had lost to her in the semifinals but was promoted to the final following the Indian's disqualification.

Vinesh's legal team has French lawyers Joelle Monlouis, Estelle Ivanova, Habbine Estelle Kim and Charles Amson who helped her and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) during the filing of the application.

jected demand. It estimates that by 2031-32, the state could face an energy shortfall of 7,027 MU, especially during peak demand months like February and March. To bridge this gap, the CEA recommends a strategic expansion of Telangana's generation capacity, including the integration of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) by 2028-29, and additional coal-based capacity from 2027-28 onwards. The report emphasizes the need for Telangana to contract additional capacities, including 4,676 MW of solar, 4,590 MW of wind, and 1,655 MW of hydro, to fulfill its RPO and meet the growing power demand reliably. The report also calls for greater reliance on Short-Term Open Access (STOA) markets to address

TG staring at... Continued from page 1

will not suffice to meet the propeak demand requirements, although it notes that this approach may only provide a



US looks forward to expanding critical partnership with India

PNS WASHINGTON

The Biden Administration looks forward to expanding its "critical and critically important" partnership with India and creating a more prosperous and secure Indo-Pacific, the White House has said.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre made the remarks on Monday while responding to questions on the priorities of US President Joe Biden in the remaining six months of his administration.

We look forward to continuing to expand our critical and critically important partnership and how it's going to benefit the American people," she said while addressing her daily news conference.

"We want to create a more prosperous and secure Indo-Pacific and the

President Biden shortly.

The top Indian diplomat, who world. That is going to continue to be is well known in the US diplomatic

our focus as we move forward," she

"The president (Joe Biden) views our relationship -- the United States' relationship with India -- as one of the most consequential in the world. We work closely with India on our most vital priorities, including through the Quad and the US-India initiative on -- Critical and Emerging Technology,"

Earlier in the day, India's Ambassador-designate to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra,

arrived in the American Capital. Kwatra, who previously served as Minister of Commerce in the Indian Embassy here, is expected to present his credentials to

circles, arrives in the US in the middle of an intense presidential election campaign, fast-moving developments in Bangladesh and two wars in which the US is currently engaged.

Over the next 90 days, India and the US are expected to have some high-level diplomatic engagements, including visits of cabinet-level officials on either side.

Youth must strive to make India a developed nation by 2047: Shah



PNS AHMEDABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched the BJP's 'Tiranga Yatra' in Ahmedabad and called upon youth to come forward and strive to make India a developed nation by 2047

The 'Tiranga Yatra' is a way to energise youth and commit themselves to nation building, asserted the senior BJP leader while addressing a gathering before flagging off the yatra in Gujarat's commercial hub ahead of Independence Day.
"The Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi two years ago has become not just an expression of patriotism, but also a symbol of our pledge to make India a great and developed nation by 2047," Shah

emphasised.

"When the country under PM Modi's leadership is committed to become a developed nation, citizens, especially youth, need to come forward and work with the aim of making the country No. 1 in the field they are working in," he underlined. After flagging off the city-wide event, Shah, along with Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, participated in

the yatra by walking for some distance on the route holding the nation-

The third edition of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is being celebrated from August 9 to 15 to mark the 78th Independence Day. The idea behind the initiative is to invoke the feeling of patriotism among citizens and to promote awareness about the tricolour.





Cong to garner support to ..

Continued from page 1

minorities and their places of worship in Bangladesh are stopped and make sure that they are enabled to lead a life of security, dignity, and har-

A resolution passed at the meeting said the Congress demands a JPC probe into the Adani "mega scam in which the prime minister is fully involved and the financial market regulator has now been found to have been severely compromised".

wide caste census to be conducted by the Centre was also stressed at the meeting.

The Congress also called for full and genuine respect for the Constitution in letter and spirit, particularly its economic, social, and political justice provisions.

Over the next few weeks, the party will organise public mobilisation campaigns on these three issues across the country, the resolution said. The meeting expressed its

tating landslide tragedy in Kerala's Wayanad and expressed its condolence. It re-emphasised the demand made by Gandhi for declaring the landslides a national disaster, the resolu-

tion said. "We have reiterated our demand for a JPC probe over the Adani mega scam issue. We have been demanding this for the last year and with the manner in which revelations have been made recently, the formation of a JPC becomes more important," Ramesh said at a media briefing on the

meeting. In a post on X after the meeting, Kharge said, "The shocking revelations of nexus between SEBI and Adani need a thorough investigation. The money of small investors in the stock market can't be jeopardised."

"Modi government must immediately seek the resignation of SEBI chairperson and constitute a JPC in this regard," he said. The Congress chief said the

pressing issues of unbridled unemployment and uncontrolled inflation and depletion party's focus.

The poor and middle class have been "betrayed", he alleged. Kharge claimed that "the attack on the Constitution continues unabated".

A caste census is a demand of the people of the country, he added. "The Congress party would continue its fight in demanding legal guarantee of MSP for our farmers. The Agnipath scheme imposed on our patriotic youth must be scrapped," Kharge said.

deepest distress at the devas-He said train derailments have become a norm as crores of passengers suffer.

Climate-related disasters and collapsing infrastructure are also causes for concern, the Congress chief said.

'We would design a national campaign around these issues and go to the people," he added. Briefing reporters, Venugopal said it was unanimously decided at the meeting that the Congress will hold a nationwide agitation on August 22, demanding the SEBI chief's resignation and a JPC probe into the Adani

SC closes contempt proceedings against Ramdev, Patanjali Ayurved

In a relief to yoga guru Ramdev, his aide Balkrishna and Patanjali Ayurved Limited, the Supreme Court on Tuesday closed the contempt proceedings initiated against them for "violation" of the undertakings given before the court in the misleading advertisements case. While the apex court accepted their apology and closed the mat-ter, it cautioned them to strictly abide by the terms of their undertakings.

"Any future intransigence on their part, whether by act, deed or speech that could tantamount to violating the orders of the court or dishonouring the terms of the undertakings, shall be viewed strictly and the ensuing consequences could

indeed be grave," a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah said.

"In that eventuality, the sword of contempt that has now been returned to rest in its sheath, shall be flourished as swiftly as these proceedings were originally initiated," the bench said in its 41-page verdict.

The contempt proceedings was initiated by the top court which is hearing a plea filed by the Indian Medical Association alleging ir campaion against the (cination drive and modern systems of medicine. In its November 21, 2023 order passed in the matter, the top court had noted that the counsel representing Patanjali Ayurved had assured it that henceforth there shall not be any violation of any law(s), especially relating to advertising or branding of prod-



ucts manufactured and marketed by it and further, that no casual statements claiming medicinal efficacy or against any system of medicine will be released to the media in

CM to switch on Sitarama Project's pumps tomorrow

Continued from page 1

Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, conducted a review at Jal Soudha on Tuesday to discuss the arrangements and other aspects of the inauguration of the project.

Speaking to media persons later, Uttam Kumar Reddy criticized the BRS party, questioning how 90% of the project could have been completed, considering that only Rs 7,230 crore out of the allocated Rs 18,231 crore had been spent. He accused the government of installing motors prematurely to earn higher commissions,

even though a dry run was never conducted. He also dismissed claims that the necessary permissions from the Central Water Commission (CWC) had been obtained and stated that no such permissions had been granted.

The Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project, now fully approved by Godavari River Management Board, will receive 67 TMC of water from the Godavari River, which is an achievement of the Congress government. Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that the Sitarama Project was originally conceived as the Rajiv Sagar and Indira Sagar projects during the Congress government's tenure. He accused the BRS of renaming the project to Sitarama to claim credit and to conceal the fact that the original projects, estimated to cost Rs 3,500 crore, could have been completed

with an additional Rs 1,500

crore. He alleged that the BRS government's negligence had led to a significant cost escalation to Rs 18,000 crore, without a corresponding increase in the acreage to be irrigated.

Minister Srinivas Reddy further challenged Harish Rao to ask his "uncle" (KCR) about the spirit of Khammam, where the BRS managed to win only one seat in the last three elections. He warned that the BRS would be completely wiped out in the future, attributing the solitary victory in the previous election to his own influence and the victory of his disciple. He cautioned Harish Rao against underestimating the people of Khammam.

Repairs cannot proceed..

partial solution.

Continued from page 1

He also expressed confidence that the Tungabhadra Dam will fill up again, saying that he will personally come to offer worship once the dam is full. "Tungabhadra Dam management falls under the Tungabhadra Dam Board, which includes members appointed by the Union government as well as representatives from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka. The dam's construction began in 1948 and was completed in 1953 while the water was being released in 1954. No gate chain has ever broken in the 70-year-old dam until now," the Chief Minister said.

The dam currently holds 115 TMC of water while 25 TMC has already been released

to farmers. Farmers require 90 TMC for their initial crops and this quantity is available in the dam. However, due to the damage to the 19th gate, 35,000 cusecs of water were lost. "Repairs cannot proceed

without releasing the water from the dam. The water level will be reduced, leaving 64 TMC remaining. The repair of the gate will take a minimum of four to five days. Hindustan Engineering and Narayana Engineering are carrying out the repair work under expert advice," the Chief Minister said. He said that farmers in Karnataka, who have cultivated crops on about 9 lakh hectares, and those in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, who have cultivated on about three lakh hectares will face no prob-

lems, adding that heavy rainfall is expected in the state from August 17. On the dam's maintenance issues, the Chief Minister said that while there were problems with the canals in 2019, there were no issues with the dam gates. "The current gate chain breakage is a first in the last 70 years," the Chief Minister said. Experts say that the gates and chains should be replaced every 50 years.

'Tungabhadra Board and relevant governments will take appropriate action in the future," the CM said. In response to media inquiries about who should be held responsible for such incidents, the Chief Minister said that the Tungabhadra Board, appointed by the Union government and comprising mem-bers from the Central Water Commission and the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, exists to address such issues

Upskilling pharmacy...

Continued from page 1

These pharmacy assistants have a wealth of practical knowledge, but their skills remain unrecognized and unrewarded," said an industry expert.

The solution involves allowing individuals with at least two years of experience in a pharmacy retail outlet and a 12th-grade education with chemistry to take the same exam that awards a Diploma in Pharmacv. Experts suggest that this could be facilitated through a program designed to upskill them in both theory and practice, without interrupting their ongoing would be a collaborative across the country.

effort between the Pharma Sector Skill Council and the Pharmacy Council of India.

"This approach not only provides a permanent structural solution to the pharmacist shortage but also offers a respectable career trajectory for those who may not have had access to formal education," experts emphasized. "By formally recognizing their skills, we can make these individuals self-reliant and significantly enhance the availability of qualified pharmacists, especially in remote locations.

Healthcare professionals agree that this proposal could play a crucial role in strengthening the overall employment. The program healthcare infrastructure

Ranga Reddy JC held for...

Continued from page 1

Madan Mohan Reddy was caught red-handed at Gurramguda X road near Sanjeevani Vanam here on August 12 night by the ACB officials when he demanded and accepted the bribe amount of Rs 8 lakhs from the complainant in his car as bribe to process and get complainant's work done by influencing his higher officials, the ACB said.

Were the money.

