

# City to be a skill capital of...

Minister of IT, Electronics & Communications. Industries & Commerce Sridhar Babu stated that Telangana government aims to make Hyderabad as a skill capital of India and across the world, during the third edition of CREDAI Property Show organised by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI), at Nagole on Friday, Minister Sridhar Babu. along with Malreddy Rangareddy, MLA Ibrahimpatnam, inaugurated the three-day event in the presence of CREDAI Hyderabad leadership team ...



-PAGE: 3

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday voiced concern over increasing space debris as a result of numerous satellites being placed in orbit and lauded ISRO for setting itself a target to make future space missions debris free by 2030. Murmu was speaking at the maiden National Space Day celebrations to mark the first anniversary of the landing of India's Chandrayaan-3 project "Space debris can cause problems for space missions," she said during the event at Bharat Mandapam ...



# India has maximum electrification...

India is the country with maximum electrification for expansion of tracks Mukul Saran Mathur Additional Member Commercial Ministry of Railways, said in his inaugural address at the ASSOCHAM National Co held on Friday in New Delhi. Eminent experts, stakeholders and senior government officials from the Railway ministry deliberated upon a range of issues and transformative technical solutions for 'Modernisation of Railway for Viksit Bharat'. Mathur, while focusing on the ... -PAGE: 8

# PM MODI INVOKES MAHATMA GANDHI IN KYIV Ukraine, Russia should sit together to end war

'India ready to play active role'

# PNS KYIV

countries.

Jaishankar said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday conveyed to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that both Ukraine and Russia should sit together without wasting time to end the ongoing war and that India was ready to play an "active role" to restore peace in the region.

In his talks with Zelenskyy in Kyiv that came a day ahead of Úkraine's Independence Day, the prime minister said India was on the side of peace since the beginning of the conflict and he would even like to contribute personally for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

The prime minister reiterated the

need for "sincere and practical"

engagement between all stakehold-

ers to develop innovative solutions

that will have "broad acceptability"

and contribute towards early

restoration of peace in Ukraine,

External Affairs Minister S

entire global community that India Modi's nearly nine-hour visit to Ukraine, the first by an Indian is committed to respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity (of prime minister since its independstates) and it is of utmost imporence in 1991, came six weeks after tance to us," Modi told Zelenskyy at he held summit talks with Russian the talks. President Vladimir Putin that triggered anguish in some Western

The prime minister also asserted India's strong commitment towards respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

"I have come with a message of peace..I want to assure you and the

"I want to assure you and the entire global community that India is committed towards respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity (of states) and it is of utmost importance to us," he said.

# **Buffer zones become boxing rings**

When it comes to illegal structures, there could have been violations both before and after the buildings concerned came up. Since, like regimes, officials come and go; it often becomes difficult to nail the culprits. With high drama following demolitions under the aegis of HYDRAA, what has assumed centre-stage now is photographic evidence of alleged violations, be they drone footage or satellite images. Political bigwigs who have allegedly gobbled portions of lakes are now having a tough time defending and countering one another's charges. On Friday, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president let off steam over several structures believed to be in the buffer zones

# 'Demolish my house if it is in FTL'

## PNS HYDERABAD

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy challenged former Municipal and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao and former Irrigation Minister T. Harish Rao to demolish his house if it is located in the FTL area of a water body or its buffer zone.

Ponguleti asked KTR and Harish to go along with HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath and check whether his house is in the FTL area or in the buffer zone of a water body.

The Revenue Minister said that KTR's relatives have constructed houses in the FTL areas of water bodies.

Ponguleti said that he had thrown a challenge during the Assembly elections. "I will not give a chance to the KCR family to advise me. KTR is now saying that the Janwada farmhouse belongs to his friend and if it is so then how was an FIR filed against Revanth Reddy then? How come the Janwada farmhouse belonged to KTR then and not now? KTR said that his house is not his but I am not like that.

PNS HYDERABAD

# 'Houses of VIPs like Ponguleti in FTL area'

## PNS HYDERABAD

Countering the challenge thrown by Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy that BRS Working President KT Rama Rao can demolish his house if it is in the buffer zone, KTR said that there are satellite maps showing the location of houses.

Speaking to the media on Friday, KTR said, "Ponguleti doesn't need that much effort. There are satellite maps showing the position of buildings in the FTL area and

buffer zone. Ponguleti need not worry." KTR suggested that Ponguleti should check and talk to HYDRAA Commissioner

AV Ranganath about how ponds were filled up and buildings constructed on them. He asked HYDRAA officials to start demolishing buildings located in the FTL area and

buffer zones first. He said that the buildings of leaders like Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Congress MLA Vivek, former MP KVP Ramachandra Rao, former MP Madhu Yashki Goud and Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy should be demolished first and then the buildings of commoners should also be demolished.

SPEED to govern 19 projects

'Smart Proactive Efficient and Effective Delivery' initiative launched

# Mahesh Kumar Goud new TPCC chief? Cong brass takes six names

# PNS HYDERABAD

Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar



The ISRO on Friday threw open its scientific data gathered from the

# The state government has launched ture to facilitate economic an initiative to speed up the execu- growth. This protion of development projects. The gramme will help the initiative named SPEED (Smart admin to take deci-

overcome hurdles between various completed by when are prepared. The government has decided that sectors in creating quality infrastruc-

all departments should follow a particular proce-ENT OF TE dure to monitor the

BRS



World Championship challenger D Gukesh enjoyed an advantageous position against tournament coleader Alireza Firouzia of France but eventually settled for a draw in the fourth round of the Singuefield Cup, here. Gukesh, who is set to play the World championship match against Ding Liren of China next November, proved that he is made of sterner mettle as he made Firouzia's life tough. Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa also drew his game against Anish Giri of Holland and ... -SPORTS

PNS NEW DELHI

The overall water-storage levels

across the country's major reservoirs

have improved significantly com-

pared to last year but certain areas,

particularly in the northern region,

are facing lower-than-normal stor-

age levels, which could impact water

availability in the coming months,

The Central Water Commission

(CWC) has released its latest report

on the live storage status of 155

reservoirs across India, revealing that

the overall water-storage levels have improved significantly compared

according to official data.

to last year.

command took the opinions of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu



Ministers. He said that they gave two names each as per the directions of the high command for the TPCC post and four names for the Cabinet berths. The new TPCC chief will be announced in a day or two.

Uttam said the high command had a joint meeting with everyone and discussed state politics. However, it is learnt that the CM is inclined towards the candidatures of Mahesh Kumar Goud and Adluri Laxman Kumar for the TPCC chief's post.Meanwhile, Uttam and Bhatti recommended Sudarshan Reddy, Prem Sagar Rao and Vakiti Srihari for the Cabinet berths, it is learnt.

Chandravaai researchers across the world for analyses to mark the first anniversary of India landing a spacecraft on the Moon.

The space agency has granted access to over 55 gigabytes of data from the five payloads - three on the Vikram lander and two on the Pragyan rover - that created history on August 23 last year by making a soft landing near the unexplored south pole region of the Moon."This data is not going to be confined with those scientists who have created those instruments,



but it will be made available to all the researchers of the country and the world for furthering the outcome of this," ISRO Chairman S Somanath said at the National Space Day celebrations here.



Proactive Efficient and Effective Delivery) will see Chief Minister Revanth Reddy himself reviewing 19 level important projects launched by the delay. government.

A meeting will be held once a month with officials of the concerned departments. The Chief Minister has decided to complete all these projects efficiently within the stipulated period. Officials of the concerned departments were ordered to carry out the work as per the plan set by 'SPEED.'

SPEED is a unique initiative to

sions directly at the Chief Minister's 8 without SPEED focuses on development in all areas not just cities. As part of SPEED, departments will pre-

pare special plans for projects and works under their purview. It includes a fixed It includes updated data on how timeframe of how much work can much work has been done on any be done within a given period. given day. Estimates of what works will be



toring.

The

keep track of SPEED projects.

projects

Arrangements

have also been

made for regular

performance

review and moni-

Department maintains a special online portal to

Planning

# **GOLDEN MOMENTS** A dazzling display of devotion at Tirumala



PNS TIRUMALA

In a spectacle that glittered with divine opulence, devotees from Pune graced the sacred precincts of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Friday, adorned with an astonishing 25 kg of gold, valued at a whopping Rs 180 crore. The entourage, comprising two men, a woman, and a young boy, turned heads as they paraded through the temple gates draped in a multitude of gold chains, glittering sunglasses, intricate bangles, and a striking gold neckace emblazoned with the number '7'.

# 'Release White Paper on farm loan waiver scheme' Maheshwar demanded that the

### PNS HYDERABAD

Throwing a challenge at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Ministers by declaring that

he is ready to resign his MLA post or take political sanyas if it is proved that the loans of all farmers were waived, BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar

Reddy said that if not Revanth should tell us what he will do. He demanded that the government should release a white paper on the farm loan waiver

scheme. Participating in a Rythu

# App to verify info about farmers now!

griculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao said that a new app has been launched to collect information about the 4,24,873 farmers who Ado not have family verification to implement the farm loan waiver scheme.Inquiring about the steps taken towards resolving issues that arose at the field level regarding the loan waiver scheme with

agriculture and cooperative officers on Friday, Tummala said the loans of all families who had loans less than Rs 2 lakh have been waived. He said that a new app has been introduced to collect information about 4,24,873 farmers who do not have family confirmation and whose loans are less than Rs 2 lakh.Agricultural officers themselves did not go to the houses of the farmers, but were available at farmers' platforms/offices and said that they were receiving complaints

loans of remaining farmers by August 31 or else the BJP will launch an indefinite hunger strike at the Indira Park Dharna Chowk. He also asked

government should waive the

Revanth to apologise to farmers for deceiving them regarding the loan waiver scheme. He also demanded that

the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Rythu Bharosa should frame guidelines and submit it to the government immediately. The government should convene the Assembly and finalise the guide-

Deeksha on Friday at Nirmal, lines after discussing it, he added.

According to the bulletin released However, the report also notes that certain areas, particularly in the on Friday, the live storage available in these reservoirs is 130.800 billion northern region, are facing lowercubic metres (BCM), which is 72 per than-normal storage levels, which cent of the total live storage capaccould impact water availability in the 114 per cent of last year's level and



**IMPROVED RESERVOIR LEVELS ACROSS INDIA: CWC** 

Southern region shows a more positive trend

### coming months.

This marks a notable increase from the 114.657 BCM recorded during the same period last year, indicating that the current storage is

112 per cent of the average storage over the last 10 years.

The report highlights regional variations in water-storage levels, with some areas experiencing better storage than others. In the northern region, which includes Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan, the storage levels are below normal, with reservoirs holding only 53 per cent of their capacity.

This is a significant drop from the 84 per cent recorded last year.

Conversely, the southern region, covering states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, shows a more positive trend, with reservoirs at 80 per cent capacity, a substantial improvement from the 52 per cent recorded during the corresponding period last year.

# HC restrains parties or individuals from calling for 'Maharashtra bandh'

PNS MUMBAI



The Bombay High Court on Friday restrained political parties or even individuals from calling for a Maharashtra bandh.

The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance has called for a shut-down across the state on August 24 to protest against the alleged sexual assault of two kindergarten girls at a school in Badlapur in Thane district.









# hyderabad 02

# **NEGLECT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

# **KTR lashes out at govt**

### PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao sent a letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Friday saying that public health is being neglected by the

Congress government. He said

that dengue and other contagious diseases are spreading rapidly and that the government has failed to ensure sanitation and in controlling mosquitoes.

He demanded that the CM should stop politicking and instead concentrate on controlling dengue, malaria and other contagious diseases and added that prioritising sanitation would solve half the problem.

In his open letter to the Chief Minister, KTR demand-

ed that all government hospitals and primary health centres

ing situation as people are getting incapacitated due to

dengue as the state machinery including the Chief Minister has completely aban-doned the public health system. Н е

public health. He expressed

deep concern over the worsen-

lambasted the Congress government for failing to maintain sanitation for

the last eight months which has resulted in a severe mosquito problem resulting in the spread of dengue, malaria and chikungunya. He said that patients are increasing daily across the state in both rural and urban

overnment which should have focused on public health before the monsoon completely ignored the issue. He criticised the government for lacking even basic understanding of pre-emptive measures to prevent the outbreak of mosquito borne fevers.

Official statistics indicate that nearly 5,700 dengue cases have been reported this year alone, but KTR pointed out that the number could be 10 times more. He noted with deep sadness that nearly 50 people, including children, have recently died due to dengue and lack of timely treatment. He said the recent incident

of five people dying on a single day due to dengue has shocked everyone and that despite the increasing number of viral fever cases in the last three months the government seems to be indifferent.

# Kondareddipally incident unfortunate, says Ponguleti

# PNS HYDERABAD

Describing the incident involving women journalists in Kondareddypally village as unfortunate, the Minister of Revenue, Information and Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, said the gov-ernment will take action against officials if they are in

the wrong. Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan here on Friday, Ponguleti said the BRS government had filed several cases against journal-ists but the Congress govern-ment has not filed any case against them. He said the government will collect details of the incident that

happened on Thursday. Ponguleti said the BRS government did not hand over house sites to journalists but the Congress government will hand over 72 acres to them soon.

# CM seeks nod for TG to host national & global sports events

Seeks aid for sports university, approval of DPRs for upgrading sports infra

### PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and the Minister for Tourism and Excise, Jupally Krishna Rao, met Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Mansukh L. Mandaviya, in New Delhi on Friday and requested him to give Telangana a chance to host national and international sports events including the

Ólympics. The Chief Minister empha-sised that Telangana has the infrastructure to host such events. He highlighted the achievements of Telangana athletes who have won medals in international competitions, including the Olympics and stressed the state government's commitment to providing world-class facilities for ath-



The CM told Mandaviya about the international-standard sports facilities available in Hyderabad like the Gachibowli Sports Complex, the Saroor Nagar Stadium, the LB Stadium, the KBR Indoor Stadium, the OU Campus, the Gymkhana Ground and the Hussainsagar which have facilities like swimming pools, multi-purpose indoor stadiums, synthetic athletic tracks, shooting ranges, football

grounds, skating tracks and water sports facilities (Rowing, Kayaking, and Canoeing).

He also mentioned the availability of five-star hotels and excellent air and rail connectivity in Hyderabad.

The Chief Minister reminded Mandaviya that Hyderabad had successfully hosted major events in the past like the National Games in 2002, Afro-Asian Games in 2003 and the World Military Games in 2007.

# Chouhan praises Modi govt's efforts for BCs, slams Cong

### PNS PATNA

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday praised the Narendra Modi government for its efforts to uplift backward classes and accused the Congress-led oppo-sition of merely offering "lip ser-vice" to the cruze vice" to the cause.

The Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development was addressing a party function in memory of Ramphal Mandal, a freedom fighter who went to the gallows at the age of 19 for killing three British officials who were blamed for a police firing during the 1942 Quit India movement.

Chouhan, a former chief min ister of Madhya Pradesh, noted that Mandal was a "dhanuk", a backward class "known for its contribution in nation building, in my home state as well as Bihar".

"Óur opponents only pay lip service to backward classes who have got their due only under the current BJP regime, with an 'ati pichhda' (extremely backward class) Modi at the helm", said Chouhan.

### ed to patients. KTR strongly criticized the Congress government claiming that it had totally neglected

y treatment should be provid-

should be equipped with adequate medicines and that qual-

areas.KTR said the Congress

**INTEREST-FREE LOAN FOR T- FIBRE PROJECT** CM asks Centre to provide Rs 1,779 cr

# PNS HYDERABAD

ACB nabs a tax

official for graft

The Anti-Corruption bureau (ACB) on Friday red-handedly apprehended a Deputy Commercial Tax Officer at Commercial Taxes Department named Vasantha named Indira for taking a bribe of Rs 35,000

from a person. The ACB mentioned that the bribe amount was recovered from the officer at her instance and her right hand fingers yielded positive in a chemical test.The accused took money for showing official favourand thereby performed her public duty improper-

ly and dishonestly. She was arrested and produced before the ACB court at Nampally. The case is under investigation.

 T- Fibre to provide Internet services to 93 lakh households for Rs 300 per month

• CN requests Centre to approve the DPR to change NOFN first phase to Bharat Net-3 architecture

### PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy requested Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia to sanction an interestfree long-term loan of Rs 1,779 crore through the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USFO) to the Telangana Government to execute the T-Fibre project.

The state government has already mobilized Rs 530 crore through financial institutions for the proposed T-Fibre project.

The Chief Minister told the Union Minister of Communications that the Telangana Government is planning to provide Internet through optical fibre connec-tions to 63 lakh households in rural areas and 30 lakh households in urban areas for Rs 300 per month. The Chief Minister accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka met Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia in

New Delhi on Friday. The CM told Scindia that the state government is committed to providing Internet connectivity via optical fibre to all gram panchayats, mandals and districts through the T-

Fibre project. The CM apprised the Union Minister of the state government's plan to provide Internet services for Rs 300 per connec-



tion to 63 lakh households in rural areas and 30 lakh in urban areas, cable TV and eeducation services as well as G2G (government-to-government) and G2C (governmentto-citizen) connectivity to 65,500 government institutions

The CM also informed Scindia that the TG government has already provided a Rythu Nestham programme to 300 Rythu Vedikas through T-Fibre and Internet facilities to social welfare schools.

The Chief Minister requested Scindia to provide the first phase of the National Optical

phase of NOFN is running based on linear architecture in some districts, T-Fibre is functioning on ring architecture in the remaining areas. Thus it is proposed to provide NOFN's first phase infrastructure in time for efficient network management.

The Chief Minister reminded Scindia that the state government has already sent the DPR to the Centre in October 2023 requesting to convert the first phase of NOFN to Bharat Net-3 architecture and asked him to approve the DPR quickly.

The Chief Minister asserted that e-governance services will be provided to the residents of 33 districts through Bharat Net-3 in the state.

UP police constable exam PNS LUCKNOW About 4.50 lakh candidates across the state appeared for

4.50 lakh candidates take

the Uttar Pradesh Police constable recruitment exam for over 60,000 vacant posts on Friday amid tight security arrangements, marking the first day of a five-day exercise, officials said.

The exam was held at 1,174 centres across 67 districts of the state, and the fresh recruitment exercise is being carried out after the exams held on February 17 and 18 were cancelled following allegations of a paper leak.

