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'The message we are conveying in *Aay* is nothing greater than FRIENDSHIP'



#### the pioneer Sanjay should reveal why KTR should be arrested. Should KTR be arrested for developing Hyderabad city? Is Sanjay giving orders to Revanth to arrest KTR? The Congress and the BJP are engaged in conspiracy politics in Telangana. KCR has faced big leaders and the current leaders are not fit for KCR's toes. The Congress and the BRS are working in tandem to ensure that BRS ceases to exist.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

- KP Vivekanand, BRS' Quthbullahpur MLA, TG

#### 160 temples to be renovated with...

Endowments Minister Anam Ramnarayana Reddy has said that 160 temples would be renovated at a cost of Rs 113 crore CGF funds. The Endowments Minister entered his modernised chamber in the Secretariat on Sunday. He made the first sign on the file about the modernisation of 160 temples at a cost of 113 crore CGF funds and made a sign on the second file about the modernisation of Sri Agastheswara Swamy temple at a cost of Rs 1 crore CGF funds. The Minister said that out of the 160 temples to be modernized, 147 are...

#### 'May give rise to same old...

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

#### Adopt guidance while dealing...

Income-tax department officials should make renewed efforts to come across as responsible. responsive transparent apart from undertaking an approach of "guidance over intimidation" while paling with taynavers, the CRD1 chairman has said. Ravi Agrawal, the head of the direct taxes administration body of the country, suggested a 'PRUDENT' approach to be followed by the taxmen as the income tax regime completed 164 years in India. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chief spoke to his colleagues.

-PAGE: 8

#### It's a dream to compete with...

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

## Tungabhadra Dam gate gives way

### AP CM Naidu asks officials to alert residents in low-lying areas

PNS VIJAYAWADA

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

day.
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has urgently addressed the situation, expressing deep concern over the potential risks posed by the incident. In response, he has instructed officials to immediately alert residents in low-lying areas of the erstwhile Kurnool district, including Kauthalam, Kosgi, Mantralayam, and Nandavaram, to remain vigilant.
The Chief Minister's directive

aims to ensure that local communities are prepared and can take necessary precautions to mitigate any potential impact from the ongoing flood conditions.

State Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has been actively involved in the response, communicating with Sai Prasad, the Special Chief Secretary of the Water Resources Department.



- The damaged gate was old and poorly maintained, raising concerns about the dam's upkeep
- Seven additional gates have been raised, and experts are placing iron sheets to minimise water wastage.
- A new gate can only be installed after releasing 60 TMC of water from the reservoir.

raises questions about oversight.

the Chief Minister has recommend-

To address the immediate issue,

 AP's previous govt failed to allocate funds for the dam's maintenance, complicating the response. Both Central and state governments

situation and repair the damage. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Anantapur MLA

are working together to address the

Kaluva Srinivas have visited the site to assess the damage and raise concerns.

Prasad informed the Chief Minister have briefed Naidu that the water that the washed-away gate was old, unused, and poorly maintained. level in the reservoir had reached up to 6 meters, necessitating urgent This revelation highlights concerns measures to prevent further water about the dam's maintenance and wastage.

As a temporary solution, seven additional gates have been raised to alleviate pressure, with one lakh cusecs of water being released ed that a design team be dispatched to the site without delay. Officials through eight gates, including the

damaged one.

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

Experts recommend installing

4x4 feet gates under

repair solution.

supervision for a robust

## Unutilised Krishna water flowing wastefully into sea

the government's neglect of essential repairs and upgrades to canals and reservoirs.

He expressed frustration that despite

having ample water in Srisailam, the existing

and better

C PRADEEP KUMAR

cpk007@gmail.com

■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh, massive quanti- Rayalaseema through the ties of Krishna River water are flowing wastefully into the AP to encourage power consumers to opt for sea. Despite the potential for utilising this floodwater, the star-rated appliancesBojja Dasharadha Ramieddy government has failed to implement president of the Rayalaseema Tagu Neeti Sadhana Samiti (RTNSS), has criticised

effective measures, drawing criticism from observers who feel that current leaders are neglecting future generations in favour of short-term gains. Despite the construction of major projects

Nagarjunasagar, Dowleswaram, Prakasam Barrage, and Srisailam, which have alleviated some water scarcity issues, the drought situation persists in Rayalaseema. Projects

intended to address water needs in through Nagarjunasagar. This the region are hindered by delays and maintenance issues. For example, the Srisailam Right Main Canal (SRMC) and the Telugu inflow are reaching the Prakasam Ganga Canal are both undergoing

repairs, and the Gorukallu Reservoir remains incomplete. When the Srisailam Dam reaches full capacity, it can channel up In the wake of recent floods in to 44,000 cusecs of water to

> Pothireddypadu head regulator. However, ongoing repairs and mismanagement of the canals, including the Malyala lift scheme, have prevented effective water diversion. Additionally, Telangana's recent power generation initiatives from the Srisailam left bank, undertaken without the Krishna Board's approval, have led to the diversion of 31,784 cusecs of water, with Andhra Pradesh officials remaining passive.

infrastructure remains underutilised, highlighting a critical Since early August, need for maintenance approximately 300,000 cusecs of water from Srisailam have been released into the sea daily

> week alone, around 2.5 lakh cusecs of floodwater was released from Srisailam, while 250,000 cusecs of Barrage daily. Cont

## YSRCP MLC Duvvada's aide Madhuri hurt in car crash

PNS SRIKAKULAM

Divvala Madhuri, a prominent YSRCP leader from Tekkali and close associate of YSRCP MLC Duvvada Srinivas, sustained severe injuries in a car accident near the Låkshmipuram toll gate on NH-5 in Kothajagadevapuram, Palasa mandal, on Sunday afternoon. The incident has shocked the district, sparking widespread speculation about the circumstances surrounding the crash.

According to reports, Madhuri was on a Zoom call when the accident occurred. Her vehicle overturned after colliding with a parked car. Residents quickly responded, rushing her to the Palasa Government Hospital.

The accident comes at a time of heightened tension between Srinivas and his wife, Vani. Vani, a Tekkali ZPTC member, has publicly accused her husband of infi-

delity and neglecting their family in favour of a relationship with Madhuri. These allegations have stirred significant controversy and media attention.

From her hospital bed, Madhuri spoke to the media, revealing the emotional strain she has been under. "The relentless trolling and negative comments I've faced over the past three days have deeply hurt me," Madhuri said. "I felt so overwhelmed by the situation that I thought the only way out was to end my life."

The police are currently investigating the accident, and the exact circumstances remain unclear. While some view it as a tragic accident, others are questioning whether it might have been a deliberate act. As this dramatic situation continues to unfold, the people of Srikakulam are watching closely, eager for clarity on these shocking events.

## Bhogapuram Airport work on fast lane: Min

PNS VIZIANAGARAM

Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu has announced that the construction of Bhogapuram Airport is moving faster than expected and will likely be finished six months ahead of schedule. After inspecting the site port, originally set to be completed by December 2026, is now expected to be ready by June 2026.

The Minister visited the site with State Tribal Welfare Minister check on the project's progress. He Gummidi Sandhyarani and State MSME, SERP, and NRI Affairs Minister Kondapalli Srinivas to



expressed pride in the airport project, calling it a major boost for the North Andhra region. He also

promised to keep a close watch on the construction, with regular inspections and meetings.

PNS NEW DELHI Former External Affairs Minister



#### **HM Anitha escapes** unhurt in accident

PNS VIJAYAWADA

State Minister Vangalapudi Anita was unharmed in a road accident on Sunday in Eluru district. Her car collided with an escort vehicle in her convoy after the escort vehicle's driver braked suddenly to avoid a motorcycle.

### Ex-foreign minister Natwar Singh no more

FRESH ALLEGATIONS

Hindenburg triggers political heat

K Natwar Singh passed away on Saturday night after a prolonged illness, family sources said. He was 93. He breathed his last at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram near Delhi, where he had been admitted for the past couple of weeks, they said. Singh was born in 1931 in

Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. He was a career diplomat, who brought a wealth of experience in

diplomacy to his political career and a prolific author on subjects ranging from the life of a maharaja to nuances of foreign affairs. During his distinguished career,



he wore many hats, and for his service to the nation, the former external affairs minister was awarded the Padma Bhushan in "His son is there at the hospital

and many more family members are coming to Delhi from his native state for the last rites planned in Delhi?

### 'Name Telugu University after NTR

Rs 50 cr sanctioned by CM, says Yarlagadda

PNS VIJAYAWADA

politician Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad praised Chief Minister Chandra-babu Naidu sanctioning Rs 50 crore for the



University in Rajamahendravaram. In a statement issued on Sunday, Yarlagadda urged that the new university be named after the late Nanɗamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), honouring a promise previously made by Chandrababu Naidu.

He said that Telugu University was originally conceived by NTR during the time of undivided Andhra Pradesh, with NTR serving as the university's first chancel-

Yarlagadda also mentioned that the government is taking concrete steps toward establishing both Telugu and Ambedkar universities in the State.

He highlighted the hardships faced by students due to the delay in establishing these institutions following the State's bifurcation.

## Fire at Vizag hospital; no casualties

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

"A fire broke out on the fifth floor of Seven Hills Hospital in Visakhapatnam's Ram Nagar on Sunday afternoon, raising concerns about hospital safety. The fire, which started around 2:00 pm, was quickly controlled by emergency services. Fortunately, all patients and staff were safely evacuated, and no injuries were reported. The fire is suspected to have been caused by a short circuit, though investigations

are ongoing. adherence to fire safety protocols in quency of such incidents. He error.



stressed that patient safety should be the top priority for hospital manage-City Police Commissioner Dr. ment, calling for regular safety Sankhabrata Bagchi, who visited the audits. The incident highlights the site, emphasised the need for stricter critical importance of maintaining rigorous safety measures in medical hospitals, citing the increasing fre- facilities, where there is no room for

### **Heavy rain likely** in Rayalaseema

**PNS** ■ GUNTUR

Heavy rain is expected at isolated places in Rayalaseema on August 14 and 15, according to the latest weath-

er report. The Southwest monsoon has been normal over Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema. The forecast for the next five days includes thunderstorms with lightning and strong surface winds of 30-40 km/h in isolated areas of both Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema.

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely at various locations in Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema over the next seven days.

The US-based short seller Hindenburg Research's allegations against SEBI chief Madhabi Buch triggered a political slugfest on Sunday with the Congress and other INDIÁ bloc parties ďemanding her removal and a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe and the ruling BJP accusing the opposition of being a part of a conspiracy to create financial instability and chaos in

PNS NEW DELHI

The opposition parties also urged the Supreme Court to step in after Hindenburg Research on Saturday alleged that the SEBI chairperson and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the time when dealing with matters.

□ Oppn demands SEBI chief's resignation, JPC probe

Madhabi Buch and her husband Dhaval dismissed the charges as baseless and alleged that Hindenburg Research is attacking capital markets regulator SEBI's credibility and attempting a character assassination of its chief instead of replying to a

show cause notice served to it for "violations in India" SEBI said allegations

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

#### Adani terms charges malicious, manipulative

PNS NEW DELHI

US short-seller Hindenburg Research's latest allegations as

SEBI chairperson or her husband. Adani Group on Sunday termed Hindenburg are malicious, mischievous and manipulative selections of publicly available informamalicious and manipulative tion to arrive at pre-determined of select public informa- conclusions for personal profiteertion, saying it has no commercial relationship with wanton disregard for facts and the law. Continued on Page 2

The Adani Group also has no commercial relationship termed the allegations with the Securities and Exchange malicious and based on Board of India (SEBI) chairperson manipulation of select public or her husband information. The company said it

**Continued on Page 2** 

## Monday Mirchi

#### TO THE NINETIES LEAVES BABUS SHAKEN

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

#### STRIKING WHILE THE IRON IS HOT

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

#### KAUN BANEGA CS RACE IS ON IN TG

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

#### RETIRED ENGINEERS LOBBYING FOR EXTENSION

Lateral hiring as well as extensions given

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

#### FINISH WHEN THE GOING IS GOOD

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

#### **ONLY ONE PERSON SHOULD SPEAK TO THE MEDIA**

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

--Yours truly

#### AP JUDA demand action after death of medico in Kolkata

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors Association (AP JUDA) has expressed deep grief and outrage following the tragic death of a second-year postgraduate resident from the Department of Chest Medicine at RG Kar Medical College, Kolkata. In solidarity, AP JUDA has called for a candlelight vigil across all medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh on the evening of August 12, to support the victim's family, friends, and colleagues.

The association is demanding stringent punishment for those responsible and urging the government to expedite the implementation of the 'Central Protection Act for Doctors' to ensure the safety of healthcare professionals. They have called for decisive action within 24 hours, warning that failure to do so will lead to nationwide protests in collaboration with the Federation Of Resident Doctors' Association India (FORDA). AP JUDA emphasizes the critical need for protective measures for doctors and vows to continue monitoring the situation closely.

