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MY DAUGHTER SEE ME **PLAYING NEGATIVE ROLES'** 

'My role in Viraaji is unlike any I've played **BEFORE**'s



QUOTE OF THE DAY

- K. Chandrasekhar Rao, BRS chief

#### **Manpower shortage** hampering...

With the rise in train collisions

across the country, people raised concerns on the safety measures taken by the railways. They questioned why the railways have been dilly-dallying in installing train collision avoidance system (TCAS), called 'Kavach.' It has been adopted as an automated train protection system. To avert these dreadful collisions, Indian Railways took initiative to develop Kavach system in 2012 and completed its development in 2022. However, despite its development, some of the areas still remain uncovered...

-PAGE: 3

#### 'Only 8 countries could lower...

Even as premature deaths due to cancer have come down across three-fourths of the world, only eight countries are likely to meet the related United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Target 3.4, pointed out a recent study. The target is concerned with slashing premature deaths from noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) including cancer, by a third by 2030 through prevention and treatment. For the study, researchers, including those from the World Health..

#### International toy fair to begin on...

More than 300 domestic companies and over 100 foreign buyers from the US, Germany and other countries are expected to participate in the four-day international toy fair beginning on July 6 in the national can statement said on Tuesday. More than 250 Indian brands will display their products during the fair, which is being organised at Pragati Maidan here, Toy Association of India senior vice-president Naresh Kumar Gautam said in the statement. Gautam said that the 15th Toy Biz...

#### Lot of time for me to sleep, for now...

Rohit Sharma held the T20 World Cup trophy like a new-born baby as he walked towards the beach here for the triumphant captain's post-tournament photo shoot, a serene smile refusing to leave his face and the feeling of being a world champion yet to fully sink in. He couldn't be faulted for being a bit dazed. After all, a jinx that lasted over a decade had been broken. "It's surreal. It feels like a dream. It feels like it hasn't happened. Although it has happened but it feels like it hasn't happened," Rohit...



CM Revanth Reddy and Ministers at a crucial meeting with IAS officers held at the Secretariat on Tuesday

## Come up with new ideas'

### CM ASKS IAS OFFICERS TO TURN TG INTO A ROLE MODEL

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy issued directives to all senior officials to align their work with government priorities. He advised them to undertake necessary cleansing to improve efficiency and urged the sharing of new ideas with the CMO.

Every officer was ordered to submit a flagship idea to the government within two weeks. He emphasised that IAS officers must take control of their departments and ensure

that they are accountable to the public. The CM urged everyone to deliver good governance which would benefit the public.

The CM said that it is the officials' responsibility to shape Telangana into a model state. He recommended that officials should regularly review their department's functioning. a meeting with secretaries at the Secretariat on Tuesday, the CM along with Ministers Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Tummala Nageswara Rao, CM's Advisor Vem Narender

Reddy, Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, and CMO Principal Secretary Sheshadri, addressed the gathering. 29 IAS officers attended the programme. The CM said the Congress government had implemented five of its six guarantees within the first 100 days, despite the imposition of the Model Election Code.

He directed officials to focus on governance and reiterated that changing Telangana into a model state is the officials' responsibility. The CM stressed the importance

of discipline among officials for providing good governance. He called for strict adherence to schedules, ensuring availability at the Secretariat, and conducting weekly district-level field visits to monitor department performance. Monthly meetings with district officials were recommended to review department programmes. Expressing dissatisfaction with collectors not leaving their offices in many districts, the CM urged IAS officers to implement good gov-

BRS will be back and rule again

• Asserts confident KCR, recalls 10 years of BRS good governance

### 'Yes, let's meet and iron out bifurcation issues'

Revanth accepts Naidu's praposal to meet on 6<sup>th</sup> July



PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has accepted an invitation from AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for a face-to-face meeting on July 6 at the Jyoti Rao Phule Praja Bhavan.

"I completely agree with the need for an in-person discussion to better serve the people of our respective states," he said.

"On behalf of the people of Telangana, I am delighted to invite you to the meeting on July 6 in Hyderabad," he added.

He concurred with CBN's reflections on the necessity of resolving all pending issues of the Bifurcation Act hrough an in-person meeting, emphasizing the importance of building a strong foundation for

cooperation.
On behalf of the people of Telangana and his government, Revanth expressed delight in accepting Naidu's invitation for a meeting. The discussion is scheduled for the afternoon of July 6 at the Mahatma Jyoti Rao Phule Bhavan in Hyderabad.

## Rs 60k cr to be spent on schemes for farmers

Though it is burden Govt will honur its word: Tummala

PNS HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao said that Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 60,000 crore will be spent on waiving farm loans, the Rythu

Bharosa, crop insurance and Rythu Bima schemes in the next three months. He said the government would implement these schemes as per its word although it is a burden on the government.

BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao addresing ZP Chairpersons in his farmhouse on Tuesday

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS president K. Chandrasekhar Erravelli. Rao said that he was confident that rule for another 15 years.

He criticised the Congress stating that once in power they act recklessly making the public despise them. He recalled a similar situation after NTR's rule. On Tuesday, KCR held a meeting with the ZP chairpersons of Telangana at his farmhouse in

persons played in the state's development during BRS rule and congratulated them on completing their greater heights, emphasizing that real politicians work for the people

Speaking on the occasion, KCR regardless of power. Reflecting on said that everything ran smoothly, contrasting it with problems regarding electricity, drinking water and terms. He urged them to aim for law and order under the Congress government which led to commu-

#### within three days PNS HYDERABAD

The Congress high command may announce the new TPCC President within three days before 'Ashada Masam' begins.

**New TPCC president** 

Sources said the party will finalise the new president's name within three days after discussion the matter with the current TPCC head Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy again on We

The Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister may go to New Delhi on Wednesday to hold talks with the high command about the new TPCC President and Cabinet expansion.



#### NEET-PG likely to be held mid-August: Sources

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Post Graduate (NEET-PG) 2024 is likely to be held mid-August, sources said on Tuesday. The revised date for the medical entrance exam is expected to be announced this week.

A meeting was held in the Union home ministry on Monday, in which officials from the health ministry,

## 'Guilty won't be spared'

#### Working on war footing to curb paper leaks,: PM

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that the government is working on a war footing to curb incidents of paper leaks, while asserting

that those playing with the future of youngsters will not be spared. The prime minis-

ter's comments came amid a raging row over paper leaks, in competitive examinations such as the NEET and the demanding a discussion on the

issue in Parliament.

Replying to a two-day debate on the Motion of Thanks to the president's address to a joint sitting of Parliament, Modi said arrests are being made across the

country in connection with the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) issue. "The president expressed concerns about paper leaks in her address. I also want to tell

students and youngsters that alleged irregularities, including the government is serious about controlling such incidents and we are taking back-to-back steps on a NET. The opposition has been war footing to fulfil our responsibilities," he said.

Apply online for CMRF from July 15

## 116 killed in stampede at UP 'satsang', most victims women

PNS ■ HATHRAS(UP)

A stampede at a religious congregation here killed 116 people on Tuesday as devotees suffocated to their deaths and bodies piled atop each other in the worst such tragedy in recent years.

The stampede took place as the devotees - most of them women -headed home after a 'satsang' in the Hathras district's Phulrai village, conducted by Baba Narayan Hari who is also known as Saakar Vishwa Hari Bhole Baba. Some accounts said some people

slipped in the slush, triggering the Twenty-seven bodies were



ing Etah district. Senior Superintendent of Police Rajesh

brought to a hospital in neighbour- Kumar Singh said 23 of them were

## Won't comment on new criminal laws, says CJI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a heated debate over the three new criminal laws, Chief Justice of

India (CJI) DY Chandrachud Tuesday refused to comment on them. saving the issues arising from

these statutes were pending before the Supreme Court. The new laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam

country from July 1 and replaced the

Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively. Recently, a PIL was filed in the

top court seeking a stay on the new criminal laws. It also challenged the constitutional validity of certain provisions in these laws.

'These are issues which are sub-judice before the Supreme Court, maybe possibly the other high courts. Therefore, I should not be speaking on anything which is likely to come up before the (BSA) -- came into effect across the court," the CJI said.

#### PNS HYDERABAD

Applications for help from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) will now be accepted online. From July 15, CMRF applications will be accepted only online. Applications can be submitted on the site https://cmrf.telangana.gov.in.

This decision was made based on orders from Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to ensure transparency and to prevent misuse of CMRF funds. A website for this purpose has been developed under the guidance of the Centre for Good Governance. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy inau-

the Secretariat. The new system was introduced to check the misuse of CMRF funds during BRS rule. Now, applications for help from the



must provide their details and MLAs gurated the website on Tuesday at and MLCs should attach their recommendation letters and upload them. Including the applicant's bank account number in the application is mandatory.

Chief Minister's Relief Fund must be After uploading, a code will be uploaded on this website. Applicants issued from the CMRF. Based on and a cheque will be issued.

this code, original medical bills must be submitted at the Secretariat. The application will be sent to the respective hospitals online for verification.

If the given details are correct, the CMRF application will be approved,

## 'Deliberate act of sabotage'

#### KTR condemns digital vandalism

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao raised serious concern about the digital vandalism on Telangana government websites and social

media handles. In a detailed letter to Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, KTR high-lighted the alarming trend of disappearing digital content, which he

believes to be a deliberate act of sabotage by certain elements within the TG government. He requested the immediate

restoration of all content removed from the public domain and urged the Chief Secretary to take action to

address the digital vandalism. He emphasized the importance of

preserving digital content created using public funds. This information, he asserts, is a crucial part of Telangana's history and belongs to the people of Telangana and

not to any individual or political party. He stressed that future generations would not forgive the destruction of this public property based

on the whims of a few. KTR called on the Chief Secretary to fulfil her duty as the guardian of the state's physical and digital assets,

ensuring the protection and restoration of this valuable information.

### 'CM must ask CBN to return 7 mandals & Sileru Hydel Project'

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The BRS asked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to ask AP Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to return the seven mandals and the 460 MW Lower Sileru Hydel Project which was transferred from Telangana to Andhra Pradesh forcibly in May 2014.

BRS MLA Harish Rao held a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan highlighting the administrative failures of the Congress in the last seven months.

He said that during Chandrababu's rule issues like the merging of seven mandals with AP and the handing over of the Lower Sileru Project to Andhra Pradesh were ignored. He urged the Congress government to pressure Chandrababu to address these issues before



discussing other bifurcation

Harish pointed out that governance in villages and towns has collapsed under Congress

He emphasised that KCR initiated the 'Palle Pragathi' and 'Pattana Pragathi' programmes, focusing on village development. However, sanitation has deteriorated and the government remains inactive.

Despite the terms of sarpanches and district parishads ending, elections have not been conducted. Under Congress rule villages are in disarray and officials are struggling to maintain ser-

He said that during BRS rule villages thrived and bagged national awards like the Deen Dayal and Sansad Adarsh Yojana. However, Congress neglected these areas, resulting in non-payment of salaries to sanitation workers for seven months and the stopping of tractor services due to lack of

#### Centre introduced new laws to suppress opposition: VH

PNS HYDERABAD

Senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao said the NDA government has introduced three new laws to 'suppress' the opposition.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday, VH said that the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, spoke facts. Rahul had asked the NDA govern-ment not to encourage 'hatred' among Hindus and not to encourage 'violence,' he said. He said that there is no need for Rahul to apologise as he spoke about justice and that the BJP escaped nar-rowly from defeat in the LS polls. He said the Congress will not keep quiet if the Modi government speaks as

### **MEETING OF CMs of TELUGU STATES**

## All eyes are on Revanth

**SNCN ACHARYULU** 

The meeting of the two Telugu Chief Ministers proposed on July 6 at Hyderabad to discuss long pending bifur-cation issues is creating interest. The stand of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on the issue of dividing assets located in and around Hyderabad has become the important point.
Will Revanth continue the stand of the BRS government or will he take a new stand?

There are several issues to be resolved between the two states which are linked to the sentiments of their respective peoples. It may be recalled

that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu wrote a letter to his Telangana counterpart Revanth Reddy proposing a face-to-face meeting on July 6 in Hyderabad to address all unresolved bifurcation issues.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy responded favourably to the meeting. The main problem between the two states is the sharing of assets located in Hyderabad.

In the past when Chandrababu was the Chief Minister he demanded that the sharing of assets must be done according to the Andhra Pradesh State Reorganisation Act. But the Telangana government's

argument when KCR was the Chief Minister was that Telangana is the rightful owner of all assets in Hyderabad and AP has no say on them.

The Telangana government proposed that the division of assets should be based on geography. When AP wanted a share in the assets located in Hyderabad the Telangana government said that they would seek a share in the seaports, buildings and other assets located in the successor AP state as they were created with funds of united

The Telangana government is not ready to give a share in the assets to AP and at the same time, Andhra Pradesh is also not ready to give up its share because the value of the assets runs into thousands of crores and as both Telugu states are facing a fund shortage. It is a known fact that AP CM Chandrababu and Telangana CM Revanth have a 'guru and chela' relationship. If Revanth takes any decision in favour of AP and against the interests of Telangana he will face problems. However, Revanth recently said, "Chandrababu's job is Chandrababu's. I have my job. Will I give up my job

for Chandrababu's sake? The division of assets between the two states is a challenging task and the issue may continue to fester for

#### Govt sets up panel on Rythu Bharosa

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government on Tuesday constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to study and recommend modalities/guidelines for implementing the 'Rythu Bharosa Scheme.'

The members of the Committee are IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Agriculture Minister Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao.

The Secretary in charge of the Agriculture and Cooperation Department would be the convener of the Sub-Committee.

### 'Guilty...

Continued on Page 1

"Those playing with the future of youngsters will not be spared, arrests are being made across the country in the NEET issue. The Centre has already framed strict laws and important steps are being taken to strengthen the entire system of conducting examinations," the prime minister added. Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi wrote to Modi earlier in the day, requesting tate a debate.

## 'Yes, let's..

In a letter dated July 2, Revanth expressed his gratitude for the letter he had received from Chandrababu on July 1 and congratulated him on his victory in the recent Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Andhra Pradesh.

Revanth acknowledged Chandrababu Naidu's historic achievement of being sworn in as Chief Minister for a fourth time and wished him the best.

TODAY

**ALMANAC** 

Month & Paksham:

Tithi: Dwadashi:

Trayodashi:

Nakshatram

Mrigashirsha:

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Amritakalam:

Abhijit Muhurtham:

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy

Gulika:

Rohini:

### Will focus on disputes over farmlands: Tummala

#### Asks farmers not to commit suicide

PNS HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao appealed to farmers not to commit suicide due to land disputes and added that the government will pay special attention to land disputes in villages. He assured that justice will be delivered to all formers by the delivered to all farmers by the

PNS BENGALURU

Tuesday, ISRO said.

halo orbit.

the L1 point.

Continued on Page 1

on Tuesday.

Krishna Paksha

Jul 02 08:42 AM

to Jul 03 07:10 AM

to Jul 04 05:54 AM

Jul 03 04:40 AM

Jul 04 04:07 AM

to Jul 04 04:07 AM

to Jul 05 03:54 AM

12:20 PM to 1:58 PM

7:27 AM to 9:05 AM

09:40 AM to 11:15 AM

10:42 AM to 12:20 PM

12:59 AM to 02:33 AM

Meanwhile, TPCC Working

President B. Mahesh Kumar

Goud has been making all-out

efforts to bag the TPCC

President post and met AICC

President Mallikarjuna Kharge

Gandhi Bhavan sources say

that Mahesh has a better

chance of bagging the TPCC President post if the high com-

Continued on Page 1

He asked the Chief Secretary

to ensure collectors con-

ducted field visits and peri-

odically inspected hospitals,

anganwadi centers, schools

and all service departments.

The CM called for prompt

responses to public issues

He clarified that promo-

and unforeseen incidents.

tions would be based solely

on performance and assured

encouragement for those

to begin weekly district vis-

its to personally review the

implementation of govern-

ment schemes and develop-

ment projects. He said that

The CM announced plans

performing well.

India's first solar mission, the

Aditya-L1 spacecraft complet-

ed its first halo orbit around

the Sun-Earth L1 point on

agency said its station-keeping

manoeuvre ensured its seam-

less transition into the second

which is an Indian solar observatory at Lagrangian point L1, was launched on September 2, 2023, and was

inserted in its targeted halo

According to ISRO, the

Aditya-L1 spacecraft in the halo orbit takes 178 days to

complete a revolution around

orbit on January 6, 2024.

The Aditya-L1 mission,

On Tuesday, the space

Congress. Reacting to the suicide of a farmer named Bojedla Prabhakar of Podduturu village in the Chintakani mandal of Khammam district who ended his life with a selfie-video on Monday alleging that the police and revenue officials did not respond even though some people destroyed.

will be subjected to various

perturbing forces that will cause it to depart from the tar-

"Aditya-L1 underwent two

and June

station-keeping manoeuvres

respectively, to maintain this

orbit. Today's third station-

mand decides to give the post

Committee Chairman Madhu

Yashki Goud is also trying to

bag the post by meeting the

Kumar is also trying like

The Congress high com-

mand is considering all equa-

tions while considering poten-

be akin to military surveil-

lance on the country's bor-

ders to prevent the smug-

gling of drugs. He said that

there is information about

marijuana being smuggled

into Telangana from the AP-

the police to be vigilant and

prevent the entry of drugs

at the Command Control

Centre (CCC) with inspec-

tors and higher officials

from the three commission-

erates of Hyderabad on

Tuesday, Revanth stressed

the importance of control-

ling cybercrimes and drug

The Chief Minister asked

During the meeting held

Odisha border.

into the state.

Mahesh Kumar Goud.

Former MLA SA Sampath

that the Aditya-L1 spacecraft ued in the second halo orbit cise orbit manoeuvres.

geted orbit.

on February

**TPCC** 

high command.

During its travel in the halo keeping manoeuvre has

orbit, the space agency said ensured that its travel contin-

New TPCC president within...

'Come up with..

## Efforts on to regain R&B assets under AP control: Min Venkat

PNS HYDERABAD

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy conducted a comprehensive review on Tuesday in his chamber with senior R&B department officials on the procedure to reclaim the R&B buildings in Hyderabad which have been under the control of the Andhra

path around L1," ISRO said.

The agency explained that Aditya L1's journey around

the Sun-Earth L1 Lagrangian

point involves modeling of

ious perturbing forces acting

on the spacecraft helped in

determining the trajectory

accurately and planning pre-

tial candidates for the TPCC

However, the high com-

mand may consider Chief

Minister Revanth Reddy's

word. There is a convention of

the outgoing TPCC President

recommending someone's

name for the TPCC President

post. The high command is

also considering MPs Balaram

Naik, Suresh Shetkar and oth-

asked the DGP to provide

security based on need. He

advocated the establishment

of special schools for police

officials' children like mili-

establish a police school on 50 acres of Greyhounds'

land offering free educa-

tion from primary to post-

graduate levels for children

The Chief Minister also

recalled his background of

hailing from a police fami-

ly and urged police officers

to take pride in their profes-

sion. He highlighted the

pivotal role of SHOs in

crime control and urged

senior officials to focus on

of all police officials.