"The biggest police recruit-ment exam in the history of Uttar Pradesh started on Friday. On the first day, the exam was conducted successfully at 1,174 examination centres in 67 districts of the state. About 4.50 lakh candidates appeared in the exam held in two shifts. All the candidates appeared in the exam after tight security and sever-

During the exam, STF, UP Police, and PAC personnel were seen at every nook and corner. Apart from this, CCTV and drone cameras

were also monitored every moment. DGP Prashant Kumar also descended on the ground as he carried out nspections and on-ground security reviews. The state police chief said that this examination will be conducted in two shifts over

al rounds of checking," the UP Police said in a statement.

five days in 67 districts of the state."Police officers are deployed everywhere. This time such arrangements have been made that no one faces any inconvenience. Wherever there are reports

of irregularities, FIRs have been filed. Strict action will be taken against them

Fibre Network (NOFN) infrastructure to the state govern-ment in time.The CM told Scindia that while the first

Diabetes complications affect mental health and vice-versa

A study has found a two-way relationship between complications due to diabetes, such as heart attack and stroke, and mental health conditions, like anxiety and depression - having any of the problems from the former group increased the risk of one from the latter , and the other way round.

Researchers said that the two-way link could also be "less direct" as both -- diabetes complications and mental health conditions -- shared multiple risk factors, including obesity and problems in controlling blood sugar levels, which increase the chances of developing both sets of disorders.

"Most likely, a combination of direct and indirect effects



examined insurance claims made from 2001 to 2018 data from over five lakh people with type 1 or type 2 diabetes and more than 3.5 lakh people without diabetes. The authors found that peo-

and shared risk factors drive the association we are seeing,' Maya Watanabe, a biostatistician at the Harvard University's School of Public Health, ÚS, and first author of the study published in the journal Diabetes Care, said.

"Diabetes care providers may be able to simultaneously prevent the risk of multiple complications by providing interventions to treat these shared risk factors," Watanabe said.

# Shivakumar in Delhi to discuss MUDA 'scam'

Siddaramaiah,

### PNS NEW DELHI

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar arrived in the national capital on Friday for crucial meetings with top Congress leaders.

Sources indicate that the primary focus of these discussions will be to formulate a strategy ahead of next week's high court hearing on the controversial Mysuru Development Urban Authority (MUDA) 'scam' case.

# 14 killed, 16 hurt in Nepal bus mishap Passengers part of a group of 104 Indian pilgrims from Maharashtra

# PNS KATHMANDU

At least 14 people were killed and 16 others injured after an Indian tourist bus veered off the highway and fell 150 metres into the fast-flowing Marsyangdi River in central Nepal on Friday, authorities said The bus from Gorakhpur in

Uttar Pradesh was heading towards Nepal's capital Kathmandu from the resort town of Pokhara when it drove off the highway in Aaina Pahara in the Tanahun district. There were 43 people, including the driver and the co-dri-



reported.

ver, in the bus with the registration number UP 53 FT 7623.

The passengers onboard the bus were part of a group of 104 Indian pilgrims who

They came from Bhusal village in Jalgaon district. After visiting Pokhara for two days, all three buses left for the capital Kathmandu on Friday

morning. Madhav Prasad Paudel, chief of the Armed Police Force (APF), Kurintar, said that most of the passengers travelling in the three buses were families and relatives.

"An Indian tourist bus travelling from Pokhara to arrived in Nepal from Maharashtra in three buses Kathmandu with around 43 two days ago for a 10-day tour Indians fell 150 metres into of the Himalayan nation, Marshyandi River today," the Embassy of India said in a post MyRepublica news portal on X.

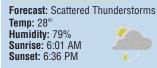
# TODAY

### ALMANAC Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksh Aug 23 10:39 AM to Aug 24 07:52 AM Aug 24 07:52 AM to Aug 25 05:31 AM Aug 25 05:31 AM to Aug 26 03:39 AM Tithi: Panchami: Shashthi Saptami:

# Nakshatram:

Ashwini:	Aug 23 07:54 PM
	to Aug 24 06:05 PM
Bharani:	Aug 24 06:05 PM
	to Aug 25 04:45 PM
Rahukalam:	9:11 AM to 10:44 AM
Yamagandam:	1:51 PM to 3:25 PM
Varjyam:	03:09 AM to 04:40 AM
Gulika:	6:04 AM to 7:38 AM
Amritakalam:	11:26 AM to 12:55 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham	: 11:53 AM to 12:43 PM

# HYDERABAD WEATHER



Updated: August 23, 2024 5:00 PM

# Rs 4,500 crore funds for MGNREGA works: CBN

ple having a chronic diabetes

complication had a two-fold or

three-fold higher risk of devel-

oping a mental health condi-

tion, while those having men-

tal health disorders were found

to be up to 2.5 times more like-

ly to experience sustained dia-

betes complications."We found

a consistent bidirectional asso-

ciation between chronic dia-

betes complications and men-

tal health disorders across the

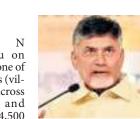
life span, highlighting the

important relationship between

(both sets of conditions).

## PNS VANAPALLI

Chief Minister Ν Chandrababu Naidu on Friday participated in one of the 13,226 gram sabhas (village meetings) held across the state here, and announced that Rs 4,500 crore funds will be sanctioned for the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNRE-



year. Across the state, gram sabhas will approve 87 kinds of works. If needed, more money will be spent," Naidu said, addressing the gram sabha at Vanapalli village in BR Ambedkar Konaseema that gram sabhas will approve 87 types of works district.

and promised to spend more money if needed on the Stating that MGNREGA has to provide work for all the people who demand it, "Through these meetings, we are taking sanctions for the CM said it is the respon-Rs 4,500 crore funds for this sibility of the state govern-

ment to ensure its implementation

With Rs 4,500 crore funds, nine crore work days could be created for 54 lakh families through the rural employment guarantee scheme, the chief minister said.

Further, promising to transform villages in the next five years, he assured that 17,500 km of cement roads would be laid in all the villages and 10,000 km of drainage system would be built.

He also promised to lay 2,500 km of roads and build 1.5 lakh cattle sheds, as well as work towards raising the wages under the rural employment scheme.

# Scheduled Caste list must be religion-neutral, demands **Pasmanda Muslim body**

tral.

# PNS PATNA

The All India Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz (AIPMM) on Friday urged a central commission to make India's Scheduled Caste list religionneutral and grant SC status to Dalit Muslims and Christians

across the country. An AIPMM delegation led by Ali Anwar Ansari, former Rajya Sabha MP who heads the body, met the threemember commission headed by former chief justice K G Balakrishnan here during the day. They urged the delegation for making the SC list religion-neutral so that Pasmanda Muslims can also be included in it. Pasmanda is an umbrella term encom-

passing Backward, Dalit, and Adivasi Muslims.According

to a statement issued by Ansari, "We met the commission, headed by former CJI K G Balakrishnan, today and urged that the Centre must make SC status religion neu-

After the promulgation of the Constitution of India, the President, under Article 341 (1), issued the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950, listing the 'castes, races, tribes' to be included in the SC category.""Para 3 of the order excluded all non-Hindu groups (with the provision of four Sikh castes: the Ramdasi, Kabirpanthi, Mazhabi, and Sikligar of the release. Punjab region).



The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, the official

custodian of Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati, on Friday appealed to devotees to use only its official website to book the darshan tickets, avoiding unscrupulous mid-

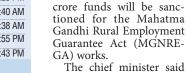
keen on detecting fake web sites and identifying middledlemen who are fleecing them. men who are indulging in The Tirumala Tirupati cheating devotees, observing Devasthanams (TTD) noted that it is a regular practice by that devotees were complainthe TTD's vigilance wing to ing about brokers collecting scrutinise all tickets ahead of allowing pilgrims for darshan. Recently, TTD officials huge sums of money promising darshan tickets but they were actually being cheated. "Use the official website,

found that four devotees from Tamil Nadu entered the temhttps://ttdevasthanams.ap.gov.i n with Aadhaar card for bookple with fake tickets for Sri Kalyanoostanam (event) and ing online darshan and other on enquiry learnt that the services," said TTD in a press unsuspecting pilgrims were cheated by an internet centre operator in Vellore.

According to TTD, it is

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scheme.

# **CITY EVENTS** DHEERA

No to violence against women Protest march

Venue HICC, Kondapur, Hyderabad August 24, 6 pm onwards

# **Book launch**

Viswahitha Foundation to launch a book 'Amma maata'

## Venue

Vaidehi Ashramam, 9G39=GHX, Saidabad Colony Road, Krishnanagar, Saroornagar West, Hyderabad August 25, 4.30 pm

# March for animals Liberation

Vegans of Telangana, SINSME Foundation

Sanjeevaiah Park, Lower Tank Bund, Necklace Road, August 24, 2.30 pm

# Akshayakalpa Farm

Experience the Good Food Journey Walk, Food & More

### Venue

Akshayakalpa Organic / Regenerative Farming -R&D Facility -Hyderabad August 24 | 9:30am -August 25 | 5:30 pm

# Journey of Rhythms

Presented by Shivansh and Tatvaa Arts Venue

**Global Peace** Auditorium, Gachibowli, Hyderabad August 31, 6.30 pm onwards

# **Jewellery World** Exhibition

Venue

Hotel Taj Krishna, Hyderabad, from August 23rd to 25th, for an unforgettable experience. 10 am to 8 pm daily

# **Monopoly Moves**

KING's latest album, on KING's Monopoly Moves Listening Party Tour.

Venue Air live, Gachibowli, Hyderabad

# City Pioneer

HYDERABAD SATURDAY | AUGUST 24, 2024

# GIS mapping for garbage collection in city

PNS HYDERABAD Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Amrapali Kata ordered the zonal commissioners to check Ramky garbage collecting vehicles through the GIS system to be on time at residences in the city. The Commissioner held a teleconference with the

additional and zonal commissioners on Friday. As attendance of workers is taken in three stages. the Commissioner has issued instructions that Sanitation Field Assistants (SFA) should inform the workers who are taking attendance through Facial Recognition System (FRS) in time.

# **PRAJAVANI**

he pioneer

Protest over non-release of Dalit Bandhu amount



State Planning Board Vice-President Dr Chinna Reddy receiving grievances from the people at Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad on Tuesday

### PNS HYDERABAD

people.

said.

the second phase. "But at that same time, elections In all, 200 people conductwere announced and it was postponed. So, we are asking the present government to release Rs 12 lakh to every beneficiary under the Ambedkar Abhayahastham scheme," he said. They demanded the government to release Rs 3

lakh to every selected beneficiary of Dalith Bandhu was announced and money scheme soon. was not paid to selected Another protester said

that the previous govern-A protester said that ment had allocated Rs 3 those who have been selectlakh each to every beneficiaed in the 2nd phase of Dalitha Bandhu scheme ry under the scheme. But the present government did not pay the money. Though have not received any amount for the last nine the elections were completed, the government had not months. "At the initial stage, election code was announced but it has been released the amount to the beneficiaries. around nine months, but

"A few days back, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said that they would release the money in seven days. But it has been more than 15 days but no Dalit in the State has received any amount from the government," he added.

# **TELANGANA PITCHED AS THE FUTURE STATE City to be a skill capital of India: Minister Sridhar Babu**

'Look East concept' to focus on developing eastern part of the city by setting up IT or software park, five star hotels, convention halls, pharma and hardware industries

Following Skill University, Sports University will also be set up soon. Apart from that many centres of excellence such as AI, semiconductors and hubs will be launched

### PNS HYDERABAD

Minister of IT, Electronics & Communications, Industries & Commerce Sridhar Babu stated that Telangana government aims to make Hyderabad as a skill capital of India and across the world, during the third edition of CREDAI Property Show organised by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI), at

Nagole on Friday. Minister Sridhar Babu, along with Malreddy Rangareddy, MLA Ibrahimpatnam, inaugurated the three-day event in the presence of CREDAI Hyderabad leadership team, member developers and other stakeholders, all showcasing the latest advancements in the real estate sector.

The Minister said, "The Telangana government is focusing on qaulity of life for its people. For this, we have connected with prominent leaders and members of IT industries and urban administration to make a portfolio which improves quality of life for Hyderabadis. We have already launched 'Look East concept' where we focus on developing eastern part of the city by setting up IT or software



Minister Sridhar Babu addressing the CREDAI Property Show in Hyderabad on Friday

park, five star hotels, convention halls, pharma industries, hardware industries such as semiconductor industries. We are also bringing up a comprehensive net zero city where we focus on lesser pollution and more on quality of life. We are also planning to implement Outer Ring metro rail extension

Following Skill University, Sports University will also be set up soon. Apart from that many centres of excellence such as AI, semiconductors and hubs will be launched.

V. Rajashekar Reddy, President, CREDAI Hyderabad, said, "Hyderabad's real estate industry is thriving and rapidly expanding, fuelled by proactive state governance. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was on a recent trip to USA and South Korea, wherein he mobilised an on-trip investment of Rs 31,500 crore (approximately) and pitched Telangana as the Future State, and the vision of Hyd 4.0 to the global business community. This would create an immediate job opportunity of approxi-

mately 30,750 for the State." B. Jagannath Rao, General Secretary of CREDAI Hyderabad, "Hyderabad's real estate market has witnessed remarkable growth, and with the policy to spread the growth across the city, East Hyderabad is not far behind. This part of the city has registered a CAGR growth of 31 per cent in the total value of unit sales from III CY19 to HI CY24. This region has witnessed a 98 per cent increase in sales of units and 89 per cent growth in unit sales value for the same period.

# Need to promote pension scheme for unorganised sector stressed

# PNS HYDERABAD

The Pension Fund Regulatory (PFRDA), Authority Government of India, has conducted through SLBC, Telangana, an Outreach ome for the banks on

the government has not

paid any assistance to us," he

that during the BRS govern-

ment, some people have

been selected under the

Dalit Bandhu scheme in

Another protester said

the old age needs to be prothe subscribers on attaining the age of 60 years. She said that so moted in a big way. He said far in Telangana State about that during the financial year up to August 15, banks in the 19.37 lakh citizens have subscribed to APY, whereas 662 State have enrolled 1,21,259 lakh citizens across India have subscriptions. He further said subscribed to Atal Pension that creating awareness Yojana as on June 30. amongst the general public is Priyabrata Mishra, Deputy the key to increase the sub-General Manager, State Bank scription base and banks in the State are spreading awareness of India, representing SLBC, said that Atal Pension Yojana on the scheme through their scheme aimed at providing Financial Literacy Centres.

# Water-logging points to be desilted

## PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Greater Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Amrapali Kata ordered offials that during non-rainy

# **T-Hub, Beyond4 to strengthen** India-Malaysia startup ecosystem

# PNS HYDERABAD

T-Hub, a startup incubator, on Friday signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Beyond4, Malaysia's premier accelerator ecosystem, in the presence of Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Malaysia, Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz. The partnership aims to foster cross-border innovation and market access between India and Malaysia, creating a robust framework to support startups from both nations. The MoA follows the recent state visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who announced a strengthened cooperation between the startup ecosystems of India and Malaysia under the India-Malaysia Startup Alliance. co-creation of innovative solu-



ed a rally and protested at Praja Bhavan on Tuesday to release the sanctioned amount of Dalit Bandhu to beneficiaries. They said that they have been selected in the second phase of Dalit Bandhu scheme during the BRS government. But at the same time election code

Date: Friday, August 30, 2024 Time: 7 pm onwards

# Youth arrested for throwing money into air

### PNS HYDERABAD

The Kukatpally on Friday apprehended 23-year-old Korapathi Vamshi for throwing money into air on busy streets across the city and causing chaos in the traffic.

The police said that two months ago two male persons suddenly came to JNTU, Kukatpally on a bike and stopped the bike at Kukatpally Metro station. The pillionrider sprinkled money in the air. As a result, the road passers and vehicle riders crowded to collect money and the traffic jammed.

Later, the police checked the Instagram account "its\_me\_power\_" and noticed that the person wants to join www.winbuzz.in\* (games) for earning money.

Friday at SBILD, West Maredpally, Secunderabad.

Speaking on the occasion, Mamta Shankar, whole-time member (Economics), PFRDA, explained that the Government of India, as a measure to create universal

social security system for the under-privileged and unorganised sector workers, introduced Atal Pension Yojana scheme and all Indian citizens aged between 18 years to 40 years are eligible to join the

PNS HYDERABAD

society

scheme. Under the scheme, an assured pension of Rs1,000 to Rs 5000- will be provided to social security to the citizens in

Roads and Buildings,

Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

said that cultural centres are a

solution to the increasing men-

tal stress and mechanical life in

Minister Venkat Reddy, who

participated in the inaugural

ceremony of the MP and MLA

Colony Culture Centre at Road

Number-10, Jubilee Hills on

days, all catchpits of 141 water-logging points should be desilted and to be ready for the next rain.

On Thursday, the GHMC released a circular to give instructions related to monsoon works to all the Zonal Commissioners and Superintending Engineers of all zones of maintenance wings. The circular mentioned

that with the onset of monsoon season, it is utmost important to see that all drainage systems, including drains, culverts and catchpits, are functioning effectively to prevent water-logging and flooding.

It has mentioned that officials are instructed to see all the culverts are desilted up to the bottom level at zero point in the measurement scale at the culvert. Officials should inspect and remove floating materials on every following day of rain.

Officials should also ensure that the road-side silt and floating materials and solid waste accumulated at catchpits shall be removed every day by using Monsoon Emergency Teams and also sanitation staff.

The partnership will also drive growth in key sectors including fintech, healthtech, agritech, sustainability, and smart cities. As part of this Furthermore, the India Market Access Programme

greement, T-Hub will utilise will support Malaysian startups its extensive network and secthrough localisation, mentortoral expertise to assist ship, product assessment and Malaysian businesses in enterproof-of-concept facilitation. ing the Indian market, while Similarly, the Malaysia Market providing global growth Access initiative will help Indian startups forge connecopportunities for Indian startups. Additionally, it will offer tions with Malaysian investors, corporate innovation propartners and government entigrammes that connect ties. Malaysian corporates with Indian startups, enabling the

The collaboration includes a strong focus on investor support, with T-Hub and Beyond4 providing access to a broad network of angel investors, venture capitalists and strategic partners.

# Land acquisition apace for Old City Metro

tions and showcasing their

expertise.

### PNS HYDERABAD

Around 1,200 properties will get affected in the road-widening and for station construction under Old City Metro Project. In this regard, land acquisition process for Old City Metro between MGBS and Chandrayangutta, (stretch of 7.5 km) is being speeded up by Hyderabad Metro Rail authorities

Out of these 1,200 properties, notifications have been issued to 400 properties so far under the Land

Acquisition Act 2013. The road is being widened to 100 ft as per GHMC Master Plan. However, at Metro station locations, the road is being widened to 120 feet. The current width of the road varies from 50 feet to 60 feet from Darulshifa Junction to Shalibanda Junction, while it is 80 feet from Shalibanda Junction to Chandrayangutta. Thus, the affected portion of each property in majority cases will be about 20 to 25 feet from Darulshifa to Shalibanda; and about 10 feet from Shalibanda to Chandrayangutta.