#### **CONSERVATION OF ENERGY**

## AP to help consumers switch to star-rated appliances

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Energy Department Special Chief Secretary K Vijayanand highlighted the State's commitment to green energy to meet future demands and to promote energy efficiency by encouraging consumers to opt for star-rated appliances, emphasising the financial, and environmental benefits. He further said that in a bid to enhance energy efficiency across Southern India, including Andhra Pradesh, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, has called upon State Designated Agencies (SDAs) of all States to intensify their efforts in promoting the Star Labelling appliances under Standards and Labelling (S&L) Programme for electronic appli-

APSECM CEO, BAV Kumar Reddy with media adviser (Southern States/UTs) A Chandra



is fully committed to promoting all energy efficiency programmes with Sekhara Reddy submitted a Pradesh prioritises the provision of 24x7 quality power supply adhering to global standards," he detailed report of Energy Efficiency including S&L to said. He further highlighted the Vijayanand and explained about the impact of S&L in particular. State's focus on Green Energy to Welcoming BEE's appeal during meet future demands, underscoran interaction, K Vijayanand ing the government's dedication emphasized the State governto promoting Energy Efficiency ment's unwavering commitment as part of its broader strategy to

ensure energy security with environmental consciousness. Special CS Vijayanand said,

'The Star Labelling Programme has significantly increased consumer awareness of the energysaving potential of electrical appliances. By assigning 1-5 star ratings, with 5 stars indicating the most efficient models, the programme helps consumers make informed choices. This leads to substantial savings on electricity bills and supports environmental conservation. The State government is fully committed to promoting all energy efficiency programmes with the utmost

dedication," said Vijayanand. The BEE urged consumers to opt for star-rated appliances for financial and environmental benefits. The Bureau recognising proactive efforts in Southern states and Union Territories, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, and Lakshadweep, pledged full support to advance energy efficiency.

## Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra YSRCP demands action on dues towards farmers' support schemes, crop insurance

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former chief minister and YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy emphasised the critical importance of farmers' welfare for the overall well-being of the state. He urged the government to promptly release the promised funds under investment support schemes, including the Rythu Bharosa amounts, and to ensure that the crop insurance premiums for 2023-24 are paid without further delay.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), YS Jagan expressed concern over the non-payment of the free crop insurance premium for the 2023-24 Kharif season. He warned that this delay poses significant risks to farmers, who depend on this vital support. The former chief minister highlighted the fears among the farming community that the insurance payouts, crucial for financial assistance during crop losses, may not be disbursed on

During his previous tenure, YS Jagan noted that the State government consistently paid the Kharif season's crop insurance premiums in April-May each year. This timely action allowed for compensation to be provided to compensation to be provided to affected farmers by June, ensuring they could recover and prepare for the next season without financial strain. The state bore the entire cost of the premium, relieving farmers of any financial burden during the sowing period. He added that once the state government paid its share of the premium, the central government promptly released its portion.

YS Jagan pointed out that insurance companies typically disbursed compensation to farmers within thirty days, enabling his administration to support 54.55 lakh farmers, with a total of Rs 7,802 crore disbursed. However, he criticised the current government for failing to pay the premium for the 2023-24 Kharif season due to the election code of con-

Unutilised...

The barrage authorities

have been discharging the

entire amount into the sea,

exacerbating the waste of

Bojja Dasharadha Ramireddy,

president of the Rayalaseema

Tagu Neeti Sadhana Samiti

(RTNSS), has criticised the gov-

ernment's neglect of essential

repairs and upgrades to canals

and reservoirs. He expressed

frustration that despite having

ample water in Srisailam, the

existing infrastructure remains

underutilised, highlighting a

critical need for maintenance

and better management.

precious water resources.

Continued from Page 1



to the energy sector. "Under the

leadership of Chief Minister Nara

duct. He stated that despite expectations for the newly formed government to address this issue promptly, no action has been taken, leaving farmers and agri-cultural stakeholders in a state of

Jagan expressed deep concern for farmers, especially as coastal regions face the threat of heavy rains and Rayalaseema risks drought. He warned that the government's negligence could

severely harm farmers already struggling with adverse weather

He also highlighted that farmers are anxiously awaiting the promised Rs 20,000 annual investment support under the Rythu Bharosa scheme as the Kharif season nears its end. He lamented that no announcements have been made, forcing farmers to seek financial aid from banks and moneylenders, a burden that could have been

Recalling the previous administration's efforts, Jagan mentioned that even during the global economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rythu Bharosa scheme served as a lifeline for farmers, with ?34,288 crore disbursed to over 53 lakh farmers. He demanded immediate action from the current government to pay the overdue crop insurance premium and disburse the promised funds under the Rythu Bharosa scheme.

## HM Anitha... Continued from Page 1

The incident occurred near Kaikaram in Unguturu man-dal. Both vehicles sustained minor damage, but no injuries were reported. Anita was en route to an official event in Alampuram, West Godavari district, from Vijayawada. She continued her journey in another vehicle and attended the scheduled program.

### **'Name Telugu...**

Continued from Page 1

Yarlagadda recalled that during the celebrations in Rajahmundry on the final day of the Godavari Pushkaralu, CM Chandrababu Naidu had announced that the city's name would be changed to

Rajamahendravaram and that a Telugu University would be established there. He noted that 35 acres of land, along with suitable buildings, are already available for the

### Adani terms...

Continued from Page 1

"We completely reject these allegations against the Adani Group which are a recycling of discredited claims that have been thoroughly investigated, proven to be baseless and already dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in January 2024," the group said in a filing.

Hindenburg on Saturday stated that SEBI head Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband invested in offshore entities that were allegedly part of a fund structure managed by India Infoline and in which Vinod Adani, Gautam Adani's brother, also had investments.

These investments reportedly date back to 2015, well before Madhabi's appointment as a wholetime member of SEBI in 2017 and the subsequent elevation as chairperson in March 2022.

TODAY

#### **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham Sukla Paksha Tithi: Saptami: Aug 11 05:45 AM to Aug 12 07:55 AM Ashtami Aug 12 07:55 AM to Aug 13 09:31 AM Nakshatram: Aug 11 05:48 AM Swati to Aug 12 08:33 AM Vishaka Aug 12 08:33 AM to Aug 13 10:44 AM 7:36 AM to 9:11 AM Rahukalam: 10:46 AM to 12:21 PM Yamagandam: Varjyam: 02:39 PM to 04:24 PM 1:55 PM to 3:30 PM Amritakalam: 01:08 AM to 02:53 AM Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:55 AM to 12:46 PM VIJAYAWADA WEATHER Forecast: Scattred Showers **Temp**: 35°° Humidity: 72% Sunrise: 5:51 AM Sunset: 6:34 PM Updated: August 11, 2024 5:00 PM

## Floodwater level recedes at Prakasam Barrage

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The flood situation at Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada is improving, with water levels gradually receding. As of 6 pm on Sunday, the total inflow to the barrage was recorded at 2,37,451 cusecs. Of this, 2,22,950 cusecs of floodwater were released downstream through all 70 crest gates, while the remaining 14,451 cusecs were diverted into the canals.

Officials from the Irrigation Circle in Vijayawada reported a significant reduction in the floodwater inflow from upstream. Within a span of four hours, the inflow decreased by 60,000 cusecs, dropping from 3.02 lakh cusecs at 1 PM to 2.37 lakh cusecs by 6



A fisherman tries his luck in floodwater downstream of Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada on Sunday. Pic by Ch Vijaya Bhaskar

Resources Department officials lifted all 70 crest gates of the Prakasam Barrage, discharging 2,22,950 cusecs of water into the sea. The crest gates were raised by 5 feet to facilitate this release. Additionally, 14,451 cusecs of water were diverted into

the canals to maintain the In response, Water barrage's water level at 12

Authorities also noted a decline in the floodwater contribution from the Pulichintala Project, which had been adding 1.90 lakh cusecs to the inflows, along with a reduction in water

## **Hindenburg triggers political...**

Continued from Page 1

In the wake of the allegations, the Congress said the government must act immediately to eliminate conflicts of interest in the regulator's investigation of the Adani Group and renewed the demand for a JPC probe into the entire matter. The principal opposition party also said

the Supreme Court should take suo motu cognisance of the "entire scam" and get it probed under its aegis as the investigating agency SEBI is itself accused of being involved in it. It asserted that in the wake of such "serious allegations", Buch cannot remain in her position. Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the integrity of SEBI has been "gravely compromised" by the allegations against its chairperson and

asked whether the Supreme Court would look into this matter suo motu once again following the revelations. "Honest investors across the country have pressing questions for the government: Why hasn't SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch resigned yet? If investors lose their hard-earned money, who will be held accountable -- PM Modi, the SEBI Chairperson, or Gautam Adani?" the former Congress chief said.

"It is now abundantly clear why Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi is so afraid of a JPC probe and what it might reveal," he said. The TMC demanded that SEBI chairperson Buch should immediately be suspended. "This situation is extraordinary. BJP is clearly on the back-foot in Parliament. We need both- a JPC as well as an SC monitored probe," TMC leader Derek O'Brien said.

The situation has been further complicated by the fact that Andhra Pradesh is responsible for 35% of the from local catchment areas. maintenance costs for the Tungabhadra project. However, the previous government did not allocate any

> In addition to the response from the Andhra Pradesh government, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Anantapur district MLA Kaluva Srinivas have visited the site to assess the damage. There are concerns about whether the incident resulted from a lack of oversight by Tungabhadra Board officials or human error. Kaluva Srinivas has

investigation.
The Tungabhadra Reservoir serves not only Karnataka's Bellary, Raichur, Koppal, and Gadag districts but also Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur, Kadapa, and Kurnool districts. Given its importance, both state and central governments are engaged in efforts to manage the situation and repair the damage as swiftly as possible. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has stressed the need for urgent repairs, instructing ministers and officials to spare no effort in addressing the issue. Technical experts have recommended the installation of 4x4 feet gates under expert supervision to ensure a robust and lasting solution to the problem.

As the situation continues over the matter, emphasizing the need for a thorough ed communities.

PNS TIRUMALA

Rajinder Gupta of Trident Group, Punjab donated Rs 21 crore towards SV Pranadana Trust of TTD on

Sunday. The donor has handed over the cheque for the amount to TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch Venkaiah Chowdhary at the latter's camp office in Tirumala.



## Tungabhadra gate...

Continued from Page 1

funds for the dam's upkeep, contributing to the current crisis. The central and state governments are now working together to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

to develop, ongoing monitoring and coordination between the various stakeholders will be crucial to expressed his apprehension managing the impact and

## Bhogapuram Airport...

Continued from Page 1

Naidu revealed that since the Chief Minister's visit on July 11, the project's completion rate has jumped from 31.8% to 36.6%. Earthworks are almost done, and construction on the runway, taxiway, and terminal is moving forward quickly. The Air Traffic Control tower is also progressing, and other facilities like substations and water treatment plants are on schedule. Despite heavy rains, the Minister praised the companies GMR and L&T for their hard work. He also highlighted the growth of the aviation sector in India, mentioning a 16% annual growth rate, and shared the government's plans to build more airports in places like Dagadarthi, Nagarjunasagar, Kuppam, Anantapur, and Ongole. The state is also focusing on developing seaports. On another note, Naidu addressed the long-standing issue of establishing the South Coast Railway Zone in Visakhapatnam. He blamed the previous government for delays but assured that the current administration is work-

ing hard on it, with land and permissions already secured. Several important officials, including District Collector Dr B.R. Ambedkar, MP Kalishetti Appalanayudu, Nellimarla MLA Lokam Naga Madhavi, and others, were present during the visit.

#### **Heavy rain likely in....**

Continued from Page 1

In the past 24 hours, rainfall has been reported at a few places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh and at one or two locations in Rayalaseema. The Meteorological Centre also noted that the trough extending from South Interior Karnataka to the Comorin area at 0.9 km above mean sea level persists.

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## Special university needed for Free schemes may lead to aquaculture: Kollu Ravindra

Stress on need for adopting modern, technological, and international methods

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Mines & Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra has emphasised the need for modern, technological, and international methods to be adapted in order to make significant progress and increase production in aquaculture. He added that aquaculture will play an important role in providing aqua marine fishing for future generations. Minister Ravindra suggested that a special university should be established to achieve these

As part of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-8 Project on Sustainable Aquaculture in Andhra Pradesh, a delegation from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) visited the fishing harbour at Gilakaladindi near Machilipatnam on Sunday. The team observed the environmental conditions and later, held a meeting with aquaculture farmers to address their issues. They enquired about the favourable conditions required to continue aquaculture in the region.

The delegation included GEF-8 Project India Assistant Representative Dr. Konda Chevva, bio-diversity expert and FAO Project National Coordinator Sim Bhat, Lead



Minister Kollu Ravindra with the delegation of the GEF-8 Project on Sustainable Aquaculture in Andhra Pradesh at the Gilakaladindi Fishing Harbour near Machilipatnamon Sunday

Muralidharan, aquaculture specialist Vishnu Bhat, private sector, value chain and sustainable finance specialist Neelakhanta Mishra, environmental management specialist Neena Koshhi, and gender, stakeholder engagement, and safeguards specialist Salom

Minister Kollu Ravindra welcomed the team and urged

Technical Specialist CM the members to protect the endangered species of sea fish. He pointed out the need to conserve mangroves for coastal protection and emphasised the establishment of a special university. He further mentioned that once the modernisation works at the Machilipatnam Fishing Harbour are completed, it will develop as an aqua hub. He highlighted the importance of

protecting mangroves to safeguard sea fish species and support their reproduction.