Bhoopal Reddy arrived at a spot near Peddamberpet

The bribe amount was recovered from the possession of Madan Mohan handed over the amount to Reddy from his car. During enquiry, Madan which the bribe amount was ruption.

Mohan Reddy confessed recovered from the Joint that he demanded the bribe on behalf of MV Bhoopal Reddy, Joint Collector, the ACB officials said.

When Madan Mohan Reddy called Bhoopal Reddy on his phone and informed about the receipt of bribe amount, the Joint Collector instructed him to come to Peddamberpet ORR to hand over the money.

ORR in his official vehicle and Madan Mohan Reddy the senior official, following 1064, to help combat cor-

The ACB conducted raids

on Madan Mohan Reddy's residence, his office, and the homes of his relatives as part of the investigation. Both the Senior Assistant and the Joint Collector were arrested and would be produced before the Principal

gation is underway. The ACB has urged the public to report any instance of bribery by public servants to their toll-free number

Special Judge for ACB Cases

in Hyderabad. The investi-

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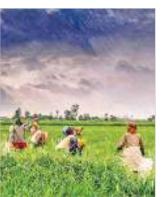
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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Sunshine after the storm

Indian agriculture set to benefit from good monsoon and PM Modi's release of climate-resistant seeds

ndia's agricultural sector, the cornerstone of its economy, is set to benefit from a double dose of positive news this monsoon season. With forecasts predicting a normal to above-normal monsoon and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent announcement of 109 climate-resistant seed varieties, the outlook for the country's farmers is brighter than ever. These developments not only promise a significant boost for agriculture but also hold the potential to ease inflationary pressures—a key concern for both policymakers and the general public. A favorable monsoon is expected to drive agricultural growth in India, with a report from India Ratings predicting a 4.3% increase in FY25, up from 1.4% in FY24. The monsoon plays a critical role in sustaining food supply, which in turn satisfies consumer demand and helps stabilise food prices. Additionally, a good monsoon increases rural incomes, which can stimulate demand for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG). Monsoon rains are vital for Indian agriculture, particularly for the



kharif crop season, which includes staples like rice, maize, and pulses. With nearly 60 per cent of India's farmland being rain-fed, a good monsoon often translates to a successful harvest. This year's normal to above-average rainfall has raised hopes for a bumper crop season. A successful monsoon reduces the need for costly irrigation solutions, helping farmers save on input costs. As a result, rural incomes are expected to rise, driving consumer demand in villages and small towns, which are vital engines of the country's economic growth.

Against this promising backdrop, Prime Minister Modi's release of 109 climate-resistant seed varieties marks

a significant step towards securing India's agricultural future. These seeds have been specially developed to withstand the growing challenges posed by climate change, including erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and rising temperatures. By enhancing crop resilience, these seeds aim to ensure stable yields even in adverse weather conditions. The introduction of these seeds is a forward-looking initiative that aligns with the government's broader agricultural strategy, which emphasises sustainability and self-reliance. These seeds are expected to reduce crop losses due to unpredictable weather, providing farmers with a safety net and helping to stabilise food production. This could lead to a more consistent food supply. In recent years, inflation, particularly driven by volatile food prices, has been a persistent concern for the Indian economy. A good monsoon and the adoption of climate-resistant seeds could bring much-needed relief to consumers, especially those in lower-income brackets who are most affected by rising food costs. During his second term, Prime Minister Modi had promised to double farmers' incomes a goal that was challenging to achieve at the time. However, that target now seems within reach. The combination of good rainfall and resilient seed varieties could be the key to realising that vision and securing a prosperous future for Indian agriculture.



Finding fault with the US for internal failures



The narrative of an 'American hand' in political unrest in South Asia sells, even as the root cause of instability often lie with its own politicians

he United States of America did not have a significant role in the run-up to the independence of the Indian subcontinent from the British Raj. Indeed, the Gadar Party started as a San Francisco-based anticolonial organization, as did the New York-based India Home Rule League founded by Lala Lajpat Rai, but the Government of the USA had remained largely oblivious of the subcontinental developments. It was only in the post-World War 2 tensions between the competing 'blocs', when the Cold War started in earnest, that the USA went into overdrive to control the subcontinental narrative.To further its interest, the USA had backed military dictators in Pakistan, and undemocratic monarchies in Afghanistan and Nepal, while remaining decidedly hostile towards India.

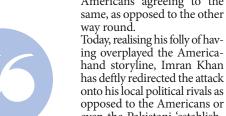
Washington DC tellingly overlooked the genocidal conduct of the Pakistani Generals in what later became, Bangladesh. Americans were instrumental in harnessing toxic religiosity by creating the Afghan mujahedeen, the curse of which continues to this date. Pakistan was a 'Major Non-NATO Ally' and did most of its bidding in the region. The end of the Cold War with the implosion of the Soviet Union in the early 90s coincided with the rise of China as the new principal enemy. This led to a recalibration of allies and enemies, which eventually warranted a more pro-India outlook from Washington DC, even though an unnatural alliance with Pakistan persisted owing to the necessities of Afghanistan and tackling religio-

For a variety of reasons, including the continuing 'War on Terror' in Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Iran, to now the latest Israel-Palestine War, perceptions of America within the Jmmah (Islamic World), made it naturally unsavoury. This often the Americans, as it was safe makes the USA the prime suspect for anything that went wrong in Tehran, Kabul, Damascus, Islamabad to even Dhaka. Invariably the Americans are seen to be partaking in Samuel P



Huntington's 'Clash of the Civilisations', which seemingly pits the Americans as a force against the Ummah. Americabashing is a latent and potent undercurrent that is tapped by various political parties in the Islamic countries of the region like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Maldives or Bangladesh, even if the same is genuinely warranted or not. There is no denying that America has had an amoral past with many missteps and convenient overlooking of events, but it is equally true that many political parties have twisted and even extrapolated the same to suggest outsized agendas for Washington DC because they know that such a spiel feeds into the popular and basic instincts of their citizenry.

In Pakistan, amidst the turf wars between the Military 'establishment' and Imran Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaaf government, the wily Imran Khan dialled up a phoney 'cypher' controversy entailing a foreign power i.e., the USA. This move sought to conflate two enemies (one already imagined i.e., USA, and the other requiring some context i.e. Pakistani Military) to apportion a disproportionate role for and popular to do so. The WAS IT POISED TO Americans have historically GO THAT WAY had a say in Pakistani affairs, but the ouster of Imran Khan had more to do with the



WHILE IT IS TRUE sequent THAT DHAKA UNDER HASINA HAD ADOPTED A **BELLIGERENT** STANCE AND EVEN COSIED UP TO ITS NEMESIS THAT IS, CHINA, BY ACCEPTING **BEIJING'S** OVERTURES -BANGLADESH WAS more out of good sense given the societal sentiments that NOT CHINA'S BUNNY prevailed and good local pol-IN THE SAME WAY AS PAKISTAN IS, NOR

ing the initiative with Americans agreeing to the same, as opposed to the other way round.

onto his local political rivals as opposed to the Americans or even the Pakistani 'establishment, as done earlier. Now, after the self-created tinderbox-like situation and the subimplosion, Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is believed to have drummed up the US hand in the recent coup. While it is true that Dhaka under Hasina had adopted a belligerent stance and even cosied up to its nemesis i.e., China, by accepting Beijing's overtures – Bangladesh was not China's bunny in the same way as Pakistan is, nor was it poised to go that way, either. It is true Hasina had declined the American request for a Military base in its Saint Martin Islands, but that was

Hasina was the routine concerns expressed by the USA that Hasina was increasingly undemocratic, intolerant and authoritarian (which she was) - but other than these concerns, both Hasina and the

enemy in religious-extremist forces that threatened the interests of both sides. Hasina also amplified her American rhetoric as it was without any accompanying risks and could endear her to Bangladeshi society, as the Ummah has been wounded by emotions of the Palestine war, and the tacit role of the USA. Hasina's purported accusation of the USA plotting regime change in Bangladesh (in her undelivered speech) needs to be read contextually. His supposed stance that she'd be in power if she had given away, "Saint Martin and Bay of Bengal", is more theatrical than factual as Bangladeshis (especially youth) had genuinely tired of her rule.

If anything, the forces that have come to power reflect the sort of spirit and religious tenor that militates against American preferences. Hasina's exit has more to do with her hubris and excesses than with America working overtime to dislodge her. America is just a convenient (though often justified) enemy in Islamic countries and those who are inelegantly bumped out resort to blaming the USA hand on the rebound e.g., Pakistan earlier, Bangladesh now.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Åndaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

The quest for real freedom in a divided society



Real liberation comes from transcending divisions and recognising our spiritual identity, a path that leads to peace, harmony, and tranquility

ore than seven decades after we attained independence from the British, we are still enslaved- trapped in the bondage of caste, creed, religion, regionalism etal. This has created deep fissures in society, destroying the democratic fabric of amity, harmony and peaceful co-existence. All this is there because as individuals, society and a nation, we have not attained real or to say ultimate freedom that promotes peace, harmony and happiness.

What is real or ultimate freedom? It is a state of not being enslaved to physical senses, to mind and its desires. It means breaking free from toxic thoughts and the vices associated with it. We need freedom from prejudices of caste, creed and religion, greed and selfishness, anger and animosity, hate and hostil-

But then why are we failing to achieve real freedom and how can we attain it? Real freedom is eluding us because we are facing an

In reality, we are spiritual beings (having soul-based identity) in body form. But we make a fallacy of treating ourselves as a body and this unreal world as the real world.

The basic nature of our material existence is bondage and when we act upon the material desires of the mind and senses, we often take to unwise and unholy acts which lead to our sorrows and sufferings. Because of duality, we tend

crimination takes the form of hatred, animosity and hostility, even leading to violence and bloodshed. Liberation of the soul or spiritual freedom is the ultimate freedom.

The devotees belonging to the Nirankari Mission observe the 15th of August as 'Mukti Parv Diwas' to signify the liberation of the turn turning this world into soul. To attain this ultimate liberation, we have to come out of the contaminated state of our conidentity crisis. We don't to discriminate against fel-know our real identity. low beings and this dis-ourselves in a pure state of sciousness and position

our consciousness. Even Bhagavad Gita says that being situated in such a position, one is never shaken even amid the greatest difficulty and it is actual freedom from all miseries arising from material con-

We can certainly attain ultimate liberation through self-liberation by way of self realization that we are a pure and noble soul- a constituent of God. We can lead such an aware life constantly by strengthening our spiritual dimension through God's remembrance and the company of saintly persons. Lord Jesus set people free from bondage to live in the freedom that only comes from God.

We shall be able to attain real freedom by living an enlightened life in the spirit of oneness (Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam) with the Creator and His creation, in a happy, harmonious and peaceful place to live.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views expressed are personal)

MOTHERS HAVE BIG HEART

Pakistani 'establishment' tak-

Madam — In the world of sports, where records are measured in meters and seconds, Nadeem's Olympic gold throw of 92.97 meters and Neeraj's silver throw of 89.45 meters are remarkable feats. Yet, they pale in comparison to the "universal affection javelin throw" of infinite meters launched by their mothers. The media captured a heartwarming moment as both mothers wished their sons not just victory and medals, but everlasting friendship and affection.