# Rachakonda SHE Teams nab 122 eve-teasers in 15 days

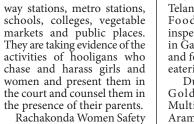
### PNS HYDERABAD

Under Rachakonda Women Safety Wing, SHE Teams conducted counselling for eveteasers on Friday at Rachakonda camp office for 122 eve-teasers (majors-73, minors-49) who were caught for harassing women and young girls in Rachakonda Commissionerate. They were counselled in the presence of their family members.

Rachakonda Commissioner of police G Sudhir Babu said that the officials of



Rachakonda SHE Teams will not let go of the hooligans who harass girls and women. Teams in mufti are carrying out decoy operations in bus stands, rail-



Wing DCP, T Usha Vishwanath said, "About 169 complaints were received from August 1 to 15. The investigation has been completed after taking up the inquiry on the

complaints.

MP, MLA Colony Cultural Centre inaugurated

Friday, said that it is very grat-ifying to construct such a

wonderful cultural centre in

the 3 acres given by the

Congress government of that

of suicides will increase when

small families increase in soci-

ety. The suicide of Ranganath,

who has earned a reputation as

a good actor in the Telugu film

industry, is a prime example of

this, he said. He said that

He said that the percentage

The Task Force teams of

During the inspections at Golden Pears- The Multicuisine Restaurant at The Aramghar, the official found four packets of expired milk and discarded them on the spot. Unlabelled ghee packets were found inside the store area

The officials found raw mutton pieces spillage inside

### the refrigerator and it was found to be in highly unhygienic condition. Pest control records and medical fitness certificates for food handlers were not available with the Food Business Operator (FBO). Windows were found open to the outside environment and houseflies observed inside the kitchen.

In the Dar AI Mandi eatery in Aramghar, the officials found that the FBO failed to provide the FSSAI licence copy during the inspection. It was found that Swiggy food delivery app is managing orders for this establishment with an inactive or expired



ic with patchy flooring and licence. They failed to provide the pest control records and drain water stagnation. medical fitness certificates for Kitchen was found open to food handlers. Kitchen was the outside environment withfound to be highly unhygienout any insect-proof screen

Pest control records and medical fitness certificates for food handlers were not available with the **Food Business Operator. Windows** were found open to the outside environment and houseflies observed inside the kitchen

and doors not close fitted to avoid entry of pests. Houseflies were observed inside the kitchen.

# Unhygienic food items found in city restaurants

### PNS HYDERABAD

ties here are very good.

Telangana's Commissioner of Food Safety conducted inspections at two restaurants in Gachibowli on Wednesday and found violations in those eateries.

Ranganath had enough money to live for the rest of his life. He

said that it is very sad that he

committed suicide due to

loneliness. Ranganath hoped

that such cultural centres

would show a way to the

elderly who were suffering

very happy to see this cultur-

The atmosphere and facili-

Venkat Reddy said, "I am

from loneliness, he added.

al centre.

# lelangana the pioneer

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | AUGUST 24, 2024

# **CPI condemns BJP's policies** against States

### PNS WARANGAL

CPI national secretary Dr K Narayana said that the Modi government at the Centre, which had declared 'Sub ka Vikas', has now changed its slogan to 'Whoever is with us...we will be with them'. He said the BJP is implementing a new policy. Narayana said that it is part of the BJP strategy to target the states ruled by other parties and thereby causing problems. Allowing a Governor nominated by the Central government to prosecute the Chief Minister of Karnataka elected by the people is a proof of that. This policy followed by the Modi government is against the Constitution and the spirit of federalism, he added. Former MP Syed Aziz Pasha, CPI State secretary and MLA Koonanneni Sambasiva Rao, secretariat member Palla Venkat Reddy were among those present.

# **TO GENERATE JOBS FOR AROUND 2,000 LOCAL YOUTH**

# **Cutting-edge electronics** manufacturing unit opened

### **PNS** RANGAREDDY

Kanes, a global leader in electronic system design and manufacturing, has launched a state-of-the-art electronics manufacturing facility in Kongarakalan, in the Ibrahimpatnam mandal of Rangareddy district. The inauguration took place on Friday by IT and Industries Minister Duddiella Sridhar Babu and Ibrahimpatnam MLA Mal Reddy Rangareddy, marking a significant milestone in the region's industrial development.

During the inauguration, Minister Sridhar Babu highlighted the significance of Kanes' expansion into Telangana. With an investment of Rs 2,018 crore, the facility is equipped with advanced manufacturing technologies, including high-precision electronic assembly, 3D optical inspec-tion systems and AI-enabled state-ofthe-art inspection processes, all com-pliant with lead-free/ROHS standards.

The Minister emphasised that the new facility would generate employ-ment for around 2,000 local youth, offering a much-needed boost to the economy of this historically underdeveloped region. Minister Sridhar Babu also mentioned the government's efforts to further develop



IT and Industries Minister Duddiella Sridhar Babu inaugurates Kanes' new electronics manufacturing facility in Kongarakalan, Rangareddy district, alongside Ibrahimpatnam MLA Mal Reddy Rangareddy and Kanes Technology Chairman Sabita Ramesh

Kamareddy

man dies in

'heart attack'

PNS KAMAREDDY

Saudi Arabia of

A workers from Telangana

died after four days of his

arrival in Saudi Arabia and

the incident came to light 45

days after his death and his body was repatriated two

The 39-year-old Mohammed Sharif, who hailed from Kamareddy dis-

trict in Telangana had gone

cleaning company in Riyadh on June 3 and he

asad

the local economy.

Ibrahimpatnam, including the estab-lishment of a prestigious skill university and the upcoming regional ring road, which are expected to transform the area into a significant hub for Hyderabad.

MLA Mal Reddy Rangareddy expressed his gratitude for Kanes choosing Ibrahimpatnam for their facility. He assured that the government would extend all possible support to non-polluting industries like and other key government officials and Kanes, which contribute positively to industry leaders.

The inaugural event was attended by Rangareddy District Collector Sashanka, Kanes Technology Chairman Sabita Ramesh, MD Ramesh Kannan, CEO Raghu Panicker, State Infrastructure and Industrial Development Corporation Vice-Chairman Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Ibrahimpatnam MPP Niranjan Reddy, Industries District Officer Sreelakshmi and other law corporation officials and



Warangal Collector Satya Sarada interacting with doctors at PHC in Warangal on Friday

### PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao said that Congress ministers are still in opposition mode and are issuing random statements even nine months after taking charge.

KTR posted on X regarding this on Friday saying, "The Congress ministers in Telangana are still in opposition mode and are making random statements even nine months after taking charge. The Revenue Minister says the

ORR was leased out at a throwaway price by the BRS admin. If this is what they believe, I demand the government to cancel the TOT (Toll, Operate, Transfer) lease and invite fresh bids immediately.

"If they don't do this and continue to make frivolous claims, the people will conclude that it is hollow rhetoric. FYI, we had followed NHAI norms for the TOT model and also followed a transparent process for price discovery," KTR added.

SEASONAL DISEASES Collector warns doctors against being negligent

### PNS WARANGAL

District Collector Satya Sarada on Friday warned the doctors against laxity in treating poor patients coming to the hospitals. She asked the doctors to educate people on seasonal diseases looming large in the district.

The Collector made a surprise visit to primary health centre and urban residential school at Banojipet here.

Satya Sarada stressed the need to take precautions to prevent the spread of malaria, dengue and other seasonal diseases. She inspected the records in primary health centre. She enquired about number of patients visiting the hos-

The Collector directed the doctors to ensure that tests are conducted for patients suffering from fever for more than four days. The district administration has already provided test kits to all hospital. She asked the ASHA workers to examine the conditions at the field level.

Patients diagnosed with malaria or dengue should be referred to MGM Hospital, she said. She visited the health camp being organised at Banojipet. She inspected the medicines being provided to patients.

Later, the Collector visited urban residential school. She inspected the quality of midday meal being provided to children. She ate food along

instead of 'Chalo Delhi' ple...?? Stopping the breadwin-ners If you go around the cap-ital of the country...Who will BRS Working President KT Rama Rao asked Chief Minister solve the problems of farm-ers...? Who will complete loan Revanth Reddy to take up a 'Chalo Palle' programme instead of 'Chalo Delhi' if he ers...? Who will complete loan waiver? Working day and night for the high command...no time to think about the farm-ers'..?? Magic words for farm-ers and bags for Delhi leaders? With over 20 trips to Delhi Talangang KTR posted regarding this on his X account on Friday. Criticising the CM for visiting New Delhi frequently, KTR asked whether 'bluffing words are for farmers and bass for

KTR asks CM to

launch 'Chalo Palle'

PNS HYDERABAD

has the guts.

Delhi leaders?'

are for farmers and bags for

"If the CM Revanth dares... Not "Chalo Delhi".. "Chalo Palle" should be taken up..

Lakhs of farmers are suffering

without loan waiver and the CM is going to Delhi without

even looking at them. Not one

or two...in eight months...will

you roam around Delhi 20

times...?? Will you make farm-

ers scapegoats with your

All words of the wind were

said during the election...but

now he is parading windmills.

What is the benefit of your

trips to the Telangana peo-

remote control regime .. ??

Telangana got "Gundusunna"...Dengue deaths on the other hand...On the other hand increasing crimes...

On the other hand, the concerns of farmers...With the misguided governance...in this dire situation that is affecting the entire state...the chief minister and ministers should be there.. not in Delhi... in the streets of Telangana ..

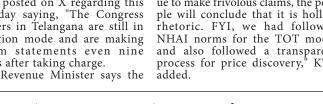
Blowing the state.. Asking the breadwinners.. If tries for the blessings of the high command every second...It is a fact that Telangana people will pull a chair one day.. Jai Kisan Jai Telangana," he said in his post on X.



CPI-M leader Nunna Nageswara Rao speaking to the media in Khammam on Friday

# **CPI-M** demands loan waiver scheme without any strings

# 'Cong Ministers still in Oppn mode'



Raghunandan gives '*Blitz*' | Cong govt using statues

### PNS KHAMMAM

Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) on Friday demanded that the State government implement loan waiver scheme without any strings attached to it.

CPI-M district secretary Nunna Nageswara Rao, speaking to the media, alleged that the loan waiver scheme was politicised. It turned out to be a challenge and counter challenges between Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and former minister T Harish Rao.

He stressed the need to implement the crop loan waivpromise made by the Congress ers, he said.

party ahead of elections. The CPI-M leaders demanded that white ration card should be withdrawn from among the eligibility criteria for securing loan waiver benefit.

The CPI-M would organise a massive protest in front of District Khammam

Collectorate on August 27. Nagewara Rao said that the ruling and opposition parties are trying to gain political mileage. He criticised the Chief Minister for saying that loan waiver was completed. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti

Vikramarka's statement showed that loan waiver bener in accordance with the efits are yet to reach all farm-

spoke to his family members the same day. Since then, he went missing when the family called back the number it was

days ago. The

found switched off. On June 7, a body was found in Aziziah Park of the city. He died of a heart attack,

according to medical reports. The police said that the deceased was an Indian national.

Based on his biometric details, his passport address was traced and the family was informed about the demise.

Meanwhile, Shafi was notified as an absconder by his employer as he failed to report to work.

# cuttings to Rahul's staff

PNS HYDERABAD

The BJP's Medak MP, M. Raghunandan Rao, gave clippings of the Bangladeshi news magazine, 'Blitz,' which had Rahul Gandhi's photos to Rahul's staff in New Delhi on Friday.

Later, speaking to the media along with Sirpur MLA Palvai Harish Babu, Raghunandan said that he went to Rahul Gandhi's residence but his staff informed him that Rahul Gandhi is in a meeting. Then Raghunandan gave

the Blitz magazine to Rahul Gandhi's staff. He said that he Rahul Gandhi's staff as he had ing a live-in partnership, he gave the Blitz magazine to said in Hyderabad on said.

false?



Thursday.

Raghunandan said that he has been waiting for Rahul Gandhi's reply regarding the Blitz magazine's report about Rahul's marriage. Why is Rahul Gandhi

not issuing notices to Blitz for publishing reports about his marriage if the reports are

He asked whether the woman shown in the magazine along with Rahul is his wife. Rahul should reveal whether

# to hide failures: BJP

PNS HYDERABAD

The main opposition party BRS has been opposing the installation of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's statue near the secretariat since last week. Criticism and countercriticism have been going on between the leaders of the Congress and the BRS. However, the BJP kept away from this all these days.

But on Friday, the BJP's official spokesperson in the state, Solanki Srinivas, said that a new culture of statues is being introduced to cover up the failures of the Congress government. He said that the issue of installing a statue of Rajiv Gandhi in front of the Secretariat is intended to divert public attention from the fail-

ures of the Congress admin. "What is the connection between Telangana and Rajiv Gandhi and his family? Hyderabad was merged with Andhra due to pressure from the Nehru dynasty. It was Rajiv Gandhi's family that suppressed

the 1969 Telangana movement. In 2004, it was Sonia Gandhi's family who said that Telangana would be made a separate state and then turned stubborn. It was Sonia Gandhi's family which announced the decision to create a Telangana state in 2009 on the occasion of Sonia's birthday and later retracted the decision.

Sonia Gandhi's family is responsible for the death's of 1,200 students of the Nadu Telangana movement," he said.

"The ideology of Rajiv Gandhi's family and that of Rahul Gandhi has made this country poor.

It is creating obstacles to development. Congress leaders themselves are talking about this.

The state government's role is limited to singing bhajans for Sonia Gandhi's family. Rahul's family has increased pressure on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Revanth is now roaming around New Delhi every week to cheer up Sonia's family," he said.



# Constitutionally speaking, royalty is not a tax

the payments made to the Government can-on 'royalty' as tax and States' not be deemed to be a tax merely because the statute provides for their recovery as arrears". This is a significant judgment which the Supreme Court delivered on July 29, 2024.

How the states need to distribute legislative powers between the Union and the States on the taxation of mineral rights is an important Constitutional aspect. The nine-judge Constitution Bench of Dr. DY Chandrachud, CJI, Hrishikesh Roy, Abhay S Oka, BV Nagarathna, JB Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish Chandra Sharma and Augustine George Masih JJ. has held that royalty paid by mining operators to the Central government is not a tax and that States have the power to levy cesses on mining and mineral-use activities. However, Justice BV Nagarathna gave a dissenting opinion.

power to levy cess on mining and mineral-use activities. Except for one judge, the bench held the following:"Royalty is not a tax. Royalty is a contractual consideration paid by the mining lessee to the lessor for the

enjoyment of mineral rights. The liability to pay royalty arises out of the contractual conditions of the mining lease. The payments made to the Government cannot be deemed to be a tax merely because the statute provides for their recovery as arrears.

"Entry 50 of List II does not constitute an exception to the position of law laid down in M. P. V. Sundararamier& Co. v. State of Andhra Pradesh, (1958) 9 STC 298. The legislative power to tax mineral rights vests with the State legislatures.

"Parliament does not have legislative competence to tax mineral rights under Entry 54 of List I; it is a general entry. Since the power to tax miner-

al rights is enumerated in Entry 50 of List II, Parliament cannot use its residuary powers to that subject matter.

"Regulation of mines and mineral development is enumerated under both the Union List (Entry 54 of List I) and the State List (Entry 23 of List II) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. "The entrustment of the subject to the State legislatures under Entry 23 of List II is made subject to the provisions of Entry 54 of List "Parliament enacted the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regula tion) Act, 1957' ('MMDR Act') in exercise of its legislative

powers under Article 246 of the Constitution.

"The MMDR Act is a comprehensive code for the regulation of mines and development of minerals. Section 9 provides that the holder of a mining lease shall pay royalty in respect of any mineral removed or consumed from the leased area at the specified rates.

**PROF MADABHUSHI SRIDHAR ACHARYULU** Dean, Mahindra University, Hyderabad

In India Cement, (AIR 1990 SC 85), (https://indiankanoon. org/doc/1907642/) a seven-judge Bench of the apex court held that royalty is tax, and the State legislatures lack the competence to levy taxes on mineral rights because the subject matter is covered by the MMDR Act. The Court also held that royalty cannot be used by the State legislature as

a measure of tax on mineralbearing lands under Entry 49 of List II.

"Later in State of West Bengal v. Kesoram Industries Ltd, 2004) 10 SCC 201 a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held that the decision in India Cement stemmed from an inadvertent error and clarified that royalty is not a tax. Thereafter, the State legislatures exercised their legisla-

tive powers to impose taxes on mineral-bearing land in pursuance of Entry 49 of List II by applying the mineral value or royalty as the measure of the tax. Why is this decision? What

is the true nature of royalty determined under Section 9 read with Section 15(1) of the MMDR Act? Is royalty in the nature of a tax? Whether Royalty is a tax?

The Supreme Court noted that the MMDR Act was enacted by Parliament in the exercise of its legislative power derived from Article

246 read with Entry 54 of List I. The Act seeks to provide for the regulation of mines and the development of minerals under the control of the Union. The Court said that the declaration indicates that Parliament intends to take the regulation of mines and development of mines under the control of the Union to the extent indicated in the statute.

The rates of royalty were primarily governed by the terms of the lease before the enactment of the MMDR Act. Once a mining lease was entered into between a lessor and lessee, the rates of royalty would remain static during the subsistence of the lease. Section 9 of the MMDR Act has enabled the Central Government to examine the rates of royalty concerning all minerals and modulate them periodically after taking into consideration various factors, including the uniformity of mineral prices.



# Nation 05

# HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | AUGUST 24, 2024

# ACROSS THE STATES



# 15-year-old boy drowned in waterlogged road in Delhi

A<sup>15-</sup>year-old boy drowned in a waterlogged road near The British School in central Delhi's Chanakya Puri area following heavy rain in parts of city on Friday, officials said. The deceased, Sourabh, lived with his family at the Vivekanand Camp in the same area, the police said. According to the police, Sourabh and some of his friends were playing in the rain on the waterlogged road near the British School when he accidently ventured into deep water and drowned. The victim's friends informed his family members, who immediately reached the spot, pulled him out of the water and rushed him to the hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival, the officials said. The police said the body of the victim has been sent for postmortem and further investigations are underway.



# JNU students take out march to Education Ministry office

embers of the JNU students' union on Friday took out a march to the Ministry of Education to press for their demands, including increase in scholarship amounts, but were stopped by police just outside their campus. There is a heavy deployment of police personnel with multiple layers of barricading, trying to stop the students from stepping out of the campus. However, the students marched for half a kilometre outside the campus and were stopped by the police. A clash broke out as students tried to break the barricades. A police official earlier said that no permission was given to the students to march outside the campus. "They will be stopped, if they come out of the university," the official had said earlier. The police have kept buses on stand-by to detain those trying to proceed further.



# **Countless questions waiting** for **BJP** in **UP**: Akhilesh

### PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav posed around two dozen questions for the BJP on Friday, saying people across Uttar Pradesh are waiting for the rul-ing party with these queries.