Furthermore, the Minister highlighted the new concept of 'Mother Fish' and its potential to overcome the issues faced by fishermen in storing fish products. He also spoke about the need to make solar boats available for fishermen to use. Stressing this point not just as a minister but as an aqua cultivator, he emphasised that the 'Mother Fish' concept would be more helpful to the fishermen once implemented in the State.

Prior to this, the team described their project as an expansion of investment in sustainable aquaculture management, linked to land-based practices impacting freshwater and coastal ecosystems, as well as marine ecosystems. They noted that aquaculture has experienced significant annual growth since 1950, with the share of aquaculture products in overall İndian fish products increasing by 68 per cent. They pointed out that more than 28 million fishermen and aquaculture workers are involved in fishing aquacul-

The Central team lauded Andhra Pradesh for being the biggest aquaculture producer in the country, naming it an aquaculture hub. The project aims to encourage fishermen to engage in sustainable aqua production and to address challenges posed by weather changes.

Fisheries Commissioner Tummu Dola Sanka, Additional Director Dr Anjali, Director Chandrasekhar, and Krishna District Forest Officer K Rajasekhar were also present during the visit.

# laziness: Venkaiah Naidu

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former Vice-President of India M Venkaiah Naidu has emphasised the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and good eating habits as key contributors to better health. He attended a free medical camp sponsored by the EVR Super Speciality Hospital, Gudivada, at the Swarna Bharathi Trust at Atkuru near Gannavaram on Sunday.

In his address, Venkaiah Naidu highlighted the ongoing efforts of the Swarna Bharati Trust, which operates in Hyderabad, Nellore, and Atkuru, to support rural poor students by providing them with lodging and boarding facilities. He also mentioned that the Trust is actively involved in empowering the unemployed youth by offering free training in 17 different trades, helping them secure self-employment opportunities.

Venkaiah Naidu expressed concern over the free schemes provided by the government, suggesting that they may lead to laziness among the people. He urged the government to focus instead on offering free education and healthcare services, which he believes will have a more positive and lasting impact on society. He also advised parents to encourage their children to

affecting people's ability to think independently. He

donating his organs to the NTR Trust Cancer Hospital. He praised Raju as an inspiration for others to follow. The event was attended by

Swarna Bharat Trust CEO Sarath Babu, along with doctors from EVR Super Speciality Hospital, including Rajendra, Satish Chandra, Rajya Lakshmi, Revanth Kumar, Amritha, Raghuvaran, Suman Kumar, and Jaya Sri.



Former Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu addressing the gathering at a medical camp at the Swarna Bharathi Trust at Atkuru on Sunday

learn about Indian culture and traditions, urging them to focus on these values. He suggested using social media for educational purposes rather than wasting time on it.

Besides, he expressed his concern over the growing dependence on mobile phones, which he believes is encouraged people to remain health-conscious by practising yoga and engaging in other physical exercises. Venkaiah Naidu com-

mended Alluri Rama Raju, a

Ambapuram in Vijayawada

Rural, for his noble act of

75-year-old resident of

## 'Road accident prevention everyone's responsibility'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy has said that road accidents are the most tragic incidents. The Minister unveiled posters issued by the Road Safety Voluntary Organisation at the Camp Office in Vijayawada on Sunday

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that it is everyone's responsibility to prevent road accidents.

He requested voluntary ward to spread awareness among people to prevent

After unveiling the poster, the Minister appealed to the people not to drive vehicles under the influence of alcohol, wear helmets and follow the line display on national highways.



Safety NGO RK Durga

Venkateswara Rao and Bangaraiah and others were

#### PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The State committee of the

Communist Party of India-

Marxist (CPM) has demand-

ed that funds be allocated for

the Upadhi scheme and for

conducting gram sabhas across the State.

The party also demanded

100 days of employment for

As India prepares to celebrate its 77th Independence Day, the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) has taken a proactive step to ignite a sense of the city's residents. Commissioner P. Sampath Kumar has called upon all citizens to actively participate in the HarGharTiranga movement, a nationwide initiative aimed at fostering unity and celebrating the enduring spirit of freedom.

colour at their homes and, more importantly, to capture these moments of pride through photographs. Citizens are encouraged to upload these images to the official website, harghartiranga.com, as a way of sharing their love for the country with the wider community. "This is more than just a symbolic gesture; it is a celebration of our shared history, values, and aspirations as a nation," the Commissioner

He emphasised the role of

#### those holding job cards.

Furthermore, the CPM State committee has said that work should not be assigned to contractors and requested an increase in person-days to expand the scheme's scope.

În a press release issued on Sunday, party State secretary V Srinivasa Rao stated planning to conduct gram sabhas in all 13,326 pan-

During these gram sabhas, the government should ensure 100 days of employment for job card holders, he emphasised.

He also stated that this responsibility falls on the

Moreover, he mentioned that the proposed gram sabhas should involve discussions with the public about the type of work to be undertaken and their priority.

He stressed that the government should implement all 29 types of works recognised by the Central govern-

#### SEB seizes liquor worth Rs. 1.12 lakh; 2 held

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) sleuths in Jaggaiahpet seized 163 liquor bottles worth Rs. 1.12 lakh at the Chillakallu Toll Plaza in NTR district. The liquor bottles belonged to Telangana State. The SEB also arrested two individuals, Jalleda Manikanta and Shaik Iliaz, who hail from Guntur district.

According to SEB Inspector S. Manikantha the 163 liquor bottles from wine shops at the Ramapuram Cross Road in Telangana. They made the purchase through a mobile

Acting on a tip-off, the SEB checked the toll plaza and found the two illegally transporting the 163 liquor bottles in an auto. During the interrogation, they admitted to purchasing the Telangana liquor to sell it in Guntur.

Inspector Manikantha Reddy stated that transporting liquor from Telangana to Andhra Pradesh is banned. He warned that purchasing liquor in Telangana and attempting to transport it to Andhra Pradesh is a crime.

An auto and two smartphones were also confiscated by the police. Inspector Manikantha Reddy commended SEB Constable S. Kishore Babu for the arrest.

## Research should adopt multidisciplinary approaches'

Orientation programme on Benchmarking research processes in higher education opportunities held

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Engineering and Technology, Vijayawada, organised a Orientation Programme on the college premises on Sunday. The event featured Dr Manimozhi Theodore-Teuder, Outstanding Scientist and Emeritus Chief Coordinator of the ISRO-DRDO Gaganyaan Programme, and former Director of the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR) and Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory (DEBEL) at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), as the resource person.

Andhra Loyola Institute of

Dr Theodore shared her valuable insights on various aspects of benchmarking, emphasising that 21st-century research should adopt multidisciplinary approaches to address high-impact societal challenges. She highlighted the importance of developing both immediate shortterm solutions and long-term strategies to systematically

tackle these issues.
Besides, Dr Theodore pointed out that the benchmarking process, along with



Andhra Loyola Institute of Engineering facilitating Dr Manimozhi Theodore-Teuder on the college campus in Vijayawada on Sunday

setting targets, can often be misunderstood due to its quantitative nature. She stressed the importance of establishing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to effectively guide this process.

During the interactive session, Dr Theodore encouraged the faculty members to focus their research on unsolved problems, addressing all questions related to quality and the role of academics. She also discussed the significance of teamwork and drew from her extensive experience at DRDO and DEBEL to illustrate these

The event was attended by Andhra Loyola Institutions Rector Dr PR John, Director and Secretary Dr B Joji Reddy, Assistant Director Balaswamy, Principal Dr O Mahesh, and IQAC Coordinator Dr Candy D Chunha.

#### that the State government is State government. GVMC chief urges citizens



Allocate funds for Upadhi scheme: CPM

every individual in strengthening the fabric of national unity. "The #HarGharTiranga movement is a powerful reminder that every citizen has a role to play in nurturing our national pride. By displaying the flag and sharing

your snapshots, you are not just participating in a cam-paign, but contributing to a collective expression of love for our country," he said.

The GVMC Commissioner also highlighted the importance of digital engagement in

not only hoist the flag but to actively participate in the digital movement by sharing their photos on social media platforms, using the hashtag #HarGharTiranga. "Let Visakhapatnam shine with the colours of our national flag. Let us proudly show the world our unity and love for India. When we share these moments online, we are creating a ripple effect of patriotism that transcends boundaries," he added. This call to action is

He encouraged the people to

expected to resonate deeply with the people of Visakhapatnam, known for their strong sense of community and civic responsibility. The Commissioner's appeal is not just about celebrating a day but about reinforcing the values that the tricolour represents-freedom, diversity, and unity.

## Young skater sets sights on international glory

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

At an age when most teenagers are captivated by digital games and social media, 16-year-old Chandaka Venkata Naga Murari is carving out his own path in the world of roller skating. The junior men's category skater has already amassed an impressive collection of medals, including six golds, two silvers, and a bronze at various national competitions in inline alpine skating. Now, he sets his sights on bringing international glory to India.

Balancing a rigorous academic workload with an equally demanding training schedule, Murari, currently in his second year of Intermediate studies, demonstrates a discipline far beyond his years. "My focus extends beyond just skating; I'm also preparing for

#### Chandaka Venkata Naga Murari's tally includes nine national-level awards and over a dozen State-level medals

the NEET exam," Murari shared with The Pioneer. "I spend most of my time either studying or training at the

Murari's journey into the world of skating began at the tender age of six, sparked by a passion that has only grown stronger over the years. Under the watchful eye of his father, Ch VAE Suresh Kumar, a national referee and his first coach, Murari has honed his skills with relentless dedica-tion. "It's been a journey of passion and perseverance," Suresh Kumar remarked. Venkata's commitment to skating, despite the rigors of academics, is truly commendable. His ability to maintain



high standards in both areas is nothing short of extraordi-

nary."
This dedication has not gone unnoticed. At the recent 61st National Roller-Skating Championship, Murari's talent shone brightly as he clinched the gold medal, a testament to his growing prowess in the sport. His medal tally now includes nine national-level awards, over a dozen Statelevel medals, and 23 districtlevel victories—a remarkable achievement for someone so young. But Murari is far from complacent. "Winning at the national-level was a big mile-stone, but my ultimate goal is to compete and win on the international stage," he said,

his eyes gleaming with determination. "I want to bring pride not just to my family, but o the entire nation."

Training both in the early mornings and late evenings, Murari continues to hone his skills with the support of his father. "I believe in my son's potential, and I am confident that he will bring international laurels to our country," Suresh Kumar asserted.

Beyond the medals and the accolades, Murari's story is one of sheer willpower and resilience. In a sport that demands not just physical agility but also mental fortitude, Murari has shown that he possesses both in abundance. His achievements have inspired many young skaters across the region, proving that with dedication and the right guidance, dreams can indeed become reality.



## 160 temples to be renovated with Rs 113 crore: Minister

Endowments Minister Anam Ramnarayana Reddy has said that 160 temples would be renovated at a cost of Rs 113 crore CGF funds.

The Endowments Minister entered his modernised chamber in the Secretariat on Sunday. He made the first sign on the file about the modernisation of 160 temples at a cost of 113 crore CGF funds and made a sign on the second file about the modernisation of Sri Agastheswara Swamy temple at a cost of Rs 1 crore CGF funds.

The Minister said that out of the 160 temples to be modernized, 147 are priority grade temples and 13 temples are located in tribal areas. The Endowment Minister revealed that there are 27,105 temples in the Endowments department purview of which  $\hat{6}$  (A) temples were 236.

The Endowments department owns 4,65,000 acres of land and all steps were taken to protect the lands from being usurped. As many as 20,839 employees are working in the endowment department across the state of which 11,142 are working on religious basis and 9,597 are working in the administration.



many of them to be constituted. Aanam Ramanarayana Reddy disclosed that five officers were suspended in respect of corruption in two temples in Nellore district. The Minister warned of taking action against even top officials if they are found to be involved in corrupt practices.

He cited that a woman officer who connived with some YSRCP MPs was suspended and an inquiry by vigilance officials has been ordered. He reiterated that the govern-The Endowment department has 1,234 boards but ment is committed to protecting the endowment properties

and reporters submitted by the officials are examined from time to time in this regard.

The government has decided to revive performing 'Harathi' to the confluence of River Krishna-Godavari waters at Ferry ghat near Ibrahimpatnam. The 'Harati' programme was suspended by the erstwhile YSRCP regime,", he said, adding that a meeting with Ministers P Gottipati Narayana, Ravikumar and Kandula

Durgesh to discuss the issue. Minister Ramnarayana Reddy said that stringent

action would be taken against those who video graphed in the sanctum sanctorum of the famous hill shrine Kanaka Durga temple on August 7. The endowment ministry has taken the video in the sanctum sanctorum very seriously and an inquiry will also be held. The video footage was handed over to the Vijayawada Police Commissioner. Steps

recur in future, he noted. **Endowments Commissioner** S Satyanarayana and other officials were present.

would also be taken to ensure

that such incidents would not

#### **Young couple** ends life



A young couple committed suicide separately rendering their two children including an infant orphaned here on Sunday.

Police said that K Nagaraju (23) and Sureka (21) loved each other and married three years ago. The couple had a three-year-old and 11-month sons. However, Nagaraju was addicted to alcohol and used to spend all the money he earned on liquor. Disputes erupted between the couple as moneylenders started exerting pressure on Surekha.