Indeed, the true champions here are the mothers of Nadeem and Neeraj, whose boundless care and love transcend international borders, setting a new record for the longest "affectionate and harmonious javelin throw" of infinite meters. Kudos to these incredible women for their unparalleled contribution to the spirit of

sportsmanship and humanity. PV Madhu Nivriti | Secundrabad

ADDRESS ATTACK ON MINORITIES

Madam — The ongoing attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh are deeply concerning. Despite Hindu support for the movement against the Sheikh Hasina government, the new regime has failed to protect them. Alarmingly, Indian opposition parties, vocal about minority rights in India, have remained silent on this

Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, leading the interim government, has appealed for calm but to little effect. The anti-quota protests in Bangladesh, which led to the fall of the Hasina government, have now targeted Hindus, even though their involvement was primarily against the previous government. The situation worsened with the forced resignation of Bangladesh's Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan. Bangladesh remains an Islamic country, and protection for minorities is limited compared to India. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's offer to shelter "anyone" in distress is problem-



The removal of the City Police Commissioner and the Medical Superintendent cum VP of RG Kar Medical College Hospital in Calcutta, following the horrific rape

demographic challenges in states like

Assam and West Bengal. Mamata Banerjee's silence on the attacks against Hindus in Bangladesh is troubling, especially as her actions seem to prioritise vote-bank politics over national security and humanitarian concerns. The government must act fast as things are very fluid in Bangladesh

K V Seetharamaiah Bengaluru

LESSONS FROM WAYANAD Madam — The recent landslides and floods in Wayanad, Kerala, have drawn global attention, reminding us of the ongoing vulnerability of our planet to natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods.Our Earth has always been a haven of beauty and abundance, providing a diverse range of species and natural resources like majestic mountains and expansive oceans. For millennia, Mother Nature has been humanity's nurturing cradle. I recall the massive floods of the early 1990s, which devasatic, as it could enable more Bangladeshi tated regions in Tamil Nadu, including infiltration into India, exacerbating the Korkai, Tiruchendur, Tuticorin, and

and murder of a 31-year-old medical professional on the hospital grounds, will not alone bring justice to this case. The Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) has demanded a CBI inquiry and calls for decisive

action. The frequency of such atrocities against doctors across the country, compounded by inadequate protection from many state authorities, is undeniable. The reluctance of junior doctors to speak out due to fear has led to even greater tragedies over the years. If this situation persists, it will severely impact medical care for millions of impoverished patients and place the medical profession in a critical condi-

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

Tirunelveli. It is crucial for all Asian countries, especially those in the Himalayan region, to implement proactive measures such as adopting advanced technologies and large-scale afforestation to mitigate

the effects of natural disasters. These events underscore the urgent need to harmonise human activities with the Earth's natural systems. Overexploitation of resources has pushed our planet to its limits, disrupting its balance. To address this, it is essential to regulate high-rise construction in earthquake-prone areas and shift focus from building concrete jungles to fostering green, sustainable landscapes. Regions like Korkai, Tiruchendur, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, Marthandam, Nagercoil, and Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu serve as examples of how humans and nature can coexist harmoniously. By prioritising reforestation and sustainable land use, we

can build a resilient future. P Senthil Saravana Durai | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN

FROM RIFTS TO **RESOLUTION**

It is very important to recognise that the world shall change when I change



BY RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

Te all know that conflicts are a part of our everyday life and they form in our close relations, at a societal level & on an international level. Very often we see conflicts leading to aggression, hostility and war. However, conflicts can also be a stepping stone leading to change and wisdom; if we learn to handle them constructively. Since relationship conflicts are inevitable, learning to deal with them healthily is extremely crucial because when a conflict is mismanaged, it can harm the relationship. But when handled respectfully and positively, it provides an opportunity for growth, ultimately strengthening the bond between two people.

Any kind of conflict has two dimensions, internal and external. Internal conflicts arise when the mind and intellect are moving in opposite directions and external conflicts are caused when people or situations confront us and we are not sure how to cope with them. Some people view conflicts as an opportunity for a change and some see it as a natural global phenomenon. But others feel that conflicts are avoidable through better communication but they are frightened of the process. Due to this fear, they hold themselves back and content themselves by making a peace contract or a deal. However, such solutions are very temporary and can be seen as a band-aid solution, which might be effective for the short term only. We all know that conflicts ought to be resolved by use of intellect or reasoning because when conflicts are allowed to develop unhindered without intervention or when the parties involved fuel the



conflict, it often happens that the conflict evolves negatively. And that is why people seek guru's or senior's advice when they are faced with conflicting decisions. But the irony is that with all the information and advice that is available to us, we are unable to resolve matters because there is an acute implementation paralysis. We must not forget about the fact that the best source of judgement is a person's intellect because nobody can understand his feelings, situations and capabilities to deal better than his self.

We may seek advice from an experienced person, however, the sense of joy or security that we feel on hearing good advice is only temporary because it is not real. Just like the feeling of joy derived from thinking of eating something delicious is unreal, real joy comes only after eating the thing. We too have to undergo an experience to make it real. Remember! conflict triggers strong emotions and can lead to hurt feelings, disappointment, and discomfort. When handled in an unhealthy manner, it can cause irreparable rifts, resentments, and break-ups. But when it is resolved healthily, it increases our understanding of one another, builds trust, and strengthens our relationship bonds. A growing body of research has shown spirituality as a great antidote for all kinds of conflicts. Spirituality is like the medicine that heals the root of the disease and not just the symptoms. It is the only means that gives us complete solutions to conflicts. From a spiritual perspective, the most powerful value needed for conflict resolution is 'respect'. This is because most of the people don't wish to negotiate when they have material power. Therefore, there's an urgent need for those to realize and respect their inner powers. Similarly, faith is also a very important element in conflict resolution, it is the key to mutual understanding. For global conflicts, the solution lies with the leadership. The leaders can bring about the muchneeded change and make it trickle down the societies. Leaders of today must remember that any kind of change can be termed 'real' only when it affects the grassroots. It is thus very important to recognize that the world shall change when I change. Hence, people should not wait to be told that they need to change, instead, they should realise it themselves. (The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist, views are

Rupee's fall against dollar is a wake-up call for India BRAJESH KUMAR TIWARI



As the rupee weakens and inflation rises, strategic economic reforms to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependency are urgently needed

the rupee hit a record low against the US dollar on August 5th and was trading at 84.09 per dollar. This is the biggest fall ever seen in the rupee and the rupee has reached its all-time low.If the currency of any country is stronger than other currencies, then the country is considered strong. In this globalized world, the value of every country's currency against the US dollar not only impacts the economy of that country but also affects the prices of many things in

Rupee has Fallen 20 Times since **Independence:** The rupee has fallen almost 20 times since independence; in 1948, 1 dollar was equal to 4 rupees. At that time there was no debt in the country, then when the first five-year plan was implemented in 1951, the government started taking loans from foreign countries and then the value of the rupee also started decreasing continuously.

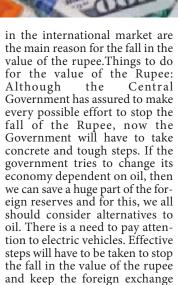
The continuous outflow of foreign funds from financial markets and crude oil has increased pressure on the rupee. The economy around the world has seen two major shocks - the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine, Israel conflict. India is also not untouched by this. Today, the condition of currencies in major markets around the world is weak.

Dollar as King: According to the International Standard Organization list, there are a total of 180 currencies around the world, but among them, the American currency 'Dollar' has become a global currency. The price of most of the things exported is paid in dollars.
Today the dollar is involved in 80 percent of the world's trade. The US dollar has the status of a global currency, which is why the value of the rupee against the dollar shows whether the Indian curren-

cy is strong or weak.
The falling value of the Rupee affects Common People: When the rupee becomes cheaper against the dollar, it has a direct impact on the economy.

The falling value of the rupee brings inflation. Rising prices could accelerate inflation, which is already high. In such a situation, everything from the life of the common man to businessmen and government will be affected by the value of the rupee. The decline in global activity, investors' decision to invest money in safe global markets and increasing tension in global politics are among the main reasons behind the fall of the rupee. Even if we do not take seriously the fall and rise of a few paise in the rupee, they have a

big impact on our lives. The fall in the rupee has a direct impact on the country's economy, due to which import of petroleum products will become expensive and freight transportation will become expensive. This will have a direct impact on the inflation of every essential item. There is a sudden increase in all loans taken in foreign currency and the interest paid on them. Studying abroad will also be expensive. Why the Rupee is falling: The value of the rupee completely depends on its demand and supply and import and export also have a direct impact. A country that imports more than it exports has GROSS DOMESTIC a higher demand for dollars. Like India imports more than it exports. India is one of the major importers of crude oil and imports about 80 per cent of the oil, undoubtedly the rising prices of crude oil



Government Steps: The government is indeed striving to create a competitive, dynamic environment to provide sustained economic growth and enhance its relevance in international trade, PM Gati Shakti, National Single Window Clearance, GIS-mapped Land Bank, Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) etc. The manufacturing sector is expected to ben-TRILLION efit from the implementation of recent policies like the PLI scheme. Its results are also visible in some areas, the development of coronavirus vaccines by Indian companies is a vivid example of indigenous talent. India has rapidly made its place in the Ease of Doing Business index released by the World Bank. India's EDB rank was 34th in the year 2014, whereas in the year 2023, it has become 63rd. India is ranked 40th in the Global Competitiveness Report Index published by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum, where it was ranked 60th in 2014. But all these reforms in the ranks have also failed to revive the manufacturing sector and provide the desired support to the

Make in India campaign. Big Time for Make in India: The government will have to move strategically towards controlling imports and increasing exports. This is the time to effectively

tributes barely 1.6% to world exports. A primary objective of the campaign was to increase the share of the manufacturing sector in the Indian GDP to 25 per cent by 2022 although it has remained between 14 to 16 per cent in the last 9 years.

During the coronavirus pandemic, there was publicity that the companies leaving China were going to come to India, however, most of these companies have shifted their base to Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand etc. and only a few have come to India. Every year crores of laptops, desktops and servers are sold in India, in which motherboards memory models and chips are being imported. We are dependent on other countries for these compo-

Even today, most of the items are tion for the import of Harmonized System products (HS-84, nuclear reactors, boilers, mechanical equipment and their parts), and HS-85 (electrical machinery) as most of these items can be produced locally. PLI schemes should be extended to MSMEs and emerging indus-

tries to increase exports.

The 15 per cent corporate tax rate for new investment in manufacturing should be extended to all industries including the service sector. The expansion and use of new-age technology applications such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine Learning (ML) require tax incentives on capital or operational expenditure. The government should reduce the logistics cost to 6-8% of the GDP which is currently 14%, the good thing is that recently at the G-20 summit, there has been talk of setting up an economic corridor at the international level. The manufacturing industry in

try spends only 3%. Way Forward: At a time when the value of the rupee has crossed Rs 84 per US dollar, the role of 'Make in India' becomes very important. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), India may face a shortage of about 29 million skilled workers by 2030. The economy needs more than policy window dressing to increase manufacturing activity. We need to understand that just passing bills and organizing investor conferences will not be enough to promote industrialization.