Listing questions on topics including stray cattle, unemployment, law and order and farmers' issues in a long post in Hindi on X, Yadav said, Countless questions are waiting for the BJP's allies on every footpath, panchayat, street corner, market, square and chowk.

"Now, the public is impatient to tell the BJP's allies that we will not talk to those who are not with the public," he added.

polls, they Referring to the poor show of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Lok Sabha polls, Yadav claimed that after the election results, factions in the saffron party have lost faith in each other

By blaming each other, they will neither be able to win back that trust nor any upcoming election, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said.

Pointing towards the 10 Assembly bypolls to be held in Uttar Pradesh in the near future, he said, he added "Now that the BJP's allies are saying that they will go to the booths and take care of the arrangements, it clearly means that in view of the historic defeat in

"Now, the public is impatient to tell the **BJP**'s allies that we will not talk to

those who are not "Actually, after the election defeat, the with the public,"

assuming that the BJP workers have left the booths out of despair or the power-hungry allies of the BJP, wearing masks, no longer have faith in the BJP workers.

that they were not the reason for the defeat, they are still powerful, it is the BJP that has become weak, Yadav added. He claimed that in both scenarios, it is proved that

BJP factions have lost trust

Another aspect is that the BJP's allies want to show

themselves.

among

the BJP members have accepted defeat and are extremely worried about the future. "But by blaming each

other, they will neither be able to win back that trust nor any upcoming election," the SP chief said.



over increasing space debris

# None from NCP (SP) keen on being projected as CM face: Pawar

# PNS PUNE

Amid Shiv Sena (UBT)'s push for the opposition MVA to declare its chief ministerial candidate in Maharashtra, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) president Sharad Pawar on Friday insisted no one from his party was interested in getting projected for the top post and instead they were focused on effecting a change of government in the poll-

bound state. He informed that seat-sharing talks among Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) constituents for the upcoming assembly polls were delayed due to the August 20 protest in Thane district's Badlapur over alleged sexual abuse of two minor girls in a school, and they will now be held on August 27.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) and the NCP (SP), along with the Congress, are part of the MVA, a state-level alliance of opposition parties.

he argued.

and the NCP.

Replying to a question on Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray insisting on this issue (of CM face) now. the MVA projecting a CM face before the assembly polls,

while the Congress taking a give that alternative to them," different stand on the issue, contended the veteran politi-Pawar maintained as far as his cian who has served as party was concerned, no one Maharashtra CM multiple was interested in being projecttimes. The Rajya Sabha MP said ed as the candidate for the top the MVA constituents should finalize seat-sharing at the ear-"No one is interested (in liest.He said a meeting to disbeing projected as CM face) cuss seat allocation among the allies was postponed due from our party. No one is being projected from our to the Badlapur incident and party. We just want to bring a change in the government.

We want to give a better administration to the people of the state by remaining on one page (with other MVA allies)," Before the polls, Pawar President Murmu voices concern

r e

asserted focus should be on providing an alternative to the ruling Mahayuti which con-sists of the BJP, the Shiv Sena

As far as I am concerned, I am out of question and that is why there was no need to raise

Today, people want an alter-native and let's focus on how to sions debris free by 2030.

landing Chandrayaan-3 project. it will now take place on August 27.

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI problems for space mis-sions," she said during the President Droupadi Murmu event at Bharat Mandapam on Friday voiced concern over in New Delhi that was increasing space debris as a attended by Union minister result of numerous satellites Jitendra Singh, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S being placed in orbit and lauded ISRO for setting itself a tar-

Somanath, engineers, ISRO scientists and representaget to make future space mis-Murmu was speaking at tives of the country's nascent space industry. The president appreciated the maiden National Space Day celebrations to mark the first anniversary of the the ISRO System for Safe and Índia's Sustainable Operations

said. The president presented awards to winners of the Robotics Challenge and the Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon on the occasion. During her speech, Murmu made a mention of the research paper on the Chandrayaan-3 data that proved that the Moon was an ocean of molten magma which

space research activities.

"I am also happy to note that

India is moving forward to

make all its space missions

debris free by 2030," Murmu

Cong for martyr status to farmers killed during farm laws protest

5<sup>™</sup> SEASON OF DELHI THEATRE FESTIVAL Plays by Shabana Azmi, Naseeruddin Shah on cards

post

**PNS** ■ CHANDIGARH formed with people's bless

Management Facility, which

ensures continuous progress of

cooled down later.



### PNS NEW DELHI

The fifth edition of Delhi Theatre Festival will return from September 20 with plays by theatre and cinema veterans like Naseeruddin Shah, Ratna Pathak Shah, Shabana Azmi and Lillete Dubey.

Organised by Alchemist Live, the shows will be staged at the Siri Fort Auditorium, Kamani Auditorium, and OP Jindal Auditorium in Delhi, and Orana Conventions in Gurugram.

The three-day festival will stage a total of seven plays by some of the most noted names

in theatre. On September 20-21, Ratna Pathak and Naseeruddin Shah's "Old World" will be staged at the Siri Fort Auditorium. The play will move to Orana Conventions on September 22.

The drama involving the actor couple is revolves around the friendship that develops between an eccentric woman and a reserved doctor after a chance encounter at a health

resort. Twinkle Khanna's celebrated play "Salaam Noni Appa", featuring Lillete Dubey, Yateen Karyekar and Jayati Bhatia will open at Kamani Auditorium on

explores the dynamics between two widow sisters, as one of them finds love in a younger man. Mandira Bedi and Samir Soni's "Anything

but Love" will be staged at Kamani Auditorium on September 20. A comedy for adults, 'Anything but Love" is a

September 21.

'Salaam Noni Appa"

story of two people, recently divorced but maybe still very much in love. "Broken Images" by Shabana

The show features Azmi playing two sisters living under Azmi will be staged at Orana the same roof - one an intellec-

tually brilliant paraplegic, the other a plod-DEL ding writer - but the arrangement is fraught, THEATRE FESTIVAL because as they respond to life together, and separately, they continually modify the image they have of each other and the world around. "Delhi Theatre Festival has always held a special place in my heart. Performing for a Delhi audience is always an

Conventions on September 21. invigorating experience. Returning to Delhi to perform 'Broken Images' after a couple of years fills me both

tion.

with excitement and anxiety," Azmi said in a statement.

of

"Space debris can cause

"One on One Dhamaal" by Rajit Kapur, Vrajesh Hirjee, Sumeet Vyas, Sohrab Ardeshir, Anu Menon, and Shikha Talsania will be staged on September 21 at OP Jindal Auditorium.

The unique theatrical production brings together nine of Mumbai's finest actors to deliver monologues and duologues in English and Hindi to address subjects as varied as marriage, Bollywood, inedible airline food, the politics of road naming ceremonies, and the experience of living in a big city.

Farmers who died during the protest against the three farm laws would be given martyr status if the Congress wins the Haryana assembly elections, party general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala said on Friday.Hitting out at the BJP-led NDA government, Surjewala said, "They were forced to withdraw the black farm laws. They had assured a legal guarantee for minimum support prices (MSP). They have failed to do it.""As many as 750 farmers died during the agitation (at the Delhi border). A Congress government will be

ings after one month (in Haryana). Within 30 days of assuming charge, all 750 (farmers) will be given martyr status and their next of kin a job," Surjewala, a former Haryana minister, said at a gathering in Kaithal district.Farmers -mostly from Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan -- had protested against the now-repealed three farm laws along Delhi's borders in 2020-2021.

On the issue of legal guarantee for MSP, Surjewala said, 'Narendra Modi, Manohar Lal Khattar and Nayab Singh Saini did not fulfil that promise.

# App to verify...

### Continued from page 1

Similarly, the correction of 41,322 accounts out of 1,24,545 accounts where Aadhaar details were entered incorrectly has already been done, he said.

It has been directed to provide the money already deposited by the government in the accounts of the clients in various banks to farmers. Bank officials have already given orders to refund renewal accounts and grant new loans to the waived accounts immediately, and banks have already paid back the Rs 18,000 crore deposited by the state government before August 15.

Societies and bank representatives have been advised to grant new loans immediately to remaining customers as well.

The loan waiver will be applied in a phased manner for farmers who owe amounts above Rs 2 lakh. Similarly, farmers who did not get their loans waived due to technical reasons and family confirmation should contact their nearest Agriculture Officer or provide details when they come to your house.

# **SPEED** to govern... Shakti Scheme, the construc-

# Continued from page 1

Continued from page 1

The Chandrayaan-3 data

sets are available on Policy-

based data Retieval, Analytics,

Dissemination and Notification

System (PRADAN) portal of

the Indian Space Science Data

The Pragyan rover conduct-

ed in-situ chemical analyses of

the lunar surface, contributing

to a better understanding of the

Moon's origin and evolution.

This information is crucial for

future lunar exploration and

utilisation.Scientists from

resource

Physical

www.pradan.issdc.gov.in.

Centre

potential

Ahmedabad's

(ISSDC)

Musi

tion of district federation buildings, residential schools The 19 projects under the SPEED programme are the complexes, institutional Riverfront development of Amma Development, the develop-Adarsh Schools Committees, ment of satellite towns, the Advanced Technology Centres in ITIs, New expansion of metro rail, the reorganization of GHMC, the Osmania Hospital, 15 new Regional Ring Road, the elenursing and 28 new paramedvated corridors in Hyderabad, ical colleges, promotion of new airports and construcmedical tourism, promotion tion of the Telangana Bhavan of ecotourism projects, tem-New Delhi, ple tourism and implementa-Implementation of the Mahila tion of anti-drugs strategy.

# 'Demolish my house if it...

### Continued from page 1

The house where I am staying now is in the name of my son but I will not say that it is not mine," he said.

Ponguleti said that on Thursday a YouTube channel shot a video of his residence standing in front of it but he did not file any complaint. However, the YouTube channel reporter said that he had

estimated the house's loca-The Revenue Minister said

that he had asked the YouTube channel reporter to explain what his reaction would be if HYDRAA officials went to the spot and found the house was not in the FTL area or in the buffer zone of a water body. The Minister said that

HYDRAA officials demol- had set up HYDRAA.

ished the house of a relative of former Union Minister Pallamraju

He asked KTR to reveal the lease amount of Janwada farmhouse and added that some media outlets and KTR's sycophants are engaging in spreading lies about him.He said that people that is why the government

# should not get deceived and

# A dazzling display of...

# Continued from page 1

Their radiant procession was carefully monitored by two security personnel in navy blue khaki suits, accompanied by a police officer, ensuring that the devout could perform their rituals in peace amidst the throngs of visitors. The temple, a beacon of faith, sees a daily footfall of between 75,000 and 90,000 pilgrims.

Svamala Rao, the Executive Officer of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). revealed that the worldrenowned Sri Venkateswara temple received offerings worth Rs 125 crore through its donation boxes in July alone. During this month, over 22 lakh pilgrims visited the temple, with 8.6 lakh devotees partaking in the traditional ritual of tonsuring.

Southern...

Continued from page 1

# and we should move ahead in that direction without wasting

time Both sides should sit together and find ways to come out of this crisis," Modi said.

apprised Zelenskyy of his mes-Following the talks, Zelenskyy said India supports sage to Putin in Samarkand in September 2022 as well as in Ukraine's national sovereignty "Some time back, when I met and territorial integrity and it is President Putin in Samarkand, "critical because everyone in the world must equally respect the UN Charter.""Following the I had told him that this was not the era of war. Last month when I went to Russia, I said in visit, we also agreed on a joint clear words that the solution to statement focusing on the development of a strategic partnerany problem is never found on ship, bilateral trade, and contin-"The solution comes through ued military-technical coopertalks, dialogue and diplomacy ation," he said.

The eastern region, comprising states such as Assam, West Bengal and Bihar, also reported an increase in the water-storage levels. The reservoirs in this region are currently at 60 per cent capacity, a marked improvement from the 43 per cent recorded last year.

Similarly, the western region, which includes Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa, has seen an increase in the storage levels, with reservoirs now at 74 per cent capacity, up from 69 per cent last year.

# HC restrains.... ISRO releases scientific...

after studying the data from

Chandrayaan-3 provided evi-

dence to confirm the Lunar

Magma Ocean Hypothesis that

the Moon evolved from a giant

ocean of magma which later

Droupadi Murmu made it a

point to laud the findings of

India's space scientists which

were published in science jour-

nal 'Nature' in her speech on the

National Space Day. The presi-

dent said ISRO had made

remarkable achievements in

the space sector as well as

made invaluable contributions

to the country's social and eco-

nomic development.

down.President

cooled

# Research Laboratory (PRL)

A division bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar said the Maharashtra government

They would pass a detailed order shortly on two petitions filed on Friday through advo-cates Subhash Jha and Gunaratna Sadavarte challenging the call for bandh, the judges said."We are restraining any political party and/or any individual from calling for a bandh. The state shall take all preventive steps," the HC said

shall take all necessary steps to prevent a bandh.

# Continued from page 1

# Continued from page 1

Modi arrived in Kyiv following a nearly 10-hour train journey from Poland in the second leg of his two-nation trip.Modi's wide-ranging talks with Zelenskyy primarily focused on ways to end the war and boost bilateral cooperation in areas of trade, defence, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and education.

"We (India) are not neutral. From the very beginning, we have taken sides. And we have chosen the side of peace. We have come from the land of Buddha where there is no place

Ukraine, Russia should sit... for war; we have come from the

had given a message of peace to

The prime minister also

the entire world," Modi said.

Moscow last month.

the battlefield," Modi said.

land of Mahatma Gandhi who

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# ne pioneer



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# Surging ahead

Kamala's socialism resonates with people while personal attacks by Trump diminish his chances in the US elections

s the United States gears up for another contentious election, the spotlight is once again on Vice President Kamala Harris. Her steadfast commitment to secularism has struck a chord with a diverse electorate that values the separation of church and state. In contrast, former President Donald Trump's attacks on Harris, aimed at undermining her credibility, may be backfiring, potentially diminishing his chances in the upcoming elections. As the political climate in the United States continues to evolve, Vice President Kamala Harris has emerged as a prominent advocate for policies rooted in democratic socialism. Her focus on social justice, economic equality, and government intervention to address systemic issues resonates with a growing segment of the American electorate. Meanwhile, former President Donald Trump's attacks on Harris appear to be weakening his appeal, potentially diminishing his chances in the upcoming elections. Kamala Harris's brand of socialism



centres on creating a fairer society through progressive taxation expanded healthcare access, and stronger social safety nets. Her policies aim to address the widening wealth gap, ensure affordable education, and promote racial and gender equality. These ideas have gained traction, particularly among younger voters, minorities, and working-class Americans who feel left behind by the current economic system. Harris's commitment to these principles is seen as a response to the pressing needs of a diverse and economically stratified nation. By advocating for policies that prioritize the needs of the many over the interests of the few, Harris is tap-

ping into a widespread desire for systemic change. In contrast, Donald Trump's strategy has often relied on personal attacks, attempting to discredit Harris by questioning her policies and character. However, these comments have not only failed to undermine Harris's growing support but may also be backfiring on Trump himself. Many voters perceive Trump's rhetoric as divisive and out of touch with the issues that matter most to them, such as healthcare, education, and economic justice. Moreover, Trump's focus on personal attacks rather than substantive policy debates could be alienating voters who are looking for solutions to real problems. As the electorate becomes increasingly concerned with issues like income inequality, climate change, and access to healthcare, Trump's attacks may come across as a distraction from the pressing issues at hand. Kamala Harris's approach, rooted in democratic socialism, offers a vision of an America where everyone has a fair shot at success. This vision is resonating with a growing number of voters who are frustrated with the status quo and are seeking leaders who will champion their interests. Meanwhile, Trump's jabs may be costing him the support of those who are tired of political mudslinging and are looking for a leader who can address their needs.



# Violence against women: Unheeded cries

As public outrage grows, the challenge before the authorities is to provide safety and dignity of women across the country

n a flashback all the past horrendous incidents of violence against women, particularly incidents of rape cross the mind. Here in our country, newspaper pages more than often bring out horrifying accounts of sexual violence a 65-year-old grandmother assaulted in Kharagpur or a teenage girl, native of Uttar Pradesh, was gang-raped inside a government bus at the Dehradun Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) in Uttarakhand on August 12, 2024, and the latest from Maharashtra, when on August 20, 2024, two minor girls, aged 4, studying in Nursery, were sexually assaulted by a school sweep er in the washroom of a wellknown Adarsh Vidya Mandir in Badlapur school near Mumbai. These incidents happened within days when the entire nation vas gripped by the horrors of the R G Kar Medical College and Hospital at Kolkata. And these are not isolated incidents – they are part of a grim reality where a rape reported every 21 minutes. Yet, despite the horror these crimes evoke, they are quickly forgotten by all except the victims and their families, who are left to fight lonely, often futile battles for justice for years, which sometimes is only the ray of hope for them.India's response to sexual violence remains disturbingly inadequate. More than a decade has passed since the Nirbhaya case - a brutal gang rape that shocked the nation and led to the passage of new sexual assault laws. But the situation has barely improved. Nearly 50 years before Nirbhaya, the fearless, Aruna Shanbaug, a 25-year-old nurse, was viciously assaulted by a hospital cleaner in Mumbai. Sodomized, strangled with a metal chain, and left for dead, she survived - only to remain in a vegetative state for 41

years until her death. Her ordeal led to a landmark judgment on passive euthanasia in India, yet her suffering stands a testament to the enduring failures of a society that continues to fail its women. The recent brutal rape and murder of a 31year-old postgraduate trainee doctor in Kolkata serves as a grim reminder that little has changed. Female healthcare workers or



women workers per se, still fear for their safety even in supposed sanctuaries such as hospitals. This ongoing crisis underscores the dire need for real change – a change that goes beyond laws and addresses the deep-seated cultural and institutional failures that allow such atrocities to persist. This incident of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital has shaken the conscience of West Bengal, and the ripple effects are being felt across the political landscape - and the entire nation. The public's reaction to this crime has been fierce and unforgiving. Protests have erupted across the state, with citizens demanding justice not only for the victim but also calling for broader reforms to ensure such incidents are not repeated. The political and social

response to the incident has been equally chaotic. The decision for a swift call for a CBI investigation and capital punishment, alongside the rally for "Khela Hobe Divas," has been met with criticism for its timing and focus.

Additionally, state actions, such as the transfer of doctors allegedly involved in protests and the use of social media to counter celebrity critiques (read singers), have further fueled debates about the handling of the case. The political implications of this incident could be far-reaching. But beyond politics, the safety of women and girls in India remains a critical concern, deeply rooted in societal norms, legal frameworks, and

institutional practices. Despite advancements in legislation and public awareness, instances of violence and harassment against women are prevalent. High-profile cases of assault, trafficking, and domestic violence highlight the persistent vulnerabilities HIGH-PROFILE faced by women and girls. The legal system, while equipped with laws like the 'Protection CASES OF ASSAULT, of Human Rights Act' and the TRAFFICKING. 'Criminal Law Amendment Act, or for that matter, the AND DOMESTIC Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO VIOLENCE of 2012), often struggles with implementation and enforce-HIGHLIGHT ment.