Moreover, her husband used to harass her to get money from their parents. Unable to bear the mental pressure, she committed suicide by hanging herself to the ceiling fan in their house on Saturday.

After seeing her body in the hospital, Nagaraju ended his life by jumping before a running train at Vijayamahal on Sunday.

#### PENALTY ON EXCESS CROPPING REMOVED

## Tobacco farmers get Rs 15 cr benefit in Eluru: MP Mahesh



Mahesh Kumar met Union

Minister of Commerce Piyush

Goyal and urged him to revoke the penalty. The Central gov-

ernment issued a GO lifting the

penalty on additional tobacco

Acknowledging the MP's timely action, the tobacco farm-

ers felicitated him in a grand

The tobacco farmers

appealed to the MP to take steps

to curb the manufacturing of

fake cigarettes which caused a

loss of Rs 25,000 crore in the

country. MP Putta Mahesh

Kumar said that as he promised in the election, he would strive

to ensure that the farmers get

remunerative prices for their

produce. He stated that he met

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

programme today.

crops raised by the farmers.

PNS FILIRII

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has said that the tobacco farmers in the Eluru district have got a benefit of Rs 15 crore due to doing away with penalties on addition-

The tobacco farmers felicitated the MP here on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, MP Mahesh Kumar said that the Central government issued a GO withdrawing the penalty on the additional tobacco crop raised by the tobacco farmers.

"The repeal of penalty on additional tobacco crop, raised by the farmers, resulted in the tobacco farmers having got Rs 15 crore benefit in Eluru district, and at the same time, the tobacco farmers across the state, have got a benefit of Rs 110 crore," the MP claimed.

At a programme held at Devarapalli recently, the tobac-

co farmers appealed to the MP on Saturday and discussed varto ensure the lifting of penalty ious issues. on additional tobacco crops raised by the farmers. MP

"I have required the Prime Minister to provide remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce, expedite Polavaram project works and do justice to the evacuees issue," the

"The Centre will grant Rs 12,000 crore for the Polavaram project construction in the Cabinet meeting. In the recently held Parliament meetings, I spoke about employment for youth, remunerative prices for farmers, Polavaram and railway projects,", he acknowledged adding that he asked to provide a half to the 'Vande Bharata' train in Eluru. MP Putta Mahesh Kumar said that a job fair will be held in Eluru in September. Former MLA Ghanta Murali, Tobacco farm-

ers association leader S Venkat

## Revenue Sadassulu' to begin on August 15: Collector

PNS BHIMAVARAM

'Grama Revenue Sadassulu' will begin in the West Godavari district on August 15 formally and conclude on September 30 in which petitions pertaining to land disputes will be received by the officials.

District Collector C Nagarani here on Sunday said that during the 45-day-long 'Revenue Sadassulu', petitions from people related to land disputes. She said that an action plan was also evolved to resolve the grievances from October 1. "The Government will appoint a senior IAS special officer for



each district to conduct and supervise the 'Revenue Sadassulu," she said

She said that 'Revenue Sadassulu' would be held throughout the day in large revenue villages and one day in small revenue villages. The officials would receive petitions from people in five categories and register them in 5 registers. Mutation, tenant farmer cards (LEC), land disputes, land encroachment, Prohibited List 22(A) petitions would also be received from people during the Revenue Sadassulu'.

The Collector stated that a receipt will be given to the people after receiving a petition from them, adding that to find a solution to all these, revenue meetings are being organized in every village as per the orders of the government.

Tehsildar, Revenue Inspector, Village Revenue Officer, Mandal Surveyor, endowment, representatives of Waqf Departments, Registration Department Officer, and Forest Department Officer will participate in the revenue con-

ference and receive petitions

from people. Collector Nagarani said that every application will be made online and if necessary, we will visit the field and investigate each problem and inform the complainants about the action taken. He said that the revenue conferences will start at 9 am every day and the schedule will

PNS ■ ONGOLE

in politics.

Former minister Sidda Raghava

Rao has appealed to the Arya

Vysyas to be united and excel

A programme was organised

here on Sunday on the occasion

of the oath-taking by Prakasam

district Arya Vysya Sangham

president Kota Hanumantha

Rao. Former MP TG Venkatesh

also attended the programme.

Sidda Raghava Rao underlined

the need for Arya Vysyas to be

united and take an active part

PNS HYDERABAD

Speaking on the occasion,

The Collector said that be announced in advance as to ehsildar, Revenue Inspector, when the conferences will be held in which village.

Security would be provided with the police till the programme is completed as Revenue Sadassulu' is being held on sensitive land issues, she observed, adding that that the officials concerned have been directed to conduct a large-scale campaign through the local media, pamphlets and posters on the revenue conferences from village to village. The District Joint Collector will act as the nodal officer for the management of the village 'Revenue Sadassulu', the Collector said.

Stating that Arya Vyasys

Raghava Rao congratulated

the new district Arya Vysya

Sangam president Kota

Hanumontha Rao and wished

him all the best. He assured of

extending the required help to

the district Arya Vysya

Sangham. Chinni Rama

Satyanarayana, Penugonda Subba Rayudu, and Vasavi

Satrams president Devaki

Venkateswarlu were among

those who attended the pro-

have a service nature, he asked

them to scale heights in politics

#### Vijayawada rly staffer shines at Inter Railway Athletics Meet



PNS VIJAYAWADA

Kartheeka, Office Superintendent, Commercial Department, Vijayawada, South Central Railway, has made a remarkable achievesecuring second place in the long jump event with a impressive jump of 6.26 m and third place in triple jump with a commendable distance of 12.83 m at the 89th All India Inter Railway Athletics Championships held at Rae

Bareli from August 9 to 11. Kartheeka's achievements have brought pride to the South Central Railway and are an inspiration to her colleagues.

The 89th All India Inter Railway Championships saw participation from top athletes from various railway zones across the country.

Narendra A Patil, Divisional Railway Manager, Vijayawada Division, congratulated Kartheeka on her achievement and stated that the Division is proud of her remarkable achievement, which reflects her commitment to excellence and passion for athletics. "Her success motivates us to support and encourage our employees to pursue their sporting interests," he added.

Sanjay is an agent of Revanth, says BRS

### District aims to combat anaemia through 'nutrition drive'

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Recognising the pivotal role of nutrition in the holistic development of its citizens, particularly children, infants, and girls, the district administration has embarked on an ambitious initiative to promote homegrown, organic produce. By establishing school, Anganwadi, and backyard gardens, the dis-

trict aims to combat anaemia, a prevalent health issue. "A healthy society is the bedrock of a progressive nation," asserted District

A Shyam Prasad. "By cultivating nutritious greens and vegetables, we aspire to address the challenge of anaemia head-on."

To ensure the initiative's success, the Education and Women and Child Welfare Departments have been entrusted with the implementation of garden projects. Medical officers are actively disseminating information about balanced diets, while the district administration is providing seed kits to support gardening endeavours. School gardens will serve as educational hubs, enabling students to learn about organic farming while enjoying the benefits of fresh, wholesome

produce. Addressing concerns about chemical residue in commercially grown food, the district is encouraging home gardening as a sustainable and safe alternative. To further combat anaemia, especially among vulnerable populations, the

To establish school, Anganwadi, and backyard gardens

district has established special hostels in remote villages to provide nutritional support to pregnant women and has implemented comprehensive nutrition programmes for infants and adolescent

> Collector Shyam Prasad has mandated the inclusion of nutrientrich dishes like drumstick curry, asparagus curry, and sorrel leaves

curry in school mid-day meals. He has also emphasised the cultivation of mung beans for their nutritional value and market potential. The District Water Management Agency, led by Director K Project Ramachandra Rao, has been tasked with exploring the construction of pond embankments along village roads under the 100-day

work programme. These pro-

jects will be implemented

through self-help groups. "Our vision is to make nutritious food an integral part of everyday life," declared the Collector. "By eradicating anaemia and building a robust healthcare system, Parvathipuram will become a model district for others to follow." The district administration encourages the community to actively participate in this initiative and contribute to building a healthier future for all.

## Young artists paint a brighter future for elephants

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

As part of World Elephant Day celebrations, the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP) hosted a painting and poster presentation competition, bringing together around 120 young artists from various schools. The event aimed to not only honour the majestic elephant, but also cultivate a deep-rooted sense of conservation among the future generation.

Dr Nandani Salaria, IFS, Curator of IGZP, lauded the participants for their exceptional creativity and dedication. "The young artists' work is a testament to their talent and their genuine concern for wildlife conservation. Their participation fills us with hope for the future," she said.

six and two motorcycles used

by them for their illegal busi-

ness at Ceediga village on

said that on intelligence infor-

mation, the police waylaid the

gang near Cheediga village fly-

over bridge and caught them

Sathish, Maruvada Srinivas,

Kalapareddi Sivakumar, and

Prabhuteja -all from Kakinada city and the other Karri Samuel

All the six accused were

remanded to judicial custody.

The DSP has complimented

rural circle inspector D S

Chaitanya Krishna and

Indrapalem SI Manikumar for

nabbing the ganja gang.

from Girijalapeta.

The accused include Palepu

Venkataramana,

red-handed with the Ganja.

DSP Dr K Hanumantharao



Echoing similar sentiments, G Mangamma, Deputy Conservator of Forests, IGZP,

highlighted the positive impact of such initiatives. "The children's artwork reflects their deep love and respect for elephants. It is inspiring to witness their passion for conser-

vation at such a young age."
A panel of esteemed judges, including Vijaya Bhanu Kote-Heutagogy expert, Microsoft innovative education expert, world curator at Wikiquals, London, Bangarraju Elipe, Director of Heutagogy Brainery LLP had the challenging task of selecting the best

entries. The event was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the IGZP administration, including key officials like Gopi, Gopal Naidu, Bharathi, Rajesh, and Divya, as well as dedicated volunteers.



## 48 vehicles seized during cordon & search operations

PNS TIRUPATI

The police carried out a cordon and search operation at railway colony, Sundairah Nagar, Garudadri and Venkatadri complexes areas on Sunday and seized vehicles.

On the directions of SP L Subba Rayudu, police teams led by Chandragiri and Tirupati DSPs, conducted cordon and search operation in order to enhance measures to protect the law and order situation. The cordon and search operation began

in the wee hours today in which a jeep, three cars, four auto rickshaws and 40 two-wheelers were seized. The vehicle owners failed to produce relevant documents of the vehicles. The vehicles were seized and shifted to the police station, the police said. The police said that they conducted cordon and search operations in various localities, and searched the houses of old criminals, rowdy sheeters, trouble mongers and suspects. They warned them not to get involved in any criminal activities.



Arya Vysyas urged to be

united and excel in politics

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

Addressing the media at the Telangana Bhavan along with Musheerabad MLA Muta Gopal on Sunday, Qutbullahpur MLA KP Vivekanand asked



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

Sanjay whether he has any worked for the BJP earlier," understanding of the Vivekanand said.

"Sanjay should reveal why Constitution. The friendship between the KTR should be arrested. Should Congress and the BJP was KTR be arrested for developing Hyderabad city? Is Sanjay givexposed in the Assembly and ing orders to Revanth to arrest Lok Sabha elections. Revanth praised BJP MLAs during the KTR? The Congress and the Assembly session. Revanth had BJP are engaged in conspiracy

politics in Telangana. KCR has faced big leaders and the current leaders are not fit for KCR's toes. The Congress and the BRS are working in tandem to ensure that BRS ceases to exist," he said.

Vivekanand asked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to reveal how he can enter into an agreement with his brother's company.
"Why didn't the Congress

government respond to the Sunkishala project damage till now? Why didn't the government take action when KTR asked the government to blacklist the Sunkishala project contractor? It is shameful on the part of the government to say that it came to know about the Sunkishala project's damage only through social media, he said. Why didn't Union Minister Sanjay respond to the

Sunkishala project incident?" he asked.

He said the Finance

Department has been engaging in illegal collections and charging eight per cent commission and that the law and order situation is totally out of control in the state but Union Minister Sanjay is not even responding to In another press conference,

BRS leader Ravula Sridhar Reddy said that Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy, Sanjay and Revanth Reddy are colluding with each other.

"How can the Union Minister say that KTR should be jailed? What did KTR do to be jailed? Will the CM and Union Minister take the responsibility of sending KTR to jail?" he asked and added that the BJP and the Congress have become one in Telangana.



### ACROSS THE STATES

the pioneer



#### Downpour in Delhi, traffic crawls, several areas waterlogged

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



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

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



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

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



VIJAYAWADA | MONDAY | AUGUST 12, 2024

#### Releases seed varieties to increase productivity, farmers income

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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



new varieties with farmers. Farmers present on the

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

occasion said that these new varieties would be highly beneficial to them because of lower input cost.

The Prime Minister discussed the importance of millets and underlined how people are moving towards nutritious food. He also talked about the benefits of natural farming and the increasing faith of common people towards organic farming. Modi noted that people have started consuming and demanding organic foods.

Farmers appreciated the efforts of the government in promotion of natural farming. They also lauded the role played by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in creating

awareness, the release said.