The manufacturing sector is constrained by large amounts of paperwork, be it labour, land or environmental clearances, stringent regulations and policy. Taxation and customs policies are complex to such an extent that it not being produced but are being assembled. There is no justifica- is cheaper to import things like medical equipment rather than medical equipment rather than manufacture the equipment domestically. India can make itself the next 'global factory' in the future, which is already fed up with China and is looking for alternative manufacturing hubs. There is a need to free the manufacturing sector from cumbersome rules.

Certainly, the fall of the rupee against the dollar can be controlled through such effective steps. Also, if we start using indigenous goods then the cost of importing foreign goods will be saved. For India to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, we need to export at least \$2.5 trillion worth of goods and services, as exports currently contribute about 25% to the total gross domestic product (GDP). Ĭndia has no time to rest. We have come a long way, but the journey is not over yet.

(The writer is an associate pro-fessor at JNU, New Delhi; views





IF WE START

USING

INDIGENOUS GOODS THEN THE COST OF IMPORTING FOREIGN GOODS WILL BE SAVED. FOR INDIA TO BECOME A \$5 **ECONOMY BY** 2025, WE NEED TO EXPORT AT LEAST \$2.5 TRILLION WORTH OF GOODS AND SERVICES, AS EXPORTS **CURRENTLY** CONTRIBUTE **ABOUT 25% TO** THE TOTAL **PRODUCT**

The strength of sisterhood: How women's circles empower and change lives Women groups foster empowerment, drive economic progress, and challenge societal stereotypes, proving that together, women can achieve anything other. By rejecting stereoengage in such supportive environments, we can pave

umans are inherently social beings, and women, in particular, thrive on social connections. This insight struck me during a recent celebration of Hariyali Teej, a Hindu festival dedicated to women. On this day, women don traditional attire, enjoy special foods, and revel in music, reflecting the profound significance of women's gatherings in our cultural history. Hariyali Teej exemplifies the value our ancestors placed on women's circles. These gatherings not only provide joy but also reinforce the unique strength women possess. This power is deeply rooted in their ability to manage and



SUGANDHA NAGAR

nect with their feminine essence and the best way to nurture this strength is by bonding with other women. Such connections are crucial for self-discovery and

empowerment. The concept of Shine Theory, coined by journalist Ann Friedman and businesswoman Aminatou Sow, share energy, which flourish- encapsulates this idea: excep-

passed wisdom and experience through communal practices, whether through household chores or cultural rituals. For example, traditional activities like grinding spices together in Indian families or crafting quilts in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* symbolize unity and shared strength.

Everyday interactions among women not only ease the burden of tasks but also preserve cultural traditions and create a space for emotional exchange. These interactions form a vessel of healing and transformation, extending beyond personal growth to effecting positive change in their communities.

Historically, women have workplace environments, the same principles apply. Despite the often harsh competitive dynamics driven by stereotypes, supportive women's circles offer a vital source of relief and rejuvenation. Unfortunately, societal narratives and media perpetuate the myth that women are inherently competitive and unsupportive of one another. This stereotype undermines the historical practices of women uplifting each other and fosters unhealthy rivalry. Recent initiatives aim to counteract these negative dynamics by promoting women's economic empowerment. The Union Budget for 2024-25 proposes establishing working women hostels and es through communal inter-actions. Women need to con-other to shine even brighter. In modern settings, such as other to shine even brighter. In modern settings, such as supporting women-led self-neighborhood gatherings or help groups (SHGs). These



measures are designed to enhance financial stability and provide economic opportunities for women, particularly in rural areas. The goal is to transform women into "Lakhpati Didis," or those with an annual income exceeding INR 1,00,000,

improved living standards. The emphasis on SHGs highlights the importance of collective unity and mutual support among women. These groups not only provide economic benefits but also foster a strong network of women who support each other's growth and success. By encouraging more women to

the way for greater economic prosperity and gender

Sheryl Sandberg, former COO of Meta Platforms, emphasizes the power of women supporting women in her book, *Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead*. She dispels the myth that women don't support each other, arguing that collaboration among women is key to achieving remarkable success. Successful women often have the backing of other women who help them reach

their goals. To overcome systemic discrimination and internalized biases, women must challenge the societal pressures that pit them against each

types and fostering genuine support, women can create spaces where they feel safe to express themselves, show vulnerability, and receive the support they need.

Ultimately, female friendships and communal support not only inspire personal and spiritual growth but also enhance collective strength and performance. Women's circles provide a crucial platform for sharing energy, ideas, and support, enabling women to achieve their full potential and contribute positively to their communities.

The author is a writer, social worker, culture enthusiast, and former UN employee; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



Alembic gets USFDA nod for generic medication

lembic Pharmaceuticals on Tuesday said it has received Approval from the US health regulator to market a generic product indicated for prophylaxis of deep vein thrombosis. The company has received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to market Dabigatran Etexilate Capsules (110 mg), the drug firm said in a regulatory filing. Dabigatran Etexilate Capsules are indicated for prophylaxis of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism following hip replacement surgery. The approved product is therapeutically equivalent to Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc's Pradaxa Capsules (110 mg). The company said it now has a cumulative total of 211 ANDA (abbreviated new drug application) approvals from the USFDA. Shares of the company on Tuesday closed 3.17 per cent down at Rs 1,076 apiece on the BSE.



Gold jumps Rs 500 to Rs 72,850 per 10 g

old prices jumped Rs 500 to Rs 72,850 per 10 grams in the Cnational capital on Tuesday amid strong cues from the global market and a rise in domestic demand. In the previous session, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at Rs 72,350 per 10 grams on Monday However, silver prices remained flat at Rs 83,500 per kilogram on Tuesday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also rallied by Rs 500 to Rs 72,500 per 10 grams against the previous close. Traders attributed the rise in gold prices to the rising demand from retail buyers as well as jewellers. In the overseas market, gold is trading at USD 2,502.70 per ounce, up by USD 1.30 per ounce. "Gold's gains on Tuesday as demand for safe-haven assets continued to support the precious metal's rise. "Further, there were concerns that Iran could strike Israel as early as this week have raised the gold-safe haven premium," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst, Commodities at HDFC Securities,



Fintech startup Jai Kisan gets RBI nod for NBFC acquisition

ural fintech startup Jai Kisan on Tuesday said it has received Regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India for the acquisition of a majority stake in NBFC Kushal Finnovation Capital. Details of the stake acquired were not disclosed. "With the NBFC subsidiary, Jai Kisan will be able create and deliver customized, innovative, and relevant products directly to its farmer and rural business customers in a more accessible and seamless manner making its products cheaper, faster, and more impactful," Jai Kisan said in a statement. The acquisition will also enable Jai Kisan to strengthen its partnerships and integrate systems more deeply with its financial institution partners to provide co-lending and further financial inclusion, it added.

"The NBFC subsidiary allows us to cater to our farmer and rural business customers with credit products they want, how they want them, when they want them and where they want them--which is what they deserve," Jai Kisan co-founder and CEO Arjun Ahluwalia

Not heard from Govt on stake sale: Vodafone Idea

Amid reports that the government may have sounded out some sovereign funds for offloading its stake in the telco, Vodafone Idea on Tuesday said that it is up to the Centre to decide what it wishes to do about its holding, and that the company has had no commu-nication from them on the

During Vodafone Idea's Q1 earnings call, CEO Akshaya Moondra further said that the company has seen port-outs by its users to BSNL increased since tariff hikes were effected, and is closely watching the situation. The VIL top boss, however, believes that quick decisions to port out taken purely on the basis of tariff action may not eventually sustain, given the 4G coverage offered by VIL.

To a question on media reports that the government may be exploring whether sovereign wealth funds would be keen on picking up its stake in the company, Moondra said: 'We have had no communication with the government...to that extent, we have to say that



government as a public shareholder...they are free to take decision with respect to their investment. That is an independent subject.'

At the same time, he said, whether government continues with its shareholding, or divests gradually is independent of their policy stance on conversion of dues to equity.

"Reforms package was announced with the objective of saying support needs to be provided and the government is

very clearly focused on having three healthy private operators...The conversion to equity was a means of supporting balance sheet of the company by converting some debt into equity. I would say, the policy of the government remains the same, what they do with their public shareholding is their decision... we as a company do not have any information or engagement with them on this sub-

ject," Moondra said. Responding to another ques-

iff hikes on the ground, he said, while it is still early days to draw a conclusion about SIM consolidation, given that the entry price increase this time has been minimal, the SIM consolidation could accordingly be relatively

"One of the trends we have "One of the trends we have seen is that the port-out to BSNL has generally risen from pre-tariff increase levels, which is a space we are watching...and the reason for that is because they (BSNL) has not increased their tariffs so there is a fair their tariffs so there is a fair amount of arbitrage," he said.

The VIL CEO, however, believes that any decision to port out purely on the basis on tariffs may not sustain.

"We are watching this space our expectation is that customers who are used to having a good coverage and experience of 4G coverage, probably current offering of BSNL may not be to that extent ... as people who may have taken a quick decision in terms of tariff actions...may most likely come back. But we will keep on watching this space and see what needs to be done," he said.

India-SA trade relations to be revived

PNS JOHANNESBURG

The Consulate General of India in Johannesburg on Thursday here launched a new initiative to revive the once very vibrant trade relations between India and South Africa until the COVID pandemic led to a slump.

"The India-SA Investment Network is an effort to bring our wider bilateral eco-system closer," said Consul General Mahesh Kumar, who initiated

the concept.
"We have about USD 19 billion annual trade and an estimated cumulative multiple investment of USD 19 billion. All of us are aware that this is

simultaneous outreach programme to corporate South Africa and to corporate India to learn how this could be achieved."We found that while the overall mood was right and bright, the action was not taking place. We learned that there was a lack of awareness and

information and a lack of avenues to find this. There were

also lots of unknowns and a fear

way less compared to the potential. All of us would like this to grow, unlocking more opportunities for us," Kumar

said as he welcomed government leaders and top captains

of industry from South Africa.

Kumar said there had been a



Investors' wealth declines Rs 4.52 L cr as markets plunge

Equity investors became poorer by Rs 4.52 lakh crore Tuesday as markets plunged due to intense selling in HDFC Bank amid fresh foreign fund out-

Extending its losses for the second straight day, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 692.89 points or 0.87 per cent to settle at 78,956.03. During the day, it tanked 759.54 points or 0.95 per cent to 78,889.38.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms declined by Rs 4,52,565.44 crore to Rs 4,45,30,265.42 crore (USD 5.30 trillion). "The domestic market plunged into red terrain in the latter half, amidst mixed global sentiments. Recent IIP data indicates a lacklustre growth in the major manufacturing sector. Persistent selling by FIIs and elevated valuations are further contributing to the decline.

"All sectors, especially bank-HDFC Bank declined due to



index rejig," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

From the 30 Sensex firms, HDFC Bank declined over 3 per cent. Bajaj Finance, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, State Bank of India, Power Grid and JSW Steel were

In contrast, Titan, HCL Tech, lower-than-expected passive fund inflows in the recent MSCI Nestle, Sun Pharma, Reliance and Mahindra & Mahindra

were the gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) again turned sellers on Monday as they offloaded equities worth Rs 4.680.51 crore after a day's breather, according to exchange

In BSE smallcap gauge declined 1.16 per cent, and the midcap index dipped 0.98 per cent.