There are systemic delays in justice delivery and shortcomings in police response, which exacerbate the sense of insecurity. Protective measures, including the establishment of fast-track courts and specialized police units, aim to address these issues and provide some ray of light in this Tagore, these lines echo far and dark world for women.

making it difficult for protective laws to translate into tangible safety for women. The lack of comprehensive sexual education and community engagement further perpetu-ates harmful stereotypes and behaviours. Right education for the boys at home is another crucial area for intervention by the government and NGOs. The role of NGOs and grassroots movements has been pivotal in advocating for women's rights and safety. Effective safety measures must involve not only legal reforms but also significant shifts in overall attitudes and community involvement.

RAJDEEP PATHAK

The challenge before the authorities is not just one of governance but of moral leadership – a test that will define their legacy to guarantee safety to women and girl children. Aami tomari maatiro konya, janoni bosundhara /Tobe aamar manobojanmo keno bonchito kora... (I am no other, but the daughter of yours, O' motherland/Why deprive me of the legacy of my human life...). Written in the year 1933 by Rabindranath wide and call for collective action. It is time to stand up to see where we stand and where we fail. (The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

Further, societal attitudes towards women play a significant role in undermining these measures. Deep-seated patriarchal views and cultural practices continue to normalize gender-based violence,

A mahout bathes an elephant at Elephant Orphanage in Pinnawala

# Empowering Women: Mandatory self-defence training in schools



This proactive approach could provide women with the skills and confidence to fend off potential attackers, empowering them

he cauldron of public rage is boiling over in the aftermath of the rape and murder of a young resident doctor in Kolkata. It isn't the first time that the nation is witnessing such gruesomeness, and it won't be the last either unless something drastic happens at all levels — societal, legal and psychological.

It isn't that there were no horrific instances of sexual assault on women before Nirbhaya. There were, but Nirbhaya's case brought the issue of women's safety (or the lack of it) front and centre, and it resulted in instituting legislation that offered women more protection and legal support. Stringent measures have been implemented, yet incidents keep happening across the country. It nearly feels like no external force can stem this rot, and it is time for women to take their protection into their own hands, literally.In light of the above, I am wondering if it wouldn't be more prudent and practical to arm our girls with selfdefence tactics right from the beginning. Crimes against women have become so reg-



ular, that attention must nation and demand for puninow turn towards finding tive action cannot pre-empt means to empower women future instances. in a way that will give them What can curb it is the genconfidence and security in eral knowledge among different realms of their proerrant men that the woman fessional and private lives. they have cornered is capa-The violations can probably ble of packing a punch, a be attributed to a deep-rootchop or a kick that will neued patriarchal mindset that tralise them. Martial arts has been the bane of women has been an optional activi-(not just in India), but fixing ty for girls in an urban setthe blame on society or its ting, but only when it is vagaries does not help us introduced as a part of the fight critical issues such as curriculum from primary this. It's worse when women grades in every school and themselves are held responthey must be genuinely sible for the abuses they are emancipated from the dansubjected to. gers that lurk at every corner of their daily lives.

If society wants to pin the responsibility of safety on women, then there must be an action plan to arm women with the necessary armament.

In simple words, why not punishment to perpetrators,

It is encouraging to learn

that the government is intent

on its aim to ensure the safe-

ty of women in the country

and hand out the severest

make martial arts and other but these are steps taken post-incident. What is sugself-defence lessons compulsory in the school curgested in this piece is a plan riculum? If there can be a to provide a pre-emptive sports or PT period, there measure, a way to forestall can be a martial arts period violent attacks against too. The very idea of equip-ping our girls with the skills women by their defences. It can deter a good majority of to fend off troublemakers men on the loose with makes me jubilant and offers vagrant ideas. hope that no legislation can Parents who are better

offer. Widespread condeminformed enrol their daughters in self-defence programmes, but they are few and far between. The real difference will be seen only when every school-going child is taught the tech niques to ward off an offender by dint of their physical prowess.

> If our women can win medals in the boxing and wrestling rings, if they can build enough brawns along with brains in school, if every man who casts a salacious glance on a woman remembers that his prospective victim is not a pushover, then there will be change. Let us empower our girls with the spunk to keep the marauders at bay.

(The author is a columnist, author and writing coach based in Dubai; views are personal)

### LETTERS 미

THE PERSISTENT

**VULNERABILITIES** 

FACED BY

WOMEN

# **VALID CONCERNS ON E-COMMERCE**

Madam — Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, has raised valid concerns about the questionable practices of e-commerce companies, particularly regarding predatory pricing, cash burning, successive years of losses, and the use of FDI to cover these losses. His concerns emphasize the need for policymakers to ensure a level playing field for local businesses and industries. More troubling is the destination and intent behind the FDI in these companies. Ecommerce companies consistently declare significant losses in their income tax returns, carrying them forward year after year to offset against future profits. This cycle continues with mergers, where the losses of merged companies are also carried forward. In contrast, local traders and entrepreneurs pay regular taxes on their incomes, while e-commerce companies avoid taxes through their accounting strategies.

This tax advantage, along with the convenience and wide range of products offered by online trade, gives e-commerce companies a significant edge. Goyal suggests that cash burn by e-commerce companies should not be allowed as a deduction, and the period for carrying forward losses should be limited to a maximum of two years. The impact of e-commerce on local traders is already evident, with potential job losses on the horizon. Another concern is the shift of youth from traditional businesses and agriculture to delivery jobs, leading to their migration from rural areas to metro cities. Vinod Johri | New Delhi

**MODERN SLAVERY** 

Madam- "I freed a thousand slaves. I could have freed more if only they knew they were slaves". One need not look beyond these thought-provoking words of American abolitionist Harriet Tubman to decipher the evils of slavery. Though Tubman spoke at the end of the 19th century, her words hold true for modern slavery as well. Human trafficking, bonded

# Lateral entries rolled back



propos to " The Govt steps back " published on 22nd August, it is my response". Efficient bureaucracy leads to good governance and with this good intention the gov-

labour and forced marriages are direct examples of today's slavery whereas domestic work, construction activities, and sexual exploitation fall into the "domain" of forced labour. Nothing can exemplify modern slavery better than the child labour. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has identified about twenty five million men and women as victims of modern slavery.

Nobody can turn somebody into a slave unless the latter allows them is now something like a misnomer. ILO has specially targeted migrant workers who are easily lured because of their poor understanding of local language and tradition. To take stock of the progress done by ancillary agencies and the respective governments, "International Day for the Abolition of Slave trade" is observed on August 23. It is hoped that the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states " no one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms" gains a fresh momentum. Ganapathi Bhat |Akola

ernment wanted to rope in 45 lateral entries into our civil services, which was not the first time, it has been happening since Nehru's days. But such is the compulsion of coalition politics that the government had to give in to the demands of its own allies.

Prime Minister Modi had also rolled back critical three farm laws which were in the larger interest of the farmers. So now after this decision, it is going to boost opposition' morale to put Gol on the mat again in future, and it has given Modi's government a negative and weak government's image. Hopefully it will learn its lessons and take opposition and allies on board before rolling out any sensitive changes or policies in future. It is the most democratic thing to do anyway because what is democracy if it is not inclusive and does not reflects people's will.

Bal Govind Noida

## **NO LIMITS FOR PARA PLAYERS**

Madam — The season of Paralympics is all set to began with Indian athletic contingent start reaching over there in the Game village of Paris. So far, the closing of Paris Olympics done, with India taking on six medals only, however some sports spectators and aficionados are setting the medal count limit with 12 medals at the Paralympics.

India has successfully lifted 19 medals in Paralympics Tokyo edition of 2021, for all those are setting the bar before the real talent actually comes up, it is crucial to appreciate the talent and zeal of our para players. Let's don't set any specific boundary of medals that they have to win for the nation. Why just 12, our players have the capability of winning much more. May their competitive spirit and sportsmanship, let them conquer the sports laurels in a celebrated manner without any pressure.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | AUGUST 24, 2024

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# **THE ESSENCE OF BEING: BEYOND BODY AND MIND**

The soul is envisioned as pure and tranguil, the mind remains latent and unmanifest.



### RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

t is now becoming something of a cliché in various circles of modern life—from religion to psychology to holistic medicine—to use the phrase "body-mind-soul" or "body-mind-spirit" when referring to our totality as human beings. So, what do we exactly mean when we ask, What is the body? What is the mind? What is the soul? and What is the spirit? It is often said that the real self is behind the mind or intellect. It is also said that we can experience and know the self when we go beyond the mind, which is like a sheath of the soul.

This is truly said, but it means something different than what is generally understood because to experience or perceive the soul, we do not have to cross the mind which is considered to be a subtle form of matter. No! Instead, we have to calm the ripples of the mind, stop it from being agitated by the outer world, and check its outward tendency. From a spiritual perspective, it should be understood that when the soul is in the soul-world, it is pure, calm, tranquil, and above all bondages or attributes.

There, the mind is unmanifest, and its abilities of volition, action, desire, understanding, ascertainment, etc., are not at play but at rest-not emerged but latent and merged. While in the soul-world, the soul is pinned, so to say, only on one thought, one consciousness, one feeling, one understanding, viz-'I am a Soul, I am a Soul, I am a Soul'. That is allnothing more. The turbulence, the vagrancy, the sportiveness of the mind is at rest, or you may say that, in a sense, it is in deep sleep. Therefore, when it is said that "If we want to experience the peace and tranquility



of the soul or have to know the self, we will have to go beyond the intellect and the mind," it does not mean that we will penetrate, percolate through, tear away, or cross over to a material form as the mind is understood to be. No! It means that to know ourselves, we will have to concentrate our mind on the maxim: "I am a soul, a child of the Supreme Soul."

We will have to make our intellect and mind one-pointed and disposed to understand the Self alone. We will have to lay all our memories, thoughts, feelings, etc., to rest. This is what would be 'going beyond' the mind. For this, there are so many methods that have been advocated, demonstrated, advised, and laid down by various spiritual and religious teachers. However, the all-knowing Almighty has offered His supreme advice that we should control the mind using the intellect. This means that we have to know the Self, the Supreme, etc., and using that, know the Self to calm ourselves. He has sermonized that it can be best done by pinning the mind on the name, form, attributes, and relation of the Supreme with the soul. His sermon is, "Manmana Bhav," i.e., concentrate your mind on me, your love, your faith in me. And I assure you that I will bless you with supreme sanctity, peace, and bliss, and you will attain me. I will purge you of all sins, rest assured. If we act as HE says, all our inner conflict will end, and we will work only as His divine instrument.By aligning ourselves with the Supreme, our mind will cease its endless wandering, and we will find ourselves centred and at peace. We will then be able to adjust ourselves easily and quickly in any situation. Having been freed from other psychological memories, except that of the Supreme and our duty, our energy potential will find no resistance and will be free for full performance. We will thus be able to attain excellence and experience peace and tranquillity without putting in much effort. This state of effortless being is what every soul seeks, whether knowingly or unknowingly. The Supreme guides us to this state of fulfilment, away from the darkness of ignorance. Now, it's up to us whether to listen to the Almighty or keep wandering in the darkness of ignorance.

# Reject calls for extraditing Sheikh Hasina



analys \$ 07

India must stand firm in its refusal to hand over a leader who has been a steadfast ally, particularly when such demands come from factions with anti-India sentiment

ndia must not pay the slightest heed to the demand by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's secretary-general, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, to extradite Sheikh Hasina to his country. From reports in Indian newspapers, he seems to have cited two grounds, both utterly laughable, for his demand. The first is that she should stand trial for the murder and other charges levelled against her. The question is: will she receive a fair trial under the conditions now prevailing in Bangladesh? The matter is important. Even if the charges levelled against her are true, and she has done terrible things, she has an inalienable right to a fair trial.

This, she will not get with large mobs lit-erally baying for her blood, statues of her father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of the country's emergence from East Pakistan to sovereign Bangladesh, are being pulled down, the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum of 32 Dhanmondi, Dhaka, his erstwhile residence, ransacked and burnt, and the Liberation War Museum at Suhrawardy Udyan Dhaka, razed to the ground.

Clearly, a section of people is trying to take advantage of the situation created by the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement (ADSM), to target the symbols of Bangladesh's liberation struggle. Undoing the country's independence and its re-unification with Pakistan is, of course, out of the question. But cultivating closer ties with Pakistan, pursuing a stridently hostile policy towards India, which such elements have never ceased hating for playing a decisive role in Bangladesh's independence by routing Pakistan in the 1971 war, and replacing Bangladesh's secular, democratic polity by one practicing fundamentalist Islam, has been a part of the agenda of the coun-try's fundamentalist Islamist groups. It is no secret that the Jama'at-e-Islami

Bangladesh, recently re-incarnated as Bangladesh Jama'at-e-Islami (BJeI), its students' organization, Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir (BICS)--which was Islami Chhatra Sangha (ICS) in 1971--and allied organisations like al-Badr, al-Shams, Razakars, and Shanti Committee, had sided with Pakistan and committed despicable war crimes during the liberation war of 1971. A number of them have been punished, including some who have been executed, by the International Crimes Tribunal set by the Bangladesh Government in 2009 by an amendment to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, to investigate and prosecute personnel of the Pakistan Army and BJeI, Razakars, Al-Badr, Al-Shams, and Shanti Committee, accused of committing genocide during the 1971 liberation war. The BJeI and the BICS, which have close links with Islamist terrorist organisations like Ansar al-Islam, linked to Al-Qaeda in the Indian Sub-continent (AQIS) and AUGUST 21, 2004, Jama'at-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), clearly joined the ADSM to further their own agenda, which is transforming a secular and democratic Bangladesh into an Islamic emirate. To do this, they must eliminate from the political scene not only the Awami League and its leaders, particularly Sheikh Hasina, but all secular, democratic and humanist civil society organisations and leaders.



Revealingly, circulating in Bangladesh in the wake of Sheikh Hasina's ouster, is a list of intellectuals, scholars, lawyers, academics, human rights social activists, who its shadowy authors want to "see."

Included in the list of 50 or more were the Professor Abul Barakat (a well-known economist who had exposed the sources of the BJeI's phenomenal wealth), Rana Dasgupta (general secretary of the Bangladesh Hindu GIVEN THAT THE Buddhist Christian Unity

AWAMI LEAGUE Council,) AAMS Arefin Siddique, former vice-chancellor. Dhaka HAS BEEN University), and Professor Sadeka Halim (vice-chancellor, Jagannath REDUCED TO University) and a number of SUCH STRAITS journalists and film personalities. In these circumstances, Sheikh THAT IT COULD Hasina's life will be in danger if she is extradited to Bangladesh: NOT EVEN nor can she be assured of a fair trial, particularly given the fact that judges will either be under **OBSERVE THE** ANNIVERSARY OF tremendous pressure or will be pre-disposed to convict her as THE GRENADE hey have been appointed by the Interim Government and are ATTACKS ON hostile to her. The second ground that, according to the reports, Mirza Fakhrul IT COULD HARDLY Islam Alamgir has cited for **BE IN A POSITION** Sheikh Hasina's extradition, is that the Awami League and she TO CONSPIRE TO were conspiring in New Delhi to falsify (sic) the victory that stu-DEFEAT THE dents and other citizens of STUDENTS' Bangladesh have achieved. Nothing could be more ludi-UPSURGE crous. Most Awami League leaders are in Bangladesh, busy defending themselves in courts

against charges brought against For that, the interim governthem, or in hiding. A number of them have been lynched. The homes and business establishments of many of them have been destroyed and set aflame.

In fact, the Awami League has been reduced to such straits that, unlike in the earlier years, it could not stage an event to observe the anniversary of the

grenade attack on an Awami

League rally in Dhaka on August

21, 2004, to protest against

increasing terrorist attacks on its

ment or its successor must establish that a prima facie case exists against her and then request India to allow an emissary to question her in any facility that New Delhi may provide.

Meanwhile, there can be no question of extraditing her. The BNP-BJeI coalition government, in office from 2001 to 2006 with Begum Khaleda Zia as prime minister, made no bones about its hostility to India. Indeed, except those headed by Sheikh Hasina, all governments of Bangladesh since the murder of Sheikh

cadres and leaders. Perpetrated by the te fit Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami Bangladesh (HUJIB), it left at least 24 persons dead and over 300 injured. Among the wounded was Sheikh Hasina, whose hearing has been permanently impaired. Ivy Rahman, secretary of the Awami League's women's affairs wing and wife of its general-secretary, Zillur Rahman, who subsequently became Bangladesh's president, was also seriously hurt. She later died later in hospital. Given that the Awami League has been reduced to such straits that it could not even observe the anniversary of the grenade attacks on August 21, 2004, it could hardly be in a position to conspire to defeat the students' upsurge. It may well be argued that Sheikh Hasina needs to be present in courts to stand trial and face cross-examination to establish the veracity of the charges levelled against her, or examine the complicity of others involved.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal)

Mujibur Rahman in 1975, have been hostile to India and pro-Pakistan.

To cite one example, under them, Bangladesh provided sanctuary, assistance and training to northeast India's secessionist rebel groups. On the other hand, Sheikh Hasina not only closed down their sanctuaries but handed over to India some of the leaders of these secessionist terrorist groups. In fact, India-Bangladesh relations were perhaps more cordial under her than even when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman headed

the government in Dhaka. Extraditing Sheikh Hasina would send the message round that even the most loyal friends of India cannot depend on it for support in times of distress. That is not something that New Delhi should want.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

# Lateral entry in bureaucracy: A double-edged sword of reform and controversy

The implementation of lateral entry has sparked serious concerns about social justice and the representation of marginalised groups in the Indian bureaucracy

he introduction of lateral appointments in India's bureaucracy has sparked intense debate, particularly due to the absence of reservations for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). The issue gained traction with a recent UPSC advertisement for 45 senior positions, which did not include the constitutionally mandated quotas, raising concerns about social justice and the representation of disadvantaged groups in highlevel government roles.

The lateral entry system, introduced by the Modi government in 2018, was intended to ciency, addressing the opaque underprivileged and diluting practices of previous adminis-



KS TOMAR

trations. However, the lack of provisions for reservations in this system has led to widespread criticism.

Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition, accused the NDA government of undermining the Constitution by excluding reservations from these appointments. He argued that this move was a direct attack enhance transparency and effi- on social justice, sidelining the their representation in the fits. The backlog of vacancies

higher echelons of bureauin proportion to these 63 officracy. In response, Arjun cials can only be addressed if Meghwal pointed out the the government creates new posts specifically for candidates from SC, ST, OBC, and EWS Congress's past practices, highlighting the appointments of former Prime Minister categories. The delay in Manmohan Singh as Finance amending recruitment rules Secretary in 1971 and Montek has already caused significant harm, as many eligible candi-Ahluwalia as Planning Commission Chairman withdates may have crossed the age out transparent procedures. limit. Since the inception of the lat-The introduction of lateral

appointments has been met eral entry system in 2018, the with mixed reactions within government has received 6,077 applications, resulting in the the bureaucracy. While it appointment of 63 individuals brings in specialized knowledge and fresh perspectives, it to senior positions across varalso poses several risks to the ious ministries, with approxitraditional bureaucratic strucmately 35 from the private sector. While these appointments ture:

aim to bring in expertise and Impact on Bureaucracy: A Mixed Bag; the introduction of fresh perspectives, the exclusion of reservations has overlateral appointments has been met with mixed reactions. shadowed the intended bene-While it brings in specialized



knowledge and fresh perspectives, it also poses several risks to the traditional bureaucratic structure.

Demoralization of Bureaucracy: Traditional bureaucrats, who have risen through the ranks, may feel demoralized seeing lateral entrants appointed to senior positions without undergoing the rigorous training and years of service they have endured. This could lead to a perception that meritocracy is being

tainty regarding career progression.

Integration Challenges: Lateral entrants may struggle to integrate into the established bureaucratic culture, leading to friction with traditional bureaucrats.

3rd. Potential Conflicts of Interest: Lateral entrants from the private sector may face conflicts of interest, where their decisions could be influenced by their previous affiliations.

This raises concerns about policy bias and the potential prioritization of private sector interests over the public good. Accountability and Transparency Issues: Unlike career bureaucrats, lateral entrants might not undergo the same level of public scruti-

undermined and create uncer- ny and evaluation, leading to concerns about transparency in decision-making. Their lack of deep institutional knowledge could also affect the quality of their decisions, especially in complex policy areas. Impact on Administrative

Cohesion: The introduction of lateral entrants at senior levels could fragment authority within the bureaucracy, leading to inefficiencies and delays. Positive Takeaways:

Lateral entry into senior government positions offers several benefits:

Expertise Infusion: Brings specialized knowledge from various sectors, enhancing policy-making. Diverse Perspectives: Introduces new viewpoints,

fostering innovative solu-

tions

Increased Efficiency: Private sector professionals bring a focus on perfomance

and efficiency. Skill Gap Bridging: Addresses deficiencies in areas like technology and finance. Meritocracy Promotion: Emphasizes skills over seniority, potentially improving leadership quality.

Governance Flexibility: Allows for quick adaptation to new challenges with experienced professionals.

Public-Private Collaboration: Strengthens ties between government and private sectors. (Writer has been ex chairper-

son of Standing Committee of All State Public service Commissions in India and former chairman of HP Public Service Commission; *views are personal)* 





# IN BRIEF



# Bikaji Foods' majority stake in Ariba Foods

nacks manufacturer Bikaji Foods International on Friday said it has acquired majority stake in Ujjain-based Ariba OFoods, which specialises in snacks and frozen foods. Bikaji Foods International has acquired a 55 per cent equity stake in the company totalling Rs 60.49 crore, which will help Bikaji to enhance its frozen food production capabilities and expand its market presence, according to a joint statement "This strategic move not only strengthens our capacity for export growth but also supports our entry into the Quick Service Restaurant (QSR) segment. By integrating Ariba's state-of-the-art production capabilities, we aim to enhance our frozen snacks and savouries manufacturing," Managing Director Deepak Agarwal said. In the last few years, consumption of frozen foods has increased and the sector has witnessed rapid growth driven by technological advancements.



# **Gold prices decline by** Rs 350, silver drops Rs 200

old prices declined by Rs 350 to Rs 73,800 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, according to the All India Gin the national capital on Friday, according to the Friday Sarafa Association. In the previous session, gold of 99.9 per cent purity traded at Rs 74,150 per 10 grams. Silver declined by Rs 200 to Rs 87,000 per kg from Rs 87,200 per kg in the previous day. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also dropped by Rs 350 to Rs 73,450 per 10 grams against Rs 73,800 per 10 grams on Thursday. The yellow metal extended losses on Friday, weighed down by rising US Treasury yields and a recovery in the dollar index, market experts said. Prices of precious metal were also influenced by the minutes of the last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) released by RBI on Thursday. Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said that the current policy rate of 6.5 per cent is broadly balanced, and any justification for policy easing at this juncture can be misleading, according to the MPC minutes.



# HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | AUGUST 24, 2024

# India has maximum electrification for expansion of tracks: Railways

### PNS NEW DELHI

India is the country with maximum electrification for expansion of tracks, Mukul Saran Mathur, Additional Member, Commercial, Ministry of Railways, said in his inaugural address at the ASSOCHAM National Conference held on Friday in New Delhi. Eminent experts, stakehold-

ers and senior government officials from the Railway ministry deliberated upon a range of issues and transformative technical solutions for 'Modernisation of Railway for Viksit Bharať. Mathur, while focusing on

the achievements of the railways, said the rail network has been increased to 68,000 km currently and more capacity must be created immediately because two crore people travel every day by train in the country.

He added that more than 5,000 special trains have recently been operated to transport migrants. He also mentioned an example for Vande Bharat trains, a major "flagship product" in India. According to Mathur, Rs

85,000-crore plan was provided for railways expansion in 2023-24. He said the railways' refund

process for tickets has become efficient as it has been reduced

by one-two business days. Deepak Sharma, Senior Member ASSOCHAM and CEO, River Engineering Pvt Ltd, highlighted the modernisation of railways as a key com-

ponent in India's vision of 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India).

India's forex

reserves jump

by \$4.546 bn

India's forex reserves jumped

by \$4.546 billion to \$674.664

billion during the week ended August 16, the RBI said on

In the previous week, the

On August 2, the overall reserves hit an all-time high

In the week ended August 16,

foreign currency assets, a

of USD 674.919 billion.

forex kitty had dropped by USD 4.8 billion to USD

PNS MUMBAI

670.119 billion.

Friday.

Sharma said the initiative aims to transform the Indian Railways into a world class network that supports economic growth, enhances connectivi-, and improves the quality of

life for millions of people. Sanjay Bajpai, Co-chairman, the National Council on

Logistics and Warehousing, ASSOCHAM and Executive Director, the Container Corporation of India Ltd talked about how AI and machine learning are useful in terminals for 100 per cent cargo visibil-

We aim to have the last mile connectivity as we are working on the Gati Shakti plan, he added. Animesh Gupta, a scientist at Goldratt Research

Labs USA, discussed the gaps in railways related to technology and freight.

cent freight by rail to meet the demands. There's a need to reduce the environmental footprint of railway operations. The railway sector needs to ensure that digital solutions are secure and protected from cyber threats," Gupta said.

activity. In order to realise the goal of 'Viksit Bharat,' contem-

porary railway transition is essential since it advances the country's economy, society, We need to reach 40 per and technology.

> The rail network has been increased to 68,000 km currently and more capacity must be created immediately because two crore people travel every day



# Sebi asks CAs to be 'extra careful' while auditing listed SMEs

### PNS MUMBAI

Sebi's whole-time member Ashwani Bhatia on Friday asked chartered accountants to be more diligent while auditing companies listed on the SME exchange platforms.

Addressing an industry event of CAs, Bhatia said it is important to look at the listed SMEs (Small and mediumsized enterprises) in a more careful way because the same companies will grow to be a part of the main board in the future.

"We have seen some challenges there (SME platform). We request you to be extra careful as far as SME IPOs and fundraising are concerned because these small companies will become much, much bigger going forward," the banker-turned-capital markets regulator said.

Bhatia expressed satisfac-tion with the progress of the SME platform, stating that Rs 14,000 crore has been raised by such entities, with Rs 6,000 crore being raised in FY24 alone. He compared the CAs to "doctors", and added that they

act as first-level regulators by ensuring orderly conduct of companies.

Bhatia said many Sebi investigations and orders, which take over a year to complete, may not be necessary at all if the CAs had done their work more diligently.

It can be noted that in March this year, Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch had flagged concerns around "price manipulation" in the SME platform listings and trading, and asked investors to be cautious. Meanwhile, addressing CAs

on Friday, Bhatia recalled the conduct of SBI's past chairman R K Talwar and said that the strength of character of the leader helps create "great institutions".

He also said that despite the regulator coming out with reg-ulations to enable delisting, the experience has been the "reverse" with little interest on

that front. The whole-time member hinted that the low interest in delisting is due to high valuations, and added that even foreign companies are looking at listing in India.

# No credibility in MapmyIndia claims: Ola founder

### PNS NEW DELHI

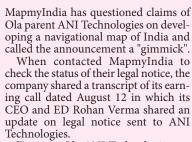
Ola Co-Founder Bhavish Aggarwal has rejected claims of copying MapmyIndia, saying the map company was attempting to ride on Ola Electric's listing coattails.

The Chairman and Managing Director of Ola brand owner ANI Technologies said that the company has sent legal notice to MapmyIndia but has-

n't received any reply from them. "Empty vessels make more sound. These people woke up suddenly some-day. Ola Electric is not even in the maps business. In the run-up to Ola electric IPO they just wanted to ride on its coattails. We have also given them legal notice, their reply has not come til



5,500 crore from its initial public offering. MapmyIndia had sent them notice



"In 2015, Ola ANI Technologies got licensed and got access to our map data, which they continued to use. In 2021, Ola Electric licensed our APIs (application programming interface) and SDKs (software development kits) for their navigation in their vehicles and continuse us Because we have seen cer 11ed 1 July 23-- three days before the red-her- tain breaches of terms and conditions, we have started the legal process,'

Among other global cities, Los Angeles was at the 4th posi-



**Rupee rises 4 paise** to close at 83.89 against US dollar

### PNS MUMBAI

The rupee traded in a narrow range and settled higher by 4 paise at 83.89 (provisional) against the American currency on Friday, as traders ained cautious ahead of F Chair Jerome Powell's speech at

the Jackson Hole Symposium.

and a positive tone in the domestic markets supported

the rupee. However, overnight gains in crude oil prices capped

At the interbank foreign

exchange market, the local unit

Forex traders said weak US Dollar, foreign fund inflows

## Concentrating on trans-portation dependability, pres-ident of ACTO Manish Puri said that in order to satisfy capacity and demand, infrastructure and logistical output are the main areas of concern by train in the due to the increase in trade country

# **Coca-Cola India appoints** new market head for India

everages major Coca-Cola on Friday said Greishma Singh has been appointed as the new market head D for India Southwest Asia (INSWA) Operating Unit. Singh will succeed Arnab Roy, who was recently named the Global Category President, Coca-Cola Trademark. Her appointment will be effective September 1, 2024, according to a company statement. Before this, Singh was Vice-President of Customer and Commercial Leadership (C&CL) for the INSWA Operating Unit. She has been with The Coca-Cola Company for over 15 years and held roles of across marketing, strategy and C&CL in Australia and India markets, it added. Singh. an alumnus of the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad and Colorado College, will continue to be based in India in her new role.

component of the reserves, increased by USD 3.609 billion to USD 591.569 billion, the data released on Friday showed

Aggarwal said

Ola Electric got listed on the bourses on August 9. The company raised Rs ring prospectus was filed by Ola Electric. Homegrown digital navigation firm Verma said.

# M3M India sells properties worth Rs 3,911 crore in Q1; up 37pc annually

PNS NEW DELHI

Realty firm M3M India on Friday reported a 37 per cent increase in sales of residential and commercial properties in the June quarter to Rs 3,911 crore on strong demand. Its sales bookings stood at Rs 2,854 crore in the year-ago period.

Out of total sales bookings in the April-June period of the current fiscal, Rs 2,972 crore pertained to the housing segment and Rs 940 crore to commercial properties, the company said in a statement.

During the first quarter of this fiscal, M3M India said the total sales bookings in Gurugram stood at Rs 2,415 crore, while Noida projects

contributed Rs 402 crore. Sales of residential plots at Panipat in Haryana were Rs 1,094 crore.

Sudeep Bhatt, President, M3M India, said the company has reported "robust growth in our Q1 results for 2024-25, demonstrating our commitment to delivering high-quality real estate solutions

"With a strong pipeline of ultra-luxury projects lined up for launch in FY25, we are confident of sustaining this momentum and continuing to create value for our stakeholders," Bhatt said.

M3M India has 56 projects spread across retail, residential, offices, service apartments etc.

# Mumbai ranks 2<sup>nd</sup>, Delhi 3rd among 44 cities in annual housing price rise

### PNS NEW DELHI

Mumbai and Delhi are at the second and third positions, respectively, among 44 cities globally in annual price rise of prime residential properties during the June quarter, Knight Frank said in a report.

The annual price growth across the 44 cities globally slowed to 2.6 per cent in the second quarter of the 2024 calendar year, from 4.1 per cent in the preceding quarter, real estate consultant Knight Frank report said.

Manila ranked first with a 26 per cent annual rise during the quarter.

Mumbai, with an annual

price rise of 13 per cent in prime residences, ranked second, up from its 6th rank in the year-ago period.

tion with an 8.9 per cent growth in prices, followed by Miami New Delhi, which recorded a rise of 10.6 per cent year-on-(7.1 per cent), Nairobi (6.6 per year in prime residential propcent), Madrid (6.4 per cent), erty prices, made a stupendous Lisbon (4.7 per cent), Seoul (4.6 jump in rankings from 26th a per cent), and San Francisco (4.5 vear earlier to third during the per cent). quarter under review.

Bengaluru saw a 3.7 per cent increase in annual price rise. Its

opened weak at 83.93 and ranking remained same at 15th. touched an intraday high of "Being the largest residential 83.85 against the US dollar. The markets of the country, the domestic currency finally settled strong price growth in prime at 83.89 (provisional), 4 paise residential properties is a strong higher from its previous close. indicator of the growing wealth On Thursday, the rupee and increasingly higher aspiratraded in a narrow range and settled lower by 3 paise at tions of the country's affluent population," the consultant said. 83.93 against the American

sharp gains.

currency. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias as traders remain cautious ahead of Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole Symposium which could provide some cues on Fed's path to cut interest rates.





Short Tender Notice No. 003/2024-26 of SE/OP/Peddapally With Specification Nos. 047/24-215 to 053/24-25 Seeled Tenders are invited from TGMPDCL registered contractors of Peddapalli, District fo

carrying out various works such as T&D (Minor and Major extensions), SPAPE, rectification o damages caused by floods/gale & Wind, Street light (3rd wire, 5th wire), DCW, TS+PASS an other works in operation Shanthi Nagar Section. Mutharam Section. Dharmaram Sub Division Julapaily Section, Manthani Sub Division, Godevankhani East section and Ramagundern Sub Division of operation circle, Peddapatil for the F.Y. 2024-25. The details of works can be obtained ram aurwebsite www.tgnpdcl.in Sdl- Superintending Engineer, Operation, Peddapally

SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO. 03 (24-25 of DEE/OP/NIZAMABAD Sealed tenders are invited from TGNPOCL registered contractors of Nizamabad Distric (Erstwhile) for various electrical works in Nizamabad Division of operation circle Nizamabad The details of the works and other information can be obtained from our website www.tgnpdcl.com Sdl- Divisional Engineer Elect., Operation, Nizamabad R.O. No.: 3229-PP/CL/ADVTI1/2024-25, DI. 23-08-2824

# **AMID SLUMP IN CHINA** India steel market hit by unfair imports, dumping

### PNS NEW DELHI

Indian steel market is hit by "unfair imports and dumping" amid a demand slump in China and the government needs to take action in a timebound manner, former steel secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha has said.

"If you take flat steel products, imports are certainly an issue. The slump in the Chinese market has really shaken the (domestic) market," Sinha, who superannuated on July 31, said at the 7th edition of BigMint's Indian Iron Ore and Pellet Summit on Friday.

### He also warned of the price

realisations getting affected due to surging imports impacting the profitability of steel makers

"To the extent the imports currently happening are unfair and there is dumping going on and the Indian government should certainly respond to them in a timeframe," Sinha said. His statement assumes significance as local steel plavers have been raising the issue of imports for months from select countries including China. Steelmakers have raised concern that India is becoming

a net importer of steel against



a half that is not going help the aim to become a global supplier of the commodity. industry at least give them a Sinha said "...duty prayers for imposition of the duty are fair hearing.

On August 16, the governbeing considered at a longer ment initiated an anti-dumptimeframe for about a year and ing probe into the import of

hot-rolled steel products from Vietnam following a complaint by a domestic industry.

The commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) is probing the alleged dumping of 'hot rolled flat products of alloy or non-alloy steel'.

According to the DGTR notification, Indian Steel Association has filed an application on behalf of domestic producers - JSW Steel Ltd and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Ltd - seeking initiation of an anti-dumping investigation

on imports from Vietnam.

Stock markets marginally up in volatile trade

### PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex and Nifty edged up in volatile trade on Friday following buying in blue-chip stocks such as ICICI Bank and Bharti Airtel amid mixed global trends ahead of the US Fed chair's speech at Jackson Hole Symposium.

Rising for the fourth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 33.02 points or 0.04 per cent higher at 81,086.21.

In early trade, the benchmark declined 169.93 points or 0.20 per cent to a low of 80,883.26

# derabad the pioneer

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Saturday August 24, 2024

# **'UNSPOKEN BOND SHARED OVER CUP OF IRANI CHAI HAS BECOME REGULAR PART OF MY LIFE'**

AARTI SREENATH

niu Jain found a new beginning And a new home in the city of Hyderabad, a city where modernity and tradition coexist. The founder of Just Like That by Anju Jain, her journey took a significant turn when she arrived in this vibrant city. Although her roots were deeply entrenched in Ranchi, where she belongs, Hyderabad became the canvas upon which her dreams began to

take shape When she first set foot in Hyderabad, she encountered a realm of possibilities tinged with uncertainty. "I remember my initial apprehensions about the language barrier and cultural differences. It felt like stepping into a world where I was both an outsider and an explorer." Yet, the transition was smoother than with the second with its unassuming charm, quickly made me feel at home. The city's warmth melted away my fears, allowing me to immerse myself in its essence."

Living in Hyderabad, she discovered a hidden gem within a well-loved book. As a visitor, one might marvel at the grandeur of landmarks like the Charminar, savour the legendary Hyderabadi biryani, or explore the historical Golconda Fort. However, it is the daily rhythm of city life where the true spirit of Hyderabad reveals itself. "The vibrant bazaars, the age-old artisans and the unspoken bond shared over a cup of Irani chai have all become part of my life here. These are the elements that make Hyderabad more than just a backdrop; they make it a living, breathing part of

my story." Hyderabad's rich cultural and histor-

Hailing from the lands of exquisite handicrafts, Ranchi, to finding her new home in the city of pearls, fashion designer Anju Jain has been enjoying the warmth that she has received here. She speaks to us about her allure for the city

ical mosaics have provided her with end-less inspiration. "The city's museums, with their vast collections of antiques and art, offer a window into a past that is both intriguing and influential. Every visit to these museums sparks new ideas for my designs. They provide a glimpse into the city's storied past, which I blend with contemporary flair in my work," she added. These moments of reflection have been pivotal in finding the creative spark that drives her fashion line.