Modi suggested that the KVKs should proactively inform farmers about the benefits of the new varieties being developed every month to create awareness about their benefits, the statement said

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

Nation 05

PNS ■ JAMMU

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

In an exclusive interview

here, he asserted that there would be a "big change in the situation in the next three months'

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



evolving threat.

On Saturday, two soldiers and a civilian were killed during an encounter between terrorists and security forces in Anantnag in south Kashmir.

Pointing to the terror incidents in the Jammu region, Sinha said, "The incidents are sad. We acknowledge them and want to assure the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the country that these incidents will definitely be controlled. The neighbouring country will not succeed in its evil designs.

#### BJP govt always tries to weaken fight for reservation: Akhilesh

PNS LUCKNOW

SP president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday attacked the rul-

ing BJP amid the controversy over sub-classification and creamy layer in SC-ST reservation and alleged the BJP government always tries to weaken the fight for reserva-

tion through its vague statements and lawsuits.

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

any kind of reservation should be the empowerment of the neglected society, not the division or disintegra-

tion of that society, this violates the basic principle of reservation itself."

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister was apparently referring to the recent

Supreme Court judgment allowing sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes

## Maldives key partner for India in Indian Ocean region: EAM

PNS MALE

The Maldives is a key partner for India in the Indian Ocean region and the two nations aspire to turn their cooperation into a modern partnership, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday.

Jaishankar's remarks came as he along with his Maldivian counterpart Moosa Zameer attended the handing over ceremony of Addu Reclamation and Shore Protection Project and inauguration of the 4-lane Detour Link road project facil-India under the Line of Credit of EXIM Bank.

"Maldives for us is a kev partner in the Indian Ocean region. It is very much at the



very natural that the cooperahas moved beyond the traditional role and today really aspires to be a modern partnership," Jaishankar said.

"Our development cooper-

heart of our "Neighborhood ation is aimed at touching all First Policy" and it is therefore facets of people's lives here and to find ways of bringing tangi it is really in many ways I think a statement in itself that we are today among the largest trading partners of Maldives," he

## Oppn part of conspiracy to cause financial instability in India: BJP

The BJP on Sunday alleged that the Congress and other opposition parties are part of a conspiracy to create financial instability and chaos in India, as the ruling party rejected Hindenburg's charge against the SEBI chairperson as an attempt to discredit the financial watchdog. BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the shortselling firm, which last year levelled serious allegations against the Adani group, is facing scrutiny from Indian probe agencies.

ing its allegation, and the conspiracy is now clearly visible that they want to create chaos and instability, especially in the financial sector, he said. Noting



that many such critical reports emanating from foreign soil are released just ahead of or during Parliament sessions, he said opposition leaders were aware when Parliament was scheduled

The Monsoon session of Parliament was scheduled to end on Monday but was cut ish sentiments.

short by one working day and got over on Friday. BJP leader and former Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the short-selling firm has clearly attacked market regulator SEBI in an "obvious partnership" with the Congress and has a ominous motive and goal.

It is to destabilise and discredit one of the world's strongest financial systems and create chaos in the world's fastest growing economy, he said on X He said he has read the report

which, he claimed, is a classic ress style innuendo an lies glued together", aimed at discrediting the regulator and causing chaos and losses in markets for investors to slow down bull-

## Centre asks states to focus on schemes for women and children's nutrition, safety

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

WCD Minister Annapurna Devi on Saturday met her counterparts from states and union territories and other administrators, urging them to focus on three missions of the ministry i.e on children's protection, women's safety and their nutrition.

For effective implementation of various schemes and programmes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, all major schemes have been classified under three umbrella schemes Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya and Mission



During the meeting, Devi emphasised the importance of collective efforts and strategic planning to enhance the ministry's schemes.

She said the states should focus should on the three ver-

ticals and sought regular reports from them on the mat-'Our objective is to ensure

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

The meeting featured deliberations on current projects, developmental achievements and future strategies aimed at ensuring better progress for women and children across the country, according to an official statement.

Mission Poshan 2.0 covers challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating

### Vote for AAP to build 'new Haryana': Sunita Kejriwal

PNS HISAR

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

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

Addressing a gathering here, Sunita Kejriwal asked the people to press the button with the



symbol on election day to build a "new Harvana" while asserting that the AAP government in Delhi has "transformed" government schools and hospitals and made electricity free.

"In the last 10 years, what development has been done in Haryana by the BJP?" she said, adding that the people of Haryana must ensure that the saffron party does not win even a single seat in the upcoming elections.

of the Constitution and our tri-

Scindia said that the people

The public taught them a

of the country understand

everything about the noise

lesson in 2014, 2019 and now

and insults in the House.

colour," he said.

## 'May give rise to same old problems'

#### Say experts over demand for decentralised medical entrance tests

PNS NEW DELHI

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

According to the NEET domicile rule, 85 per cent of medical seats are reserved for students who are bona fide residents of the state and have completed their class 12 from a school there.



The rest 15 per cent are earmarked for aspirants from other states.

In the wake of the NEET fiasco, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and West Bengal passed resolutions in their assemblies to be allowed to opt out of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) and

conduct their own medical entrance exams. Such a proposal also found

mention in the Lok Sabha, when DMK member Rani Srikumar slammed NEET, alleging that it has shattered the dreams of many students. In a debate in the Lok Sabha

on August 2, Srikumar said the Tamil Nadu Assembly had passed a law exempting the state from NEET which was not sent to the President by the Union government for approval. "Let the state governments decide the process of medical entrance," she had

#### **DHANKHAR-JAYA FACE-OFF**

## Opposition must apologise to VP:Scindia

PNS GWALIOR (MP)

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

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



also said even a celebrity has to follow the House decorum.

walked out calling the matter "disrespect to democracy and Constitution".

Responding to a question here about the face-off, Scindia said the way the Rajya Sabha



Speaker of the House but also the Vice President of the country. Every person in the Opposition should apologise for this behaviour. This is not an insult of the Speaker of the

House and Vice President but

in 2024, and will teach them in the coming times too, he said.

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

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-PAPER WITH PASSION

## **Catastrophe revisited**

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

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



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

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



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

# When heroes defy their legacies



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

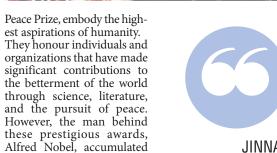
istory, much like a tapestry, is interwoven with threads of contradiction, paradox, and irony. It refuses to offer a simplistic narrative of heroes and villains, instead presenting us with figures whose actions and legacies are often at odds. Even as we try to categorize these individuals within neat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

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

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

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

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



destruction: dynamite. Nobel's invention revolutionized construction and engineering, but it also became a powerful tool in warfare. The devastating impact of dynamite weighed heavily on Nobel's conscience.

his wealth from an invention

that has caused immense

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

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

**BAIL NOT JAIL SHOULD BE THE NORM** 

Madam — Recently, while an assistant director of the Enforcement Directorate

(ED) was swiftly remanded to CBI custody over a bribery charge involving Rs 20 lakhs

from a Mumbai-based jeweler, the ongo-



PERSONAL LIFE WAS FAR REMOVED FROM THE STRICT RELIGIOUS **VALUES THAT WOULD LATER** COME TO **DEFINE THE** COUNTRY HE FOUNDED. JINNAH WAS A HIGHLY

WESTERNISED ENJOYED THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE

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

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

United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights are celebrated as monumental achievements in the history of human rights, enshrining the principles of freedom, equality, and justice. Thomas Jefferson, one of the Founding Fathers and the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, played a crucial role in shaping these foundational documents. Yet, Jefferson was also

between his public advocacy for liberty and his private practice of slavery has sparked intense debate among historians and scholars. Jefferson's writings espoused ideals of

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

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

However, Jinnah's personal life was far removed from the strict religious values that would later come to define the country he founded.Jinnah was a highly WesterniSed individual who enjoyed the finer things in life. He was known to smoke cigars, drink alcohol, and reportedly favoured pork—a practice contrary to Islamic teachings. His second wife, Maryam, was a Parsi, and his only daughter, Dina, married a Parsi as well, sparking considerable controversy given his public role as a Muslim leader. These episodes remind us a slave owner who, during his that even the greatest leaders lifetime, owned over 600 are not without their contradictions. In the end. This glaring contradiction reminds us that even the greatest of icons are not immune to contradiction—it is in their complexity that their true humanity shines through.

> (The writer is an associate professor, views are personal)

## A Heartfelt reflection on the changing face of Nainital



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

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

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

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

time. I still remember very then for a better part of the

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

north also faced the same fate.

Even the plains are not

their entry in homes and

hotels, initially only for a few

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

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

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

ing case of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia raises serious concerns. Despite being accused of money laundering in the Delhi excise policy scam, Sisodia has languished in jail for 17 months without any progress toward a trial, as observed by the Supreme Court. The Court emphasised that personal libof unplanned urbanisation erty is paramount, and delaying bail with-

out commencing the trial is unacceptable, leading to Sisodia's release on bail. This case highlights a troubling disparity in the justice system: while some accused individuals evade legal consequences due to the laxity of investigative agencies and courts, others, potentially innocent, remain imprisoned for years, leaving their families to suffer. As we have seen in numerous cases, delayed justice is effectively denied justice. **A P Thiruvadi** | Chenai

#### HATS OFF TO INDIAN OLYMPIC SQUAD

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

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

Hats off to the Indian magnificent 6, who won 5 bronze medals and 1 silver in the Paris Olympics - 2024. Also kudos to all the national and international participants

#### A world in turmoil



he world seems to be in flames. In the UK. violent clashes between communities

are intensifying, with immigrants gaining Manu, Sarabjot, Swapnil Kusale, wrestler Aman Sehrawat and the hockey team for the 5 bronze medals, star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra for the silver medal (for the

athletic 89.45 m throw). PV Srinivas Sreelekha | Secunderabad

#### **NEERAJ WINS SILVER**

Madam — India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra clinched a silver medal at the Paris Olympics, performing in front of an enthusiastic crowd at Stade de France. Neeraj's throw of 89.45m earned him second place on the podium. Although it was his best performance of the season, it wasn't enough to secure gold, which went to Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem with a throw of 92.97m, (will be hard to beat in the near future) setting a new Olympic record. It's a pity for 145 crore Indian that we have not won a single gold but we plan to hold the Olympics in India! It is quite evident that Neeraj Chopra has given his best (though too much pressure of expectations was put of the prestigious grand gala Olympics (sports festival).

Kudos to Indian winners: 3 shooters: cosion planning and finding alternatives,

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

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

C K Subramaniam | Bengaluru

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

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## **FIRST COLUMN**

### **HAVE A INTREPID** AND ROBUST MINDSET

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



RAVI VALLURI

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

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

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



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

Normally, a patient suffers from such a condition owing to emotional upheavals, physical exhaustion, deep anxiety, and consumption of cafteine or alconol. I saw my mother suffering from this condition on several occasions and being admitted to the ICU. It was a distressing and disturbing sight. While it is not a life-threatening affliction, it certainly disorients the psychology and attitude of the patient. During her suffering, we saw her clutching onto her rosary as a lifesaver, while we prayed fervently for her recovery. She was administered medication but it worked only to an extent. The real help came in the form of a pentagon-shaped talisman. That is through Siddha Healing, Pranic Healing, the ten-day Vipassana Course and the Part 1 and Part 2 Art of Living courses. This

is the unique, amazing and scientific power of the breath. Breathing techniques, meditation, medication, and proper diet changed the trajectory of the life of the patient and brought back the mojo in her life. When you take a breath in, let it become your meditation that all the suffering of all the beings in the world is riding on that incoming breath and reaching your heart, and see a miracle happen,' says Osho. Till her final days, she continued with these practices. Senior citizens, those in pain and agony and even the able-bodied should undertake the courses mentioned. Swami Vivekananda took Yoga to America and spread the Ramakrishna Mission. He was the Arjuna of Shri Rama Krishna Paramhansa. My mother imbibed the trait of service to mankind by reading extensively about Shri Ramakrishna Paramhansa and Swami Vivekananda and the Almighty God blessed her with an intrepid mind.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of

## Populism will not let food subsidy reforms take off



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



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

During 2024-25, food subsidy will acco for 4.2 per cent of its budget (Rs 4820,000 crore), 5.5 per cent of its revenue expenditure (Rs 3709,000 crore) and consume nearly 8 per cent of its estimated net tax receipts (Rs 2583,000 crore). Reining in food subsidy is no less important than the goal it seeks to achieve namely providing 'food security'. The uncontrolled rise in the former leads to an unsustainable increase in fiscal deficit (excess of total receipts over total expenditure) which can injure the economy in multiple ways through high inflation, high interest rates, a slowdown in growth, fewer jobs, low incomes and so on. This, in turn, can lead to a demand for higher financial assistance including food subsidies from the government thereby exacerbating the vicious

There exists a huge scope for reducing food subsidies. To assess this, at the outset, let us see how it is administered. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), the Centre asks the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other state agencies to procure food from the farmers at MSP (minimum support price) and organize its distribution to around 820



REINING IN FOOD SUBSIDY IS NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE GOAL IT SEEKS TO ACHIEVE NAMELY PROVIDING 'FOOD SECURITY'. THE UNCONTROLLED RISE IN THE FORMER LEADS TO AN UNSUSTAINABLE INCREASE IN

FISCAL DEFICIT (EXCESS OF TOTAL RECEIPTS OVER TOTAL **EXPENDITURE**) WHICH CAN INJURE THE **ECONOMY IN** MULTIPLE WAYS

The entire cost i.e. MSP paid to farmers plus handling and distribution cost (HDC) is reimbursed to the FCI/other state agencies as a subsidy. The money comes from the Union Budget's allocation for 'food subsidy'. While, the PMGKAY has been in force since January 1, 2023, before that, the Centre was giving food to 820 million persons (7 kg of cereals per person per month to 120 million poorest of the poor persons covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana or AAY families and five kg of cereals per person per month to the remaining 700 million) at a heavily subsidized price of Rs 2/3/1 per kg for wheat/rice/coarse cereals under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). In addition, since April 2020, it has given 5 kg of food per person per month for "free" to all 820 million beneficiaries under PMGKAY to mitigate the consequences of Covid-19 pandemic. From January 1, 2023, it merged the free part of PMGKAY with the regular food security schemes under

Now, food is available to all 820 million beneficiaries for free under the new incarnation of NFSA namely the PMGKAY. This arrangement will continue for five years till the end of CY 2028 as per the announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2023. Avenues for saving in subsidyFirst, fundamentally, subsidized food is meant for the poor. The number of poor isn't more than 15 – 20 per cent of India's population. Yet, the number of beneficiaries under the PMGKAY at 820 million works out to nearly 59 per cent of the population. Even as per the Shanta Kumar Committee (2015), the number of people eligible for subsidized food under NFSA shouldn't be more than 40 per cent. The excess of 19 per cent comes to around 270 million. Further, during the last nine-anda-half years of the incumbent government, 250 million persons have come out of poverty (as per a recent report by Niti Aayog). These per-sons can be excluded from the list of beneficiaries.