Hero MotoCorp Q1 PAT up 47 pc at Rs 1,032 cr

PNS NEW DELHI

Hero MotoCorp on Tuesday posted 47 per cent increase in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 1,032 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2024, aided by higher sales.

The country's largest twowheeler maker had reported a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 701 crore for April-June period a year ago. Revenue from operations rose to Rs 10,211 crore from Rs 8,851 crore, Hero MotoCorp said in a regulatory filing. The company said it sold 15.35 lakh units of motorcycles and scooters in the April-June period this fiscal as compared with 13.53 lakh units in the first quarter of FY24. Hero MotoCorp said it witnessed positive trends across domestic, EV and global businesses during the quarter.

The company also witnessed sequential improvement in retail sales, it added. It expects the momentum to build up in the positive customer sentiments, good monsoons and the upcoming festive season.

Indian FMCG companies resume operations Bangladesh

PNS NEW DELHI

Indian FMCG companies with operations in violence-hit Bangladesh say their business in the neighbouring country is slowly returning to normalcy after being shut for about a

Leading FMCG companies, including Marico, Dabur, Industries, Britannia Godrej Consumer Products, have operations in Bangladesh, which recently faced violent clashes leading to a regime

change there. Besides, leading QSR chain Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd (JFL), a master franchisee of American pizza restaurant chain Domino's, also operates around 30 stores in Bangladesh.

Marico, which has the biggest exposure in Bangladesh, has informed the bourses that its the country resumed at normal scale on August 11.

"Operating conditions in the

market have been gradually improving and a large majority of our retail sales force and distributors have been functioning since last week," the Mariwala-promoted FMCG maker said.

In Bangladesh, Marico operates in personal care, baby care, edible oil and food segments, and has contributed 44 per

cent to the international sales of the company. It has two factories in Gazipur, Dhaka, and five depots. "We continue to prioritise the

safety of our employees, factory workers, distributors and other stakeholders of our business," it said adding "we firm-

ly believe that the mediumterm prospects of Marico's business in Bangladesh remain It had incorporated a sub-

sidiary Marico Bangladesh in 1999. It is a listed entity on the exchanges and is amongst the top 3 FMCG MNCs in Bangladesh.

CIL to supply coal beyond annual contracted quantities

PNS NEW DELHI

State-owned CIL on Tuesday said thermal power plants, including independent power plants, will be supplied coal beyond annual contracted quantity (ACQ).

The development comes after CIL's board cleared the decks for allowing supplies beyond ACQ. "With this, CIL has removed

the earlier provision which allowed coal supplies to a maximum of 120 per cent of ACQ to power plants and IPPs," Coal Îndia Ltd (CIL) said in a statement. Now, the simplification would benefit the power plants which prefer to lift higher quantities of coal beyond their stipulated ACQ.

The development comes at a

time when the coal demand is showing signs of slackening. Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of the domestic coal

CIL's pitheads currently have a coal stock of 72 million tonne (MT), which is 47 per cent more compared to 49 MT as of August 12 last year.

production.

Supplies to coal-fired plants peaked to an unprecedented 619.7 MT in FY24, meeting 101.6 per cent of the demand projected. Compared to 586.6 MT offtake by the power sector in FY23, the increase in volume terms was 31.9 MT, which is a growth 5.4 per cent.

Of the 153 domestic coalbased power plants of the country, CIL has long-term linkages with 127 plants of 592 MT.

Discoms face financial constraints: Icra

DUE TO DELAYS IN PAYMENTS

The state-owned power distribution companies are facing financial constraints despite improving their aggregate technical and commercial losses, according to an Icra report. The agency has cited delays

in realising payments from state government departments for power supply as one of the reasons for the constrain of discom finances and assigned a negative outlook for the power distribution segment.

The all-India aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses for state-owned discoms declined from 23 per cent in FY2021 to 16.5 per cent in FY2022 and further to 15.8 per cent in FY2023 due to infrastructure upgrades and higher subsidy payout.

Despite this progress, losses remain particularly high at over 20 per cent for the discoms in Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, Icra noted.

"The performance of stateowned discoms remains constrained by inadequate tariffs relative to the cost of supply, higher-than-regulator-approved AT&C losses, and a considerable debt burden. Further, delays in realising payments from state government departments for power supply constrain the discom finances," Icra said.

The agency further said its outlook for the power distribution segment remains nega-



Icra Vice President & Co-Group Head - Corporate Ratings Vikram V said: "The tariff-determination process for state discoms has improved, following the General Elections, with 22 of the 28 states issuing the orders for FY2025 as of July 2024 against only 11 states as of May 2024. However, the tariff hikes

remain modest with a median 1.7 per cent rise for FY2025, lower than the 2.5 per cent approved for FY2024. Despite an uptrend in tariff hikes in a few states in recent years, discoms continue to incur losses due to increases in power purchase costs, operating inefficiencies in a few large states, and a high debt burden, he

Niti Aayog seeks proposals to evaluate central schemes

PNS NEW DELHI

Government think tank Niti Aayog has invited proposals for evaluation of centrally sponsored schemes across nine crucial sectors, including health, agriculture and educa-

According to the Aayog, each sector will require a separate application through the

GeM portal.
The 9 CSS packages include agriculture and allied sector, women and child development, education and rural development, among others.

sponsored schemes (CSS) are implement-



ed by the state governments but sponsored by the central These schemes can either be government with a defined shareholding.

national or regional in character. In CSS, the funding by the These schemes are aimed at central government works as supplementing efforts underan initiation, with further taken by the state government spending coming from states because the Centre has more towards the cause

VIVO TOPS THE CHART

India's smartphone market grows 3.2 pc

The Indian smartphone market grew 3.2 per cent with 39 million units shipment in the second quarter of 2024, market research firm International Data Corporation said on Tuesday.

The market was led by Chinese smartphone maker Vivo with a 16.5 per cent share in volume terms with its shipment growing by 6.7 per cent on a year-over-year (YoY) basis, it said. Apple led the



super-premium segment, which are smartphones priced above Rs 67,000 apiece with an 83 per cent share followed by Samsung with a 16 per cent share. "Overall, Vivo continued to lead for the second consecutive quarter, with multiple

through the Y series, midpremium V series and flagship X Fold 3 Pro. Motorola registered the highest growth backed by product portfolio across price segments," the report said. Xiaomi followed Vivo with 13.5 per cent market.

Samsung slipped to the third sport with a 12.9 per cent share as its shipment declined 15.4 per cent on a YoY basis, according to the report.

Apple stood at the sixth spot with a 6.7 per cent market share

and a 24.2 per cent increase in shipment on a YoY basis.According to IDC Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, the Indian smartphone market shipped 69 million smartphones in the first

half of 2024. In the premium segment, the price range above Rs 50,000 to Rs 67,000, Apple's share increased YoY to 61 per cent, while Samsung's share increased to 24 per cent, from 21 per cent a year ago, the report said.

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NIT No. 14/GHMC/KPC-24/2024-25 Name of Work: Developmental Works, Estimate Amount / ECV: Rs. 202.00 Lakhs Start Date / Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 14.08.2024 @ 11.30 A.M / 22.08.2024 @ 11.30 A.M. Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Sri. D. Goverdhan Goud, Executive Engineer, GHMC, Kukatpally Circle - 24, Cell 9154299633. Further details can be see at e-procurement @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in/ Sd/- Executive Engineer

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Wednesday August 14, 2024

UNSTOPPABLEFORCEBEHIND KILL:

Nikhil on turning Patna's chaos into cinematic gold



SHIKHA DUGGAL

he greatest spot to watch *Kill*, a violent Indian beat-em-up set on a train and written in Hindi by Nikhil Nagesh Bhat, ten in Hindi by Nikhil Nagesh Bhat, would probably still be a cinema theatre. The director has been blown away by Lionsgate and the John Wick franchise producing company's plans to remake his Indian action film in English. True, the filmmaker produced nonstop action scenes that as many people as possible should witness. It's fantastic to learn that an English-language version is now being developed. It could be inevitable for it to occur! for it to occur!

We contact the filmmaker out of curiosity to find out more about how it all transpired and he suffuses, "People first took an interest in my film, I recall, at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) premiere. Then the news suddenly leaked out! At first, I would surreptitiously visit theatres to observe the reactions to my movie. Applause, hoots and other noises were heard. This isn't what I recall from last time! These kinds of reactions, in my opinion, would only occur in a star-studded film, yet look at us. It was also a huge confidence booster for my actors.

It's unbelievable that the movie is still making news and the writer keeps telling us, "I learned with a pleas-ant surprise that my movie was being considered for a Hollywood remake. When I saw the guys from the production business, I could see they were shocked by the scenes I had directed and the performances my a were giving them. The strength and emotional engagement of it rather impressed them! Do you have feelings for a dacoit? That's what was taking place in the movie theatres. This astonished them to see. Today, a localised tale is making its way around the world; to me, this is nothing less than a phenomenon."

Speaking briefly about his hopes for such a worldwide hit, the *Apurva* fame says, "My film has been viewed by people from Chile, Argentina, Ecuador and Mexico. What a feeling! They were all required to state only one thing: they all truly enjoyed the film's emotional content. Permit me to take the readers back in time to the

thing: they all truly enjoyed the film's emotional content. Permit me to take the readers back in time to the 1990s, when I was a child living in Patna. Back then, Bihar was an unstable state.s Every day, murders and robberies occur and I have witnessed these crimes in my immediate surroundings. But the thing that sticks out in my memory from all of this is that none of them appeared to be criminals—rather, they were charmers! I made similar suggestions in my film, which is where the inspiration that everyone is discussing originated."

The name of the unconventional actor, Raghav Juyal, was suggested by one of his associates! After seeing a hundred or more auditions, Nikhil cast him because of a selftape where he could see an unpredictable quality in Raghav's eyes. "The casting director had enough of me until I decided on Raghav. I told my team right away not to put me in front of any other actors after meeting Lakshya Kapoor because I couldn't see beyond him. He served as my Amrit. I saw Tanya Manikantala in the cult film A Suitable Boy and her innocent gaze convinced me to cast her in Kill. Her eyes convey so much emotion."

The Patna guy reminisces about filming Kill by sharing a few unforgettable stories, such as, "I have a clear recall of the first time my film was shown at an international film festival around midnight. Suddenly, I started to get strange ideas like, "Why am I here?" Right now, I feel like something is wrong with every shot and sound! I was experiencing intense inter-

Right now, I feel like something is wrong with every and sound! I was experiencing intense inter nal anxiety. I began to worry that we might be poorly received by the crowd. Twenty-five minutes in, the audience began to react. From then on, there was no turning back and the rest is history." He said he had chills as he was talking. That's how vivid the recollection of shooting *Kill* was for him!



Feasts made effortless!

et's not forget the fact that, when it comes to hosting a party at your house, it's no less than a tiring task. I used to feel overwhelmed for sure by the endless chores, especially cooking the huge amount of food for the guests, until I discovered CaterNinja. This service doesn't just provide food; it creates a culinary experience that lingers long after the last bite. The menu reads like a symphony of flavours, each dish carefully curated to deliver a memorable

> The Achari Chicken Tikka, with its perfect balance of spice and tang, could easily make you rethink your go-to starter. The *Tandoori Prawns*, juicy and charred just right, evoke the smoky allure of coastal grills. The *Seekh Kebab*, despite being a vegetarian option, was packed with such a robust taste that it competed with its meaty counterparts. The Paneer Tikka, with its velvety texture and fragrant marinade, was to the finesse with which the simplest ingredients can be elevated.