He revealed plans to

President post.

ers for the post.

tary schools.

complex dynamics.

The understandi

Pradesh government for 10 years as the joint capital in the context of the meeting between AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Telangana Chief Minister

Revanth Reddy.
Venkat directed the officials to prepare all the necessary information for reclaiming the assets of the R&B depart-ment, including the Lake View Guest House, Ministers'

Quarters, Adarsh Nagar, Basheer Bagh, Kundan Bagh, as well as the residential complexes of MLAs in various areas along with Greenlands and Manjeera Guest Houses. The meeting was attended by R&B Special Secretary Dasari Harichandan, Joint Secretary Harish, ENC Ganapati Reddy, CE Madhusudhan Reddy, Mohan Nayak and other senior officials.



Continued on Page 1

in 10 years.

He asked why the same offi-

cials were unable to maintain

peace now and stressed that

the BRS government achieved

unprecedented development

leaders who left the party

after holding high posts and

questioned their inability to

stay without posts for a short

period. He said that the

schemes launched by YSR like

Arogyasri and the fee reim-

bursement scheme were con-

tinued without changing

names but was implemented

Bandhu scheme was intro-

duced to stabilize agriculture.

He said the successful Rythu

He commented on BRS

#### Lok Sabha adjourned sine die

PNS NEW DELHI

The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die on Tuesday after passage of the Motion of Thanks on the President's address to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

The session, which began on June 24, had seven sittings that were spread over 34 hours and the productivity of the House was 103 per cent, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said. The session saw 539 Lok Sabha members take oath or make affirmation over the

first two days.
Birla was elected as the Lok Sabha speaker on June 26 and President Droupadi Murmu addressed the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on June 27.

Over 68 members participated in the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address moved by BJP member Anurag Thakur and seconded by Bansuri Swaraj.

The debate on the Motion of Thanks lasted for 18 hours, Birla said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi replied to the debate on the Motion.

attempts to undermine the

scheme, citing potential cor-

KCR predicted that the BRS

would return to power and

urged his party workers to be

patient. He said that there

might be a reorganization of

constituencies in the next two

years, increasing the number

of constituencies to 160 in

Telangana, which would cre-

ate more opportunities for

He emphasized the need for

the reconstruction of

Telangana and stated that

whoever receives the B-form

from the BRS will be victori-

ous. He said the BRS would

soon complete appointing

committees at all levels and

properly.

women.

BRS will be back..

#### BJP ranks also 'appreciate' Rahul's speech denouncing Modi: Niranjan

PNS HYDERABAD

The country appreciates the speech delivered by Rahul Gandhi as the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha on Monday, TPCC Senior Vice-President G. Niranjan said. BJP ranks are also 'appreciating' Rahul Gandhi's speech and his denunciation

of Modi, Niranjan said.

He said that Congress cadres are overwhelmed with joy and their morale has received a tremendous boost. The TPCC congratulates Rahul wholeheartedly. Both Modi and Amit Shah, who had earlier mocked Rahul Gandhi as Shehzade and Pappu, were visibly worried and disturbed, he said.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday, Niranjan said that the BJP, which in the past silenced the opposition, now had been made to listen to Rahul's speech with shock. The 'intolerant' Modi was made to take 'shelter' behind

religion by saying.

Continued on Page 1

while speaking to the media after an event to mark the foundation stone-laying ceremony at Karkardooma, Shastri Park and Rohini for new trial court buildings in the capital.

In his speech at the event, Chandrachud asserted that the courts only subserve the Constitution and are in service of no one but the liti-

"Our courts are not merely sights of sovereign power but are also essential public service providers," he said.

"The foundation of a court must be sound - both in its structural and philosophical capacity. It must subserve no might but the Constitution and be in service.

#### NEET-PG likelv ...

Continued on Page 1

Board National Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS), along with its technical partner Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and Cyber Cell officials discussed the preparedness for the NEET-PG, which is to be held online. "Besides the NEET-PG, the meeting was held to evaluate the robustness of the system for the conduct of the Foreign Medical Examination, which is scheduled for July 6," a source said.

Monday's meeting was held to check the "robustness" of the system for the conduct of the exam in the coming days, the sources added.

It was learnt that the TCS top brass briefed the meeting about the various aspects of the exam procedure. On June 22, the Union health ministry postponed.

ISRO's Aditya-L1 completes first halo orbit around Sun-Earth L1 point

TPCC working president B Mahesh Kumar Goud meets AICC president Mallikariuna Kharge on Tuesday at Delhi

#### 'Deliberate...

Continued on Page 1

He said that the State History gana.gov.in/about/history/) containing a brief history of Telangana from the prehistoric period to the state's formation has been deleted. It is an essential resource for citizens, tourists, researchers

The Reports Page (https://www.telangana.gov.in /reports/) which had significant reports released by the Government of Telangana between 2014 and 2023 was also deleted. These reports are invaluable for students, researchers and investors, he said. The Telangana CM's Website (https://cm.telangana.gov.in/) where all content related to the tenure of former Chief Minister K.

and investors globally.

Chandrasekhar Rao.

#### He expressed concern over the would also strengthen its Congress government's social media presence.

better by the BRS.

116 killed... Continued on Page 1

And 89 lay dead in Hathras itself.

UP chief secretary Manoj Kumar Singh put the death toll at 116. Baring seven children and a man, the dead are all women. Singh said 72 have been identified

Victims, dead or unconscious, were brought to the Sikandara Rau Trauma Centre in trucks and 'tempos'. The bodies lay scattered outside this Hathras health centre as people milled around them.

woman crying as she sat in a truck, amid five or six bodies. Another showed a man

#### Continued on Page 1

meeting with officials of agriculture, horticulture and silk industry on Tuesday at TGIRD, Tummala said that it is a huge responsibility to make Telangana the top performing state in agriculture in the next 10 years.

The Minister directed officials of the three departments to advise farmers after assessing water resources and weather conditions. He directed officials to advise farmers on what crop

has to be cultivated and about A video clip showed a new crops and marketing facilities. He said that 1,222 Rythu

Participating in a review

Rs 60k cr to be...

inputs or not at prescribed prices or not. He directed officials to

farmers are getting quality

ensure accuracy in crop registration as there is an AEO for every 5,000 acres to continuously monitor the crop registration process. It is the basis of everything like Rythu Bharosa, crop insurance and marketing, he said. Similarly, despite the begin-

ning of the third year of the oil palm project, there is still no coordination between the two departments at the field level. Only 59,200 acres have come under oil palm cultivation in 2023-24 although the target was 2.30 lakh acres, the Minister said.

He said that AO/HO is not different for oil palms. Whatever responsibilities the HO has, so does the AO, he said. AEOs have to take full responsibility.

#### trafficking. He urged the **Temp:** 32°° Bima claims were pending the schedule for his district police to stay updated on supervision. He concluded Humidity: 65% Sunrise: 5:46 AM tours would be released and asked officials to examnew laws introduced by the by stressing that Hyderabad and a woman lifeless in Centre replacing IPC and CrPC. The Chief Minister another vehicle. Clips before ine the situation as it is not is the lead brand of soon. Sunset: 6:55 PM the stampede showed people correct to keep so many claims pending. He said that The Chief Minister Telangana and maintaining stressed that police vigilance in a large 'shamiana', listening to Bhole Baba. pointed out that excessive its image is crucial for the **Updated:** July 2, 2024 5:00 PM officials have to see whether on the state's borders should security is unnecessary and

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## EME's 38th Sailing Week kicks off in the city

PNS HYDERABAD

The EME Sailing Association of the Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME) begins the 38th Hyderabad Sailing Week, at Hussain Sagar on Tuesday, which is a significant event in India's sailing calen-

Lt Gen JS Sidana, AVSM, DGEME, Senior Colonel Commandant, and Patron of the EME Sailing Association attended the opening ceremony. This year's event is a YAI Ranking Event with competitions across various classes, including ILCA 7, ILCA 6, ILCA 4 Boys and Girls, and the 470 Class.

The event was organised under the leadership of Lt Gen Neeraj Varshney VSM, Commandant MCEME, Colonel Commandant Corps of EME, Commodore EME Sailing Association, and President Laser Class Association of India. This year's Hyderabad Sailing Week aims to showcase sailing talent and sportsmanship.



Lt Gen JS Sidana, AVSM, DGEME, Senior Colonel Commandant, and Patron of the EME Sailing Association at the commencement of Sailing week in Hyderabad on Tuesday

For the first time in India, the EME Sailing Association also hosted an International Measurer's Clinic and an International Judge's Seminar, emphasising the event's commitment to high standards and international-level compe-

According to the EME Sailing Association, preliminary events included detailed powerboat courses and a YAI Coaching Camp for NCC cadet sailors from across the country, highlighting the event's inclusive nature. The camp focused on training girl sailors and included sessions for children from the BASS Orphanage, fostering a love for sailing among the younger generation.

This year also marks the

return of multi-class regattas, bringing together a diverse group of sailing enthusiasts and enhancing the sport's popularity and competitive spirit in India. The 38th Hyderabad Sailing Week, organised by the EME Sailing Association and Laser Class Association of India, aims to promote the sport in the Army and the

## Manpower shortage hampering deployment of 'Kavach' in SCR

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY **HYDERABAD** 

With the rise in train collisions across the country, people raised concerns on the safety measures taken by the railways. They questioned why the railways have been dilly-dallying in installing train collision avoidance system (TCAS), called 'Kavach'.

It has been adopted as an automated train protection system. To avert these dreadful collisions, Indian Railways took initiative to develop Kavach system in 2012 and completed its development in 2022. However, despite its development, some of the areas still remain uncovered under the Kavach system due to various factors.

According to a South Central Railway (SCR) official, the Automated Train Protection (ATP) system covers only 25 per cent i.e 555 route kilometers (Rkms) of Telangana under South Central Railways (SCR) zone. The kavach system was deployed across 1,465 route kilometers (Rkms) in the entire zone. This includes 555 Rkms in Telangana (out of a total of

2,014 Rkms in the State), 129 Rkms in Andhra Pradesh, 132 Rkms in Karnataka, and 576 Rkms in Maharashtra. Additionally, the ATP system has been installed in 159 locos and at 136 stations. But, Secunderabad-Raichur, Vijayawada-Kazipet-Balharshah sections remained uncovered by the system.

People are raising concerns

about the safety of other sections which remain uncovered by the system. Most of these sections are critical especially when it comes to Vijayawada-Balharshah route which witnesses numerous trains followed by Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam, Secun derabad-Raichur, Nizamabad-Manmad, Guntakal-Hubli all of which are in the dire need of Kavach system. One of the main reasons behind uncoverage of critical sections in Telangana is, there is a significant manpower shortage for handling the Kavach system, especially for crucial safetyrelated activities such as locomotive pilots, station masters, and track maintainers. Approximately 15,000 posts are vacant across the SCR lim-

K Sivakumar, Joint Zonal Secretary, All India Retired Railwaymen's Federation (AIRRF), said, "In Telangana, only 25 per cent of the rail network is secured with the Kavach system. What about the ramaining and 2 miles and 2 the remaining sections? The sections like Dharmabad-Kacheguda-Alampur Road, Sanathnagar-Wadi, and Vikarabad-Matalkaunta, which have the system installed, see limited train traffic, mostly

goods trains. The Vijayawada- Balharshah section, the main line of SCR, is in need of the Kavach system, as does the Secun derabad- Kaziguda route. Furthermore, to maintain and handle this system, the railway must fill vacant posts. Any issues in maintenance could disrupt train operations, leading to derailments and other serious problems.'

#### **NEET-UG row:** Student unions call for **Bharat Bandh**

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Jana Samithi on Tuesday called for Bharat Bandh on Thursday to highlight allegedly irregularities in NEET-UG examinations.

At a media conference here, Telangana Jana Samithi leader s, along with the stu-dents affiliated to NSUI, PYF, AISF, SFI and others, demanded that the NEET-UG counseling be cancelled.

Balmuri Venkat, MLC and president of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) said, "The Central government should immediately withdraw the decision to hold NEET counseling on July 6.

The government was playing with the lives of 24 lakh students. The student had lost trust in examinations, he said. He also over 70,000 students from Telangana appeared for NEET exam. "We laid siege to the house of Union Minister Kishan Reddy after he did not respond to our request for an appointment. We organised a student march, did a signature campaign, and laid siege to the Parliament in Delhi," he said.

### Saurabh Bandopadhyaya is SCR Principal Chief Signal Engineer

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Saurabh Bandopadhyaya, Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers (IRSSE), has taken charge as Principal Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer, South Central Railway on Tuesday.

He belongs to the 1990 batch of Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers. He pursued his degree in Electronics Communication Engineering from the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology in Bhopal in 1990

and went on to clear UPSC examination the same year in the first attempt at the age of 21 years. He also underwent an appreciation course in Integrated Circuit VLSI design from IIT, Delhi in 1991.

Saurabh is an expert in Railway Signalling Technology, IT enabled ser-



Communication, SCADA, Remote Control Systems etc. His present posting comes at a critical juncture when South Central Kailway is pioneering new developed signalling technologies such as Kavach, LTE, Automatic Block Signalling, Centralised Train Control systems etc to ensure highest rail safety standards. He is instrumental in commissioning modern signalling systems at 250 stations on Indian Railways, Doubling & Gauge Conversion of 1500 Kms etc.

He was credited with getting the world class railway station of Rani Kamalapati at Bhopal dedicated by the Prime Minister of India, which is the first station developed on PPP mode on Indian Railways. His career, spanning over three decades has seen him handle important assignments including Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Bilaspur Division of South East Central Railway; Chief Signal Engineer on South East Central Railway & Western Railway and as Chief Communication Engineer on Western Railway. Prior to joining South Central Railway, he worked as Divisional Railway Manager, Bhopal Division of West Central Railway.



State Planning board Vice President Chinna Reddy interacting with the people at the Prajavani programme in Hydeerabad on Tuesday.

#### **601 applications received in Prajavani**

PNS HYDERABAD

Over 601 grievance applications were received in the Prajavani program on Tuesday.

State Planning board Vice President G Chinna Reddy participated in the public address programme at the Mahatma Jyotiba Poole Praja Bhavan, interacted with the people, and took the applica-

People with various problems presented petitions to Chinna Reddy and Praja Bhavan officials.

According to officials, over 42 applications related to Revenue issues, 87 to the Civil Supplies Department, 53 to the Municipal Department, 47 to the Home Department, 52 to the Panchayati Raj Rural Development Department, and 220 to other departments were received.

Prajavani Special Officer D Divya and other officers received applications from the public and inquired about their problems.

## Minister suggests installation of solar panels on endowment land

PNS HYDERABAD

Minister of Endowments Konda Surekha on Tuesday directed the officials to prepare an action plan for the government to set up solar power plants on endowment lands to generate income for the department. She was holding a review meeting at Secretariat on Tuesday.

She suggested to the officials that the Common Good Fund should be spent on temples which lacked regular source of

On the occasion of Bonala festival, the authorities have been directed to decorate the temples and organise cultural programmes to promote the culture of Telangana along with creating facilities for the devotees without any disturbance. "CM Revanth Reddy will be requested to allocate funds of Rs150 crores to CGF under grant in aid. The offi-



post of 'Head of Account' for accuracy in the expenditure of CGF funds. Also, Bonala poster and calendar will be unveiled by CM Revanth Reddy on the occasion of Bonala fair", the minister added.

The minister directed the officials to formulate procedures for setting up solar power plants on uncultivated and economically unviable lands in Telangana in collaboration with Telangana Renewable Energy Resources Development Corporation (TGREDCO). She said that by

to discoms, the revenue will be generated for the government along with the conservation of the lands of the revenue

She suggested the installation of solar power plants on roofs of the temples and directed the officials to speed up the activities towards the installation of rooftop solar power plants under the auspices of NTPC primarily on Bhadrakali temple and ÝadagiriGutta temples.

Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramayar, Commissioner Hanmantha Rao, Additional Commissioners Jyoti, Krish naveni, Deputy Commissioner Ramakrishna Rao, Assistant Commissioner Balaji, SC Mallikarjun Reddy, DE Om Prakash, EE Kanakadurga Prasad, Project Director VV Ramakrishna, General Manager GSV Prasad from REDCO and others participated in this meet-



#### **30 Sri Lanka journalists take** part in training programme at **MCR HRD institute**

PNS HYDERABAD

In all, 30 journalists from Sri Lanka participated in the twoweek training programme on 'Media Management for Journalists and Media Professionals' on Tuesday at Dr MCR HRD Institute of Telangana in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs.

As part of the course curriculum, the delegates visited the University of Hyderabad on Tuesday for exposure to the Indian University Education System. Sugeeswara P Senadhira, Advisor (Media & International Affairs) to the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka,

was also part of the delegation. The journalists visited the Sarojini Naidu School of Arts

and Communication, interacted with the faculty, visited the state-of-the-art communica-tion and media facilities and had first-hand information on the course curriculum and outreach activities.

Later, they interacted with Prof BJ Rao, Vice Chancellor and Dr Devesh Nigam, Registrar. The participants were impressed with the academic strengths and achievements of the university. The visit was coordinated by Dr K Sukumar from Dr MCR HRD Institute of

#### 24 candidates from TG SCs Study Circle qualified for Civil Services Mains

PNS HYDERABAD

A Narasimha Reddy, Director of the Telangana Scheduled Castes Study Circle, Hyderabad, stated that 24 candidates were qualified for civil services mains, while four candidates selected for (Indian Forest Service) IFS Mains exam.

The institution gave free coaching for civil services examination (Prelims-cum-Mains) for 152 candidates during 2023-24 and for which, the preliminary examination was held on June 16.

He also stated that out of

24 candidates, 10 candidates belong to SCs, six belong to STs and eight belong to BCs. Among the Bcs, four are women candidates.

Some of the candidates who qualified in UPSC Prelims are S Jampanna, N Madhu, D Kiran, G Anjaneyulu, T Sai Kumar, Abhiraj, Kishan Patel and

## Food safety officials find expired food at restaurants

PNS HYDERABAD

The Task Force teams of Telangana's Commissioner of Food Safety conducted inspections at restaurants at Gachibowli and Nanakramguda areas here and found expired food and other violations on Monday.

During the inspections at abula Rasa in Tabula Nanakramguda, the food inspectors found that 12 kg of prawns and prepared turkish milk were expired and hence discarded on the spot. Few of the food handlers were found without wearing headgear.

Dustbins were found open and houseflies were found buzzing around it.

Medical fitness certificates for food handlers were not available.

Stored food articles were covered and labelled properly. Pest control records were available. FSSAI license true copy was not displayed at the



In the Hakuna Mataka Kitchen in Gachibowli area, the officials observed that Insect proof screen was not available to avoid the entry of

The doors of the kitchen were not close fitted. food handlers were found without

wearing headgear, gloves and apron. Medical fitness certificates for food handlers and pest control records for premises not available.

Raw materials and semi prepared food articles were not covered and not labelled properly. The FSSAI license was not displayed at the premises.