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

That will cost Rs 20,000 crore. Even after providing for this, it will save Rs 30,000 crore annually. Second, why every beneficiary should get free food? The Shanta Kumar Committee had recommended that non-AAY persons should pay 50 per cent of the MSP. Other than AAY are 700 million persons. Minus 250 million (who shouldn't get a subsidy at all) and adding 100 million (as per SC order), we get 550 million. Making them pay 50 per cent of MSP or Rs 11.4 per kg (wheat), will save Rs 37,600 crore annually. Third, the NFSA legislation enacted in 2013 required beneficiaries to pay Rs 2/3/1 per kg for wheat/rice/coarse cereals.

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

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

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

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

around 60 million tons (the quantity distributed under the PMGKAY) in the supply chain with zero price tag is an open invitation to dubious operators to siphon off and sell in the open market raking in a moolah.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Living; views are personal)

ADITYA PRATAP SINGH

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

**Bangladesh Relations** Over the past decade, India and Bangladesh have fostered strong economic ties, with infrastructure and connectivity projects playing a crucial ing domestic political crisis. As role in strengthening their tensions escalated, Sheikh relationship. Since 2016, India

credit to Bangladesh for the development of road, rail, shipping, and port infrastructure. The two nations have also engaged in various areas of commerce, including medical tourism, business expansion, and the international garment trade. Bangladesh, a major player in the global garment industry, relies heavily on cotton imports from India.

The textile and garment sectors account for 56% of Bangladesh's total exports to India, making it a vital trading partner in South Asia. In the financial year 2023-24, bilateral trade between the two countries reached \$13 billion, according to the Union Ministry of Commerce.

The Impact on Trade Sheikh Hasina's leadership

merce between India and Bangladesh, leading to a significant trade surplus for India. However, the ongoing political turmoil in Bangladesh threatens to disrupt this economic partnership. The civil unrest and worsening economic situation have created security concerns that could impact Indian exports, commerce, and infrastructure projects in the neighboring nation.

One of the major challenges will be on the bilateral trade front. After reaching \$12.21 billion in 2022-23, India's exports to Bangladesh dropped to \$11 billion in 2023-24.Bangladesh's imports decreased from \$2 billion in

the previous year to \$1.84 bil-

lion in the most recent fiscal



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

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

**Uncertainty Surrounding the** year. Indian exporters have Free Trade Agreement

sibility of a free trade agreement (FTA) during a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade meeting in Dhaka. An FTA could streamline regulations, encourage investment and commerce, and potentially remove customs tariffs, boosting trade between the two countries. According to a 2012 World Bank working paper, a full-product FTA could enhance Bangladesh's exports to India by 182%, while a partial FTA might grow them by 134%. This would contribute to strengthening Bangladesh's trade trans-

port infrastructure and com-

merce links, leading to a sig-

nificant rise in exports.

However, the current political

crisis has cast doubt on the

In October 2023, India and

Bangladesh discussed the pos-

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

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

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

(The author is a PhD scholar at HBTU, Kanpur; views are VIJAYAWADA | MONDAY | AUGUST 12, 2024

## IN BRIEF



#### **Steel prices trade at 3-year** lows on increased supplies

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



#### **Godrej Properties to launch** Rs 21K cr worth housing projects

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



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

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

## 'An attack on Sebi's credibility'

PNS MUMBAI

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

In a detailed statement issued this evening, the Buchs clarified on the raft of allegations made by Hindenburg in a report on Saturday.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Making it clear that all the regulations in Sebi are approved by its board and not by the chairperson, the statement said insinuations of a handful of the decisions concerning the Real Estate Investments Trusts industry are favours to specific party are "malicious and motivated". They said in the last two years, Sebi has issued over 300 circulars across the entire market ecosystem and these include ease of doing business initiatives.

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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

#### 360 ONE denies making any investment in Adani shares and that it was operational Wealth management entity Sebi Chairperson Madhabi

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

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

Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch's investments were less than 1.5 per cent of the total inflow into the fund and no investors had any involvement in investment deci-

It said the fund was fully compliant and regulated, between October 2013 and October 2019.

"Throughout the fund's tenure, IPE-Plus Fund 1 made zero investments in any shares of the Adani Group either directly or indirectly through any fund," the statement to exchanges said.

"Additionally, institutional flows will play a crucial role in market dynamics," Gour said. Vodafone Idea, NMDC, IRCTC, SJVN and PC Jeweller would also announce their quarterly earnings during the

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

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

"Moving forward, the direc-

**ADOPTION OF AI SPOTLIGHTS** 

## Businesses to invest in proactive cybersecurity

PNS ■ NEGOMBO (SRI LANKA)

Rapid adoption of Artificial Intelligence has powered growth but opened avenues for cybercriminals to misuse AI for sophisticated attacks, Kaspersky has said spotlighting the need for businesses to invest in proactive cybersecurity defences to meet new-age challenges. Kaspersky, a global cybersecurity and digital privacy company, said it has been infusing AI across its products and harnessing AI models to counter threats and safeguard users by making technologies more resistant to new and evolving forms of cyberattacks.From leveraging ChatGPT for writing malicious software and automating attacks against multiple users to misusing AI programmes to track users' smartphone inputs (potentially capturing messages, passwords, and bank codes) cybercriminals are using AI in novel ways, the company cau-

Citing the data for 2023, the company said it protected 220,000 businesses across the globe and prevented around 6.1 billion attacks with its solutions

## Macroeconomic data to drive market sentiments

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Besides, trading activity of foreign investors would also be a crucial factor in dictating movement in the market.

Equity markets would remain closed on Thursday for Independence Day. "This week, all focus will be

on the global markets as we can see the extension of weakness after a long period of stability. The Indian equity market could also witness some bit of



levelling off this week as investors process recent gains and contend with high prices. Geopolitical tensions are also escalating, but markets are not reacting significantly, which is reflected in the declining crude oil prices," said Pravesh Gour,

Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

On the domestic front, the last batch of Q1 earnings will drive stock-specific movements. Hero MotoCorp, Hindalco are some of the big corporate earnings this week,

tion of the domestic market will be influenced by global markets," Nair added.

## Major cement companies report volume growth

#### □ REVENUE REMAINS MUTED DUE TO LOWER PRICE

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

and general elections also slowed the pace of construction activities in April-May.

UltraTech Cement reported a flat consolidated net profit of Rs 1,696.59 crore for the June quarter. The leading cement maker's revenue from operations was up 1.87 per cent at Rs 18,069.56 crore for the period.

Volume sales were up 7 per cent to 31.95 million tonne (MT), said the Aditya Birla Group firm which has announced an open offer for the South-based rival India Cements Ltd after acquiring the promoter's stake.

Adani Group firm Ambuja

Cements Ltd reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 789.63 crore and its revenue from operations was at Rs 8,311.48

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

Ambuja Cement's consolidated sales volume, including its subsidiary ACC, was at 15.8 MT, up 2.6 per cent.

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

sales volume was at 9.3 MT in the June quarter, up 2.2 per ACC reported a decline of

22.46 per cent in its net profit to Rs 361.40 crore and its revenue from operations was marginally down to Rs 5,154.89 crore in the June quarter. ACC's sales volume from

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

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

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



## LIC to invest around Rs 1.30 L cr in stock market

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

LIC earned a profit of Rs

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

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

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

#### **CBDT CHIEF TO OFFICIALS**

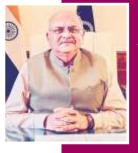
## Adopt guidance while dealing with taxpayers

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

Income Tax Day that was

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

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

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

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

## Mcap of 8 firms erodes by Rs 1.66 L crore

#### RELIANCE, LIC BIGGEST LAGGARDS

PNS NEW DELHI

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

trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark slumped 1,276.04 points or 1.57 per cent.

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

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

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

7,35,566,52 crore. The market valuation of Infosys dived Rs 20,973.19 crore to Rs 7,35,277.28 crore and that of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) tumbled Rs 19,157.77 crore to Rs 15,30,469.11 cr.

Vijayawada | Monday August 12, 2024

## SRKHONOUREDWITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDATLF

lobal Icon Shah Rukh Khan was celebrated at the 77th Locarno Film Festival, receiving the Pardo Alla Carriera award, recognising his immense contributions to the world of cinema. The event, held in the stunning Piazza Grande, saw an 8,000-strong crowd gather to witness the legendary actor's acceptance speech.

<u>Dressed</u> impeccably in a black ensemble, Shah Rukh Khan radiated his signature charm as he took to the stage. Addressing the enthusiastic audience, SRK opened with a lighthearted quip: "Thank you all for welcoming me with such wide arms-wider than the ones I do on screen," he joked, referencing his iconic open-armed pose that has become

synonymous with his persona. SRK reflected on the unique atmosphere of Locarno, remarking, "It's a very beautiful, very cultural, very artistic and extremely vibrant city," he said, smiling at the crowd. "So many people crammed into a little square. It's just

Shah Rukh Khan's journey in cinema has been marked by unparalleled success and range. From his early roles in films like Darr and Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge to his recent hits, Khan has redefined the art of storytelling in Bollywood. This achievement at Locarno not only highlights his global appeal but also his impact on cinema, where he has consistently blurred the lines between commercial success and artistic excellence. During his speech, SRK didn't miss a beat in embracing the moment and joking about the weight of the award, much to the delight of the audience. "This award here, which, for the life of me, I've been trying... I can't pronounce," he joked, playfully calling it the "Leopard award for being the

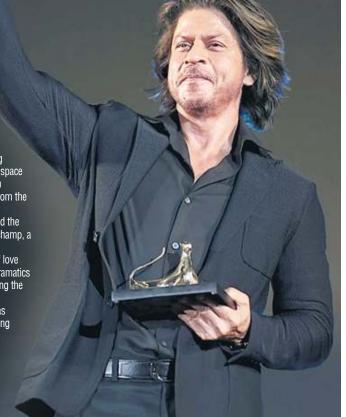
most awesome in the world, in the history of humility, kindness and goodness.' SRK then shared his deep admiration for the art of cinema, calling it the "most profound and influential artistic medium of our age." He continued, "Art is the act of affirming life above all. It transcends every man-made boundary into a space of liberation. It doesn't need to be political, polemical, or even moralising. Art and cinema only need to express their truth from the Meanwhile, reflecting on his 35-year career, SRK encapsulated the

diversity of his filmography by stating, "I've been a villain, a champ, a superhero, a zero, a rejected fan and a very resilient lover." Amidst the cheers from the crowd, a fan's loud declaration of love prompted a quick response from SRK. "I love you also. All dramatics continue after the serious speech," he said with a grin, bringing the moment full circle with his trademark wit. He continued, sharing a bit of his day in Locarno: "My day has been wonderful, the food has been nice, my Italian is improving

learning here in Locarno.' Concluding his speech, SRK expressed his gratitude, saying, "I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart and from India. Namaskaar and dhanyawaad (Hello, thank you). God

bless you all.

and so has my cooking." Khan then switched to Italian, translating his words: "I can cook pasta and pizza also. I'm



## H'wood's finest to rock Paris **Olympics closing ceremony**

what's brewing?