The main course was a celebration of classic Indian comfort food. The Butter Chicken, rich and indulgent, married the sweetness of tomato with the warmth of garam masala in a way that lingers on the palate long after the last bite. The Dal Makhni, slow-cooked to perfection, was creamy and hearty, a bowl of warmth that felt like home. The Veg Pulao, fragrant with spices and dotted with colorful vegetables, was the perfect accompaniment, while the Wheat Paratha offering a wholesome touch. And just when you think you can't eat another bite, the Moong Dal Halwa arrives, a sweet finale that is both comforting and indulgent, with its earthy notes of lentils and the

richness of ghee. But what truly sets it apart isn't just the food; it's the entire experience. As the brainchild of Anup Agarwal and Anurag Mishra. CaterNinia redefines what catering can be. It's not just about delivering food; it's about making the process seamless and customisable, catering to events of all sizes, whether at home or in the office. Their journey hasn't been without challenges.

It's a platform that's a haven for food lovers, offering services like Niniabox. NiniaBuffet and NiniaLive, each bringing a unique twist to the catering experience. In a world where hosting an event can often feel daunting, it is the ally you need—swift, efficient and always on point ensuring your event is nothing short of spectacular.

FOODS TO TRY: Achari Chicken Tikka, Tandoori Prawns, Paneer Tikka

VERDICT: 3.5 /5

TEJAL SINHA

023 saw India's first-ever chat show on positive masculinity with Yuvaa's popular show Be A Man Yaar, by The Man Company. While the first season saw Naseeruddin Shah, Karan Johar, Vicky Kaushal and Zakir Khan, among the rest, start the much-needed conversation around men and see an astonishing response, the second season has already been making waves with Javed Akhtar, Kartik Aaryan, Bhuvan Bam and Imran Khan.

With more men, laughs, love, hugs and vulnerability, an ecstatic Nikhil Taneja has taken up the seat, engaging in candid conversations. "I could have only hoped but not expected the overwhelming response to Season 1 of *Be A Man, Yaar,*" shares the media entrepreneur in an exclusive interaction with The Pioneer. As he shares the response, he reiterates his belief that there is space in the media and entertainment sector, as well as among audiences, for gentler, more empathetic and more intimate conversations involving men.

So what's up with Season 2? This season, he says, they have tried to maintain the goal of creating a safe space on the internet for positive masculine conversations.

"There's a belief system that the only kind of masculinity that exists or is lauded is the alpha masculine or hyper-masculine because we see that in pop culture and in films time and again," shares Nikhil, adding, "It leads us to believe that perhaps this is what the audiences want, but the fact is that we have never given an alternative to the audiences. We have always reinforced gender stereotypes by showcasing a certain kind of 'heroic' masculinity, so it just made me feel so grate-ful that the audiences showed up for an alternative. It proves that there are many masculinities possible and we need to hold space for softer masculinities as well."

With Be A Man, Yaar, Nikhil aimed to reclaim the idea of the phrase 'Be a man', that's often used to ask men to not cry, to toughen up, to not express pain and to not be emotional or vulnerable, rather 'it's okay to express'.

"Everything I heard from any guest, no matter how difficult or different it was from my own story, I felt like I was able to see my own stories in theirs," affirms Nikhil. Whether it was Nakuul Mehta speaking of not being able to hug his father, Karan Johar speaking of being called unkind names in school, or Vicky Kaushal speaking about not being able to cry. "That's the incredible thing about listening to the raw stories of those who may seem to be unlike you—you realise that we are all the same in the kind of emotions we feel and how difficult it is, especially for us men, to be able to find spaces to speak of these emotions."

When you have a theme like Be A Man, Yaar, he believes that it encourages men to have deep, personal conversations, which, in fact, is not easy for everyone to agree to let their guard down and to be a part of a show like that. For instance, "So when someone like Kartik Aaryan, who is so widely known and loved, agrees to bring his most authentic self to a show

Be A Man Yaar,
it's okay to
express! Nikhil Taneja returns with more conversations and continues to promote men opening up about their emotions in the new season of *Be A Man Yaar*, featuring beloved celebrities. In an exclusive conversation with **The Pioneer**, he discusses the theme, recalling the stories of celebrities and more

like ours, it is an indication to his fans and so many others that these conversations are necessary, important and meaningful." True that! Today, despite Kartik being one of the leading actors

of the B-Town, he still spoke about his fear of being 'unfit'. With people having a notion that men can work and fit anywhere, he further highlights, "The stereotype there is that men can work and fit anywhere that's acceptable by society as a conventionally male profession. There are professions where the name in itself typically has 'man' associated with it because it's expected only of men to do it, like 'fireman', or 'watchman'. Even in sports, it was called 'batsman' until women started playing just as well and they changed the term to 'batter'. But whenever men want to take not-so mainstream professions, they are discouraged and told that they are unfit for them, just as women and other genders are discouraged from taking up things typically expected to be done by men. In an ideal society, everyone should have equal rights to be whoever they want to be.

We are definitely getting there, but slowly."

When men speak about their depressive thoughts, they are either thought of or shamed as 'weak', or are expected to get better on their own because they are men. There's very little space given to the mental health of men, as men are always expected to be on top of their emotional health—except when it comes to anger.

Talking of men's mental health, there was also a time when Nikhil battled anxiety, making him put a pause on his career, take a sabbatical and reevaluate life choices, which led him on a more introspective and empathetic path. With several panic attacks and emotional breakdowns, he somehow took up the courage to battle the stigma that comes with seeking therapy.

In his most recent episode, Imran Khan shared that he had In his most recent episode, Imran Khan shared that he had trouble recognising his anxiety at first. He described waking up at 4 a.m, feeling his heart racing and struggling to breathe and staying awake until sunrise. This ongoing discomfort caused him to open up to his mother about feeling powerless and inept. He encountered criticism from those who dismissed therapy and emotional vulnerability as weaknesses when seeking help.

"How do you respect a man who's not earning, not going to work or just crying about his feelings? That parrative

to work, or just crying about his feelings? That narrative weighed heavily on me," he expressed.

We often do not have enough conversations about failure in society with men. Men are often looked at as 'return on investments', for a lot of our countrymen are supposed to be breadwinners to support the dreams and aspirations of the whole family and sometimes to just put food on the table. While Kartik spoke about rejections in his career, Nikhil shared, "In such a situation, where the worth of men is reduced to how much money they can make for their families, any time they face failure, it's not just taken as 'rejection', but as the difference between the family's survival and livelihood. Every rejection then adds up in the minds of men and they see themselves as unable to live up to their gender, by not being able to earn enough. We need men to become comfortable with the idea of failure as a way of life and not take it personally to the level of harming themselves or others."

what's brewing?











DRS International School, Gudlapochampally, organised a large meet for former students in Hyderabad on Monday. During this event, numerous former students were observed enjoying themselves, taking selfies with their teachers and cherishing memories with them.





Zenplus fleet launches 1,000 eco-friendly vehicles on Über

enplus Fleet Management (ZFM), proudly announces the deployment of 1,000 eco-friendly vehicles on the Uber platform to boost tech-enabled mobility services in metro cities. The new fleet, consisting of CNG-powered Maruti Suzuki Wagon R models, underscores Zenplus Fleet's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and promoting green transportation.

Starbucks celebrates individuality, style and coffee

are to be different as Starbucks teams up with international street and lifestyle brand New Era to launch a limited-edition Starbucks x New Era collection in select stores across India. Celebrating individuality, style and coffee, this collaboration blends two cultures to bring out bold attitudes and unique stories, elevating the daily cup of coffee into a moment of fashionable self-expression.

Ila Arun and KK Raina's play makes its silver screen debut

ndia's leading archival platform, Zee Theatre, presents Peechha Karti Parchhaiyaan, a star-studded teleplay headlined by renowned theatre, film and music artist Ila Arun, theatre veteran KK Raina and popular television actors Param Singh, Priyamvada Kant and Vijay Kashyap. The intergenerational drama is the culmination of the enduring creative synergy between Ila Arun and KK Raina and was first performed in 2016. Adapted by Ila Arun from Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen's classic play *Ghosts*, it is directed for the stage by stalwart director KK Raina and helmed by filming director Saurabh Shrivastava for television.

Goibibo celebrates 15 years with special deals

oibibo marks its 15th anniversary with a customerfocused campaign, offering a range of special deals focused campaign, untiling a range of operation and discounts. This celebration includes discounts of up to 45% on hotels, homestays and hostels; up to 10% on domestic and international flights and airport cabs; up to 15% on buses and up to 30% on holiday packages. The travel platform is also offering select customers a chance to enjoy a free stay at luxurious 5-star hotels.

Free dental screenings for moms-to-be

ernandez Clinic Necklace Road is offering free dental screenings exclusively to expectant mothers in their second trimester. It will provide essential oral healthcare and preventive measures for the well-being of mothers and babies. Maintaining good gum health during pregnancy can help reduce the risk of pre-eclampsia, premature birth and low birth weight.

WCC to expedite leadership in climate action

ecognising the pivotal role that women can play in driving effective climate action, the Women Climate Collective (WCC) is strategically consolidating its efforts to amplify women-led initiatives. Their cohort highlights the unique challenges faced by women while also underscoring their contributions to the global climate discourse.



Texas Review hosted the USA Education Fair at Hyatt Place, Banjara Hills. This event had an impressive footfall of over 500 students planning to apply for the upcoming spring intake to study in the USA. Featuring representatives from more than 35 US universities, this education fair provided attendees with valuable one-onone guidance on pursuing higher education in the





Leading luxury watch retailer Art of Time is pleased to announce the official purchase of the Panerai boutique. With this calculated takeover, Art of

Time has achieved yet another important step toward its goal of becoming a more prominent player in the luxury watch industry and giving customers an unmatched shopping experience.

ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES









GARFIELD

NANCY



OF RAIN



ALSO THE SIGHT OF THE SOUND OF RAIN





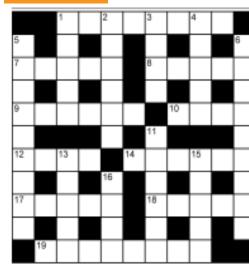
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SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD







PLOP



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- Rules Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9)
- exactly once. The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

1 A water sport

ACROSS

- 7 After eighth 8 Worship 9 Hurt someone's feelings
- by being rude to them 10 Fewer
- 12 This metal goes rusty 14 A fruit
- 17 A large serving spoon 18 Book name 19 Someone in jail

4 Rope loop

13 Command

15 Change 16 Untidy shambles

5 Not able to be seen

6 Read this daily 11 Cardboard box

DOWN

- 1 Musical pieces for the voice
- 2 Breathe in 3 A ditch around a castle

tollywood Hyderabad | Wednesday August 14, 2024

'ITWAS A CHALLENCE TO DUB CRANAPEINTELUGU



hat started off as an inclination back in his childhood, today R. Shankar has been a dubbing and voice artist for over 13 years now. Having his voice over multiple languages, he has recently lent his voice to the box-office hit Deadpool and Wolverine. Not just this, he has also been the voice of the Proximous character in the Kingdom of the Planets of the

Apes.
"I began dubbing as a voice artist in 2010," shares the artist, who had also lent his voice to Sylvester Stallone in Samaritan, John Cena in Ricky Stanicky, as well as Jackpot and Dave Bautista in *My Spy*. "I began working as the voice behind the supporting characters and now here I am doing lead characters. I have lent my voice to around 750 to 800 movies in all

languages."
Over the years, he has found his inspiration in Sai Kumar, Ravishankar, Shrinvas Murthy and Hyderabad's legend, RCM Raju. However, Big B's voice, he says, has been a benchmark

that has inspired him a lot.