### selling the generated electricity TOMCOM to hold German language training programme for nurses

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOM-COM) will conduct a German language training programme for nurses from July 9-17 as part of placement in Germany.

The programme is being conducted in collaboration with the Federal Employment Agency of Government of Germany under the "Triple win project". Candidates from GNM/B.Sc. Nursing from recognised colleges of Telangana and in the age group 21-38 are eligible for the programme.

The candidates must have three years of experience in ICU, geriatrics, orthopedics, psychiatry, cardiology, neonatal and surgical ward etc. Those who have German language skills are encouraged to apply. Selected candidates will have the opportunity to work in Germany as Nursing assistant after successful completion of their B1 language training in India and will be promoted as Registered nurse after clearing B2 and recognition exam in Germany.

The salary offered is 2300-2800 Euros, excluding overtime allowances. The language course is free of cost, upon completion of the course candidates will be given stipend of 250 Euros on completion of A2 level and another 250 Euros upon completing

Visa and immigration process and one- way flight tickets will be facilitated free of cost by TOMCOM & German partnership under

this programme.
Interestedcandidates contact 9908830438, 8919047600, 7032379066, 8499990304,  $6302292450\ for\ registration\ or$ walk-in for the interview on the second floor of hotel plaza at Begumpet. For further information one may visit the TOMCOM website.

## Sehat ki samriddhi initiative for auto mechanics

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Sehat Ki Samriddhi initiative was launched for auto mechanics in the city. Motul India, a manufacturer of premium engine and industrial lubricants, begins its Corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative,

Motul Sehat Ki Samriddhi. The initiative aims to enhance primary healthcare access for auto mechanics, their dependents, and community members. A health camp is organised in Malkajgiri, Hyderabad, with three more follow-up camps

scheduled. Motul announces that, this is the first of many health check-

up camps across 20 cities in India, running from June 2024 to March 2025.The initiative, guided by Motul India in collaboration with Smile Foundation, will cover key regions in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. According to the Motul India,

this initiative focuses on delivering essential healthcare services to communities with limited access to medical care. Over the next 9 months, around 16,000 beneficiaries will receive medical attention through 80



Motul Sehat Ki Samriddhi organiser Jawahar Raj inaugurating the health camp for auto mechanics at Muduiraj bhavan in Hyderabad Tuesday.

health camps, reducing out-of- mobilizing the community with pocket expenses and improving cess to healthcare.

Key activities include deploying qualified medical staff,

support from local dealers and retailers, organizing Smile health camps, providing referral services, distributing first aid kits, and conducting regular monitoring and reporting.
CEO of Motul India & South

Asia, Nagendra Pai said, "With Sehat ki Samriddhi, we aim to nurture the well-being of auto mechanics and their families across the nation. Together with Smile Foundation, we envision promoting health-caring behavior in the community.'

Executive Director of Smile Foundation, Puneet Bali, added, "Our collaboration with Motul for the Sehat Ki Samriddhi initiative ensures auto mechanics and their families have access to quality healthcare services. Together, we're making a differ-

## GHMC formulates action plan to tackle dengue cases

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

In view of rising dengue cases in the GHMC area, the officials Entomology the Department discussed on the action plan to tackle the disease. As part of the plan, Entomology Department workers have been deployed to cover every colony in the city. cover every colony in the city in a span of six days.

As per the instructions of the GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata and Additional Commissioner (Health) N

Entomologists and Assistant Entomologists and other Entomology officers conducted a review meeting on 'Dengue Control in GHMC' on Tuesday.

During the meeting, they chalked a out a plan to ensure that a total of 4,846 colonies are covered in a week. Anti-larval operations would be carried out in all dengue identified

A GHMCofficial said that

Ravi Kiran, the Chief more than 1,100 workers are Entomologist, Senior enaged by Entomology wing in enaged by Entomology wing in

Anti-larval operations

would be carried out with

pinpoint precision, the officials Information, Education and

Communication (IEC) activities should be taken up regularly, with the involvement of school children and colleges on every Friday. The department releases Gambusia fishes in all baby ponds, all mosquito

## Bumpy road ahead for Chandrababu in setting right AP!

-aking Andhra Pradesh "the⊿ state in the country" may be easier said than done for Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, given its current dismal fiscal position. Although he has vast experience; Naidu, in his current stint as chief minister is bound to face formidable financial problems for running the government smoothly. Investors, who can help foster growth, will look at the fiscal health of the state before making or continuing invest-

The much-awaited distribution of pensions to about 65 lakh beneficiaries across Andhra Pradesh is considered to be the touchstone of

ments in AP.

Naidu with the assistance of his deputy Pawan Kalyan. Of course, they have vowed to work together

for the well-being of the state. Likewise, the cadres of Telugu Desam Party and Jana Sena Party must work closely for good governance. There have been differ-

ences between the TDP and JSP in the past, particularly in 2014 when JSP president Pawan Kalyan openly sup-ported BJP headed by Narendra Modi. Pawan chose not to contest the elections then only to avoid a possible split in the positive vote bank for Modi. But there is also a view that Pawan paved the

There have been differences between the TDP and JSP in the past, particularly in 2014 when JSP president Pawan Kalyan openly supported BJP headed by Narendra Modi. Pawan chose not to contest the elections then only to avoid a possible split in the positive vote bank for Modi. But there is also a view that Pawan paved the way for Naidu's victory in the state in the 2014 elections

the TDP had swept the elections held for local bodies earlier (results of which were released after the Assembly elections). There were no friendly ties between the two parties then. TDP cadre went to the town claiming that the way for Naidu's victory in the overwhelming results of polls

state in the 2014 elections. But to local bodies were "not because of Pawan Kalvan". The situation continued till the 2019 elections in which TDP, BJP and JSP chose to be a divided house. This came in handy for the then principal opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) to register an impressive win by bagging



151 seats out of 175 in the AP

Legislative Assembly.
Having dislodged YSRCP from power, the TDP, JSP and BJP will have to cement their friendship for their collective political interests. Naidu and Pawan appear to be ideologically connected under the influence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is believed that they are contemplating possible replication of the NDA formula in neighbouring Telangana also for strengthening the alliance. As for Chandrababu Naidu's

immediate tasks, he must focus on the resumption of construction of the capital city Amaravati and address the impediments in the way of completion of Polavaram multipurpose project. Completion of the project before the end of Naidu's current term is unlikely, going by his comments following his visit to Polavaram project site. Besides, the cases

filed by Odisha and

Chhattisgarh states against the Polavaram project, highlighting submergence of their lands, may complicate matters for Naidu.

Chandrababu Naidu has declared that his government will spend Rs.1.65 lakh crore towards giving community pensions to 65 lakh poor and needy people. Other schemes too require substantial funds.

Special Category Status for the state is another key issue that can disturb Naidu at any time. NDA alliance partner, president of Janata Dal (United) and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has demanded SCS for Bihar. If he succeeds in getting such bonanza from the Centre, it will certainly haunt Naidu!

There is widespread dissatisfaction among people that taxpayer money is not being used properly in terms of public access to community assets and benefits. Most people want to see creation of tangible assets across the state to reflect real development.

In view of the foregoing challenges, one can foresee a bumpy road ahead for Chandrababu Naidu with all his determination to take the state to the next level.

Interestingly, it was Naidu who had written the letter of consent for bifurcation of the undivided AP state as part of his political strategy when he was in the Opposition back in 2008. Now, he has to come to terms with bifurcation blues in a new avatar!

## Villagers are roiled over farmland disputes

Farmers have been resorting to suicide as mental agony is taking a toll on them

K VENKATESHWARLU

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy recently said there are 200 farmland disputes on average in every village across the state. The disputes have arisen due to the previous BRS government's misrule. Some farmers are resorting to suicide as mental agony has taken a toll on them, according to officials.

The suicide of a farmer, named Bojedla Prabhakar, who hailed from Podduturu village under Chintakani mandal of Khammam district, committed suicide while taking a selfie video on Monday alleging that the police and Revenue officials did not respond even though some wiped out his agricultural land borders. In every village, most farmers are coming into conflict due to land disputes. This is a new phenomenon in Telangana unlike in combined Andhra Pradesh.



For representational purpose only

Before the new Revenue laws were brought by the previous BRS government, the farmers used to approach the Village Revenue Officers (VROs), and they used to solve these land disputes. In case VROs failed to help them, the farmers used to approach Mandal Revenue Officers (MROs) and they somehow tackled land disputes. The farmers used to seek the help of Revenue Divisional Officers (RDOs) too and the officers used to help the farmers.

However, after new Revenue laws were enacted, the farmland disputes multiplied. The new Revenue laws had curtailed the powers of the MROs and RDOs. Apart from that, the government abolished posts of VROs and VRAs. The new Revenue laws entrusted the responsibility of tackling land disputes to the District Collectors. The Collectors, however, were unable to focus on the issue because they are entrusted with a wide range of duties in the jurisdiction of their districts.

In addition to it, some selfproclaimed leaders emerged at the village level to tackle land disputes. It led to aggravating the problem. They found the 'dispute resolving task' as a means of making easy money. These leaders even triggered disputes to make a fast buck.

Even the police used to handle the disputes shoddily. The police, whenever a farmer approached them for help, they used to ask him to seek help from self-proclaimed leaders. The police used to tell the farmers that they were not legally competent to handle civil disputes though some vested interests had been grabbing their lands.

Ram Reddy from the erstwhile Nalgonda district told The Pioneer that it was high time that the government took a serious view of the agricultural land disputes as influential persons have been acting with impunity and ruling the roost in villages.

## Forced abortion proves fatal for housewife

PNS SURYAPET

A PhD scholar, manager of a private hospital, some of the staff members, including the hospital nurse, were taken into custody for illegally attempting medical termination of pregnancy of a housewife leading to her death. The termination of pregnancy was attempted after coming to know that foetus was female.

The deceased was identified as Suhasini. Her husband Hari Singh, private hospital manager, Shaik Qasim, nurse Devarakonda Rani were taken into custody.

Besides, employees of a hospital in Kodad, Ranapangu Gopi and Shaik Saidulu were also taken into custody for



helping them in aborting the female foetus.

The owners of a private hospital that conducted sexdetermination test are still at

The locals have been came to light in Suryapet dis-

describing Hari Singh, who was responsible for the death of his wife, as an educated

The incident of forcible abortion of a female foetus

ing the sex of the foetus, decided to ensure that his wife's pregnancy was termi-

According to details, Marriage of Suhasini of Mahabubabad district was performed in 2019 with Ratnawat Hari Singh of MG Nagar Thanda of Chivvemlamandal of Suryapet district. The couple had two daughters aged four and two years. Suhasini decided to get herself sterilised after two children. However, Hari Singh and his relatives mounted pressure on her demanding that they wanted a male child in the family. Hari Singh threatened to marry again if she fails to bear for him a baby boy.

#### 5 from Telangana killed as speeding car falls into drainage pit in Pune dist

PNS HYDERABAD

Five persons from Telangana were killed and another injured on Tuesday when the car they were travelling in veered off the road and fell into a roadside drainage pit along the Pune-Solapur Highway in Pune district, police said. The incident occurred near Dalaj village under the limits of Bhigwan police station.

According to police, six persons- all in their late 20s- were travelling in the car from Mumbai to Telangana when the incident occurred around 3:30 PM.

"After an outing in Mumbai, the six persons were returning to their home state in the car. Prima facie, the driver lost control at the wheel due to slippery road amid heavy rain, causing the speeding car to veer off and land in a drainage pit," an official said.

He said five of the six occupants of the car died on the spot, while another individual was injured and rushed to the hospital.

Further investigation is underway,

#### **GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA** Revenue (Land Acquisition) Department FORM - VI (PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION)

(Under Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettle-ment Act of 2013 and as per the state rule 19 and sub-rule [1] Collector's Office File No. G2/1746/2018 Date: 28-06-2024 Revenue Div. Officer's file No. D4/218/2023 zette No. 85/2024 The Government of Telangana/District Collector, Siddipet ha

decided to acquire Ac 2.23 guntas in Teegul village of Jagdevpur mands of Siddipet district for public purpose for construction of Tail Channe ackage-15 of Main Canal of the Kaleswaram Project. Therefore, a notification has been issued as per Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 since the land mentioned in he below mentioned schedule is needed for the Tail Channel excavation

food security as per the rule 10A.

Therefore, a preliminary netification has been issued to acquire Ac

The I & CLD (LA) department of the state government, by an order GO Ms No.35 dated 30-06-2017 exempted the social impact assessment and

## TG government nod to fill 3,035 vacant posts in TGSRTC

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State government accorded permission to fill 3,035 posts in Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) through recruitment boards. Out of these 3,035 vacan-

cies, 2,000 are driver posts, 743 workers, 114 Deputy Superintendent (Mechanic), Superintendent (Mechanic), 84 Deputy Superintendent (Traffic), 25 Depot Manager/Assistant Traffic Manager, 23 Assistant Engineer (Civil), 15 Assistant Mechanical Engineer, 11 Section Officer (Civil), 7 Medical Officer (General) and 7 Medical Officer (Specialist) jobs would be Transport Minister said that filled.

Minister of Transport and BC Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar thanked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy,

permission to fill up the posts.

200		posts in
1	Division Programme of Assault Vigilian Machiner	18
7	And Monancal Engineer	16
I	Shranas	343
4	De Suiseschierto)	94
6	Cy Superioris	134
٠	Driver	3991
7	Aux. Engrave (Ovil)	23
*	Sedicit Office (Ove)	-31
9	Accounts Officers	- 6
ō	Padca (Roes (Serent)	17.
1	Heckel Officers (Specialist)	1 9
۲	Scan	1815

since the formation of Telangana state in 2014, not a single job notification has been given in TGSRTC. The congress government is giving

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu utmost priority to public Bhatti Vikramarka for giving transport and that is why the government gave permission In a press release, the to fill job vacancies in the cor-

poration. The corporation would purchase new buses to meet the increased traffic with the implementation of the Mahalakshmi scheme.

The management of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) thanked the state government for giving permission to fill up 3035 posts in the corporation recognis-ing the importance of the

public transport system.
TGSRTC released a press note, where it mentioned that it has been clarified that the management of TGSRTC will take steps to complete the recruitment process of these posts expeditiously with the orders of the state govern-

## Police arrest imposter

PNS SIDDIPET

One town police arrested an imposter who cheated two persons promising them the jobs of subordinator in government of Telangana collecting Rs 4.15 lakh from complainant Aita Vara Prasad and Rs 1.50 lakh from Bakkolla

The arrested was identified as Joravantula Satyanarayana, a resident of Old Alwal in Hyderabad. Satyanarayana belonged to Timmapur village of Dubbaka mandal of Siddipeta district.

Satyanarayana opened office in the house of Lakshman teacher in Sitaramnagar of Siddipet and promised jobs to the jobless in government as well as private sector. He claimed to have worked as Anti-Corruption Intelligence Committee general secretary of Telangana state, central vigilance commission, government of India, Telangana state private employees' association general secretary and promising jobs to the needy in private and government sector collect-

ing fee from them. The accused Babu along with SI Narasimha collected Rs 15,000 from the duo on the pretext of shifting the office and towards payment of two months of rent towards advance. When the duo asked him to show them jobs, he would say that the



tions were under way, the jobs would be arranged later. When they demanded their money, he gave a cheque that bounced and also threatened to kill the duo if they persisted with their demand. One town inspector Lakshmi

Rao, following a complaint lodged with the police by Aita Prasad, probed into the case and interrohave worked as TV5 reporter. Upon coming out of it, he worked as anti-corruption intelligence committee member online. He obtained a identity card (bearing no. 4718) claiming to have worked as Central Vigilance Committee Government of India and started duping the gullible promising them jobs. The police recovered Press TV-5 ID card and sent the accused for judicial remand.

lecting money from them to show them jobs, should consult the One-Town police to take action

## gated Satyanarayana who claims to Additional DCP S Malla Reddy appealed to the people, if they happened to be cheated by Satyanarayana col-

against the culprit probing the case further. He appealed to the people not to give credence to the promises made by individuals to show them jobs collecting fees

## 'KTR harming interests of Telangana'

**PNS** ■ RANGA REDDY

Former Shadnagar MLA Bakkani Narsimhulu, a member of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Politburo, has criticised former minister KT Rama Rao for allegedly harming the Telangana region through selfish political maneuvers.

Speaking at the TDP Flag Festival programme on Tuesday, Narsimhulu addressed villagers in Kondannaguda, condemning the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) party. He accused the BRS of gaining political advantage by dividing the regions and criticised KTR for fostering a culture of unethical political practices.

Narsimhulu expressed his dismay over the current state of politics, claiming it become corrupt and overly reliant on influence of money. He lambasted the BRS for encouraging party-switching and undermining the integrity of political opposition. He also took aim at KTR's recent comments regarding MLAs who switch parties, liken-



Former Shadnagar MLA Bakkani Narsimhulu add/ressing a meeting in Shadnagar on Tuesday

ing them to a theatrical performance.

Highlighting past instances, Narsimhulu questioned the fate of TDP MLAs who had previously joined the BRS. He urged the public to hold accountable those parties that promote defection under the guise of

Reflecting on the achievements of the TDP during the era of united Andhra Pradesh, Narsimhulu credited the party with numerous welfare initiatives. He highlighted efforts such as women's selfemployment programs, the Deepam scheme, youth employment initiatives, housing construction, and livestock support. He also praised the TDP's efforts in water conservation, citing collaborations with notable figures like sociologist Anna

The event saw participation from prominent local leaders, including ex-MPP Challa Venkateswara Reddy and Town President Gandham Anand, Anantaiah, among others.

## Judson begins indefinite fast

#### Demands redressal of grievances of govt job aspirants

PNS HYDERABAD

Congress suspended leader Bakka Judson started indefinite fast on Tuesday demanding that the government redress grievances of government job aspirants.

His demands are, the government should declare Group 1 preliminary results in the ratio of 1:100. He said that aspirants have been consistently advocating for the Group 1 pre-liminary examination results to be declared in the ratio of 1:100. This demand aimed to provide a fair and equitable opportunity for a larger pool of candidates to compete in the Mains examination.

He demanded that the government to enhance the Group II and Group III posts and conduct exams in December 2024.

"The current number of District Selection Committee (DSC) posts is insufficient to meet the demand for quality education and administration. Increasing the DSC posts to 25,000 will not only provide more employment opportunities but also strengthen the educational infra-

structure of the state", he said. He urged the government revoke GO number 46 as demanded by the constable aspirant.