The Paris Olympics 2024 are nearly over and anticipation grows for the ending celebration. The event will occur at Stade de France in the early hours of August 12 (Monday), with 80,000 attendees. Additionally, what else is there? Several celebrities are scheduled to take part in the traditional end-of-vear event. Among the celebrities, Tom Cruise has been regularly present at the Olympics for many years and he continued to show his support again this year. He was seen showing support from the sidelines at several events, most recently when the USA competed and emerged victorious in the women's football competition at the Olympics. According to reports, the actor from *Mission Impossible* will descend into the Stade de France by rappelling before jumping out of a plane for the closing

Variety has also reported that Billie Eilish, who has won an Academy Award, will also be performing at the closing ceremony. What was the reason for her being selected? The identical report forecasts that 'the musicians affiliated with L.A.' will shift their focus to the upcoming Olympics scheduled for 2028 in Los Angeles. Billie's concert movie, Happier Than Ever: A Love Letter to Los Angeles honoured the iconic landmarks and culture of her city. The singer verified it in her most recent Instagram post, stating, "LA28 Handover performer." Rapper Snoop Dogg has recently gained a strong online presence due to his frequent appearances as a host on NBC's coverage of the Olympics, along with his charming responses to the athletes. The deadline announced that H.E.R. will sing the US national anthem live, followed by performances from various musical stars.



Mumbai's iconic David Sassoon Library's clock tower was the centre of all attention as ZEE5 held a captivating 3D projection of its just-released mystery thriller Gyaarah Gyaarah. 'Mumbaikars' were in for a spectacular surprise as the multilingual storyteller enthralled commuters and bystanders with a sneak peek into the highly anticipated mystery drama. The showcase offered a visually stunning preview of the series, bringing its time-bending narrative to life against the backdrop of one of Mumbai's most historic landmarks.

## 'To date, I have to convince studio heads to fund my process'

A ctor John Abraham has opened up about his obstacles to getting producers to back his film ventures. In a podcast, he admitted that he frequently struggles to communicate with them, as they often reject his ideas and raise concerns about the budget being too high.

During a conversation on his podcast with Ranveer Allahabadia, John Abraham mentioned, "I produced *Vicky Donor*. I did films like Madras Cafe and Batla House, but till today I have to convince studio heads that this is a different film and please fund my process. Till today, they don't have 100 percent faith and they tell me that the budget is too much."

John, who is preparing for the release of his upcoming project Vedaa, emphasised that he never charges more than his 'aukaat'. "As an actor, my fee doesn't put a load on the film. I feel that if the film makes money, I will make money. I don't want to load the film. Toh meri jo aukaat hai, jo mera standard hai, I make films according to that. I am very proud of my

Meanwhile, he also reveals, "Value creation is more important than wealth creation... I always say that I'm a middle-class person, not to romanticise my struggles but to highlight the strength that comes from middle-class values. Being middleclass is an advantage... make money, generate wealth, but mentally, you should always remain middle-class. Nothing wrong with that "

John says he isn't someone who likes to create an impression about himself. "I don't have many clothes; you can ask my stylist; even today, all my clothes can fit into a single suitcase. I usually wear slippers. I have a pick-up truck that I drive around

in. My driver would often suggest that I buy a more expensive car, but I'd ask him why. When I go for shoots, the production sends an Innova and my office is just a kilometre away from my house. What would I do with a car worth Rs 4-4.5 crore? It's a depreciating asset and it will have no bearing on my work... in my life state, I'm afraid of spending because of where I come from. I would be scared to spend so much money on shoes and bags. And that's why I hold back."

In the podcast, John Abraham also stated that he avoids using WhatsApp because he thinks it hampers communication with studio heads and could be impacting their response time. "I had texted a studio head and he told me that he would circle back, but it has been 4.5 months and he hasn't responded. I don't feel bad, but I deserve a reply. I believe that if people believe in me a little, I would want to try and change Indian cinema a little. I am not saying I am a game changer, but I want to try," he said.

## *AVATAR 3* **TO DELVE**

Tames Cameron, the creator of the popular movie franchise *Avatar*, has announced the name of the third movie in the series. During the D23 convention, the director announced that *Avatar 3* will be named Avatar: Fire and Ash. According to reports, the title reveal was greeted with a "big round of applause."

Avatar came out in 2009, with its sequel, Avatar: The Way of Water, debuting in December 2022. The third film in the series is set to be released worldwide in December 2025. James Cameron mentioned that the upcoming Avatar movie will introduce new cultures, settings, creatures and biomes, allowing viewers to explore more of Pandora, the tropical planet where the films take place.

He added that the new movie is not what you anticipate, but it is certainly what you desire. Avatar: Fire and Ash is already in production, with Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana as the main actors. Two additional Avatar movies will come out after that, with the fourth one set to premiere in December 2029 and the fifth one in December 2031.



#### **ARCHIE**









#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**









#### GARFIELD





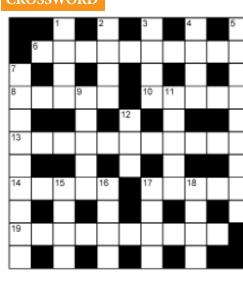




REALITY CHECK



#### **CROSSWORD**



#### NANCY



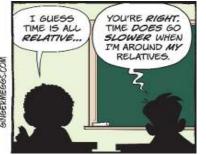






**GINGER MEGGS** 





#### **SUDOKU**

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10 A bamboo-eating animal

13 Measure temperatures

19 Book of word meanings

14 Player of bagpipes

- DOWN
- 2 All right, but not especially good
- 4 A sign of tiredness 5 A big sea bird 7 A many-legged creature



9 A radio code that uses

11 Wide awake and ready

12 An animal kept for milk

17 Gritty stuff on a beach

dots and dashes

for anything

16 Spoil completely

15 Choose

### G Follow us on @TheDailyPioneer the pioneer August 12, 2024 facebook.com/ VII AVAIVACA dailypioneer

## 'RANG'ING WORLD WITH HIS **SOUL-STIRRING RHYTHM**

AARTI SREENATH Gaining much accolades for am Sampath, a name synonymous with his latest jingle, Make Life innovation in the Indian music indus-Beautiful, Ram Sampath try, is a composer who has consistently pushed the boundaries of creativity and emotion. With a body of work that spans advertising jingles, film scores, and independent music, Ram's compositions has been ecstatic of the response he has received. are known for their ability to capture the essence In a fun chat with of a brand or narrative. His latest work on the Make Life Beautiful jingle for Birla Opus Paints is a shining example of his artistic genius, blending the vibrancy of colour with the soul of music. *The Pioneer*. he discusses the making, his approach The story behind the creation of this jingle is one that Ram recounts with passion and fondness. He describes it as one of the most beauto this jingle and more tiful briefs he has ever received in his career. "As musicians, we dream in colour," he says, reflecting on the project. The brief always had a strong connection to colour and paint and this project tapped right into that," wasn't just about promoting a product; it was hé reflects. about capturing the beauty of wonder, the The brief for the jingle was centered around the tagline "Duniya ko rang curiosity of magic and the essence of colour—all deeply do," which translates to "Colour the world." For connected to paint. Ram, this tagline was For him, this project more than just words; it was an invitation to was more than just celebrate life itself. He work; it was a journey believes there's a univerinto the emotional landscape that colour sal emotion tied to the act of painting, whether can evoke, a rare opportunity to explore the intersection of it's a wall, a canvas, or even a room. "I don't know a single person whose heart doesn't music and visual art. His connection to colour and paint is flutter at the thought of deeply personal, rootgetting something painted. It's an act of transformation and ed in his earliest memories. He recalls a vivid experience from his youth when he decided to paint his that's what made this project so special," he shares. first home studio a bright reddish-pink. His When it comes to com-

music isn't just for listening—it's meant to be sung, hummed and lived with. The idea that people might hum 'Ooh Opus Opus' in their daily lives brings him immense joy. "I love the idea that my jingles become a part of people's lives," he says, clearly delighted by the thought.

by the thought.

Ram's approach to creating a jingle often involves crafting a first draft that is more intimate and personal, which then evolves into a more expansive and polished final product.

He describes the first draft as a close conversation—intimate and focused. As the project progresses, the final version becomes more expansive, like opening your arms wide to embrace the audience. Working with Sachin Kamble, the creative director of the agency, was a particularly rewarding experience for Ram. Their visions were so aligned that they never found themselves at cross purposes. He also credits Munna, his long-time collaborator and lyricist, for his ability to distill profound ideas into simple, impactful words. Together, they have worked on many projects, from Sona Mohapatra's first album to songs for Delhi Belly and Satyamev Jayate. Mohapatra's first album to songs for *Delhi Belly* and *Satyamev Jayate*. Munna's contribution to the jingle was invaluable, helping to ensure Munna's contribution to the jingle was invaluable, helping to ensure the final product was both powerful and relatable. When the team reviewed the final project, the feedback was straightforward—just a few minor tweaks and they were good to go.

Staying relevant in an industry as dynamic as music requires an acute awareness of evolving trends, but Ram remains steadfast in his belief that the foundation of any great composition lies

in its melody and lyrics. "Melody and lyrics are like the body of a person and the trend, the production, are the clothes. You have

a person and the trend, the production, are the clothes. You have to keep track of the latest clothes and the latest trends, but it's more about perspective—who are you talking to right now? What's the audience you're trying to reach?" he explains.

Whether it's a song like Sajni from Laapata Ladies, which did exceptionally well, or a viral jingle, clarity of mind is crucial. The composition needs a strong melody and simple lyrics that convey something profound yet accessible

composition needs a strong melody and simple lyrics that convey something profound yet accessible.

With the *Make Life Beautiful* campaign gaining millions of views during the ICC World Cup, Ram reflected on the impact such success has on his future work. He understands that each new project begins with a blank slate, requiring humility and a willingness to explore. "You need to have the humility of looking at a blank page and saying, 'Okay, buddy, any reputation is out the window right now. You have to be answerable to the people and be as truthful and sincere as possible," he says. For Ram, each new composition is an exploration, a journey into the unknown, driven by curiosity rather than fear.

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

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

After a lot of

controversies yet again,

the third season of Bigg

end, with Sana Makbul

emerging as the winner.

Boss OTT has come to an

Revolutionising

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

quality healthcare!

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

advisory and equity

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

"Eventually, I realised that Iwanted to work full-time ielping these children access education. This was when I joined the Sarthak Foundation fulltime as a fundraising manager, taking up the leadership role of the entire department. Within five years, I have increased the slums and villages did not drop out of sschool," cheerfully shared Aparna in an exclusive chat with The Pioneer. Through her Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, campaigns and digital marketing, she maintained a 100 percent child retention rate. Throughout the pandemic, she spearheaded the effort to raise funds for the COVID Community Care Project, obtaining Rs 50 lakhs in resources to assist 10,000 individuals with both their livelihoods and education. Furthermore, she secured jobs in the corporate sector for 60 percent of young women of working age. Following her time at the financial services company, she transitioned to a health tech startup, where she was instrumental in establishing the business from the ground up. She was in charge of the go-to-market (GTM) strategy and sales planning in three cities in North India, creating a network of more than 100 doctors. Being involved with the health tech startup was crucial in honing her abilities and knowledge, which eventually enabled her to establish various organisations and departments, showcasing her innovative skills. Upon finding out that she required more skills to expand her business, Aparna chose to pursue an MBA to enhance her leadership skills.

Throughout her time at the startup, her main obstacle was persuading doctors in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities to utilise their digital platform, Electronic Health Records. Aparna then enrolled in a full-time PGP program at ISB, focusing on marketing. Sharing her experience at ISB, she shares with great enthusiasm, "My primary motivation for joining ISB was to work with larger organisations where I could scale up with the same entrepreneurial spirit as I demonstrated in smaller setups. Joining ISB opened a world of opportunities, allowing me to interact with individuals from diverse backgrounds and geographies, which significantly broadened my perspectives and enhanced the quality of my learning. The hands-on experience through experiential learning programs and case competitions honed my ability to tackle challenging problems and arrive at structured

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

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

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

us entered the show, we had come to win and

were very diplomatic. They had no self-love and didn't have the zeal that I had. I had the

jigra to say that I had come here to win. My mindset when I entered the show was that I

was not here to make relationships. My focus and vision were to win it. But some people cor-

nered me, and again, I did not want people to fight and speak on my behalf. I can do that

myself. If people point a finger at me, I'm like, 'aap apne aap ko bhi dekho chaar ungli aapke taraf

bhi hai. I had that attitude that I was not going to take anyone of them back home."

**TEJAL SINHA** 

parents and everyone

around him were horri-

fied-they thought he had

lost his mind. But for Ram.

that bold choice of color

symbolises something much

deeper. It was a statement of

creativity, freedom and a break

from the conventional. "I've

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

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

one knew her only target was the trophy.

We've often heard that *Bigg Boss* is a controversial show and people in talks are the ones who generally enter the show. But that wasn't the case with the *Dikkulu Choodaku Ramayya* actress!

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

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

guage. Vishal and Shivani were very happy. Naezy, with whom I was standing at the stage, was happy. So people who mattered were happy and the ones who did not were cold to me, which is okay."