After finding his inspiration in the voice of Big B, he did get the opportunity to even be his voice in films like Ganapath and Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy. What an honour!

As we went ahead in this chat, he recalls, "It was a nice experience working in Deadpool and Wolverine because this was a big opportunity for me. The dubbing director, had supported me a lot. Voicing has been one of the most important aspects of every movie. Every movie has voice tests; collecting voice samples and pick the ones that better suit the character." However, he shares that dubbing for Hollywood movies is a bit challenging because they are

very conscious. "We cannot afford to leave out the beauty of the character. We cannot leave out what the expressions of the characters should be. As a voice artist, our main focus needs to always be on connecting with regional audiences.

Having also lent his voice to Prabhas-starrer *Salaar* and Yash-starrer *KGF* and sharing his feelings on the films' success from his point of view, he shares, "It's pleasing. However, if a film is going to do well or not, as a voice artist, we have to do our work. If, commercially, the film is doing well, then what else can we ask for? Our hard work is recognised by other people; they'll get to know about you and also know about how we can work on any of the projects, not confined to

a particular genre."
Speaking of his most challenging project, beyond a doubt, it was the Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes. Voicing the Proximous character, he says, "I really enjoyed it. Working on different projects, brings a whole new learning experience. This project was certainly different from the previous ones because it was the first time that I was dubbing for an ape. The film is made of motions that capture a kind of technology. With this project, I was really surprised because they came up with detailed expressions. We had to coordinate and be very careful because every minute the expressions were being changed."

As we head towards the end of the chat, with great enthusiasm, Shankar gushes, "The job of a voice artist is in itself a tough job, because it is not your behaviour or expressions. We need to dub according to the dubbing director, take inputs and deliver things accordingly. Now, I am glad that the voice artists have also been getting their due credit."

KRITI SCOOPS OUT **OVER HER IDEAL** LIFE PARTNER

riti Sanon has been making waves this year with standout performances in *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya* and *Crew* recently. As she enjoys the success of these films, she's also gearing up for her next project, *Do Patti*, where she stars alongside Kajol. In a recent interview, Sanon shared her thoughts on what she seeks in a life partner.

view, Sanon shared her thoughts on what she seeks in a life partner.

Sanon expressed a desire for a partner who brings positivity and motivation into her life. She explained, "You want people who contribute positively to your life. They should inspire and support you, especially during tough times. A partner should be there for you through both joyful and challenging moments, making achievements feel meaningful when shared"

shared." The actress also touched on the loneliness

often felt in the Bollywood industry, noting, "Loneliness in this field can be profound. You frequently form close bonds on found. You frequently form close bonds on set, but they are temporary. Moving from one project to another, everything feels fleeting. Therefore, having stable constants in your personal life is essential."

Recently, Sanon celebrated her birthday in Greece with her sister Nupur Sanon and her rumoured boyfriend Kabir Bahia made

an appearance in the social media posts from the celebration. Despite the public interest, Sanon has chosen to keep details about her relationship status private.

Is Malavika Mohanan set to portray goddess in Thangalaan?

The trailer for *Thangalaan* has recently been unveiled, generating he trailer for *Thangalaan* has recently been unveiled, generating considerable buzz with its stunning visuals and unique portrayals. Among the notable cast members are Chiyaan Vikram and Malavika Mohanan, who both appear in striking new roles. While Vikram's character is prominently featured, Malavika's role is more enigmatic, with her being briefly introduced as Aarathi. The trailer's brief but impactful glimpses of Malavika Mohanan have sparked widespread speculation about her character. Although details are scarce, many believe she may be playing the role of a goddess. Her significant mention by other characters and the grandeur associated with her appearance suggest a piv-

and the grandeur associated with her appearance suggest a pivotal role in the narrative.

An industry insider has hinted, "Malavika Mohanan, as Aarathi, is expected to portray a goddess in *Thangalaan*. Her role is designed to add substantial depth to the film's storyline and audiences can look forward to experiencing intriguing character nuances." While the specifics of her role remain under wraps, it is clear that Malavika Mohanan's character will be a crucial and compelling element of *Thangalaan*. Fans eagerly await to discover whether she will indeed embody a goddess in this highly anticipated film.



Kamal's *ThugLife* hits new milestone with train set shoot

has recently taken a thrilling turn as the team shifts focus to a dynamic train set for pivotal scenes. Filming is currently underway on these meticulously crafted sets, with the climax and crucial flashback sequences being captured over the

past five days. The train set, designed to reflect various time periods, adds a distinctive atmosphere to the film's narrative. enhancing the dramatic impact of these pivotal scenes. This segment of the shoot is crucial as it underscores the film's high-stakes drama and emotional

The highly anticipated film *ThugLife*, starring the iconic Kamal Haasan, *ThugLife* promises to be a grippin ThugLife promises to be a gripping saga, with Kamal Haasan portraying a complex character embroiled in thrilling and intense situations. The choice of a train set for these important scenes adds a layer of authenticity and excitement, complementing the film's intricate storyline. Fans eagerly await further updates on

the project, which is expected to showcase Haasan's unparalleled acting prowess and innovative storytelling. The film's production team is working diligently to ensure that *ThugLife* meets the high expectations of audiences and critics alike.

PrimeShow Films to release Double ISMART in TG

Following their blockbuster hit with *iSmart Shankar*, Ustaad Ram Pothineni and the

Double ISMART has generated substantial buzz with its engaging songs, teaser, and dynamic director Puri Jagannadh are poised trailer. The film promises to blend mass to make an even bigger splash with their highly anticipated seguel, Double ISMART. The film is set to hit theatres on August 15. In a significant development, PrimeShow Films has secured the theatrical rights for Double ISMART in the Nizam area. The

for its lucrative deals in

other regions, will oversee

the release in this crucial

appeal with action, romance, and poignant emotional moments. Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt joins the cast in a prominent role as the Big Bull, while Kavya Thapar stars as Ram's love interest. Produced by Puri Jagannadh and Charmme distribution house, known

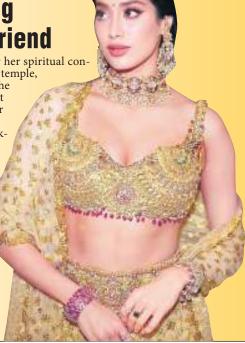
Kaur under the Puri Connects banner, the film features a chart-topping score by Mani Sharma, adding to the excitement surrounding its release.



A ctress Janhvi Kapoor, known for her spiritual connection with the Tirupati Balaji temple, made a heartfelt pilgrimage to the shrine on her late mother Sridevi's 61st birth anniversary. Accompanied by her boyfriend, Shikhar Pahariya, Janhyi's visit was captured in a video that quick-ly went viral on social media.

On Tuesday, Janhvi honoured her mother with a touching Instagram post. She shared a series of photos, including an image of the temple, a childhood picture with Sridevi, and a snapshot of herself in a saree worn for the Tirupati visit. "Happy birthday Mumma. I love you (sic)." In the video from the temple, Janhvi, dressed in a vellow saree with a green blouse and traditional iewelry, was seen seeking blessings with Shikhar, who wore a traditional

South Indian dhoti and shawl.





The highly anticipated film starring Kavin and Nayanthara, is generating a lot of buzz. The latest update is that the first single from the film is ready. The song, crafted into a lively and peppy melody, promises to be a highlight of the film's soundtrack.

The track, which features a popular sweet name as its title, has been penned by the talented Vishnu Edavan. Known for his work on the songs for LFO and Dayang Edavan brings his apparties to this page.

songs for LEO and Devara, Edavan brings his expertise to this new project, ensuring that the song is both catchy and memorable.

The music for the film is composed by Jen Martin, who has been working on creating an engaging and energetic score to complement the vibrant mood of the single. The collaboration between Edavan and Martin aims to deliver a track that will resonate with audiences and enhance the

film's appeal. Vishnu Edavan, who is also directing the film, is making his mark not only behind the camera but also through his musical contributions. The song's upbeat nature and Edavan's lyrical touch are set to make it a popular addition to the film's soundtrack.





DEVARA 'AYUDHA PUJA' SHOOTING WRAPS UP

The production of the highly anticipated film *Devara* has reached a significant milestone with the completion of its Ayudha Puja shooting on Tuesday.

The wrap-up of this crucial segment signals exciting

developments ahead for the movie's release. Devara: Part 1 is described as "an epic action saga" set in picturesque coastal landscapes. The film showcases exhilarating, emotionally intense events across a historical timeline. It centers on a titular protagonist who rises as a hero for the oppressed and a formidable force against wrongdoers.

Directed and written by Koratala Siva and produced by Sudhakar Mikkilineni and Nandamuri Kalyana Ram, the film unfolds against the stunning backdrop of coastal lands. Featuring Jr. NTR and Janhvi Kapoor in the lead roles, it also boasts a robust supporting cast, including Saif Ali Khan, Prakash Raj, Meka Srikanth, Chaitra Roy, Murli Sharma and more.

PONTING BACKS AUSTRALIA TO HAND INDIA 3-1 DEFEAT IN BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY

Ricky Ponting believes Australia will have a "point to prove" after two straight Test series defeats at home against India and backed the Pat Cummins-led side to win the fivematch Border-Gavaskar Trophy 3-1 come November-December.

India, who have returned victorious in both their previous Test assignments Down Under with identical margins of 2-1, will take on the world No.1 Australia in a five-Test series starting on November 22.

series starting on November 22. "It's going to be a competitive series. Australia has got a bit of a point to prove against India in Australia on the back of what happened the last the last two series here," Ponting told 'The ICC Review'. "We are back to (having) five Tests as well, which is the other really important thing about this series. It has only been four Tests the series. It has only been four Tests the last couple of time. (To have) five Tests, everyone is really excited by that and I don't know if there'd be too

many drawn games.
"I'm obviously going to tip Australia to win and I'm never going to tip against Australia. There will be a draw somewhere and there will be some bad weather somewhere, so I'm going to say 3-1 to Australia," he added. India and Australia have not played a five-Test series after their bilateral affairs came to be known as the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Before that, in 1991-92, India had toured



Australia for a five-Test series. Ponting backed India's left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed, whom he coached in the IPL at Delhi Capitals, to be a part of India's touring party.
"Someone like Khaleel Ahmed, I think, could find himself on the Test

tour. He has just been over in Zimbabwe recently and played that (T20I) series over there, but a leftarmer would be ideal for them to have in their touring squad," Ponting said.
The former Australia skipper hoped both teams will be deploying full-

fledged bowling attacks. "(Mohammed) Shami will be back fit by then, (Mohammed) Siraj we know will be there-abouts somewhere and obviously (Jasprit) Bumrah is going nowhere. Both teams are going to line up really, really strongly," he said. between India and Australia is quite close to the Ashes rivalry against England.