70	I Ch-	need 2		_	CHEDULE	W-	la more		D-
		nnei P			f Main Canal of the alt Jagadevpur				
SI. Sy.			_	Area under	Name of the Pattadari	District: Siddipa Boundaries			
No	No.	title	Land	acqui- sition	Enjoyer/ Interested	East	West	Month	South
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2	326	Celling Patta	Dry	0.03	Beeda Rayudu & Others (P) & Guddolla Balaiah Sio Mallalah (E)	326	329	323	34
3	326	Ceiling Patta	Dry	0.04	Yenugula Kishta- reddy & Others (P)& Mekala Yadamma Wio Balalah (E)	326	329	323	34
4	326 eso/1	Ceiling Pata	Dry	0.0650	Verelli Balreddy S/o Ramreddy (P) & (E)	325	327	323	34
5	326 22	Celling Patte	Dry	0.0650	Konyala Mathyam Reddy Slo Hanumanthareddy (P) & (E)	325	327	323	34
6	326	Celling Potta	Dry	0.13	Yenugula Kishta- soldy & Others (P)& Konyala Balamani W/s Nagireddy (E)	325	327	323	34
7	346 6	Patta	Dry	0.0650	Konyala Sirisha Reddy D/o Bala Krishna Reddy (P) & (E)	344 347	331	326 327	34
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10	346 es	Patta	Dry	0.13	Markenti Kishta Reddy Sio Raji Reddy (P) & (E)	344 347	331	326 327	34
11	346 c=1 /3	Patta	Dry	0.0650	Tonduri Laxma Reddy Sio Bala Krishnareddy P) & (E)	344 347	331	326 327	34
12	346 2/1 /2	Patta	Dry	0.0650	Tonduri Malia Reddy Sio Narsa Reddy P) & (E)	344 347	331	326 327	34
	To	tal Ext	ent	2.23					

The plan of the land and other details can be inspected at the flices of the Dist. Collector, Siddipet, and Revenue Divisional Office Sajwel, by concerned personnel during working hours on any working day.

The Government of Telangena/District Collector, Siddipet is ased to authorise and RDO, Gajwel, and his staff /workmen enter and survey land, to excavate land, to dig bore wells and do al acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section 12 of the said Act.

Under Section 11[4] of the Act, no person shall make any ansaction of land i.e. sale/purchase etc. Or create an encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of suc dification without prior approval of the District Collector, Siddipet. Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person perested within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this

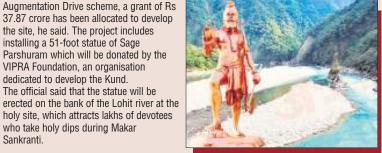
otification as provided under section 15 (1) of the Act before the Land Acquisition Officer in writing.

Bd/-Tahsildar, Sd/-Revenue Sd/-Add/-Collector Sd/-Dist, Collect Jagadevpur Divisional Officer, Siddipet Dist Siddipet Dist

#### 51-foot-statue of sage Parshuram to come up on holy river bank in Arunachal

51-foot-tall statue of Sage Parshuram, considered one of the incarnations of Lord Vishnu, will be erected at 'Parshuram Kund', a holy spot on the bank of the Lohit river Ain Arunachal Pradesh, an official said on Tuesday. The state government is making efforts to develop 'Parshuram Kund' in Lohit district as a major pilgrimage centre in the Northeastern regions, the official said. Under the central government's Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage

37.87 crore has been allocated to develop the site, he said. The project includes installing a 51-foot statue of Sage Parshuram which will be donated by the VIPRA Foundation, an organisation dedicated to develop the Kund. The official said that the statue will be erected on the bank of the Lohit river at the holy site, which attracts lakhs of devotees who take holy dips during Makar Sankranti.



#### **Court allows two-hour custody parole** to Engineer Rashid to take oath as MP

court here on Tuesday granted two-hour custody parole to Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdul Rashid to take oath as a Lok Sabha ivir on only 3, Subject to Samuel Conditions. Rashid, also known as Engineer Rashid, was elected from Baramulla Abdul Rashid to take oath as a Lok Sabha MP on July 5, subject to some seat as an independent candidate defeating National Conference leader Omar Abdullah in the recent Lok Sabha polls. He was arrested in a 2017 Jammu and Kashmir terror

funding case. Rashid had moved the court seeking interim bail, or custody parole in the alterative, to take oath and perform his parliamentary functions. Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh allowed custody parole for two hours on July 5 to enable him to take oath, subject to a few conditions. These included a custody parole of two hours or till the conclusion of proceedings, whichever was later. The designated time of two hours excluded travel time



#### **Woman moves HC seeking termination** of 'unwanted' pregnancy

28-year-old woman has approached the Bombay High Court seeking to terminate her 26-Aweek pregnancy as the same was "unwanted". The woman in her plea said she already has a four-year-old daughter and is going through divorce proceedings with her estranged husband. As per the plea, the woman is in a relationship with a friend with whom she got pregnant. "If the petitioner is made to go through the unwanted pregnancy, then there

is likelihood of mental and physical anguish and trauma," the plea said. Pursuant to the plea, the high court last week directed a medical board to examine the woman and submit a report on its opinion. A division bench of Justices A S Gadkari and Neela Gokhale on Tuesday perused the medical board's report and noted that it was not in favour of termination of the pregnancy. The bench asked the woman's lawyer Tejas Dande to ask the woman to go through the report and posted the matter for further hearing on Wednesday



# Deepening ties with India in several areas: US

PNS WASHINGTON

The US is deepening its ties with India in several key areas, including economic and security cooperation, a senior official has said, emphasising that Washington will continue to cultivate this relationship.

State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel made the remarks on Monday at his daily news conference in response to a question on US-India relations and the recent conversation between President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the recent G7 Summit in Italy.

"India is a country in which we are deepening our relations within a number of key spaces, especially as it relates to deepening our economic ties, deepening our security cooperation," Patel told reporters.



President Biden "had the opportunity to briefly see Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi in the margins of the G7 a couple of weeks ago," he added.

"So this is an area where we will continue to cultivate this

relationship," he said. Noting that the US hosted Prime Minister Modi for a state

visit last year, he said, "I imagine there will be a number of additional areas where we continue to deepen cooperation.'

Prime Minister Modi visited the US in June last year at the invitation of President Biden during which the two countries signed a raft of mega defence, trade and space cooperation agreements.

Patel added that National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan visited India a few weeks ago

Sullivan visited India from June 17 to 18 and held extensive talks with his counterpart Ajit Doval primarily focusing on the implementation of the ambitious India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).

Responding to a question on Pakistan and on India-Pakistan ties, Patel said the US would hope that any country on the face of the planet condemns

terrorism anywhere. But ultimately, this is between India and Pakistan. Broadly, of course, we welcome any countries making more positive relations with their neighbours. But as it relates to this specifically, I just, I don't have anything to offer," he

#### 'No mention of Ayodhya in Prez's speech'

PNS NEW DELHI

Samajwadi Party (SP) MP from Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh Awadhesh Prasad regretted on Tuesday that there was no mention of Ayodhya, the birth place of Lord Ram, in the president's address to a joint sitting of Parliament.

In his maiden speech in the Lok Sabha, Prasad said there is filth on the streets of Ayodhya and people have to wade through the filth to reach the newly-built Ram temple.

"I was very surprised to see that in the 29-page speech of the president, there was no mention of Ayodhya, no mention of the birth place of Lord Ram," the SP leader said during a discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the president's address. He also regretted that poor people from whom land has been acquired for building an airport at Ayodhya are yet to receive their due compen-

## 'Oppn upset as 1<sup>st</sup> time non-Cong leader became PM for 3<sup>rd</sup> term'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked NDA MPs to follow parliamentary rules and conduct, and learn from senior members about the best practices, comments that came a day after the ruling alliance accused Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi of making a "most irresponsible" speech.

Addressing a meeting of NDA MPs, Modi said the opposition is upset as for the first time a non-Congress leader, that too a "chai-wala", has become prime minister for a third straight term, sources

Highlighting his humble origins, he took an apparent jibe at the Nehru-Gandhi family saying that its members used to be prime minister and gave little recognition to those from outside their fold, the sources said.



**Quashing sexual violence cases** 

upon monetary settlement would

imply "justice is for sale": HC

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said Modi asked MPs to study parliamentary issues, attend Parliament regularly and raise the matters related to their constituency effectively.

Asked if Modi referred to Gandhi's Monday speech in Lok Sabha, Rijiju said he made no such mention but added that when the country's prime minister speaks, the message is for everyone.

Gandhi had launched a noholds-barred attack on the BJP in the Lok Sabha on Monday, accusing the leaders of the ruling party of dividing

PNS NEW DELHI

has observed.

Criminal cases involving alle-

gations of sexual violence can-

not be quashed on the basis of

monetary payments as doing

so would imply that "justice is

for sale", the Delhi High Court

compromise in a sexual vio-

lence case, they cannot

people on communal lines, drawing massive protests from the treasury benches, with Prime Minister Modi slamming the Congress leader for calling the entire Hindu com-

munity violent.
At the alliance meeting,
Modi was felicitated by NDA leaders for his "historic" third term, Rijiju added.

Sources said the prime minister asked MPs to study any issue before making comments on it before the media, and said they should stay in touch with their constituencies and thank voters for support-

## Delhi: Around 1500 stones removed from woman's gallbladder

PNS NEW DELHI

Nearly 1500 stones were incisions were made in her removed from a woman's gall-

A 32-year-old woman, who bloating and heaviness after eating junk and fatty foods, had her gall-

bladder removed which contained nearly 1500 stones, said Dr Manish K. Gupta, Vice Chairperson and Senior Consultant, Laparoscopic and

General Surgeon at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

The woman Riya Sharma, who successfully underwent a laparoscopic cholecystectomy at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, had also been self-medicating for what she believed to be gas, Dr Gupta said. She also experienced recurrent episodes of right upper abdominal pain radiating to her back and shoulder, often accompanied by nausea and vomiting, he added.

After a thorough evaluation, the patient was scheduled for a laparoscopic cholecystectomy, a minimally invasive procedure to remove the gall-

"During her surgery (on Saturday), 10 mm and 5 mm abdomen to facilitate the

Dr Gupta said. Speaking about her condiwas suffering from persistent tion, Riya Sharma, who lives in Gurgaon, told PTI,

"I live by myself, which is why I am mostly dependent on outside food." 'A few weeks back, I was suffer-

ing from persistent bloating and heaviness. After consulting my family physician, an ultrasound revealed that

my gallbladder was full of stones and I was then referred to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital," she added. Despite the extensive number of stones, the patient was discharged the day after surgery, able to eat a normal diet and move around independently, Dr Gupta said.

He also emphasised the importance of timely intervention, noting that small stones can migrate into the common bile duct (CBD), causing jaundice and pancreatitis, while large stones can lead to chronic irritation and potentially gallbladder cancer if left

#### Raj govt decides to repeal Gandhi Vatika Trust Act

PNS JAIPUR

The Rajasthan cabinet on Tuesday decided to repeal the Gandhi Vatika Trust Act, 2023 brought by the previous Gehlot government for the operation and management of 'Gandhi Vatika', a museum based on the biography of Mahatma Gandhi.

by the cabinet include building a 'green field' airport in Kota and opening 'flying academy' in Kishangarh and other

After the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel told reporters that the decision to repeal the Gandhi Vatika Trust Act was taken in the meeting as there were some flaws in the Act.

He said the previous Congress government gave such unlimited powers to the Gandhi Vatika Trust which were not needed. He said the operation of Gandhi Vatika will continue.

Congress leaders Mallika rjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi and the then chief minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the 'Gandhi Vatika' built in the Central Park of Jaipur on September 23 last vear. The initiative aimed at introducing the new genera-tion to the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi.

The theme of Gandhi Vatika, built at a cost of Rs 85 crore, was prepared under the guidance of a committee of

### India in talks with Africa, Latin America for critical mineral block

PNS NEW DELHI

India is in talks with Africa as well as Latin America to get critical mineral blocks on a government-to-govern-ment basis, Veena Kumari Dermal, joint secretary of the Ministry of Mines, said on Tuesday.

Critical lithium are essential components in many of today's rapidly growing clean energy technologies, including wind turbines, electricity networks, and electric vehicles.

'We are having lots of discussions with many other resources-rich countries both in Africa as well as in Latin

should apologise to Hindus.

ing people on communal lines.

The seers of Haridwar on Tuesday demanded

the immediate disqualification of Congress

leader Rahul Gandhi as MP for calling Hindus violent and insulting the entire community.

They said Gandhi had "lost his mind" and

In his first speech as the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha on Monday, Gandhi had launched a no-holds-barred attack on the BJP,

accusing the leaders of the ruling party of divid-

treasury benches, with Prime Minister Narendra

Modi slamming the Congress leader for call-

His remarks drew massive protests from the

PNS HARIDWAR

America for getting... a block on a G2G basis or on a priority basis," Dermal said at India Energy Storage Week (IESW) 2024 organised by India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA)

The mines ministry, she said, is giving more and more importance to the exploration of critical miners India. At the domestic front, the government has successfully auctioned one lithium block in Chhattisgarh, the joint secretary added.

She said the Chhattisgarh government will take steps to start the exploration and production from the lithium block at the earliest.

**Rahul insulted Hindus, should be** 

disqualified as MP, say Haridwar seers

ing about the BJP.

Maiki South Mining Pvt Ltd had last month bagged the country's first lithium block in Chhattisgarh that was put up for sale.

Meanwhile, the govern-ment cancelled the auction of 14 critical minerals that were on offer in the second round of auction.

In Inne had put on sale 21 blocks in the fourth round of auction of critical and strategic minerals. The government received 56 physical bids and 56 online bids for 18 of the 20 blocks offered during the first tranche of the auction, which began on November

Gandhi, however, clarified that he was speak-

Mahant Ravindra Puri, president of Akhil

Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, said Gandhi holds

a constitutional post and such irresponsible

Parliament, he has insulted the 140 crore peo-

ple of the country. Hindus are tolerant and in

majority in the country. So, everyone is secure.

Rahul Gandhi must apologise to Hindus," Puri

Udaseen Akhara Swami Rupendra Prakash also

Mahanandaleshwar of Sri Panchayati Bada

"Rahul Gandhi has insulted the entire Hindu

"By calling Hindus violent and liars in

behaviour is not expected of him.

condemned Gandhi's remarks.

#### demand quashing of the FIR as a matter of The court made the observation while rejecting a plea moved by a rape

accused seeking quashing of an FIR registered by a woman on the ground that the matter was amicably settled between the parties and that she agreed to

settle for Rs 1.5 lakh. ... This court is of the opinion that criminal cases involving allegations of sexual violence cannot be quashed on the basis of monetary payments, as doing so would imply that justice is for sale," Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma

The high court, in an order passed on Monday, said it has considered the fact that the FIR itself reveals serious allegations against the man and his family members, including consistent threats to the prosecutrix (woman) to prevent her from lodging a complaint.

The high court said even if FIR. The woman had initially demanded Rs 12 lakh from the man but later settled for Rs 1.5 In the FIR, the woman, divorced and had a child, alleged that the accused had misrepresented himself as a divorcee and

The court noted that the

memorandum of understand-

ing (MOU) entered into by the

parties is not the result of a res-

olution of misunderstandings

through family intervention

but an exchange of money

totalling Rs 12 lakh, intended

to secure the quashing of the

al relationship and sexual violence with her under the false pretext of mar-

engaged in sexu-

The FIR also alleged shooting of inappropriate videos and photos by the accused, threats to kill her and her son, and repeated misrepresentation by the accused.

Later, it was submitted that the FIR had been lodged since the woman was angry and that it be now quashed as they have reached a settlement.

The prosecutor opposed the plea saying if the FIR is quashed on the ground that the prosecutrix had lodged the complaint out of anger towards the accused, it would be a travesty of justice and an abuse of the criminal justice

#### bladder and stones. Gandhian thinkers ing the entire Hindu community violent. community Unly 8 countries could lower early deaths'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as premature deaths due to cancer have come down across three-fourths of the world, only eight countries are likely to meet the related United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Target 3.4, pointed out a recent

The target is concerned with slashing premature deaths from non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including cancer, by a third by 2030 through preven-

tion and treatment. For the study, researchers, including those from the World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland, calculated the risk of dying prematurely for people aged 30-69 years to discern

how the pattern of yearly premature deaths due to cancer changed from 2000-2019 across 183 countries

Data from the WHO Global Health Estimates were used. The research team found that while overall early deaths due to all cancers fell across South-East Asian countries, early deaths due to breast, colorectal and pancreatic cancer increased. The findings were

Oncology. However, "for most countries, (early deaths due to cancer) rates are not declining fast enough to reach SDG 3.4 tar-

published in The Lancet

No WHO region will reach SDG 3.4 targets for all cancers combined," the authors wrote.



By 2050, 35 million new cancer cases are predicted, with the highest burden expected in lower-middleincome countries (LMICs) and low-income countries

(LICs), according to the researchers. Previous studies have found

that cancer, along with cardiovascular (heart-related) disease, are now the first or sec-

By 2050, 35 million new cancer cases are predicted, with the highest burden expected in lowermiddle-income countries (LMICs) and low-income countries (LICs), according to the researchers

ond causes of premature death in most countries and WHO regions, the authors said.

However, no studies have evaluated early deaths due to each cancer type, they said.

#### Sitharaman to VCK member in LS PNS NEW DELHI Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman on Tuesday asked Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) member Thol Thirumavalavan to "preach" prohibition in his own state of Tamil Nadu where 56 people died recently after consuming spurious liquor.

Participating in the debate on Motion of Thanks on the President's address in the Lok Sabha, the VCK MP, who spoke in Tamil, raised the drug abuse issue in his speech.

The VCK is an ally of the DMK government in Tamil



Preach prohibition in Tamil Nadu:

Intervening in the debate, Sitharaman

Thirumavalavan is requesting the Union government to invoke provisions given in the Constitution, particularly referring to the Preamble, to bring in prohibition and also to ensure that there are no drugs in the country.

Sabha member from Andhra Pradesh, said the VCK MP has raised a very noble cause, which is appreciable.

"But the party, with which he's in alliance in Tamil Nadu, is in power there...where more than 56 people died due to consumption of illicit liquor. He should first preach there. Drug abuse is rampant in Tamil Nadu," Sitharaman said in the Lok Sabha.

The hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi district took place last month. The tragedy left over 56 people dead and many are still hospi-

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-PAPER WITH PASSION—

## **Brace for a deluge**

As India transitions from the scorching summer heat to the monsoon season, a dramatic shift in weather is on the horizon

s the rumbling in clouds becomes louder and the humidity rises, it is time for monsoon. It is welcome as it brings much relief from the scorching heat and a lot of discomfort that comes with it but as the monsoon progresses it also becomes a challenge, exposing our inadequacies and unpreparedness to meet this annual phenomenon. The monsoon season, while a welcome relief from the summer heat, brings with it significant challenges. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for heavy rainfall in seven states: Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Madhya Pradesh. Residents of these areas are advised to brace for severe weather conditions, including the potential for flash floods, particularly in Uttarakhand, Goa, and Karnataka. This year's monsoon is expected to be more severe than usual. The IMD has warned of extremely heavy rainfall over the next few days, which could lead to significant disruptions and pose serious risks to life and property. It is just a mat-



ter of days before Delhi will wear a Venice look as water logging is a norm that repeats every year. The people living on the banks of Yamuna would be rendered homeless as if it were their destiny. And after the waters recede it would be life as usual for the people and the Government alike. But a lot of misery is in store for Uttarakhand where flash floods are predicted. Uttarakhand faces an elevated risk of flash floods. The steep slopes and narrow valleys can quickly channel rainwater, leading to sudden and severe flooding. Goa is also vulnerable to heavy rains and flash floods during the monsoon. The state's infrastructure can become quickly overwhelmed, leading to waterlogging and dis-

ruption of services. Karnataka is expected to experience torrential downpours. The Western Ghats, which run along the western edge of the state, can intensify the rainfall, increasing the risk of floods and landslides.