While she, on one side, was clear about her target, on the other hand, was also targeted by the housemates who often called her 'fake', selfish' and 'snake'. These tags did not end there. Post-season, she was termed the 'fixed winner' of the season. "I really don't know why they said that. If I am emerging as a star outside, then you are call-

ing that star a 'fixed winner'. I know my personality. When I walk into that room, people do look at me. Yes, I have that in me and The Pioneer has her my personality is like that. Even when I was nothing, people used to notice me. All of us were chosen there; the makers had choonboard for a quick sen us. I am just not talking about me, but all of us were selected. Out of those contestants, I too was one of them and shone interview, as she goes on amongst them. I was just being me; that was in my hand and I was showing and being myself. It was the realness that peoto share her emotions ple loved. In fact, if I had been the most favoured, meri itni about being crowned the nahi bajate they Weekend Ke Vaar main. I was questioned for what not, even on my character. The whole season winner and also speaks and Weekend Ka Vaar, things were against me." "Joh tutt ke bikhar jaaye woh Sana Makbul kaisi," said Bigg Boss. And her strong personality and mind proved it. We've often seen her during this season and how she's stood boldly against the househer heart out on a few controversies mates, especially Ranvir Shorey. She further addressed Ranvir Shorey's decision to hold grudges against her sharing. "See, I'll tell you honestly, while we were in the house, even I felt that I would hold my grudges against him. Even though I was like, I am not going to see him outside, I still stand by it. He is not somebody I like or somebody I will sit with. Somebody had asked me if I would work with him. Back in the show, I was like, No, but now I would contradict it. Why should I get the work in between? It's a small world and while working, if we'd meet, I'd certainly have only that professional attitude. If he is holding it against me, then I would say that man is obsessed with me and has to move on. The show is over and Sana has become the winner. This is something that you need to accept now. I know it is difficult for him, Sai and Armaan. For them, the winner was either them or Ranvir. It's their call, but I don't hold any grudges against anybody." She goes on to recall how her formative years taught her lessons, making her who she is today. On the one hand, she is kind and sympathetic; on the other hand, she also has a cold and different side to her. In her *Bigg Boss* journey, "I have been myself and real. When all of

posing a jingle meant to go viral, Ram emphasises the importance of staying true to

classic values while infusing the

composition with freshness. "I

believe that to create something

that touches people, it must come from the heart. If you don't feel it,

how can you expect the audience to feel it?" he asks. For him, the

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

PTI NEW DELHI

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

Chopra bagged the silver at the Paris showpiece with a throw of 89.45m behind Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who hurled the javelin to 92.97m, an Olympic record. Anderson Peters of Grenada came third with a throw of 88.54m among the field that included some high-profile javelin throwers like Julian Webber, Jakub Vadlejch and

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

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

now. So, I don't have that made that throw...I was able



methods or technique. But I hope to improve upon a couple of areas, especially the line of the javelin.

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

The body conditions (of his) "I am entering a new season were tough. But when Arshad much time to change training to hit my season's best

because the thought was set in my mind that I had to give the best throw because the competition had already

become very tough."

Mothers of Chopra and Nadeem had taken the social media by storm as they showered affection on each other's son.

Chopra said his mother always spoke from her heart as she to date remained a simple rural soul.

"My mother...she always stayed in a village before and

Tokyo edition. "The way Manu Bhaker prepared her mind and came from her Tokyo setback is impressive. Her mindset appeared to be very strong this time while taking part in back-to-back competitions. I think it's just a start for her

think its just a start for her because I saw even people over 50 (age) were participating in shooting. "I hope Manu will play in a lot more competitions, bring a lot more medals for the country and change the colour of the medal too," he

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

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

Chopra said Sreejesh offers a fine example in tackling

pressure situations.
"He has so many years of experience and he knows how to tackle the pressure situations. He seemed to be in his zone when I met him before the bronze medal match," he added.

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

**PTI** ■ PARIS

 $T^{\text{he first practice for the US}}_{\text{men's Olympic basketball}}$ team after arriving in Paris was one of those workouts that those who were there, watching behind closed doors, will talk about for a long time.

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

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

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

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

overall.

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

back as managing director for the men's national team, and he's already excited about

what is looming.
"I've done a lot of things in my life," Hill said. "And, this is a thing that certainly consumes you, but it is

incredibly rewarding." Especially when the team wins. There will be changes between now and 2028. James will be 43 and likely retired by then (though with James, never say never).

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

continue. No decisions are set, and that won't change for a while. Hill is going to take a well-earned break. The next major international tournament is the World Cup in Qatar in 2027. It's safe to say that it'll be sometime in 2025 when he even starts getting serious about putting together a group for that.

"Over four years, a lot can and will happen," Hill said. "Now, getting away from it a little bit, just letting things play out and see how guys continue to develop and see what kind of season guys have over the next year or so. And then, at some point, you start that process all over again."

When he took over, Hill said he wanted a pipeline for both players and coaches. People leave the program, others

move up. Steve Kerr made clear when he agreed to replace Gregg Popovich as US coach, it would be for the 2023 World Cup and the Paris Olympics. It would seem likely that the next national team coach will be either Spoelstra or Tyronn Lue, given how both were assistants under Kerr the last



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

**PTI** ■ PARIS

A merican gymnast after the score was posted.

A Jordan Chiles must The IOC said in a statement return the bronze medal she won in the Paris Olympics floor exercise after sport's

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

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

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

Landi's inquiry came a minute and four seconds it will be in touch with the Olympic was judged improperly, the International Olympic Committee confirmed Sunday.

Latayinpic Committee regarding the return of Chiles' bronze and will work with the Romanian Olympic Committee Committee Paralympic discuss a reallocation honouring ceremony

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

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

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

## After coach's life was saved backstage, Uzbekistan dominate Olympic boxing has raised us. He educated us.

**PTI** ■ PARIS

Uzbekistan's beloved head boxing coach was revived from apparent cardiac arrest by two members of Britain's training staff after celebrating his team's first gold medal of the Paris Olympics, his fighters confirmed.

The Uzbek team went on to win five golds - more than any Olympic team in the last 20 years - in tribute to Tulkin Kilichev, who is recovering in a Paris hospital.

"(Kilichev) is more than a coach or a father, in fact," Bakhodir Jalolov said after winning his second super heavyweight gold medal. "He while recovering, and his

He has transmitted the sports spirit to us. He has been with me in my heart, and tomorrow we will be going to visit him in the hospital."

Kilichev fell ill backstage after flyweight Hasanboy Dusmatov won Uzbekistan's first gold medal Thursday. According to GB Boxing, team doctor Harj Singh and physical therapist Robbie Lillis found Kilichev in lifethreatening distress. They performed CPR on the coach, and Lillis also used a defibrillator, the team said. Ialolov said

after her marriage. She is not

familiar with social media

and things like that. She often

speaks from her heart. But

she understands what

families of athletes, even from

different countries, feel

Praise for Sreeiesh. Manu

Chopra lauded shooter Manu

perseverance to grab two bronze medals in the Paris

Games after experiencing utter disappointment in the

for

showing

towards them."

Kilichev remained in contact with the



fighters responded with a historic performance. Jalolov was the last of five champions to climb the podium Saturday night in the

best Olympic performance since Cuba also won five golds at the 2004 Athens final five men's gold medal bouts contested at Roland Garros, starting with Dusmatov on Thursday - a victory followed by that frightening moment for Kilichev.

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

boxer. Lazizbek Mullojonov won the heavyweight title Friday night, joining a remarkable Olympic lineage at that weight including Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Teofilo Stevenson, Felix Savon and Oleksandr Usyk.

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

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

With Jalolov and Dusmatov returning alongside a new crew of gifted young boxers. Uzbekistan has returned to

## **Sifan wins women's marathon**

PTI PARIS

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

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

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



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

racer who runs for the Netherlands, used the same tactic in the hilly, 26.2-mile course as on the oval. She lingered behind the leaders for most of the race before summoning up the energy for a late-race kick that would go down as one of the best the sport has seen.

This one, amazingly, had more the look of a crowded race on the oval down the stretch. As Hassan gathered to make her last pass, Assefa, from Ethiopia, tried to block her path. Hassan moved to the inside around a bend. Assefa tried to squeeze her against the barrier separating the course from the cheering fans. The runners traded elbows, and then, Hassan took off past Assefa and sprinted in for

## World Boxing to announce major increase in membership after Paris Olympics

The nascent governing body fighting to keep boxing in the Olympics is about to get a major membership boost.

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

Van Der Vorst said he is leaving Paris even more confident his sport can pull off "the greatest comeback story ever in the Olympic ever in the



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

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

World Boxing must court each federation individually to accomplish this seismic change to the sport - and the clock is ticking.

Boxing is not currently on the

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

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

**PTI** ■ PARIS

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

questioning the very nature of her being.
The flyweight shut off her social media, kept up her training and focused on earning one proficient victory

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

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

culminated in this gold-medal previously victory over unfathomable challenges. "I saw images flashing, and I

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

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

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

gold medal. On Friday, Khelif won Algeria's first women's boxing medal with a decisive victory in the welterweight division final, beating Yang Liu of China. Both fighters persevered through an avalanche of criticism and uninformed

speculation about their sex during the Paris tournament to deliver the best performances of their boxing careers. "Every fight is not easy," Lin said. "Winning 5-0 might seem easy, but behind that is a lot of

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



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

toward gender identity and safety regulation in sports. Lin said she minimized this potentially enormous entirely. She also said she'll speak with her team about whether to take legal action against some of the claims.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## tollywood

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

PNS | HYDERABAD

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

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

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



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

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

slang in Aay."

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

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

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

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

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

ing is greater than friendship."

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

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

Actor Krishna Vamsi, currently gaining much accolades for his movie Alanaati Ramachandrudu, shares the love

AARTI SREENATH

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

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

In a candid interview with the Alanaati Ramachandrudu fame and what initially drew him to the role of 'Siddhu,' Vamsi's eyes lit up with enthusiasm. "The moment I heard the narration, I felt an instant connection," he shares. "Siddhu is someone we've all encountered in our lives, whether it's that quiet kid in class with a secret crush or the introverted neighbour who speaks more with his eyes than his words.

He realised that Siddhu wasn't just an introvert. He was emotionally layered, a true ambivert and that complexity excited him the most about the character. The challenge was to bring out those subtle nuances and expressions that are more felt than seen. "In a way, it was a blank canvas, with no prior reference and I relished the opportunity to paint it with my own strokes," he shares.

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

Vamsi is humbled by the comparison. "Honestly, it's such a flattering compliment. When I first saw Siddhu on screen, I even thought he had this charming, relatable quality. The way he smiles at his loved ones—that's something I think audiences took home with them. It's heartwarming to know

that people of all ages found some-thing endearing in him," he said. Comparisons to iconic charac-ters like R. Madhavan's 'Karthik' from Sakhi have naturally followed. But while Karthik was all extroverted passion, Siddhu's charm lies in his subtlety. "Madhavan Sir is a legend and it's an honour to be mentioned in the same breath," Vamsi says with a smile. "Karthik was bold and direct, while Siddhu was shy and reserved, yet deeply committed. I think today's generation appreciates that kind of quiet intensity, a love that doesn't shout but speaks volumes through a simple lance or a smile. Maybe that's wh girls have taken to Siddhu; they can feel those same butterflies he feels on screen," he said.

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



something that instantly connects with people and he is incredibly grateful for that.

Blushing slightly, Vamsi turns his attention to the fans who have showered him with love and support. "I'm overwhelmed by the affection, especially from my women fans. During our promotional tours, the energy and the love from college girls were unbelievable; it boosted my confidence like nothing else." He thanks everyand promises to reciprocate that love through his work, bringing characters to life that his audience will continue to adore. "Please keep supporting me on this jour-ney; I wouldn't be here without you," he requests.

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





## Varun Tej's *Matka* first look makes a bold impression

ega Prince Varun Tej is set to make his pan-India debut with *Matka*, which is also his most ambitious film to date. Directed by Karuna Kumar and produced by Dr. Vijender Reddy Teegala and Rajani Thalluri film is being crafted on a grand scale. Production is currently underway

On Sunday, the team unveiled the first look poster for the film, showcasing Varun Tej in two distinct avatars—one as a young man and the other as a middle-aged individual. The film will span the protagonist's journey over 24 years, featuring him in four different looks. The poster highlights two contrasting facets of his character: from an underdog to a powerful overlord, capturing his rise to dominance.

In one image, Varun Tej exudes youthful intensity and style, smoking a cigar with a vintage look. On the other hand, he appears aged and affluent, also smoking a cigar but with spectacles and grey hair, and a gun on his desk. The background features a king card from a deck of playing cards. The impressive first look creates a strong visual impact, hinting at Varun Tej's return to roles his fans are eager to see. The film also stars Meenakshi Chaudhry and Nora Fatehi, set against a period backdrop. The cinematography is handled by A Kishor Kumar, with GV Prakash Kumar composing the music and Karthika Srinivas R editing the film. Matka will be released in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada.



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

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

the teaser for the film *Radhe Krishna*, Ramprasad. Producer Ram Talluri more days, reflecting their passion for cinemarked, "This film is a product of our ema. They have created a high-quality film now. Produced by Voodugu Sudhakar under the banner of SV Creations and directed by Ismail Shaik, the film stars SS Saidulu in the lead role, with Bramarambika and Arpita Lohi as the heroines and music composed by ML Raja. The movie will be released in both Telugu and Banjara languages.
The teaser launch event was attended

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

district. The teaser looks impressive and the songs are excellent. If newcomers are well guided, we will see even better films in the future. I sincerely hope that this film brings financial success to the producer

and a good name to the actors. Producer Bekkam Venugopal praised the film's production, stating, "I always support small films. When I saw this movie, I felt the climax could have been better. After sharing my feedback, the team

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

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