The city's thriving fashion scene has been particularly nurturing for Jain. "Hyderabad's vibrant fashion landscape has allowed me to collaborate with an array of talented models, stylists, and craftsmen," she shares. Hyderabad's energy has infused Jain's work with a sense of dynamism and creativity that feels distinctly tied to the city."My workshop, nestled in the heart of the city, has become a sanctuary where tradition meets innovation. It's a place where my designs come to life, influenced by the city's unique spirit."

Of course, no story is without its challenges. She acknowledges, "The

city's traffic conges-

tion can be quite over-

whelming. Yet, this minor inconve-nience is more than compensated for by the city's many gifts, the warmth of its people, the richness of its culinary offerings and the lively cultural scene." Despite occasional frustrations, the positives far outweigh the negatives, making Hyderabad a city she cherishes deeply. When her friends and family visit,

they become part of the city's enchant-ment. "They relish the simple joys of home-cooked meals and love the opportunity to visit my workshop. It's become a tradition for them to pick out a bespoke piece from my collection as a keepsake of their visit. This personal touch adds a layer of meaning to their experience, making each visit special."

For her, Hyderabad is more than just a place of residence and work; it is an integral part of her identity. "Hyderabad is where my heart finds solace, where my family and business thrive," she concludes. "It's a city that has given me so much and in return, I have woven my dreams into its vibrant fabric." Every cor-

ner of Hyderabad holds a piece of her journey, and every stitch of her designs reflects the city's essence.

**CANVASing his art from thought to reality** 

### **TEJAL SINHA**

hat initially began as a stress buster for Vikas Malani, by drawing during his school days, evolved into a love for colours, patterns and design. Even the simplicity of drawing a line or a dot was full of creativity for him.

As his passion for drawing deepened, it naturally transitioned into tattooing. "I chose tattooing as a way to explore my creativity because it allows my artwork to travel the world on my clients," begins the talented artist in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*. Tattooing is a profound commitment and a form of self-expression. And so, "Our patrons' bodies are our canvas and from this concept, BodyCanvas was born. We transform their intangible thoughts into tangible

Mumbai branch operates at the same level as our London studio. The challenges include standardising processes, consistently upgrading products and continuously learning new skills. Every client pre-sents a unique challenge, pushing us to strive for a better balance in our work."

They have also done the look test and tattoos for many Bollywood projects such as John Abraham for Pathaan, Aamir Khan for *Dhoom 3*, Anushka Sharma for Matru ki Biilee ka Mandola. Priyanka Chopra for *Pyaar Impossible*, Fardeen Khan for All

*the Best*, Anil Kapoor for *Tashan*, MS Dhoni for Max Oil TVC, Shahrukh Khan for Dish TV advertisement, and Sidharth Malhotra for the movie Gentleman. However, in the year 2023, Vikas and his team gained attention for being the creative force behind John Abraham's bold, inked look in the Bollywood blockbuster Pathaan, where his sexy, bad-boy role created quite a sensation! Speaking of this experience, he shared with us that the tattoo symbolised a transformation from someone who once loved their country to someone who now stands against authority or rules they believe to be unjust. "It's a journey from patriotism to rebellion. In our first meeter delightful personality he recalls. "On her birthday, she wanted to gift herself some piercings. Her kindness and hospitality were remarkable; she offered us breakfast at her home and had a warm conversation about her love for art and paintings.

Speaking of his latest work with the celebs, he has worked with the talented Rajkumar Rao and Jaideep Ahlawat on a special tattoo design for an OTT plat-



vears to come.



realities."

It was a small symbol that he drew on his friend's nape, which was his first-ever tattoo work. Though nerve-wracking, he says, it was still an exhilarating experience.

Having always been fascinated by the art and culture surrounding tattoos, the ability to permanently adorn one's body with meaningful designs and symbols deeply resonated with Vikas.

B-town's favourite tattoo artist, his habitué includes Arpita Khan, Remo D'Souza, John Abraham, Alok Nath,



dles, has good reviews, and has a port-folio that aligns with your desired style. **Prepare for the process:** Understand the time, cost and discomfort involved and plan accordingly. Aftercare is crucial: Follow your

artist's instructions to ensure proper healing and minimise the risk of complications. Take your time and don't fall for offers or discounts. Remember, a tattoo is a permanent mark; make sure you're ready and comfortable with the quality.

anmashtami, the joyous celebration of Lord Krishna's birth, is a festival filled with devotion, colour, and festivity. Falling on August 26 this year, Janmashtami offers numerous ways to engage in the vibrant cultural and spiritual traditions associated with Krishna. Whether you're a devoted follower or simply wish to partake in the festivities, here are five unique ways to celebrate Janmashtami in 2024.

### **Experience Mathura and Vrindavan's** spiritual vibe

Mathura, the birthplace of Lord Krishna, and Vrindavan, where he spent his childhood, are the epicenters of Janmashtami celebrations. These cities in Uttar Pradesh come alive with grand processions, devotional singing and dramatic reenactments of Krishna's life.

• Mathura: Visit the Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple, where thousands gather to offer prayers and witness the special midnight aarti marking Krishna's birth.

• Vrindavan: Participate in the vibrant celebrations at famous temples like Banke Bihari and ISKCON. Watch as devotees are showered with flower petals and scented water, and enjoy the sight of children dressed as little Krishnas with flutes in hand.

### Join the dahi handi festivities in Maharashtra

Maharashtra, particularly Mumbai, is known for its thrilling Dahi Handi celebra-tions. Inspired by Krishna's love for butter, men form human pyramids to break a pot filled with curd, butter and milk hanging high above the ground.

Mumbai hotspots: Dadar and Lalbaug host some of the most competitive and livelv Dahi Handi events. The atmosphere is electric with music, dance and cheering crowds as teams compete to reach the handi

Attend Rajadhiraaj: Love Life Leela at NMACC

This year, make your Janmashtami unfor-

gettable by attending the grand musical Rajadhiraaj: Love Life Leela at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre in Mumbai. This project, conceived and brought to fruition by Dhanraj Nathwani and Executive Producer Bhoomi Nathwani, is truly exceptional. This spectacular show, which will end on September 1, written by Prasoon Joshi, brings Krishna's stories to life with stunning visuals and over 100 performers. Directed by Shruti Sharma, with music by

Sachin-Jigar, the production features a captivating blend of Indian classical and Western symphony. Omung Kumar's intricate set designs and Neeta Lulla's elaborate costumes will transport you to ancient India, immersing you in Krishna's world.

### Engage in local celebrations and community festivities

If you can't travel to the main hubs of celebration, local events can offer equally enriching experiences. Communities across India host various activities, including parades, cultural performances and marketplaces selling traditional sweets and decorations. If you have kids, you can also dress them as Krishna or Radha and participate in local reenactments or dance performances. These events provide a wonderful opportunity to bond with your community and share in the festive spirit.

### **Transform Your Home with Festive Décor**

If you wish to celebrate the festival at home, you can do so by adorning your living spaces and puja room with traditional decorations.

Welcome guests with a vibrant rangoli at your entrance, using colorful patterns or simple floral designs. Fresh flowers like fragrant mogra can be used to decorate your home, adding both beauty and a pleasant aroma. Light up your home with divas and candles for a warm, festive glow. Include a small swing as a nod to Krishna's childhood, placing an idol of Krishna on it, adorned with peacock feathers and fresh flowers. This not only beautifies your home but also creates a devotional ambiance.

Vikas Malani, certainly a favourite tattooist of B-town celebs, speaks exclusively with The **Pioneer** about his passion for art, transitioning into the world of tattoos, creating wonders and more

Rapper Divine, Rhea Chakraborty, Shibani Dandekar, Shweta Tripathi Sharma, former Australian cricket team captain Michael Clarke, former CSK player, S. Badrinath, former Australian cricketer Michael Slater, Director Om Prakash Jha, Tina Ahuja, Nyaasa Devgan, Shaheen Bhatt, Krishna Jackie Shroff, Amruta Khanvilkar, Sneha Ullal, Aarya Babbar, Raghu & Rajiv of the Roadies fame, Debolina Bhattacharya aka 'Gopi Bahu', Disha Parmar, Dheeraj Dhoopar and his wife Vinny Arora, Ambika Anand, Instagram influencer Meethika Dwivedi, Ranveer Allahbadia (BEER BICEPS), acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal, and Bigg Boss fame Shiv Thakare, among many others.

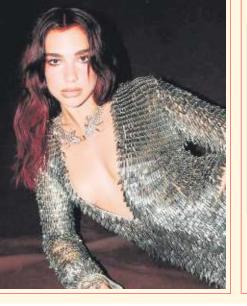
"Working with high-profile people is more of a responsibility than a source of fame," shares the tattooist, adding, "We must consistently maintain high-quality standards, which is a continual process. There's pressure to perform and meet the expectations. Additionally, we adhere to European Union standards to ensure our

ing, we brought numerous references based on the character description provided. We were pleasantly surprised to find that John's team had also prepared a variety of options. Together, we collaborated to finalise a design that was unique and unlike anything seen before in a Bollywood movie?

Working with Bollywood celebrities for him has been a mix of amusing stories and wonderful experiences. 'John Abraham is one of the most humble actors I've met; working with him felt like collaborating with a friend. He has a deep respect for artists and creativity. After Pathaan crossed 1000 crores, he personally visited the studio to thank the entire team for his tattoo look in the movie. On his first visit for the look test, he was well-spoken and proactive, sharing his ideas and views on the design. He built a strong connection with the team and spent nearly 10 hours at our Bandra studio. How 'awwww'dorable isn't it? Then there was Aditi Rao Hydari, anoth-



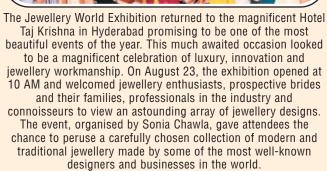
Feeding India, a Zomato giveback (Feeding India), has announced the second edition of the Zomato Feeding India Concert (ZFIC) 2024 on November 30, 2024 at MMRDA, BKC in Mumbai. This year, global pop powerhouse and multiple GRAMMY and BRIT Award winner, Dua Lipa, will headline the concert, set to take place on November 30, 2024 at MMRDA. Zomato Live will be organising the concert. Leading national artists, such as Jonita Gandhi, Talwiinder among others will also be performing at ZFIC this year.







ila Bokadi

















Telangana Handicraft Development Corporation Chairman, Naidu Satyanarayana, marked his presence at the launch of Sri Sai Weavers Cotton and Silks showroom weavers handwork exhibition, at NTR Stadium, Near Indira Park The expo, which is organised by Kambhampati Padmaja will be available till September 29.



The SAATVIK channel partner, BASHU ENERGY SYASTEMS, has launched in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Honouring Ajay Mishra, MD of TREDCO (TG government), Retd IAS, and vice chairman of N.JANAIAH and HYATT PLACE, next to GVK mall, Banjara

Twenty-five US university representatives are in Hyderabad this week as guests of Career Mosaic which represents 450 US universities and over 900 prestigious international institutions. These universities focussed on sharing educational options about new courses, scholarships and post-study prospects with students on college campuses, college advisers and study abroad consultants from Andhra Pradesh (AP and Telangana.



11033580



Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. announced that it has set a new OF Guinness World Record for building the largest brochure mosaic (logo) installation. This installation is part

of its glycemic happiness awareness initiative for patients with Type 2 diabetes mellitus. The largest installation that entered the Guinness World Record stands at 162 square metres and consists of

feedback from healthcare professionals across India on the 'Glycemic Happiness Scale'.

## ARCHIE







# **CALVIN AND HOBBES**

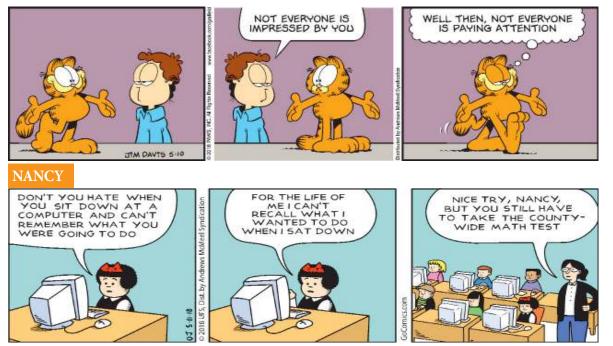
**FUN** 



YEAH, I'VE BEEN DRIVING IN CIRCLES FOR AN HOUR LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO PARK.

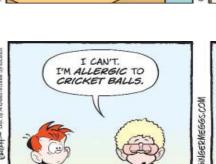
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## GARFIELD

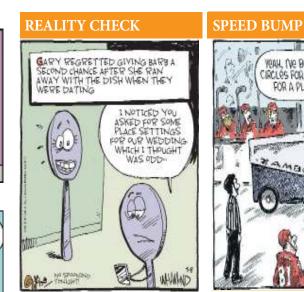


# **GINGER MEGGS**







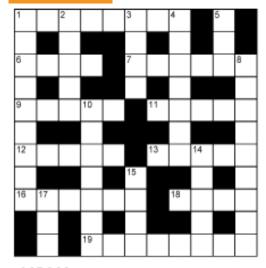


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# **CROSSWORD**



### ACROSS Someone who keeps pestering you

of countries

with this

18 Baby goats 19 Set free from captivity

DOWN

2 Articles

13 Start a tennis game

16 This covers your eye

1 A frightening dream

4 Part of a serial story 6 Became taller 5 Female sheep 7 Sent by post 8 Feeling sad and fed up 9 To try a little piece of 10 A fishing boat food to see if you like it 14 Train tracks 11 Stood (3,2) 12 A book of maps

15 A worshipped statue 17 Up until now

3 Not able to feel

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# tollywood



# **REVU IS AN INTENSE DRAMA WITH PREDICTABLE AND SLOW NARRATION**

### SURESH KAVIRAYANI sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

STROY

ately, small films like Committee Kurrollu and Aay that have introduced new talent have created wonders at the box office. Now adding to at the box office. Now adding to the list is *Revu*, which has a Godavari backdrop film. The film directed by Harinath Puli has Vamsi Ram Pendayl, Ajay Nidadavolu and Swathi Bheemireddy as the main leads. The film's promotional videos are interesting and they create some buzz.

The story has the backdrop of

ment with Nageshu.

The Ankalu and Gangiah's team

unfortunately couldn't

compete with Nagesh,

and thereafter their

lives became miserable

Ankalu's wife, Samrajyam (played by Swathi Bheemi Reddy), is preg-nant and is worried about Ankalu, thinking of when he will be able to get a boat with an engine. It's not just them, but also their friends who suffer with no work.

with no work. Meanwhile,

In a turn of events, an incident takes place in the village, which ends in a massacre. How Ankalu and Gangiah compete with Nageshu and his sons is the crux of the remaining story.

### ANALYSIS

There are a few films made in Telugu on the lives of fishermen and the Godavari backdrop. This film *Revu* focuses more on the lives of fishermen and how they suffer, while a rivalry starts within them. Director Harinath Puli takes his own time to introduce all the characters in the first half, making the narration slow-paced. He also takes quite a while to explain the happenings. Speaking of the story, it is easily predictable, making the audience quickly fig-(played by Yepuri Hari) caused ure o their once smooth life to become next. ure out what's going to happen

The second half of the story gets intense, and that's when the real story begins. The director is banking more on violence in the sec-ond half by introducing Nageshu's sons into the picture. The after-intermission is narrated more like

a revenge drama. One thing to appreciate in this film is how the director brings out the intense performances from all the actors, though they are all fresh faces.

He completely sticks to the actors supported each other each local flavor. The dialogues are well other well. written with the local Godavari slang, and the artists pronounce it well. John K. Joseph's music and Visakh Muraleedaran's background score are good; they give the emotional scenes a high. Revanth Sagar's cinematography captures the village and Godavari scenes in a beautiful manner.

### PERFORMANCES

Except for LB Sriram, who played a cameo in the film, most of the actors are new to the silver screen. Vamsi Ram Pendyala is playing the main lead, and he did a fantastic job delivering a good performance. Ajay can

be seen in another lead, and he too gave a com-mendable perfor-mance. Swathi Bheemi Reddy plays a typical village girl, and she lived in it. She is good at her diction and surprises everyone with her acting. Ýepuri Hari plays the negative role very well, but the highlight of the film is Sumesh Madhavan and Leela Venkatesh Kommuli's performances. They show cruelty in their faces,

and they definitely scare with their perfor-mance. Both did a fantastic job, and they were definitely the talking points of the film. The remaining

VERDICT Revu is an intense drama set against a rustic Godavari backdrop, with good performances from the actors. The first half has a completely slow narration, but the second half is somehow good with intense scenes. If the director concentrated more on the story and less on violence, the film could have been a better one. Because of the violence, the family audience may distance themselves from this film, but one should encourage it as you can see

Cast: Vamsiram Pendyala, Hemanth Udbhav, Swathi Bheemireddy, Ajay Nidadavolu, Sumesh Madhavan and Leela Venkatesh Kommuri

the fresh faces.

Director: Harinath Puli

Producer: Murali Ginjupalli, Naveen Parupalli

Music: John K. Josesh

Cinematographer: Revanth Sagar

Background score: Vishak

Muraleedharan

**Rating:** 2.5/5

MAA revokes suspension on Hema

ately, there have been reports stating that the Movie Artists Association (MAA) revoked the suspension of actress Hema. According to the latest update by the association, MAA has lifted the suspen-

sion from the actress. Executive The Committee of the Movie Artiste Association (MAA) convened to discuss media reports. She did meet MAA pres vour (Hema) suspension. After ident Manchu Vishnu and give a letter to cancel her suscareful deliberapension from MAA. She had also stated getting her tion, President Vishnu Manchu proposed that tests done in Hyderabad's highest-quality laboratories vour suspension and is ready to take the test be lifted and the again if anyone suggests any committee unanimously laboratory.

agreed to proceed with his recommendation. I am glad to inform you that, effective immediately, your suspension is hereby revoked," read the statement by the association.

Benguluru police had arrested Hema at a rave party on the outskirts of Benguluru. Following this, Hema was banned from the Movie Artists Association due to allegations of drug consumption. But the actress denied taking drugs and urged the association not to take any decision considering the

# Ravi Teja undergoes surgery

ctor Ravi Teja had a successful A surgery on his right hand and has been advised by doctors to rest for a minimum of six weeks, according to his PR team.

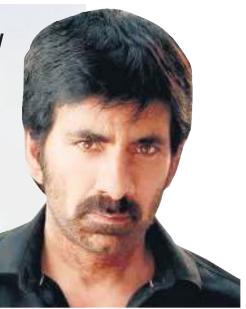
On Thursday, the actor underwent a successful surgery at Yashoda Hospital.