It is not just the monsoon, but its aftermath is equally challenging. The waterborne diseases and spectre of epidemics loom large while authorities watch it happening as mute spectators. Indeed it is high time authorities in the affected states take proactive measures to mitigate the impact of the heavy rains and prepare for the possible evacuation of vulnerable populations to safer areas. Issuing regular updates and warnings to keep the public informed and safe. Ensuring that critical infrastructure, such as dams and drainage systems, are prepared to handle the increased water levels. Many bridges in Bihar have collapsed even before the monsoon, airport Terminal T1 in Delhi collapsed and several highways have caved in, if these are not warning signals then what is? Blaming the monsoon is certainly lame. It is not sudden or unexpected. It happens every year yet we are ill-prepared for it. Besides, we so much depend upon it for irrigating our fields and providing drinking water. One can find so many pains when the rain is falling but then Without the rain, there would be no rainbow!



Villagers use a boat to travel acros a flood affected area after heavy rainfall, in Morigaon district

## Reclaiming Dehradun: Battling tourism woes



#### Once an idyllic retreat and educational hub, Dehradun is now grappling with unchecked tourism, threatening its serene character

n the pantheon of the leaders belonging to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the name of the late Manohar Parrikar would always be taken with a lot of respect. A Goan and an IITan, Parrikar was never happy with the stereotypical image of his state being a tourist destination for cheap alcohol, drugs and also sex. While Goa attracted tourists for its natural beauty and cultural magnetism, since the 1990s, there has been a noticeable increase in visitors drawn to the state for its permissive environment regarding alcohol, drugs, and sex tourism. Manohar Parrikar was vocal about his reservations concerning this shift in the tourist profile. He believed that such trends would tarnish Goa's image and disrupt the social fabric of the state once and for all.A leaf could be taken out from the books of Parrikar by the current Chief Minister of Uttrakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami regarding a similar crisis being faced by the Himalayan

Take a drive from Clock Tower in Dehradun on the legendary Rajpur Road to Mussoorie, you will realise that all the cars parked on the roadside are doubling up as bars. This 'car-o-bar' would often be a vehicle with a Haryana, UP and Punjab number plate. The two days that one was in the Doon Valley recently, as these bars roared in the costly model cars, one could not find a single soul in the police uniform to check them. Somewhere it seemed that the absence of the cops on this road was deliberate to let these bars prosper.Dehradun was once known as the bakery capital of India. These bakery shops lining Rajpur Road have been overtaken by wine shops with glitzy lights announcing prominently what they sell. Well, one cannot protest about the shops but buyg bottles and drinking outside on the roads have to be surely protested.Author Ratna Manucha, whose family has stayed in the valley for ages, calls these 'car-o-baris' the Aliens from the other states. "Each year the crowds coming into my



tine queues. However, the residents of Doon living either on the arterial road or the smaller roads prefer staying at home lest their plan to visit somebody gets wasted in the jam. Dehradun till about 10 years back was not like this. It was still an idyllic town preferred by people to live a retired life. In broadening the roads to accommodate ever-increasing traffic flow, trees have been cut. Given the winter pollution in Delhi-NCR, a large number of people have bought apartments in Doon Valley to spend the winter months. This demand has given rise to the building of multi-storeyed apartments. In turn, these apartments have been built clearing the lychee orchards, which once



ABOUT 10 YEARS **BACK WAS NOT LIKE** THIS. IT WAS STILL AN IDYLLIC TOWN PREFERRED BY PEOPLE TO LIVE A RETIRED LIFE. IN **BROADENING THE ROADS TO** ACCOMMODATE **EVER-INCREASING** TRAFFIC FLOW, TREES HAVE BEEN

green.Dehradun till some years back did not need the use of air-conditioners. The hotels with the ACs largely used them during the winter months for room heating purposes. But you can now see the topography of the valley with houses having airconditioners jutting out of their windows. This 'horrorscape' is not just limited to the summer tourist season. Dehradun in the past two decades has evolved into a major centre for higher edu-

cation. The large number of the colleges, both professional and general, have mushroomed along the ridges and the plains. They are not exactly home to centres for great knowledge earning but certainly, give a graduate degree for a handsome fee. Given the high fee structure, there is always a dearth of students and vacant seats. The marketing teams of these institutions scout far and wide specially looking for the youth wanting some fun with a degree as a bonus. These 'students' prefer staying in the apartments outside the campus, as it can accommodate their costly cars, as there are no restrictions on their timing to return home and none really bothered if their vehicle fell into a gorge as they drove in a drunken state.Uttarakhand

too has liberal liquor laws like Goa. Excise duty earned from liquor sales is the mainstay of the state revenue. But shouldn't Dhami be concerned about the image of Uttarakhand like Parrikar was for Goa?The late leader streamlined things in Goa without really tinkling with the existing laws. Parrikar emphasized the need for a robust law enforcement framework to tackle alcohol and drug tourism.

He increased patrolling in tourist hotspots and enhanced coordination with central agencies.Second Parrikar pushed for regulations to control the sale and consumption of liquor in tourist areas. This included measures such as restricting liquor outlets and promoting responsible drinking through awareness campaigns.Dhami government in Uttarakhand too needs to make the presence of the cops more effective and control the misery that the residents of the city are being made to face. It's also depressing for those who regularly visit Doon to spend some time in peace who are now ending up being shooed by the blaring horns of speeding vehicles.

(The writer is the author and president, of the Centre for Reforms, Development & *Justice*; views are personal)

## The need for music and life skills in modern education



To ensure holistic development and equal opportunities for all children, music must become an integral part of the school curriculum

riven on one side by developments in technology and on the other by changes to the global social order, we face tectonic shifts in the future of the workforce and challenges such as climate change and conflict. With this as a backdrop in mind, there is an urgent need to ensure that we can equip today's youth with the skills and mindsets to thrive in this dynamic environment.Education for the last 200 years has largely been based on imparting knowl-

With increasing levels of specialization through the Industrial Revolution, knowledge became more valuable; however, today, soft skills, also known as Life Skills, have become much more needed. Without these skills, it is difficult to survive and succeed. More importantly, character building becomes imperative if we are to be prepared to tackle the global challenges facing us. We must define leadership not by position but as "Strength of Character" and "Sense of Community."There is plen-

ty of research and evidence showing that skills such as collaboration and communication, critical and creative thinking, and character traits such as self-confidence, grit, and resilience, as well as having a growth mindset, can be effectively developed through experiential learning that uses mediums such as team sports, the arts, and free

Music is one of the most powerful art forms that supports the development of these skills in multiple, effective ways. Learning

requires the student to set goals, like mastering a piece of music or preparing for a performance, and then music in schools the norm, implement a plan to achieve these goals.

Performing in a group dren. Building character teaches students the imporand life skills will mean that tance of working together, we will not only support listening to each other, and supporting one another. Students who learn different types and forms of music develop empathy and a deeper understanding of different perspectives. Most music programs encourage composition and improvisation, allowing students music requires practice and self-discipline to improve. It thinking skills. Performing

in front of an audience helps build self-confidence while learning from mistakes during a performance helps build resilience and a growth mindset. Today, a well-rounded music curriculum is available in higher-end private schools, but all children must get the same opportunity. We need to ensure that music education becomes a core part of the school curriculum and not treated as an extracurricular activity. Only then can we ensure equal access, regardless of background or skill level.If we can make teaching it will ensure the holistic development of all chilchildren in their journey towards personal and professional success, but we will also help develop a generation of leaders capable of taking care of themselves and the world around

(The writer is CEO and founder, Enabling Leadership; views are personal)

#### **INDIA'S PHOENIX MOMENT:**

Madam — India's Phoenix Moment: A T20 World Cup TriumphIndia's cricket team exhibited remarkable determination and resilience, clinching the T20 World Cup 2024 title with a breathtaking comeback in the final five overs. Rising like a phoenix from the ashes, India soared to victory, proving their mettle on the grandest stage. In the thrilling conclusion, Hardik Pandya's final over was nothing short of brilliant, and a spectacular catch by Suryakumar Yadav (SKY)—who went beyond the boundary and timed his leap perfectly to secure the catch on his second attempt—played a crucial role in sealing India's victory. Earlier in the match, King Virat Kohli's solid 76 runs and Akshar Patel's crucial 47 provided stability to the Indian innings, setting a record-high T20 Cup final total of 176. Despite this, the South African team, the Proteas, responded with a strong performance, reaching a respectable score and losing just four wickets.

However, with only 30 runs needed from the last 30 balls and six wickets in hand, the Proteas faltered under immense pressure. Boundaries that were expected to seal the win for them turned into catches or mere singles, proving that "luck did not favor them" in those decisive final overs. Yes, indeed, a blend of luck and daring spirit won the game for India. Team India deserves all the praise for its fantastic performance. PVM Nivriti Secunderabad

#### **SELECTIVE OUTRAGE**

Madam — Apropos the report titled "Flogging of couple: BJP seeks resignation of Didi" (July 2); if the TMC leader Tajemul Islam has indeed beaten up a vouth and a woman with sticks, he must be awarded exemplary punishment according to law. But by which temerity can the leaders of BJP dare to act as "moral guardians" of the country and

#### **Unjustified opposition to new criminal laws**

EEDIT



e recent introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) has sparked mixed reactions from experts. Some members of the legal community suggest continuing with the old laws for another 20 years, a recommendation that is both impractical and counterproductive. It's unreasonable to speculate on future circumstances by the Indian Parliament, marking the end of coloeven one or two years ahead, let alone 20 years. This suggestion essentially advocates for delay-

were publicly flogged in Una Gujarat in leaders of the hypocrite BJP simply hold 2016, the BJP leaders asked Anandiben no moral right to deliver unsolicited ser-Patel to resign! When spine-chilling mons about human rights. gangrape/murder /forced cremation took place in Hathras Unnao Budaun; did the BJP leaders demand the resignation of Yogi Adityanath? When Kuki women got paraded naked in Manipur before gang rape, why didn't the BJP leaders demand the resignation of N Biren Singh immediately? Why didn't the resignation of Pushkar Singh Dhami get demanded after a lady receptionist was murdered in Uttarakhand? When Bengali migrant labourer Afrazul Khan was burnt alive to death in Rajsamund in 2017, did the BJP leaders ask Vasundhara Raje to resign?

Hardly two weeks ago, street vendor Aurangzeb had been brutally lynched to death in full view of the Aligarh public! Did the "conscientious" leaders of the BJP act honestly enough to demand the resignation of Yogi Adityanath? atrociously demand the resignation of Indeed, two wrongs do not make a right, Mamata Banerjee? When Dalit youths but the greater truth remains that the

ing the implementation of the new laws indefinite ly. As is often the case, opposition parties have unitedly opposed these new laws, not on their merits or demerits, but because they were discussed during the previous Lok Sabha in their absence. This argument holds no water. Their absence during the discussions and debates in the previous session was not justified, and they missed an opportunity to contribute meaningfully. No one prevented them from participating; they chose not to, and that cannot be a valid reason to stall the implementation of these new laws.

The custodians of the law who are highly educated and capable individuals, can certainly understand and implement these new legal frameworks. Union Home Minister Amit Shah aptly stated that these laws are created by Indians, for Indians, and nial criminal justice laws.

KV Setharamaiah | Bengaluru

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

#### **MONSOON IS A CHALLENGE**

Madam — In the past few days, the number of rain-related deaths in the nation's capital has reached 11, with six deaths reported on Saturday alone. The heavy rainfall on Friday caused widespread waterlogging in Delhi. In response, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has expanded its staff to address waterlogging issues.

To effectively tackle urban waterlogging, a holistic approach is needed, incorporating infrastructure improvements, sustainable urban design, and active community engagement. By implementing these strategies, cities can mitigate the impacts of heavy rains and enhance their resilience for the future.

> Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Neha Tomar | Ujjain

### **FIRST COLUMN**

### **EMBRACING THE PRESENT** WITH MINDFULNESS

True peace and creativity flourish when we fully engage with the present



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

ost of us might have heard the proverb 'You only know what you've got when it's gone' many times in our lives. But, in spite of that, many of us realize the fortune we had, only when we lose it. The stream of life flows on and every second the water in the stream is changing. At any given moment the water at the same spot in the stream is different. What is present now will move on to the next moment, so every moment life is unfolding and something new is being presented. Life unfolds in the present. But so often, we let it slip away, allowing time to rush past unobserved and unseized, and squandering the precious seconds of our lives as we are lost in the past or caught

It's very common for most of us to fantasize about things like shopping or going to a movie while we are at work. And while we are actually in a movie theatre, we worry about the work piling up on our desks, isn't it ironic? We are trapped by intrusive memories of the past or fret about what may or may not happen in the future and in this whole struggle, we don't appreciate the Present because we identify ourselves with our thoughts, beliefs and emotions strongly. We forget the fact that we need to live in the Present i.e. the NOW, and for that, we need to be very still inside but we are constantly distracted by our thoughts linked to the past and future. Most of us think in a conditioned, addictive way.

We are addicted to the patterns and beliefs we created in the past which keep driving our thoughts in the present. Instead of thinking consciously and with full awareness, we are controlled by our thoughts of the past. To change this pattern we need first to pause and observe what's going on in our mind. We need to step back and watch and then steer our thoughts towards the present moment and creative goals. We need to focus on being before thinking, judging, analysing and doing. Living in the present is a state of active, open, intentional attention to the present. When we become aware of what's going on inside our mind, we realize that we are not our thoughts; we are the observer of our thoughts from moment to moment and stop judging them. It is like watching waves rising and falling on the surface of the ocean. Spiritual wisdom makes



us aware and realise that we are souls — sentient points of light and purity, peace, joy and love are our original state of being. As the noise and chatter of the mind slow down, we can experience our true nature and just relax in our state of being. Then we are connected to the now not influenced by the past, future or anything out there. We are in a highly creative state when our pure awareness creates pure energy of love, joy and peace in every moment and shapes our destiny. Under such a stage, we are flowing with life without grasping, chasing, wanting, needing or holding on to anything. We are in a truly liberated state and truly powerful and creative. There is fresh energy in every thought and action. Living in the present reduces impulsive and reactive behaviour. Those who live in the moment can hear negative feedback without feeling threat-

They are more accepting, accommodating and flexible, as a result of which they have easy and satisfying relationships. It is very important for all of us to realize that we are now in the most important and beneficial age when the Almighty Himself is bestowing His treasures of wisdom, love and powers upon humanity. Hence, by becoming soul conscious we can live in the present and make the best out of each second of this valuable period. Being aware of the self as a soul and of being connected to the Supreme liberates us in a second and we are able to flow with life with ease and lightness. So, don't look back because you

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

## Modi Govt's imperative for employment growth



Despite the country's emerge as a major manufacturing hub, the sector has seen limited progress, contributing to a rising unemployment rate among the youth

There has been a long-standing vision to make India a global manufacturing hub to create millions of jobs. However, considering India's size and status as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, it's perplexing how the potential for job creation and growth in the manufacturing sector has been overlooked for so long. The new government must implement a new industrial policy having decisive measures to address current structural constraints and reshape India's manufacturing sector in response to global supply chain shifts. This is crucial for achieving a GDP of \$5 trillion and making India the world's third-largest economy by 2027. It's alarming that unemployment among young people with graduate degrees is at an all-time high of 29 per cent as India moves towards becoming the third-largest economy. In 2010, property to the control of omy.In 2019, manufacturing was the second-largest employer in India after agriculture, but it has now fallen to fourth place behind the construction sector,

trade, and hospitality.
The National Sample Survey
Organisation(NSO) data shows that 45.5% of the workforce is employed in agriculture, 12.4% in construction, and only 11.6% in manufacturing, despite its potential to create a multitude of job opportunities. Manufacturing still employs around 60 million people in India, effective action is needed to unlock its full potential for job creation at large. India's impressive growth is hindered by the lacklustre performance of the manufacturing sector, which has shown limited expansion over the past 25 years. Unlike other countries, India's production structure has shifted directly from agriculture to services-driven growth, resulting in a stagnant contribu-tion of manufacturing to India's GDP at 15-17%, significantly lower than in East and South-East Asian countries. China has a 31.63% share of global manufacturing, the US has 15.87%, Japan 6.52%, Germany 4.78%, and India 2.87%. This highlights the urgent need for India to address the challenges in its manufactur-

The reasons for this stagnation could be diverse, such as high tax burden, overburdened regulatory compliances, inadequate infrastructure and connectivity, unreliable electricity, lack of access to credit or a skilled workforce, and insufficient focus on research, development, and technology adoption.

Despite these obstacles, Indian manufacturers are now more emboldened to transcend their comfort zones and align with the nation's goal of becoming a global

player. Areas to be addressed:

Focus on sectors of strength: There are strong capabilities in various sectors such as automobiles (especially e-vehicles, to raise its current share from 7% to over 30%), pharmaceuticals and chemicals, textiles and apparel, engineering goods, farm-implements, and bicycles. However, there are significant gaps in mega-scale facilities that can anchor large-scale exports. The reliability of supporting infrastructure and fostering global partnerships for MSMEs are critical for

accelerating growth.

Revisit PLI: It is necessary to reevaluate the effectiveness of the Production Linked Incentives (PLI) scheme, creat-





THE NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY ORGANISATION THAT 45.5 PER CENT OF THE WORKFORCE IS EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE, 12.4 PER CENT IN CONSTRUCTION, AND ONLY 11.6 PER CENT IN MANUFACTURING, DESPITE ITS

POTENTIAL TO CREATE A MULTITUDE OF **OPPORTUNITIES** 

ed in 2020 to invigorate the domestic manufacturing sector, showing the desired results. The progress of schemes worth over Rs.2 lakh crore covering 14 sectors, especially in labour-intensive sectors like automobiles, auto components, textiles, IT hardware, and medical devices, it has

The PLI scheme's broader goals, such as job creation, attracting substantial investments, enhancing exports, and positioning India DATA SHOWS as a global manufacturing hub, have yet to be fulfilled.

Restructure GST: The current Goods and Service Tax(GST) structure applies to over 1250 items and services, with standard tax rates of 5%, 12%, 18%, and the highest rate of 28%. Additionally, there are zero and special rates of 0.25%, 1.5%, and 3% for certain goods and services.

To address inflation and taxrelated issues, a restructuring of the tax system is necessary. This could involve transitioning from the existing four-slab structure to a two-slab model and providing exemptions for items such as farm implements, which were previously exempted under the Pre-GST regime.