"I was a part of it when that really started to grow, when the rivalry really started to grow, was it's right at the back end of my career," Ponting

"I've said for the last couple of years now, Australia have always had a fierce rivalry with England, obviously, and a very strong rivalry with South

"But I think India is now sitting right on the back of what an Ashes clash is like and probably overtaken the rivalry with South África.

Ponting said while Australia's squad looks more or less settled, it remains to be seen if Steve Smith would like to persist being at the opening slot. "Australia will pretty much pick itself. Probably, the only one question there might be with Australia again, is if

(Steve) Smith's the right man to be opening the batting," he said. "That would be the only query that I can see there. But that was all about obviously bringing Cameron Green back into the side.

"So I'll rephrase it, not whether Smith's the right man to open the batting but whether he thinks it's the right spot for him. Because if he doesn't think it's the right spot, then they'll make a change and get someone else back up there," Ponting

We didn't even get desired coach for Olympics: Ashwini



Sri Lanka Cricket ropes in lan Bell as batting coach ahead of away Test series vs England

PTI COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Tuesday appointed Ian Bell as their batting coach ahead of their tour of England comprising three Tests.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) announced on its website that Bell, who scored 7727 runs in 118 Tests, will start working with the national side later this week.

"He will start working with the team from August 16 and remain until the conclusion of the three-Test match series," SLC said.

SLC CEO Ashley de Silva expressed: "We appointed Ian to bring in a person with local knowledge to help the players with leavy insights on the with key insights on the conditions there."

"Ian has a lot of experience playing in England, and we believe his inputs will help our team in this crucial tour.

Sri Lanka's tour of England begins with the first Test at Manchester from August 21-25. The second Test will be played at Lord's from August 29-September 2 while The Oval will host the third and final Test from September 6-

Meanwhile, England could be in a race against time with skipper Ben Stokes suffering a hamstring injury last Sunday while playing in The Hundred. Stokes sustained the injury while batting and was eventually helped off the field. He was taken for scans and was also seen walking with the help

I will meet hockey team before Sept 10 to chalk out future plans: Sports Minister

Oports Minister Mansukh Angeles Mandaviya on Tuesday informed that he will hold a meeting with the bronze medal winning Indian men's hockey team before September 10 to chalk out future plans in its endeavour to clinch the gold medal in 2028 Los Angeles Games.

Tuesday Mandaviya on felicitated star custodian PR Sreejesh, defender Sanjay, Amit Rohidas and striker Abhishek after their return from Paris on Tuesday

morning.
"It's been a wonderful performance from you guys, we didn't get the gold but we came very close to it and the way you guys inspired after the semifinal loss is commendable," Mandaviya

future course of action so that

we should return with nothing less than gold from Los seek vour opinion how to go about it and try to provide you all possible from support

government." The minister also said he was satisfied with the performance of the Indian contingent even though they couldn't match last edition's result.

In Tokyo India won seven medals including a gold, but in Paris the country could manage just six medals -- five bronze medals and one silver. The Indians, however, missed out on seven medals, finishing fourth, a fact which Mandaviya rued.

"In Tokyo, we won seven medals but in Paris we won six. But the fact is we missed out on seven more medals by finishing fourth, which is a worthy performance," he said. "But it's not the end of the road Mandaviya had earlier and I will sit with you by felicitated the others members September 10 and churn out of the hockey who returned **PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

badminton doubles Aspecialist Ashwini Ponnappa on Tuesday said she received little to no individual financial assistance from the sports ministry in the build up to Paris Olympics and even her request for a coach was turned down ahead of the just-concluded Games. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) had come out with a document, detailing the financial support provided to the Paris-bound Indian athletes.

It mentions that Ashwini was provided Rs 4,50,000 under TOPS and Rs 1,48,04,080 under Annual and Rs 1,48,04,080 under Annual calender for Training and Competition (ACTC), which included the procurement of Game Ready recovery equipment, international competitions and sparring partner in the Tokyo cycle. "I'm absolutely shocked.. I don't mind not getting money but telling the nation that I got money is the nation that I got money is ridiculous. I haven't received it. Like

camp, then that 1.5 Crore is spent on all the campers," Ashwini told PTI. all the campers," Ashwini told PTI. "I don't have a specific coach. As for my personalised trainer, I'm paying for him myself. I'm not taking money from anyone. I've played on my own until November (2023). I was included as part of TOPS only after we qualified..." Ashwini, 34, has been one of the top Indian doubles player, having won a gold, a silver and a bronze in the Commonwealth Games 2010, 2014

Commonwealth Games 2010, 2014 and 2018 respectively.

She has also competed in the London and Rio Olympics with Jwala Gutta.

Detailing the Rs 1.48 crore spending, a SAI source said: "The Rs 1.48 crore has been spent on her on travel, stay, food, competition fee, DA in all the competitions that she participated in as part of the Indian team in the Paris cycle.

"This money is given to BAI as part of ACTC."

Ashwini, who had paired with N Sikki Reddy till August, 2022, joined if you're talking about national hands with Tanisha Crasto in



December that year and started international tournaments from January 2023.

A series of good performances helped them seal their Paris berth, after which the duo were included in the TOPS scheme in May this year. "The ministry has always supported me. I've been part of the team for years and I'm grateful for the support I've received," Ashwini said. "The last year I haven't been supported and it's ok. But you can't say I've been given Rs 1.5 crore, if it's over four years, fair enough. As I was TOPS when I was partnering

Playing her third Olympics, Ashwini was left in tears after she and her partner Tanisha couldn't win a single match to make an unceremonious exit from the group

"I haven't played well, irrespective of the coach not being there, I take responsibility for that. But you can't say I'm getting this amount when I even got this amount"

PTI JAIPUR

India is hoping to win more than 25 medals from its largest-ever contingent of 84 athletes at the upcoming Paris Paralympic Games beginning on August 28, the country's governing body chief Devendra Jhajharia said on Tuesday.

Jhajharia, himself a double gold medallist at the Paralympics, said the Indian contingent would look the carry the momentum of record-breaking performances in the 2021 Tokyo Paralympics and 2023 Hangzhou Asian Para Games. India had won 19 medals at the Tokyo Paralympics and a historic 111 medal at the Para Asian Games.

"This is the biggest para

India aiming to win more than 25 medals at Paris Paralympics: PCI chief Jhajharia

contingent India has ever sent to the Paralympics. We are very confident about the overall performance and are sure to win more than 25 medals," Jhajharia said here at a event organised by the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI).

India is set to compete in 12 sports, including archery, athletics, badminton, canoeing, cycling, blind judo, powerlifting, rowing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, and taekwondo.

"Most of our athletes are in excellent shape, having excellent



trained rigorously for this event. We expect outstanding results, particularly in badminton, athletics, archery, and shooting. They are ready to make India proud," the PCI president

The Indian team boasts of a mix of experienced and young athletes athletes. Many of them are participating in their second or third

Paralympics. Amit Kumar Saroha, a seasoned athlete competing in his fourth Paralympics, will represent India in the

spectrum, the youngest athlete is 17-year-old archer Sheetal Devi, who shoots with her legs instead of her hands due to a medical condition that has afflicted her since birth. She recently made headlines

F51 category discus throw. The 39-year-old Asian Para

Games medallist is the oldest

On the other end of the

member of the contingent.

by winning gold medals in individual compound and mixed team events in archery at the 2023 Asian Para Games.

Meanwhile, 100 Sports Management Private Limited has been awarded the exclusive broadcasting and digital media right for Paris Paralympics in India, according to a release.

Premier League will have different look when season starts Friday

AP LONDON

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m still.}$

For the 2024-25 season starting on Friday, there are five newly hired managers, around \$1.6 billion worth of new players (and counting), new offside technology, updated financial regulations and a tweaked match schedule.

COACHING CHANGES: A quarter of the coaches will be taking charge of a Premier League game for the first time, with Liverpool (Arne Slot), Chelsea (Enzo Maresca) and Brighton (Fabian Hurzeler) all having new managers and both Southampton (Russell Martin) and Ipswich (Kieran McKenna) gaining promotion with managers owning no top-flight experience. Throw in Julen Lopetegui being the new guy at West Ham after 4 1/2 years of David Moyes at the helm and Steve Cooper replacing Maresca at Leicester, and the dugouts will look different this season. Most of the intrigue, however, will focus on Slot and what style he implements at Liverpool after the team's nearly nine years with the popular Jurgen Klopp. Rock n' roll

could turn into more control, with Slot preferring more of a possession game. SLOWER MARKET: The Premier

League's 20 clubs have spent as much on new players in this transfer window as those in Spain, Italy and Germany combined, according to transfermarkt.Com. So why does it feel such a slow summer of trading? Maybe because there have been no blockbuster deals, with the most expensive being striker Dominic Solanke moving to Tottenham from Bournemouth for 65 million pounds (\$83 million). However, lots of deals for between \$30-70 million quickly add up - and there are still three weeks left in the window, during which Manchester City, Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal and Chelsea are expected to weigh in. City (Savinho) and Arsenal (Riccardo Calafiori) have only made one new signing so far and Liverpool hasn't made any. Come the end of transfer deadline day on Aug. 30, don't be surprised if Premier League clubs have spent way more than \$2 billion even if most are balancing the books with sales because of the league's sterner financial rules.



SEMI-AUTOMATED OFFSIDES: Expect offside decisions to be reached much quicker in the Premier League this season. The competition is introducing semi-automated offside technology for the first time, with the new system set to be launched during the first half of the season. Multiple cameras will track player movements and record data points on parts of the body that are relevant for an offside decision. Data is processed with artificial intelligence to create a 3D offside line that is alerted to the team of VAR officials. It is expected to take an average of around 30 seconds off the length of time it currently takes VAR officials to come to a decision manually. Semi-automated offsides were used at the 2022 World Cup and European the recent

Championship.

SPENDING RULES: Last season in the Premier League was notable for some clubs, like Everton and Nottingham Forest, receiving points deductions for breaking the competition's profitability and sustainability regulations, which are now being more strictly applied. This coming season is the final year of those regulations, with two new

forms of spending caps being trialed ahead of their introduction from the 2025-26 season. Teams in England's top division will trial a "Squad Cost Rules" system, which will limit spending on players to 85% of a club's soccer revenue and net profit or loss on player sales. A second system called "Top to Bottom Anchoring" limits - or anchors - spending to a multiple of the lowest combined prize money and cash from TV rights forecast to be earned by a team. The league said the systems aimed to "improve and preserve clubs' financial sustainability and the competitive balance of the Premier League" as well as "promote aspiration of clubs.

NO WINTER BREAK: The Premier League is renowned for being a relentless slog - even more so this season. There's no winter break for clubs this time, with the season starting later, to give players more time to recover from international tournaments this summer, and therefore being squeezed. Last year, for example, five games were held each weekend over a two-week period, giving teams at least one weekend off over January.