According to his team, the actor sustained a muscle tear in his right hand during the filming of #RT75. Despite the injury, he continued to shoot, which unfortunately led to further aggravation.

The actor's latest film, Mr.

Bachchan directed by Harish Shankar, failed to attract audiences in theaters. Now, the actor is working on his 75th film, and the tentative title is *Kohinoor*. Director Bhanu Bhogavarapu, while Sreeleela is the female lead. The film is scheduled for a 2025 Sankranthi release.

However, now that Ravi Teja has taken six weeks' rest, the release may be delayed a bit, according to a source. Irrespective of his film's fate at the box office, Ravi Teja is the one actor who continuously does films and has a few releases every year.



# a village near Godavari. Ankalu (played by Vamsi Ram Pendyala) and Gangaiah (played by Ajay) have been childhood friends but have their differences of opinion. They journey on small boats into the river to fish. They are the best fishermen in the area, supplying fish to a company in a nearby town. The arrival of Nageshu



Teja Sajja's

Mirai poster

unveiled on

his birthday

# Kiran Abbavaram enters wedlock with Rahasya

oung actor Kiran Abbavaram and Rahasya Gorak tied the knot in a ceremony held in Coorg on Thursday evening, which was attended by their close family and friends. Both Kiran and Rahasya shared screen space in their first film Raja Vaaru Rani Gaaru and then fell in love with that film. They have been dating since the film; however, the couple never accepted their relationship until their engagement, which was held on

March 14. On the film front, after her debut film Raja Vaaru Rani Gaaru, Rahasva stopped acting in films The debut film is a small film but a big hit for the couple. Later Kiran Abbavaram acted in films like SR Kalvana Mandapam, Sammathame, Nenu Meeku Bagaa Kavalsinavadini, Meter, Vinaro Bhagyamu Vishnu Katha. His upcoming film Ka is slated for a release.



# Megha Akash gets engaged to Saai Vishnu

egha Akash is a well-known actress in Telugu and Tamil cinema. She made her film debut with the Telugu film *Lie* opposite Nithiin in 2017. The actress went on to act in several other Telugu and Tamil films. Well, the actress has now



announced her engagement to her long-time boyfriend, Saai Vishnu. The actress shared their engagement photos on her social media accounts and says her wish came true

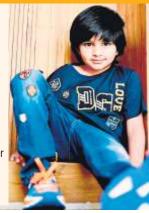
"My wish came true. To love, laughter, and our

happily ever after engagement to the love of my lifee," she says on her Instagram, sharing some of her photos from the ceremony. Though there were initially reports about her relationship with a businessman, she never confirmed it or commented anything on it. However, she has now finally announced her engagement to her boyfriend. The wedding may take place sometime soon. The actress is currently working on some projects both in Telugu and Tamil. She wants to complete these projects first and, later, decide whether she wants to continue in films or not. Meanwhile, on the work front, she is playing the female lead in a film titled Sahakutumbanam, which also stars senior actors Raiendra Prasad. Tulasi. Raishri Nair. and Brahmanandam. She earlier played the female lead in some of the films like Chal Mohan Ranga, Raja Raja Chora, Dear Megha, Manu Charitra and Ravanasura.

# Avram Manchu's first look from *Kannappa* out on Janmashtami

he makers of Kannappa are following a promotional strategy of releasing first-look posters of prominent characters from the movie on Monday. This release is particularly special as it coincides with Krishna Janmashtami. On this auspicious occasion, the first look of Vishnu Manchu's son, Avram Manchu, will be unveiled. Avram, who plays a significant role, is making his film debut with this movie. The film is more than just a cinematic venture: it represents the

convergence of three generations of the Manchu family's cinematic journey, featuring Mohan Babu, Vishnu Manchu and Avram Manchu. We need to wait for 3 more days to know about Avram's character and witness his appearance in the movie. Kannappa is the most ambitious project for Vishnu Manchu, who will be seen in the titular role. The expectations have skyrocketed after the stupendous response for the teaser. The movie will have a pan India release in December.



released in January, became a huge hit not only in Telugu but in other languages too. Now, everyone is curious about Teja's next film titled *Mirai*.

This is also a fantasy film

fter the fantasy film *Hanuman*, Teja Sajja has

became the talk of the

industry. The film which

and directed by Karthik Ghattamaneni The young actor celebrated his birthday on Friday. On the occasion, the makers of Mirai released a poster of Teja. In this film, he will be seen portraying the role of a Super Yodha and it is also touted to be an action-adventure film. TG Vishwa Prasad is producing this one under his banner of People Media Factory. In the poster, Teja Sajja is shown keeping himself from falling by gripping a sizzling iron rod, while items drop from above. The poster certainly hints that he is once again to play a superhero.

He has been taking time to come up with this film after the success of Hanuman, as he wanted to deliver quality with this one. He is working hard and putting in his best efforts for this one, say the makers. The film also stars Manoj Manchu is playing an important and crucial role in this one. When his poster was released sometime back, it got good responses from all over and generated interest in this film. The film is releasing in 8 languages on April 18, 2025 in 2D and 3D versions.

# sports 12

same venue from September

Rest days were a common feature in Test cricket in the matches in the cricket in the last century, with several matches in the cricketing world being played across six

days with Sunday usually being

More recently, Bangladesh played a Test-series opener

against Sri Lanka in December 2008, which was a six-day because of

New Zealand and Sri Lanka are

currently placed third and

parliamentary election.

26-30.

an off day.

affair



# **GUKESH, PRAGGNANANDHAA** DRAW AGAIN IN SINQUEFIELD CUP



### PTI SAINT LOUIS (USA)

World Championship challenger D Gukesh enjoyed an advantageous position against tournament co-leader Alireza Firouzja of France but eventually settled for a draw in the fourth round of the Sinquefield Cup, here. Gukesh, who is set to play the World championship match against Ding Liren of China next November, proved that he is made of sterner mettle as he made Firouzja's life tough. Grandmaster

Praggnanandhaa also drew his game against Anish Giri of Holland and almost at the half way stage in this 10-player round-robin tournament, the Indians stand at a level fifty percent score. The day when Wesley So of

United stated States won the lone decisive game, the news doing the round through unconfirmed sources was that Firouzja has been offered to play for United States.

For Pragg things were not difficult as he meticulously R handled Anish Giri with black

pieces and even though the Dutchman believed he had some chances, they were thwarted in no time. After three decisive games in round three the fourth round

yet again produced just a lone decisive game with Wesley So overcoming I Nepomniachtchi of Russia. Ian

With Wesley winning and Nepomniachtchi on the losing side, the former joined Firouzja in lead on 2.5 points after four rounds and they are now followed by Fabiano Caruana of United States,

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France, Nepomniachtchi, Praggnanandhaa and Gukesh. Praggnanandhaa and Gukesh. Abdusattorov and Giri share the ninth spot with 1.5 points each. **Results round 4:** Anish Giri (Ned, 1.5) drew with R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 2); D Gukesh (Ind, 2) drew with Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 2.5); Weday Sa (Ura, 2.5) heat Ian Wesley So (Usa, 2,5) beat Ian Nepomniachtchi (Fide, 2); Ding Liren (Chn, 2) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 2); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 2) drew with Nodirbek Ábdusattorov (Uzb, 1.5).

212.

Sri Lanka-New Zealand opening

Test at Galle to have a rest day

The fest, scheduled to commence on September 18, will have a rest day on September 21, "owing to the Presidential Election of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka", said an ICC host a Test across six days, with their match against Zimbabwe in Colombo in 2001 also including a rest day due to Poya Day (full moon), said the It will be the first time in more than two decades that Sri Lanka have been scheduled to

ICC. The two-match series is part of the ongoing ICC World Test Championship cycle with the second Test scheduled at the

fourth respectively in the World Test Championship standings.

# India A bowlers fight back but Australia A's lead surges to 192 on Day 2 of unofficial Test

# PTI GOLD COAST (AUSTRALIA)

PTI 📕 DUBAI

island nation.

release on Friday.

Signature of the provision of a rest day owing to the provision of a rest day owing to

the presidential election in the

The Test, scheduled to

rndia A bowlers led a spirited fightback but Australia A tightened grip on the unofficial one-off women's Test, with the hosts' overall lead surging to 192 runs here

on the second day on Friday. India A skipper Minnu Mani completed her match haul of 10 wickets but Kate Peterson returned an impactful 12-5-16-5 to hand Australia a slender 28-run lead in the first innings, as the visitors were bowled out for 184 in reply to the host's

Resuming at 100/2, India A looked on course to take a substantial lead but fell short as Peterson ran through the middle order. India's set batters Tejal Hasabnis (32) and Shweta Sehrawat (40) were the first to fall as the tourists lost five wickets for 27 runs before Sayali Satghare (21),



Mani (17) and Mannat Kashyap (19) put up 56 runs to deny Australia a huge lead. Mani then swung into action with the ball immediately as Australia A batters' once again struggled against Indian spinners. The off-spinner first removed opener Georgia Voll and her Australian counterpart Charli Knott for ducks in consecutive overs to reduce the hosts to 0/2 at one stage. Mani, who claimed a five-wicket haul in

the first essay, also got rid of Nicole Faltum (16) before she cleaned up Tess Fintoo with an off-break.

However, opener Emma de Broughe continued to hold fort from one end as she scored 58 runs off 117 balls before falling prey to rookie leg-spinner Priya Mishra. Wicketkeeper Maddy Drake took matters into her own hands by hitting an unbeaten half century (54 not out of 100 deliveries) to lead Australia's recovery further as the hosts reached 164/7 at the end of play. Drake added 54 for the sixth wicket with Maitlan Brown (26 off 45) before the latter became Mani's tenth wicket in the game. BRIEF SCORES: Australia A 212 and 164 for 7 (Emma de Broughe 58, Manddy Darke 54 not out; Minnu Mani 5/47) lead India A 184 (Shweta Sehrawart 40, Tejal Hasabnis 32; Kate Peterson 5/16) by 192 runs.

# Ilkay returns for unlikely second spell at Man City after just a year at Barcelona



**AP** MANCHESTER

ew could have expected

against Aston Villa on the final day of the 2021-22 Premier Ikay Gundogan is back at League season to seal a 3-2 win Manchester City for a sequel that clinched the title. He was at City for seven years after

should the Spain star need a break. He is well-versed in Guardiola's style of play so has the benefit of not needing a transitional period, and will compete for a place in the midfield alongside the irreplaceable Rodri with Kevin De Bruyne, Bernardo Silva, Mateo Kovacic and Phil Foden. Gundogan's exit should help Barcelona register new midfielder Dani Olmo, which the team has so far been unable to do because of the Spanish league's financial rules that clubs balance make expenditures on wages and

# Aditi and Diksha fight hard on tough opening day at AIG Women's Open



On the second nine, she dropped a shot on third and picked a birdie on the ninth, her final hole.

Charley Hull fired a round of 5-under 67 to sit in the outright lead after the first round. The English star went out to tackle the Old Course in the afternoon wave alongside world number one Nelly Korda and defending champion Lilia Vu.

Hull rolled in her first birdie of the day on the fifth but made a bogey on the par-3 eighth, however, she was soon under par again with a birdie on the



Verstappen under pressure in front of home crowd as F1

year after leaving for rcelona, the former the Barcelona, Germany midfielder completed his unlikely return to City on Friday on a free transfer and a season-long deal.

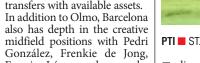
The 33-year-old Gundogan, who has the option of a further season at City, was the captain when Pep Guardiola's team captured the Premier League-FA Cup -Champions League treble in the 2022-23

campaign. That confirmed his place in the growing pantheon of City greats, having already been in the conversation most notably after scoring two late goals

joining in 2016 as Guardiola's first signing, and was often his midfielder manager's go-to player with big performances and significant

goals. Bringing in Gundogan is a late call by City in this transfer window. He was one of Xavi Hernández's favorite players during the coach's sole season with the Catalan club but Barcelona's delicate economic situation appears to have forced the new coach, Hansi Flick of Germany, to part ways

with Gundogan. Typically an attacking central midfielder, Gundogan also will be used as a replacement for holding midfielder Rodri



Fermin López and, once he recovers from his serious leg injury, Gavi Páez. Gundogan was Germany's captain at the recent European

Championship but he retired from international duty this week. Gundogan's last game for City saw him lift the Champions League trophy after the win

over Inter Milan in Istanbul in June last year. His next could be against Ipswich at Etihad Stadium in the Premier League on Saturday.



PTI ST. ANDREWS (SCOTLAND)

Indian golfers Diksha Dagar and Aditi Ashok Made crucial birdies on their

final holes to keep alive their chances of making the cut after the first round of the AIG Women's Open. Aditi carded a 4-over 76 to be

T-79 while Diksha was 5-over 77, sitting at T-100 as play ended late on the opening day which was marred by strong winds.

The cut looked likely at 3-over or 4-over after the second round.

For a long time, Diksha's score on the board showed a birdie on Par-5 14th, which was later corrected and it was shown as 5-over.

Aditi opened with two pars and then had a bogey on 12th and a double on 13th for 3over first nine. She dropped further shots on first and second to go 5-over before the birdie on ninth made it 4-over

for the day. Diksha, T-21 last year at Walton Heath, was 5-over for her first nine holes, the back nine of the Old Course with bogeys on 10, 11, 13, 16 and 17.

ninth. The three-time LET winner then had a great back nine as she made birdies on 10, 12, 15

and 18 to hold a solo lead on five-under-par in the final major of the year.

China's Ruoning Yin and American Korda sit one shot behind the leader after they produced rounds of 68 (-4) on the opening day at the Old Course.

Six players are in a share of fourth place with Korean duo Jenny Shin and Mi Hyang Lee, American pair Andrea Lee and Lilia Vu, Thailand's Patty Tavatanakit and Japan's Mao Saigo all on three-under.

# returns at Dutch Grand Prix

## AP ZANDVOORT (NETHERLANDS)

slump - no podium since April, no finish higher than seventh since May - hasn't quietened The Dutch Grand Prix has generally been a party for Max Verstappen and his legions of orange-clad fans. This year could be very different. the speculation. Red Bull's broader F1 operation also seems to have five drivers for four seats across

Verstappen has won all three races at the beach-side Zandvoort track since the Dutch Grand Prix returned to the Formula 1 schedule in 2021.

New Zealander Liam Lawson, For once though, home star who drove five races for RB Verstappen is under pressure (then called AlphaTauri) last in the standings. He enters the year, would "definitely be in first race after the summer one of our cars next year," in break without a win from any comments Thursday. of the previous four - his longest winless run since 2020. Yuki Tsunoda has a contract "Last year coming here, I was a lot more confident that we had

team, RB.

Marko told

with RB for 2025, but his teammate Daniel Ricciardo's a big chance of winning the status is less clear. Another race seat for 2025 was

wouldn't face questions about

his future. Perez's prolonged

its main team and its second

Red Bull adviser Helmut

newspaper Kleine Zeitung that

Austrian

published

confirmed Friday as Alpine promoted reserve driver Jack Doohan to partner Pierre

Gasly next year. RUSSELL SEEKS TO BOUNCE BACK: George Russell thought hed won the last race in Belgium, only to be disqualified when his car was Red Bull through 2028, said he found to be underweight. That believes he's closer to the end of passed the win to his teammate Lewis Hamilton.

McLaren and Mercedes are Russell has had nearly a month to reflect on what happened and said he had "zero hard feelings" toward Mercedes and that "in my mind, that is still a dominant style. Beating win."

Despite Mercedes' strong recent form, Russell said he thought McLaren's Lando Norris was the only driver still with a shot of catching Verstappen in the standings, and that even that was unlikely.

"Personally, I don't see anybody catching up with with Max and Red Bull in normal circumstances," Russell said Thursday. "They have an exceptional lead. It's just we've been used to crazy dominance in the last few years.

# Neeraj finishes second in Lausanne Diamond League with season's best 89.49m

### PTI LAUSANNE

Star Indian javelin round while Julian Weber of Germany took the third finished second in the Diamond League here after attempt. He saved the best for the last and his final attempt measured 89.49m

spot with 87.08m. Diamond League here after producing a season's best effort of 89.49m from his last attempt in a gritty performance despite on my last attempt. It was a

berrormance despite on my last attempt. It was a lingering fitness concerns. The 26-year-old was at the fourth spot till the fourth round before sending his spear to 85.58m in his fifth ttempt. It was a "Even though my early

throws were around 80-83m, I pushed hard in the on Thursday, a marginal improvement on the 89.45m achieved in the Paris Olympics a few days

ago. He was in danger of missing the sixth throw but his fifth round effort of the competition here from beginning to end and he stamped his class with the 85.58m saved him. Only the top three after five rounds get their respective fundational and he stamped his class with the 90m-plus throw in the last final attempts. Two-time world champion round. He has a personal best of 93.07m achieved in and Paris Olympics 2022

bronze-medallist With seven points from



third alongside Weber in in second spot with 16 Diamond League standings with 15 points. Peters jumped to top spot with 21 points. Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch,

points. Nursing a long-standing groin injury, Chopra claimed a silver in the Paris Olympics on August Anderson Peters of Thursday's second-place who finished seventh 8 adding to his historic 92.97m. Nadeem was Grenada won the event finish, Chopra is joint (82.03m) on Thursday, is gold in the Tokyo edition missing from the field

of the Games three years

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem had beaten Chopra for the gold in Paris with an Ölympic record throw of

race, but that's how the season is already," Verstappen said here. On Saturday, Chopra had confirmed his participation here, postponing a decision on a possible surgery till the end of the season.

Chopra had won the Lausanne leg in 2022 and 2023 and finished second behind Vadlejch in the winner-takes-all Diamond League final in Eugene, USA, last year.

This season's DL finals will both closing in on Verstappen and his Red Bull team, which be held in Brussels on started the year in such a September 14. He needs to finish in the top-six of the series standings to qualify Verstappen at his home race would be a real statement of for the finale. intent.

a men's javelin throw event on its roster.

meeting this year. He finished second behind Vadleich in Doha on May 10.

championship could be vulnerable. The Indian has been managing his groin injury since winning the gold in the Budapest World In normal circumstances, a driver who signed a contract Championships last year. extension two months ago

There is another DL meeting — in Zurich on September 5 — which has

drivers' standings gives him some room for error. But, Chopra is yet to win a DL teammate Sergio Perez's poor performances mean Red Bull's 42-point lead over McLaren in the

Thursday. "It's a lot more competitive and from our side, I think we're still trying to improve, trying to find a better car balance." It will be Verstappen's 200th race and the 26-year-old Dutch driver, who has a contract with

his F1 career than the start.

Perez under pressure Verstappen's 78-point lead over McLaren's Lando Norris in the

constructors'

under

Perez