Opportunities in next-generation sectors: Opportunities in renewable energy, aerospace, and high-tech manufacturing sectors such as semiconductors and mobile devices is a case in point as the \$ 12 billion exports in FY 23, more than double the \$ 4.8 billion in FY20, are rapidly emerging as the world transitions to a

green and connected future. Building a solid foundation in these sectors requires focusing on R&D, investments in technology transfers, global tie-ups, and incentivizing investments, along with collaboration across academia, industry, and the govern-

Smart manufacturing stack: India's technology stack is a leading example of digital disruption at scale and showcases the country's capabilities for innovative solutions. A similar innovative The Way Forward: A thriving leap in manufacturing, oriented and self-reliant domestic manutoward the next generation of smart industrial clusters, connected factories, enhanced efficiency and reduced waste, high-productivity assets, end-to-end value chain transparency, and techenabled real-time interventions, can be significant differentiators. Accelerate future-ready infrastructure: India's inefficiencies are costing the nation heavily in time and money.

It is imperative to reduce current logistics costs from 8-10 per cent to 6 per cent of GDP by 2030. This requires a \$1.2 billion investment in industry-focused corridors. To provide a level playing field to the northern India manufacturing hubs, away from seaports, especially land-locked border states like Punjab needs policy-backed support to combat over double freight burden in comparison to southern-western states.

Labour-intensive manufacturing: As technological advancements drive productivity in manufactur-

ing across various sectors, the government also needs to address the transition of the workforce from agriculture and other fields. The 2024 India Employment Report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) emphasizes the need to promote labour-intensive manufacturing and enhance efforts in skilling. It is crucial to prioritize skill development, and industry leaders should play a pivotal role in driving this initiative.

facturing sector is essential for India to achieve inclusive growth by implementing an aggressive and effective reform agenda and navigating geopolitical risks and climate change-driven calami-

It is crucial to ensure that the recent promises made in the poll can be fulfilled to transform India into a global manufacturing hub, resulting in employment generation and tangible progress. India has the capacity and resources to excel in this area, and it's time for the new government to make it happen.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika ITL Group, Vice-Chairman(Cabinet minister rank) of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President of Tractor and Mechanization Association(TMA). Views expressed are personal)

## The petrodollar system and its influence on global finance and geopolitics

#### A more multipolar financial ecosystem that accommodates a diverse array of currencies and economic influences is taking shape

he petrodollar system, inaugurated in 1974, has long been a linchpin of global finance and geopolitics. Established through an agreement between the United States and Saudi Arabia, it stipulated that the kingdom would exclusively sell its oil in US dollars. This arrangement not only guaranteed a consistent demand for the dollar but also directed oil revenues back into the US economy through investments in US Treasury bonds and other financial

As a result, the system created a significant source of funding for the US government and solidified the dollar's status as the world's primary reserve currency.Geopolitically, the petrodollar system forged a geopolitical influence and symbiotic relationship between allowed it to project power in petrodollar system forged a



SANTOSH **MATHEW** 

the US and oil-exporting nations, particularly those in the Middle East.

In exchange for security assurances and economic assistance, these countries committed to conducting oil transactions in dollars, thereby granting the US significant sway over global oil markets and the broader economy. This symbiosis reinforced the US's

the strategically vital Middle scores its historical signifi-East, ensuring the uninterrupted flow of oil, which is critical for the global economy. Recent developments suggest

a potential departure from this long-standing arrangement. On June 9, Saudi Arabia declared its intention to discontinue exclusive oil sales in US dollars. This decision is part of a broader strategy to diversify the Saudi economy and diminish reliance on oil revenues. The move away from the petrodollar system is seen by some as a step towards strengthening ties with other economic powers, notably China, which seeks to promote its currency, the yuan, as an alternative in global trade. The role of Henry Kissinger, a pivotal figure in establishing the petrodollar system, under-

cance. Kissinger's negotiations with Saudi Arabia in the 1970s not only secured American dominance in global finance but also assured protection for Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, cementing their alliance with the US through military cooperation and strategic part-

Reactions to Saudi Arabia's decision vary widely. Analysts speculate it could weaken the dollar's global hegemony, potentially leading to its depreciation and higher inflation rates in the US. However, mitigating factors include the US's current status as an oil exporter, reducing vulnerability to fluctuations in oil prices and currency dynamics. The broader implications for the global economy remain



uncertain. A shift away from the dollar in oil transactions could promote greater currency diversification and lessen dependence on the US financial system. For oil-importing countries, this shift could offer more stable pricing if transactions are conducted in their own currencies or other stable alternatives.In conclusion, Saudi Arabia's strategic pivot signifies a significant evolution in global financial systems.

While it may not immediately dismantle the petrodollar's influence, it signals a transition towards a more multipolar economic order, where multiple currencies could assume pivotal roles in global trade and finance. This transformation is anticipated to unfold gradually, with profound implications for international relations and economic strategies worldwide.

Throughout decades, the petrodollar system has upheld the dollar's global dominance, intertwining economic power with geopolitical influence.ConclusionThe

petrodollar system's historical context and its prospective decline illustrate the dynamic nature of global financial and geopolitical landscapes. The shift in Saudi Arabia's policy highlights the kingdom's strategic intent to align itself more closely with emerging economic powers and reduce its over-reliance on oil revenue. This move is emblematic of a broader global trend toward economic diversification and the quest for greater financial sovereignty among oil-producing nations.

The gradual erosion of the petrodollar system could herald the rise of alternative financial paradigms, challenging the entrenched supremacy of the US dollar. As countries explore new avenues for conducting international trade and finance, the world may witness an increase in currency diversification, potentially leading to a more balanced and less US-centric global economy. Such a shift could also

encourage more equitable economic partnerships and reduce the economic vulnerabilities associated with dependence on a single dominant currency. Moreover, the potential decline of the petrodollar system invites a reexamination of existing geopolitical alliances and economic depen-

The ripple effects of these changes could extend beyond the realm of finance, influencing international diplomacy, trade policies, and even security dynamics The focus will likely shift toward fostering a more multipolar financial ecosystem that accommodates a diverse array of currencies and economic influ-

(The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

#### **Groww Asset Management, trustee** settle case with Sebi; pay Rs 9 lakh

Groww Asset Management Ltd (formerly known as Indiabulls Asset Management Company Ltd) and its trustee have settled with markets watchdog Sebi a case pertaining to alleged violation of regulatory norms after paying Rs 9 lakh. This came after the applicants -- Groww Asset Management Company and Groww Trustee Ltd (earlier known as Indiabulls Trustee Company Ltd) -- proposed to settle the alleged violation by "neither admitting nor denying the findings of fact". "It is hereby ordered that any proceedings that

maybe initiated for the violations...are settled in respect of the applicants," the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in its settlement order passed on June 28. The applicants have submitted that on account of change in control of Indiabulls Asset Management Company and Indiabulls Trustee due to the acquisition of these entities by Nextbillion Technology Pvt Ltd, the entities are now known as Groww Asset Management and Groww Trustee with effect from May 3, 2023.



#### **Allcargo Gati raises Rs 169.28** crore through QIP

xpress logistics firm Allcargo Gati Ltd on Tuesday said it has raised Rs 169.28 crore by issuing equity shares through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP). The fresh capital has been secured after the fund-raise committee of the company's board has approved the issue and allotment to successful qualified institutional buyers at the issue price of Rs 101 per equity share at its meeting on

June 28, Allcargo Gati Ltd said in a statement. QIP saw participation from various investors raising a total amount of Rs 169.28 crore, it added. "The response to our QIP underscores investor confidence in our business strategy and market position. The funds raised will strengthen our financial position and support our growth initiatives across key segments," said Pirojshaw Sarkari, Managing Director and CEO, Gati Express and Supply Chain Pvt Limited (GESCPL).



#### **India's coal production rises** 14% in June

he country's coal production rose by 14.49 per cent to 84.63 million tonne (MT) in June. The country's coal output was 73.92 MT in June last fiscal, according to provisional figures of the government. In June Coal India Ltd's (CIL) production was at 63.10 MT, registering a rise of 8.87 per cent compared to the same period last year, the coal ministry said in a statement. India's coal dispatch in June was at 85.76 MT, up by 10.15 per cent compared to the same period last year. Additionally, as on June 30, the

coal stock held by coal companies witnessed a surge, reaching 95.02 MT. "This surge reflects an impressive annual growth rate of 41.68 per cent underscoring the robust performance and

efficiency of the coal sector. Concurrently, the coal stock at thermal power plants (TPP) marked a notable increase to 46.70 MT (Provisional) on the same date, with an annual growth rate of 30.15 per cent," it added. Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output.



## RBI proposes rationalising norms on ex-im transactions

The RBI on Tuesday proposed rationalising regulations that cover export and import transactions with an aim to promote ease of doing business and empower banks to provide more efficient service to their foreign exchange customers. The central bank has issued

'Regulation of Foreign Trade under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 – Draft Regulations and Directions' in this regard.

As per the draft, every exporter should furnish to the specified authority a declaration specifying the amount representing the full export value of the goods or services.

The amount representing the full export value of goods and services shall be realised and repatriated to India within nine months from the date of shipment for goods and date of invoice for services," it said.

The draft also proposes that



The central bank has issued 'Regulation of Foreign Trade under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 – Draft Regulations and Directions' in this regard. As per the draft, every exporter should furnish to the specified authority a declaration specifying the amount representing the full export value of the goods or services

an exporter who has not within the time specified may realised the full value of export be caution listed by the autho-

An exporter who has been caution listed can undertake export only against receipt of advance payment in full or against an irrecoverable letter of credit, to the satisfaction of the authorised dealer.

According to the draft, no advance remittance for the import of gold and silver should be permitted unless specifically approved by the Reserve Bank of India.

The RBI said the proposed regulations are intended to promote ease of doing business, especially for small exporters and importers.

They are also intended to empower Authorised Dealer banks to provide quicker and more efficient service to their foreign exchange customers, the central bank said.

The RBI has sought comments on the draft regulations under FEMA and directions to authorised dealer banks by

#### Sensex, Nifty close flat after hitting fresh lifetime highs

PNS MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hit fresh lifetime high levels before closing flat due to profittaking in select banking and telecom shares amid mixed global cues on Tuesday.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 34.74 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 79,441.45 in a volatile trade. During the day, it jumped 379.68 points or 0.47 per cent to hit a record peak of 79,855.87.

peak of 79,855.67.

The Nifty declined by 18.10 points or 0.07 per cent to 24,123.85. Intra-day, it climbed 94.4 points or 0.39 per cent to hit a lifetime high of 24,236.35.

Among the Sensex pack, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India and Titan were the biggest laggards.

Larsen & Toubro, Infosys, DFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies and Tata Steel were the biggest gainers.

## Centre developing platform for resolution of non-trade barriers

PNS NEW DELHI

The commerce ministry is developing a platform for registering non-tariff barriers (NTBs) faced by exporters and taking up with the concerned countries for their resolution, a senior official

At present, there is an information gap on these barriers particularly for small items.

"We are making a portal so that we can prioritise all the NTBs. Traders will register their complaints and the ministry will pursue that," the official said.

In cases where the barrier is impacting a large vol-ume of goods will be prioritised for their redressal and action-taking. Economic think tank GTRI

in its report has stated that India needs to act in a fasttrack manner for the removal of NTBs, being faced by domestic exporters in different countries like the US, China and Japan, to achieve export target of US\$ 1 trillion for goods by 2030.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) has suggested a two-pronged strategy to mitigate the influence of NTBs

It asked for upgrading domes-

tic systems, in cases where Indian products are rejected

due to quality issues; and retaliating if unreasonable standards or rules continue to obstruct exports from New Delhi.

Many of India's exports suffer due to time taking prior registration requirements and unreasonable domestic standards/rules in many countries. "India must talk to partner countries for reasonable solutions," GTRI Co-founder Ajay Srivastava has said. Many of India's food and

agriculture products face problems due to higher pesticide levels, presence of pests and contaminations due to foot and mouth disease. India's exports are far below potential as they face NTBs in the EU (European

Union), the US, China, Japan, Korea and many other countries.

Key Indian exports that routinely face high barriers include chillies, tea, basmati rice, milk, poultry, bovine meat, fish, chemical products to the EU; sesame seed, black tiger shrimps, medicines, apparel to Japan; food, meat, fish, dairy,

industrial products to China; shrimps to the US; and bovine meat to South Korea.

According to the report, the other products which face these barriers include ceramic tiles in Egypt; chilli in Mexico; medicines in Argentina; microbiological regents in Saudi Arabia; electrical, medical devices, and household appliances in Brazil; veterinary pharmaceuticals, feed additives, and machinery

## Chhattisgarh govt launches 'single window system 2.0' for ease of industrialists

PNS RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Tuesday launched the second edition of the 'single window system' (SWS) to facilitate speedy approvals of various clearances required for setting up industries.

ισ at the laur

portal at his official residence in Raipur, Sai said the state government would extend all possible assistance to entrepreneurs interested in investing in The Commerce and

Industry Department already



operates a 'single window system' portal which has been updated and re-launched, Sai

The system will ensure

speedy clearances and approvals for the convenience investors and new industrialists, he said, adding that "good governance and zero

are top priorities of the govern-The online facility helps

tolerance towards corruption"

simplify the process by reducing administrative physical interference in the grant of clearances and approvals, he

resources and has immense potential for industrial growth. With the new system, all the facilities will be available at one click and the process of setting up new units will become easier, which will attract investment, the chief minister said.

#### Divine Power Energy's makes stellar debut; shares jump over 284%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Divine Power Energy Ltd, a manufacturer of insulated wires and strips, on Tuesday made a remarkable debut, closing with a premium against the issue price of Rs 40.

The stock was listed at Rs 155, reflecting gains of 287.50 per cent from the issue price on the NSE SME platform

Later, shares of the company settled at Rs 150 apiece,

down by 3.23 per cent. At the close of the trading session, the company's market valuation stood at Rs 322.01

In volume terms, 31.44 lakh shares of the company han

Last week, Divine Power Energy's initial public offering (IPO) was subscribed nearly 394 times on the final day, driven by an overwhelming response from retail

official

reached 250 GW in May. demand will touch 384 GW and may easily cross 400

## may cross 400 GW by FY32'

PNS NEW DELHI

India's peak power demand may surpass the projected 384 GW mark and even cross 400 GW by 2031-32, according to Agarwal.

Speaking at the CII-Smart Metering Conference, the Tuesday said peak power demand already

"The way power demand has grown in some states in the last two years, the

GW by 2031-32. For this we must have an installed (power generation) capacity of 900 GW," Agarwal said.

The government's projection for this year's peak power demand is 260 GW, which is expected

September, according Agarwal.

With the onset of monsoon, peak oower demand has been showing a

downward trend. As per official data, peak demand was around 209 GW on Monday. He further said beneficiaries of PM Surya Ghar Yojana must be provided meters under the RDSS scheme.

## Stock broking firms tumble; Angel One tanks nearly 9%

PNS NEW DELHI

Shares of stock broking firms declined on Tuesday, a day after markets regulator Sebi directed stock exchanges and other market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) to implement a uniform and equal charge structure for all members rather than varying charges based on their volume or activity.

At the close of trade, the stock of Angel One tanked 8.72 per cent, Geojit Financial Services tumbled 6.83 per cent, Motilal Oswal Financial Services dropped

4.19 per cent, SMC Global Securities went lower by 2.81 per cent, Dolat Algotech declined 2.28 per cent and 5paisa Capital dipped 0.05 per cent on the BSE.

During the day, shares of Angel One tumbled 10.50 per cent, Geojit Financial Services tanked 7.59 per cent, Dolat Algotech dropped 5.39 per cent, Motilal Oswal Financial Services went lower by 4.63 per cent, 5paisa Capital declined 4.51 per cent and SMC Global Securities fell 4.13 per cent.

The regulator instructed

stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and depositories constituted as MIIs to ensure that any charges recovered from the end client are 'True



## Kotak Mahindra Bank shares decline over 2%; mcap erodes by Rs 7,777 cr

PNS NEW DELHI

Shares of Kotak Mahindra Bank on Tuesday declined over 2 per cent, wiping out Rs 7,777.33 crore from its mar-



ket capitalisation as the company's name cropped up in the Adani-Hindenburg row.

The stock went lower by 2.16 per cent to settle at Rs 1,769.60 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it tumbled 3.98 per cent to Rs 1,736.65. On the NSE, it declined 2.12 per cent to Rs 1,769.60 per share.

The company's market valuation eroded by Rs 7,777.33 crore to Rs 3,51,787.86 crore. Billionaire banker Uday Kotak founded bank and brokerage created and oversaw an offshore fund used by an unnamed investor to profit from a plunge in Adani shares 4 million.

that followed a damning Hindenburg report, the US short-seller said.

Hindenburg Research, which had in a January 2023 report alleged stock market manipulations and accounting fraud at the Adani group, said it has received a show cause notice from Indian markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) over gains made from betting on the conglomerate's shares.

The US short-seller said it had disclosed that it had bets against the group, adding that its gains were only over US\$

### ICICI Bank launches Forex Card for students

'Country's peak power demand

PNS NEW DELHI

Private sector lender ICICI Bank on Tuesday launched a pre-paid Sapphiro Forex Card, crafted specifically for students who are

going abroad for higher education. The card, powered by

Visa, provides exclusive benefits and convenience to students and their parents to manage educationrelated expenses abroad like admission fees, course-related fees and other day-to-day expenses, including travel,

dining and groceries, among others, the bank said in a state ment. The card offers the freedom

of loading and transacting in 15 currencies without any cross-curren-

cy mark-up

charge being

levied by the

bank, allowing students niently travel across the globe even if they load only one cur-

rency on the card, it added. The card comes with an array of joining benefits up to Rs 15,000, along with exclusive privileges, it said.

## GBEATER HYDERASAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NIT No. 11/E E 14/GHMC/2924-25 Name of work: Various works under Division 14, KZ, GHMC. Estimate Amount/

ECV: Rs. 9.65 Lakhs, Start date / Last date & time for receipts of Bids: 01-07-2024 @ 11.00 .00 AM / 02-07-2024 @ 11.00 AM. Name & Address officer: Executive ngineer-14, GHMC, 5th floor, Abids Parking Complex, Abids, Hyderabad,

For further details can be seen at e-procurement Sd/- Executive Engineer website:www.tender.telangana.gov.in R.O.No: 1388-PPICLIADVT112204-25, Dt. 02.07.2024 Division - 14, GHMC

🕝 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🚕 e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NIT No. 08/GHMC/KPC-24/2024-25 Name of Work: Bonalu Works, Estimate Amount / ECV: Rs. 7.10 Lakhs, Start Date Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 02.07.2024 @ 11.30 A.M / 05.07.2024 @ 11.30

A.M. Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Sri. D. Goverdhan Goud, Executive Engineer GHMC, Kukatpally Circle - 24, Cell 9154299633. Further details can be seen at e procurement @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in/ Sd/- Executive Enginee R.O.Mo: 1383-PP/CL/ADVT/112824-25, Dt. 02-07-2024

#### Iffco will provide a grant of Rs 100 per acre to drone entrepre-

#### Iffco launches campaign to boost nano-fertiliser adoption in India PNS ■ NEW DELHI neurs, enabling farmers to Indian Farmers Fertiliser

Cooperative Limited (Iffco) on Tuesday said it has launched a major initiative to promote the use of nano-fertilisers among farmers across India. The "Nano Fertilizer Usage Promotion Mahaabhiyan" aims to create 200 model nano village

clusters, covering 800 villages, where farmers will receive a 25 per cent subsidy on the maximum retail price (MRP) of Nano Urea Plus, Nano DAP, and Sagarika fertilisers, it added. To encourage the use of modern application techniques,

access low-cost spraying services, it said in a statement. The cooperative plans to raise awareness about the benefits of nano fertilisers, including improved crop quality and increased production through demonstrations in these model villages.

The move comes as the government seeks to reduce its dependence on chemical fertilisers and promote more sustainable agricultural practices. The government has also launched a 100-day action plan to promote nano-fertilisers and plans to hold 1,270 demos of Nano DAP (liquid) in 413 districts and 200 trials of Nano Urea Plus (liquid) in 100 districts.

### over 100 foreign buyers to participate PNS NEW DELHI

More than 300 domestic companies and over 100 foreign buyers from the US, Germany and other countries are expected to participate in the fourday international toy fair beginning on July 6 in the national capital, a statement said on Tuesday.

More than 250 Indian brands will display their products during the fair, which is being organised at Pragati Maidan here, Toy Association of India senior vice-president Naresh Kumar Gautam said in



the statement.

International toy fair to begin on July 6;

Gautam said that the 15th Toy Biz International B2B Expo 2024 is the largest fair in South Asia. "It is a big platform for Indian toy makers to showcase their products and capabilities to the global audience. It helps us attract new customers and partners, expand market reach for our toys and boost exports," he said. In addition, he said, Toy Biz

also provides a platform for industry players to network and connect with each other, which can help foster collaborations, partnerships and joint

Gautam, who is also the CEO of Noida-based Little Genius Toys Pvt Ltd, also suggested the government provide fiscal support to manufacturers in organising these fairs.
"At least Rs 1 lakh should be

given to all the stalls in these fairs. At present, we are providing hotel accommodation to foreign buyers and ticket cost up to Rs 1 lakh," he added.

He said that the expo can also help raise awareness about the importance of the Indian toy industry, both domestically and internationally.

## the pioneer vderabad

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Wednesday July 3, 2024

## 'I DON'T WANT MY DAUGHTER SEE **ME PLAYING NEGATIVE ROLES'**

very daily soap viewer will remember Sangita Ghosh as Muskaan Mallik in Sangita Ghosh as Muskaan Mallik in Mehndi Tere Naam Ki or Pammi in Des Mein Niklla Hoga Chand. These backto-back shows had made her a house-hold name in the television industry. Well, her stint in the industry goes way beyond that, but hey, why do we talk about it when we that, but hey, why do we talk about it when we have her for an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*? "Oh god, you are making me sit and think about it (we laugh). It's been a long journey, but it has just passed by. Television you work day in and out. You don't realise it. These days, people come up and meet me on sets and say, "Humne aapka yeh show dekha tha and oh god, you still look the same." It's then that I realise 'Itne saal hooave. I need to tell realise 'Itne saal hogaye. I need to tell them all, 'Relax guys, don't make me old, tee-hee."

However, it's been a rewarding journey for her and considering getting the opportunity to work on shows loved by people with good teams, she says, it's been quite a fulfilling journey with a lot more

TEJAL SINHA

Initially, she began her journey as a child actor before she could get her big break at the age of around 23 with *Mehndi Tere* Naam Ki. She did do shows, including Daraar and Adhikaar, but in a supporting role. Back then, she recalls, "We did not think of it as struggles. I did it because I wanted to do television and amongst many other reasons, I started liking what I was doing. I was not sure what I was going to do. I gave an audition and got selected for one of the roles and that's how the journey started. and that's how the journey started. Struggles, however, if you ask, were reaching the studios on time. I was fortunate that, back then, at that time, I got to work with very good people. Initially, you do have struggles, but I don't want to get into them and glorify them. I don't consider it a struggle, but just like your learning period."

No doubt, vamps and villains play a significant role in television shows, or even films

cant role in television shows, or even films, for that matter. And what is a show with a negative character? If you look back at her stints, she too has played several negative characters, including *Doli Saja Ke, Rishton Ka Chakravyuh* and *Divya Drishti*. So is there like another type of fascination for such roles, we wonder and the *Kehta Hai Dil Jee Le Zara* actress gleefully shares, "Thank you for reminding me of *Doli* (she giggles). *Doli Saja Ke was the first show where I played an antage* Ke was the first show where I played an antagonist! Doli was offered to me by Aruna Ji, which was a cameo and I couldn't say no to her. With her itself, I had worked on her shows as a protagonist and she asked me. For her, I can do anything. Even if she asks me to give a passion shot, I'd love to do it. Rishton Ka Chakravyuh: I found the role to be very prompt and it didn't bother me that I was not the protagonist of the show. The way the role was narrated, I was just hooked on it."

But with Divya Drishti, on the other hand, she did have questions in her mind about how the maker felt that she could do justice to the role! She further continues, "It was a fantasy show and I genuinely didn't think of playing a 'Pisachini'. When I met Mukta, she was like, just do it; you'll have fun. It was something different and I wanted to challenge myself. I didn't know how I would do it, but once I did that show, I had so much fun."

It was so much fun for her on the sets that there were times she'd end up laughing at the dialogue she had to say. Then came Swaran Ghar, with whom she wasn't sure about playing a negative character, keeping in mind that she has a daughter now. "I was-n't sure whether I wanted my daughter to see me playing a negative role because, she's just two and a-half. Luckily, she's not watching television and I was like, let's do it until she watches me on-screen! She needs to grow up to know

Sangita Ghosh, an actress, is wellknown in the industry for her ability to bring characters to life on screen. In an exclusive phone conversation with *The Pioneer*, she discusses her journey, her skepticism about portraying unpleasant characters and her thoughts on making movies.

this generally does not happen in real life."

She also recalls one of the incidents when her daughter somehow watched a clip of her feeling playing that character, where she fell dizzy. And her daughter immediately called her, saying, "Mumma girl gayi".

Going ahead, she feels very fortunate to be getting to play different lead roles. "We need to look for roles that have a lot of meat. I feel antagonistic roles have a lot of meat, are fun, purposeful and colourful. If you can crack it, then it's a lot of fun to play it," says the Nach Baliye star, adding, "I don't think playing negative characters should really impact. Personally, I understand the difference between what's real and what's reel. I always tend to leave it behind. As an actor, I do try to feel the backstory of the an actor, I do try to feel the backstory of the character. There are times I ask my director, 'Yeh aurat pagal toh nahi hai na'. However, I believe that there are flaws within everyone and I don't approach any such character with pressure. I try to have fun and bring my own

pressure. I try to have fun and bring my own logic to it."

Talking of her negative roles, she's once again seen playing the role of an antagonist, Saroj, in Sun Neo's Saajha Sindoor. Getting onboard was no less than a cakewalk for her, having known the makers already. With Nandita, she goes back to a much-long association, right from Mehndi Tere Naam Ki to Des Mein Niklla Hoga Chaand and many more. "I got a chance to work with her after 17 years, so I was in. However, when she told me it was an antagonist. I was in two roll was in Towner, when sale told me it was an antagonist, I was in two minds. However, she convinced me that if I'd do it, the role would be something else. Then I knew the writer also and I have been working with him for a long time. He narrated the role, and something just hit within and I was like, Let's do it. There was a lot of back and forth, but again, just because it was a negative role was not the reason, but a lot of things, like thinking about my daughter, I had to leave her in Jaipur and travel to Mumbai. I wanted the role to be worth it for me to leave my daughter and travel. I had immense trust in the team and so I went along."

Working with Sun Neo on Sun TV was again a plus point for her to get on board. She further found it intriguing to play a second wife.

For Parvarrish fame, it's always been about the role, the production house and the vibe. Sangita, who doesn't limit herself to any genre or character on a concluding note, speaks of why she hasn't worked in films. She humorously shares, "Koi offer hi nahi karta, kya kare. I don't really sit and think much about it. I feel that if it has to come

to me, it will. I am okay with giving auditions, but not to prove myself as an actor. If the director thinks I might fit in that role, then that's different, but not to prove my capability. I have worked for so many years. Even if I had to give 100 auditions to play that particular role, I would do it, but sorry, I wouldn't give auditions just to check if I could act or not."

## Evicted but unbroken: Payal Malik cheers on her *Bigg Boss* allies

AARTI SREENATH

n a surprising turn of events, the last eviction from the ongoing season of Bigg Boss OTT 3 saw the eviction of Payal Malik, leaving many fans in

shock and disappointment. However, despite her early exit, Payal expressed her unwavering support for her two 'Sher's', Armaan and Kritika Malik. "Though I have been evicted, I feel happy that two of my 'sher's' are still in the game. I would definitely support them and hope at least one of them wins the *Bigg Boss* title," she declared with characteristic enthusiasm in this exclusive chat with The Pioneer.

Talking of Bigg Boss as a whole, there's always a debate on whether the show is scripted or not. Well, initially, Payal was also one of them. However, addressing these misconceptions, she shares, "I had a very wrong notion that the show was scripted, but after entering the house, I realised it was all genuine.

Her comments have lent a new level of credibility to the show, which has often been criticised for allegedly manipulating events for dramatic effect. However, her praise for the show's authenticity was tempered by her disappointment over her eviction. "I feel bad that I was evicted at an early stage. The eviction process wasn't genuine at all. I had to leave the house only because of the other contestants," she asserted. This candid admission has sparked discussions among fans and viewers about the fairness of the eviction process!

Throughout her journey, Payal highlighted that though she had Armaan and Kritika, Ranvir Shorey, Sana Maqbool, and Chandrika Dixit, aka the

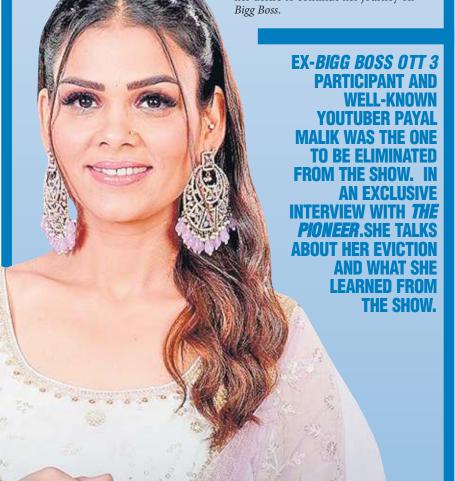
'Vadapav girl', she felt supported unwaveringly, helping her further navigate the ups and downs of the *Bigg* Boss house.

"When everyone used to dance in the morning and share their stories, it used to be my favourite part of the day," Payal recalled. These moments of camaraderie were a welcome respite from the often tense and competitive atmosphere of the

Her advice to the future participants is clear and direct: "Start playing as soon as you enter the house. Don't wait for others to start, or you might get evicted." Payal emphasised the importance of being proactive and strategic from the very beginning, a lesson she learned the hard way through her own experience. In addition to her reflections on the game, Payal also addressed when asked about a viral video where Sana Maqbool questioned Armaan Malik about their situation, specifically if it would have been acceptable if Payal had gotten married to someone else. He blatantly denied it, to which Payal responded, "Initially, it was difficult for me to accept, but due to certain reasons, I had to. It was a shocker, but later I had no other option."

Sharing the challenges of having her personal life broadcasted so publicly, Payal admitted it was tough initially but has since grown accustomed to it. "Explaining our situation to new people we meet has become less painful over time, but it still affects me when people are too intrusive. I have now learned to cope with the public interest and maintain my composure." When asked if she would consider

returning as a wild card entry, Payal enthusiastically responded, "I would love to make an entrance as a wild card." Her readiness to re-enter the house underscores her competitive spirit and her desire to continue her journey on



## Goodness of 'centella asiatica' for overall well-being

entella Asiatica, commonly known as Gotu Kola, is a herb with a rich history in traditional medicine, particularly in Asian cultures. Known for its wide range of benefits for both skin and overall health, Centella Asiatica is often regarded as a powerhouse for wellness and beauty.

that these are just roles and

For skin benefits, it stands out due to its ability to promote wound healing. Compounds like asiaticoside in the herb boost collagen production and enhance the tensile strength of new skin, aiding in faster recovery from injuries. Its anti-aging properties are equally impressive. Rich in antioxidants, it combats free radicals that cause premature aging. It helps maintain skin elasticity and firmness by stimulating collagen production, thereby reducing the appearance of fine

lines and wrinkles. A standout feature of it is its ability to reduce inflammation. This makes it an effective treatment for conditions like eczema, psoriasis and acne. The herb soothes irritated skin and reduces redness, providing relief from discomfort. Additionally, it hydrates and nourishes the skin naturally. Packed with amino acids, beta carotene, fatty acids and phytochemicals, it helps maintain the skin's moisture barrier, leaving it soft and supple.

Centella Asiatica also improves skin tone and texture. Regular use can lead to a more even skin tone and smoother texture. It reduces the appearance of scars and blemishes, contributing to a clearer complexion.

The health benefits of the herb are equally impressive. Traditionally used to boost cognitive function, studies suggest it may enhance memory, improve concentration, and reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression. It is believed to protect brain cells and improve circulation, which can help prevent cognitive decline. Supporting cardiovascular health is

another significant benefit. Centella Asiatica helps strengthen veins and capillaries, improving circulation and reducing the risk of conditions like varicose veins and chronic venous insufficiency. It also promotes digestive health by aiding digestion and

alleviating stomach issues such as indigestion and ulcers. Its antiinflammatory properties soothe the

digestive tract and promote a healthy gut environment. The herb is known for its anti-anxiety and stress relief properties. As an

adaptogen, it helps the body cope with stress, having a calming effect on the nervous system, which can reduce anxiety levels and promote a sense of well-being. Additionally, it boosts the immune system by stimulating the production of white blood cells that fight off infections, and its antioxidant properties protect the body from oxidative stress and free radical damage.

Centella Asiatica can be consumed in various forms. Topical applications include creams, serums and ointments infused with centella asiatica extract, which are commonly used for skin benefits.

Supplements, such as capsules or tablets containing Gotu Kola extract, can be taken to improve overall health. Dried leaves can be brewed into teas and liquid extracts can be added to beverages. Gotu Kola,

embodies a rich tradition of healing and rejuvenation in Asian medicine, offering profound benefits for both skin and health. Its role in promoting wound healing, reducing inflammation, and enhancing cognitive function underscores its versatility and effectiveness. Whether applied topically in skincare products or consumed as a supplement, it continues to prove its value in supporting overall well-being. Embracing this botanical powerhouse can lead to healthier, more resilient skin and a strengthened foundation for holistic health. Integrating centella asiatica into daily routines offers a natural path towards vitality and beauty, rooted in centuries of herbal wisdom and modern scientific validation.

> (The author, Dr. Aravind Badiger, is a Technical Director at BDR Pharmaceuticals.)

## what's brewing?



The HCL Foundation, held the fifth HCLTech Grant Pan-India Symposium 2024 with the theme "Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions through CSR", at G Narayanamma Institute of Technology and Science (For Women) in Hyderabad.

At the Atharva Bharat 2024, Suroskie received the

esteemed Chanakya Award. Recently, Summit India, in collaboration with the All India Council of Technical

Education (AICTE), organised the event at the Hotel Le Meridien.

addition.



The newly chosen club president, general secretary and treasurer of the 2024–25 Lions Club of Hyderabad Nava Bharata are Dr. Hypno Padma Kamalakar, B. Vani Vinay and



Avaan Excess, a pioneer in excess baggage services and a member of the Avaan India Group has opened its operations at Hyderabad International Airport. Moving forward, Avaan aims to expand its footprint in major airports worldwide.

Tydy is a human resources technology firm that specialises in providing preboarding and onboarding experiences for workers from the time of hire until retirement. Phenom announced that it has acquired Tydy. The platform's goal of reducing employee time to productivity and enhancing the user experience for HR professionals on a single platform is strengthened by its fifth acquisition and portfolio

विजेता - 2024"

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By collaborating with the Indian agricultural organisation TAFE Motors and Tractors Limited, DEUTZ is able to increase its operations in India and take advantage of one of the world's fastestgrowing marketplaces. The division of TAFE, the third-biggest tractor producer globally, is TAFE Motors.





Tasva has taken on the prestigious task of designing the ceremonial dress for Team India at the upcoming Paris Olympics 2024. Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviva, launched the Official Ceremonial Dress for Team India in the presence of Indian Olympics Association President, Dr PT Usha. Tasva is all set to bring to Paris, the fashion capital of the world, its fresh take on Indian traditional wear.

#### **Clinikally partners with Zippee** to offer same-day delivery

Clinikally has recently undertaken the strategic step of offering same-day delivery to its customers in collaboration with Zippee. It proves to be a pivotal step in helping Clinikally overcome order fulfillment challenges across the NCR, Haryana, Punjab and other cities while establishing itself as a leading dermatologist and

#### **Supply6 welcomes AB De Villiers** as brand ambassador and investor

Supply6, a Bangalore-based health food brand founded by Vaibhav Bhandari and Rahul Jacob, has welcomed former South African international cricketer AB De Villiers as a brand ambassador and investor. Their flagship product, Supply6 360, embodies a holistic approach to nutrition, aligning perfectly with AB De Villiers' 360-degree cricketing prowess. Each product provides varying levels of the six essential pillars of nutrition: protein, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, minerals and fibre, tailored to meet specific health needs.

#### **Marriott Executive Apartments Hyd unveils 'Altair'**

Marriott Executive Apartments Hyderabad announces the unveiling of a brand-new banquet space—Altair—to bring to the city a curated address boasting indoor and outdoor spaces to suit every kind of gathering: whether small or large, or for business or leisure. The space has been fully functional, with a tailored focus on corporate conferences, MICE gatherings, personal celebrations and wedding extravaganzas.

#### **KIET launches an electrical and** computer engineering course

KIET Group of Institutions is excited to announce the launch of its new 'Electrical and Computer Engineering' program. Available for students with effect from the academic session 2024–25, the course has been designed to provide in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience in the core subjects of electrical and computer engineering. The program aligns with the institute's vision to achieve excellence in technical education and create industry-ready, competent professionals for the country's socio-

#### Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth inks alliance with University of leeds

Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth announced the signing of a strategic MoU with the University of Leeds, one of the largest universities in the UK. The MoU was signed by and between Prof. Hai-Sui Yu, Interim Vice Chancellor and President, University of Leeds and Dr. Nirmal Coumare V., Director of Hospitals, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, in the presence of Dr. Prashanth Rajagopalan, Trustee, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth; Dr. Urjitha Rajagopalan, Trustee, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth; Prof. Nihar Ranjan Biswas, Vice Chancellor, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth and Ms. Asha K., General Manager (Admin), Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth.

#### 'My First Library'

MTG Learning Media has launched "My First Library" to redefine early childhood learning for children aged 1 to 3. This innovative series of ten board books redefines early childhood education with its unique approach to developing strong reading skills. While many books for toddlers aim to entertain and educate, "My First Library" goes beyond the standard offerings.

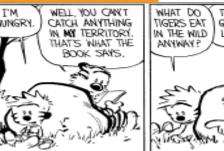
#### ARCHIE





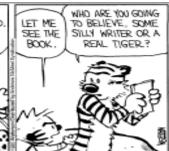


#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**









#### GARFIELD









#### **REALITY CHECK**





#### **CROSSWORD**











#### **SUDOKU**

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DIFFICULTY RATING: \*\*\*

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- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

### DOWN

18 Near 19 Young people

 A huge sea mammal 2 A six-legged creature

3 Shove

10 Fewer

ACROSS

Speaks very quietly

8 The backbone

of this country

12 You see with these

14 The large country just

7 A builder follows these

when building a house

9 Athens is the capital city

- north of the USA 17 Weary

4 Lift up

a cup

13 Garden soil

5 Food that looks like

lots of worms

6 A daily publication

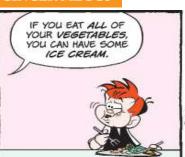
11 A small dish under

15 A nut from an oak tree

16 A worshipped statue



#### **GINGER MEGGS**







Hyderabad | Wednesday July 3, 2024

# 'My role in *Viraaji* is unlike any l've played before'

PNS | HYDERABAD

Presh off the success of his recent film *Nindha*, Varun Sandesh is all set to enthrall audiences once again with his upcoming project, *Viraaji*. Produced by Mahendra Nath Kondla under the M3 Media banner in collaboration with Maha Movies, Viraaji marks the directorial debut of Adhyanth Harsha, promising a fresh perspective and a captivating narrative.

The excitement surrounding Viraaji

peaked with a grand title launch event held at Hyderabad's Prasad Labs on Tuesday, where the team unveiled the film's intriguing title and shared insights into what audiences can expect from this venture.

According to the director, Viraaji is a strong title, and the film will showcase Varun Sandesh in a completely new avatar. This film is being made by a

bunch of newcomers and the makers sought support from the audience. The soon-to-be-revealed first look will undoubtedly impress you. This film is tailor-made for Varun Sandesh," said the director.

In a quick conversation with us, Varun Sandesh revealed his initial reaction to the script, saying, "When Harsha narrated the story of *Viraaji* to me, I was immediately captivated. The first half was intriguing, but it was the second half that truly gripped me. I saw immense potential in the narrative and knew I wanted to be a part of it."

Reflecting on the success of Nindha, which marked a significant milestone in his career, Varun Sandesh added, "The response to Nindha has been overwhelming, and it has been a great source of motivation for me. Just like Nindha, Viraaji promises to be a refreshing experience for the audience."

Speaking about his character in

Viraaii, Varun Sandesh teased, "This role is unlike any I've played before. It required extensive preparation, and I can confidently say it's one of my craziest yet. The first look at the film, set

to be unveiled on the July 10, will give

audiences a glimpse into this exciting



## **Kubera** team teases fans with a sneak peek of Rashmika's character

ekhar Kammula, a National Award-winning director best known for films like *Fidaa* and *Love* Story, is the director of *Kubera*.

For the first time, Dhanush and filmmaker Sekhar

Kammula collaborated on the movie, which has definitely generated excitement among viewers. A sneak peek into Rashmika Mandanna's character in the movie has now been revealed by the directors, who guarantee that it "intrigues with every layer!"

The official Rashmika look teases a character revelation that will happen on July 5, 2024, but does not show her appearance. The character of Nagarjuna Akkineni in the film had already been teased by the

The movie, which also stars Jim Sarbh and Nagarjuna, is produced by Suniel Narang and Puskur Ram Mohan Rao under the auspices of Sree Venkateswara Cinemas LLP, an Asian Group company, in collaboration with Amigos Creations Pvt Ltd.,

and is presented by Sonali Narang.

Rashmika will next be seen in *Pushpa: The Rise* and was last seen in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Animal. In her kitty, she also has Rainbow, The Girlfriend and



## Russian beauty in Ninnu Vadalanu

Devendra Negi under the banners of UVT Hollywood Studio (USA) and Shreya Productions, this film promises to be a unique blend of terror and intrigue. Starring Lyuba Palm and Khushbu Jain in pivotal roles, alongside noted actors Gangadhar, Vizag Sharif, Vizag Ravi Teja, Ajay and Ananth, *Ninnu Vadalanu* unfolds its haunting tale against the atmospheric backdrops of

writing. In Russia, Palm's credits include producing the documentary Save the Children and contributing as a writer and producer to the TV series Love Over Evil. Now, she steps into the spotlight with Ninnu Vadalanu, marking her debut in Telugu cinema. Commenting on her role and the film, Lyuba Palm shared, "I'm thrilled to be a part of Ninnu Vadalanu. It's a genre that challenges me as an artist and the script immediately resonated with me. Working alongside such a talented team has been a rewarding

The upcoming romantic comedy *Darling*, starring Priyadarshi and Nabha Natesh and **'Frustrated** directed by debutant Aswin Raam, has been Anthem' from generating considerable excitement ahead of its release. Produced by K Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya of PrimeShow Entertainment, the film has already made waves with its Darling out now! entertaining promos and hit songs.

Following the success of its first single, touted as a 'Frustrated Anthem', the makers have now unveiled the film's second single, Raahi Re. Unlike its predecessor, Raahi Re is a delightful melody that serves as the perfect soundtrack for solo adventures. The accompanying visuals feature Nabha Natesh embarking on a solo trip across

various picturesque locations in

India, capturing unforgettable moments along the way. Cinematographer Naresh Ramadurai has beautifully captured the essence of these journeys. Nabha Natesh shines in Raahi Re. complemented by Vivek Sagar's striking composition and the catchy lyrics penned by Kasarla Shyam. Kapil Kapilan's vocals add a magical touch to the song, ensuring it resonates instantly with listeners, much like the first single. The film *Darling* also features Brahmanandam, Vishnu, Krishna Tej, Ananya Nagalla and several other talented actors in pivotal roles. A team of skilled technicians, including dialogue writer Hemanth, editor Pradeep E Ragav of Love Today and production designer Gandhi, contributes to the film's visual and narrative appeal. Scheduled for a worldwide release on July 19, *Darling* promises to be a refreshing take on romance, infused with numor and memorable musical moments. s anticipation builds, fans

of Priyadarshi and Nabha Natesh eagerly await the film's release, anticipating a blend of laughter. romance, and heartwarming melodies.

## B race yourselves for a spine-chilling cinematic experience as *Ninnu Vadalanu*, a gripping horror suspense thriller, prepares to captivate audiences. Directed by Sheraz Mehdi and produced by Ashok Khullar, with co-production by

Goa and Hyderabad. Lyuba Palm, hailing from Russia, brings a wealth of international experience to the Telugu film industry. A multifaceted talent, she has not only graced screens but also delved into producing and

## Rakul Preet Singh is eager to return to her Telugu roots!

Rakul Preet Singh, who made her Hindi film debut with *Yaariyan*, is currently at the peak of her career, with several projects lined up for release. But according to a recent post, Singh might make her comeback with a Telugu film down south. The actress dropped a hint through an Instagram story that has got her fans excited about her upcoming venture. In a recent AMA session, Rakul revealed she is reading Telugu scripts. Talking about the same, she said, "I really miss all my Telugu fans, and I really want to do a Telugu film soon. I'm just waiting for the right script—maybe something that's exciting because I feel the part of me, which is the 'Telugu Ammai', is really missing Telugu now, so hopefully soon. I'm reading a couple of

things, hopefully soon." akul Preet Singh worked in the Telugu film *Venkatadri Express* and the Tamil film *Thadaiyara* Thaakka, as well as other Tamil and Telugu films like Loukyam, Pandaga Chesko, Sarrainodu, Dhruva and Nannaku Prematho. Rakul Preet Singh is a renowned name in the South Indian film industry and has marked her presence with her humongous success in films and her remarkable acting.

With a strong lineage in South Indian cinema, one of Bollywood's most admired and prettiest actresses, Rakul Preet Singh, has an incredible slate of films, including the highly anticipated *Indian 2*, which stars the legendary Kamal Haasan. Rakul's *De* De Pyaar De 2 has been a major project because of the original installment's success. Her next film, Mere Husband Ki Biwi, is slated to release after De De Pyaar De 2 and Indian 2. It looks like a delightful ride. She also has Ameeri scheduled, which is expected to be an intense drama.

#### RAM CHARAN, VIKRAM REDDY'S THE INDIA **HOUSE LAUNCHED**

lobal star Ram Charan, in collaboration with Vikram Reddy of Global star Ham Ullaran, in conaboration with visible Agarwal Arts, known for their groundbreaking films, has embarked on a new cinematic journey with the prestigious pan India project, The India House. Directed by Ram Vamsi Krishna, the film promises to be a captivating period drama set in 1905, exploring themes of love and revolution. The grand pooja ceremony for *The India House* took place amidst the majestic surroundings of Virupaksha Temple in Hampi (Kishkinda), marking a fitting beginning for this ambitious venture. The event was attended by the core team, including the lead actor Nikhil Siddharth, lead actress Saiee Manjrekar and veteran actor Anupam Kher, who plays a pivotal role in the film.

Ram Charan, expressing his enthusiasm for the project, stated, "I am excited to venture into film production with *The India House*. We aim to deliver cinema that not only entertains but also leaves a lasting impact on audiences worldwide." Vikram Reddy of UV Creations added, "We are proud to partner with Ram Charan in this endeavour to create path-breaking cinema. The India House is a testament to our commitment to storytelling that transcends boundaries." Abhishek Agarwal,

known for his visionary productions, commented, "We are thrilled to collaborate on *The India House*, a film that promises to captivate audiences with its rich narrative and stellar cast."

Director Ram Vamsi Krishna, known for his creative prowess, shared insights about the film, saying, "It's an honor to helm *The India House*, a project that blends historical intrigue with emotional depth. We have assembled a talented team to bring this epic story to life." The film's regular shoot commences on Wednesday (today), promising to showcase the craftsmanship of seasoned technicians. Cameron Bryson will handle cinematography, capturing the essence of the period setting, while Vishal Abani takes charge as the production designer, ensuring authenticity in every frame.



fter wreaking havoc with the recently released Aranmanai 4, Raashii A fter wreaking havoc with the recently released frames. Alongside Vikrant Khanna is gearing up to feature in Talakhon Mein Ek, alongside Vikrant Massey. Khanna, who has never shied away from experimenting with roles and films, opened up about Talakhon Me Ek and said, "It is one of the toughest films I have done." Raashii further shared that she has given her "heart and soul" to the film. The young Pan-Indian actress also assured that the audience would get to see her in a "different" role.

Currently, the versatile powerhouse is basking in the success of her horror comedy Aranmanai 4. The film not only ended the dry spell at the Tamil box office but also established Raashii as the golden girl of the industry, who scored her

third consecutive hit with the Sundar C directorial. Beyond *Talakhon Mein Ek*, Raashii will be seen sharing the screen space with Vikrant Massey yet again in their upcoming collaboration The Sabarmati Report, which is slated for a theatrical release on August 2. Beyond a lineup of these interesting projects, the actress also has a Telugu film Telusu Kada in the pipeline.



## **Revisiting tragic** history of Bengal with *Maa Kaali*

n a bold cinematic endeavour, People Media Factory and director Vijay Yelakanti, known for their upcoming project Karthikeya 2, are set to illuminate a significant yet often overlooked chapter of Indian history with Maa Kaali. This compelling narrative delves into the harrowing events of the 1946 Calcutta Killings, which marked a pivotal moment leading to India's partition. The film stars Raima Sen and Abhishek Singh, a former IAS officer turned actor, in prominent roles. Unveiling the poster for Maa Kaali, the makers have announced the teaser launch scheduled for July 4. This true pan-India film aims to shed light on the tragic events of Direct Action Day and the Naokhali massacres, events that left an indelible mark on Bengal's history. **Director Vijay** 

expressed, "Maa Kaali is a tribute to the lives lost during the ruthless massacre driven by power and ambition. The events of August 16, 1946, known as 'The Week of Long Knives', continue to resonate as an untold story of human suffering. Through this film, we strive to give voice to the victims and bring their stories to the forefront.' The film, shot in Hindi and set for release in Bengali and Telugu as well, promises to explore the deep-rooted scars left by communal violence in

Bengal. Producer TG Vishwa Prasad and co-producer Vivek Kuchibhotla are confident that *Maa Kaali* will spark important socio-political conversations across the nation. Raima Sen, making a powerful comeback to the big screen plays a pivotal role in Maa Kaali, embodying the spirit of resilience and remembrance amidst historical turmoil. As the teaser launch approaches anticipation mounts for Maa Kaali, a film poised to uncover a chapter of history that demands attention and reflection

## **Suhas' next with** Dil Raju titled

 $D^{\,\text{il}}$  Raju Productions, renowned for their recent blockbuster Balagam, is gearing up for another promising venture titled Janaka Aithe Ganaka, featuring the talented actor Suhas in the lead role. This marks the prestigious production house's fourth production, following

their successful launch in December last year Directed by Sandeep Reddy Bandla, known for his work on Salaar and presented by Shirish, the film has generated buzz with its intriguing premise and impressive cast. Sankeertana Vipin. known for her elegance, stars opposite Suhas as the female lead, while



Harshith Reddy and Hanshitha Reddy are handling the project's production. The announcement of the film's title, Janaka Aithe Ganaka, was accompanied by the release of its captivating first look, which hints at a blend of family entertainment and courtroom drama. In the poster, Suhas is depicted holding a slate adorned with the film's title, his expression laden with intrigue. The imagery also features symbols evoking justice, a children's school bag, a school bus and a teddy bear, hinting at the film's thematic depth. Expressing his excitement about the project. Suhas commented "I'm thrilled to be a part of Janaka Aithe Ganaka. It's a departure from my recent roles and promises to offer something unique to audiences. I'm eager for viewers to experience this engaging tale. The film's teaser, scheduled for release on July 4, is expected to further tantalise audiences with glimpses of its narrative richness and Suhas's compelling portrayal. With cinematography by Sai Sriram and music composed by Vijay Bulganin, known for his work in Baby, the technical aspects of the film are poised to elevate its storytelling.

## Lot of time for me to sleep, for now I want to live every second of this win: Rohit

Rohit Sharma held the T20 World Cup trophy like a new-born baby as he walked towards the beach here for the triumphant captain's post-tournament photo shoot, a serene smile refusing to leave his face and the feeling of being a world champion yet to fully sink in. He couldn't be faulted for being a bit dazed. After all, a iinx that lasted over a decade had been broken.

"It's surreal. It feels like a dream. It feels like it hasn't happened. Although it has happened but it feels like it hasn't happened," Rohit laughed trying to process his thoughts after 24 hours while talking to BCCI.TV. coastal

**PTI■ BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)** Bridgetown is battling a hurricane. The same could also be said about the Indian captain, only that his is a battle to control a gamut of emotions threatening to overwhelm him like a huge sea wave every now and then. "Last night we had a good time, we had a blast with the teammates till the early morning," he couldn't stop grinning before becoming a touch emotional. I would say I didn't sleep properly but that's absolutely fine by me. There is a lot of time for me to go back and sleep.

"I want to live this moment, each minute, each second that is passing by and will try to make the most of it," he said describing how it felt to lead an Indian team to its first ICC title in 11 years.



"It's been a great moment the 22-yard strip at right from the time the game got over to till now. That's the tiny speck of soil in his emotions and feelings you have," said the skipper.

His marauding run at the top, especially in the knockouts, fetched Rohit a place in the team of the tournament but all he can think about for now is a sense of joyous relief. "We have dreamt about this

for such a long period of time, we worked hard as a unit for such a long period of time and to see this (the trophy) with us, it feels quite relieved as well.

"When you have worked hard for something and eventually at the end you get it, feels really, really nice," the skipper reiterated.

People were amazed and amused to see Rohit walk to

tiny speck of soil in his mouth, just like Novak Djokovic does after winning the Wimbledon.

The 37-year-old said it was a spur of the moment act.
"Nothing was scripted. It was

all coming instinctively. I was feeling the moment," Rohit said about his ode to the turf that gave him the best moment of his life.

"When I went to the pitch, that pitch gave us this trophy. I will remember that ground forever in my life and that pitch as well. I wanted to have a piece of it with me.

"Those moments are very special, the place where all our dreams came true and I wanted something of it," he

## Thanks for that call Ro: Dravid reveals how Rohit stopped him from quitting after ODI WC heartbreak

PTI BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

Had he not received a phone call from India skipper Rohit Sharma, requesting him to continue after the ODI World Cup final defeat, Rahul Dravid wouldn't have been a part of history, the outgoing head coach revealed in his farewell speech to the team after it was crowned T20 world champion here. Dravid's tenure had ended

with the ODI World Cup after India lost to Australia in the final despite a 10-match winning run, but the coaching staff got an extension till the end of the T20 World Cup that concluded on Saturday last.

While Dravid has not reapplied for the role after India's second T20 World Cup win, he mentioned Rohit's role in urging him to continue as the coach during his speech in the Kensington Oval dressing room after the team's win seven-run win in the final against South Africa on Saturday.

"Ro, thank you very much for making that call to me November and asking to continue," Dravid said in a video shared by BCCI on



Tuesday.

"I think it's been such a privilege and a pleasure to work with each and everyone of you, but Ro, also thanks for the time...There is a lot of time we have to chat, we have to discuss, we have to agree, we have to disagree at times, but thank you so very much," Dravid said as Rohit laughed. Dravid praised the players for putting up collectively solid performances through the tournament and urged them to celebrate the achievement as

much as they would like.

"All of vou will remember these moments. We always say, it is not about the runs, it is not about the wickets, you never remember your career but you remember moments like this. so let's really enjoy," Dravid

"I could not be more proud of you guys, to come back the way you did, the way you fought, the way we worked as a team...The resilience. There has been some disappointment over the years where we have

come close, we have never been able to cross the line," he

With BCCI secretary Jay Shah in attendance, Dravid also spoke about the sacrifices that people close to each and every player made in order to allow them the spotlight they are now enjoying.

"So many sacrifices that each and everyone of you make, to see your families here today enjoying it, so many of your families back home, just think about all the sacrifices, each

and everyone of them has made since the time you were kids, for you to be here in the dressing room," Dravid said. "Today, your parents, your wives, your children, your brother, your coaches, so many people have made so many sacrifices and worked so hard with you for you to enjoy this memory in this moment... Really, really proud to have being a part of this memory with you guys," he continued. Usually articulate, Dravid admitted he was falling short of words but praised the team for their respect towards the

outgoing coaching staff. "I'm not usually short of words but on a day like today, for me to be part of this, I could not be more grateful for the respect, for the kindness, for the effort that each and everyone of you are shown to me, to my coaching staff to my support staff," he conceded.

Dravid also praised the BCCI officials and others for their work behind the scenes.

Behind a great team, there is also a successful organisation and we have to acknowledge the work of BCCI and people behind the scenes for the work they have done," he added.

## Gutted, tough pill to swallow: Miller on T20 World Cup final loss

A "gutted" David Miller said the T20 World Cup final loss to India was a tough blow, but the swashbuckling batter expressed confidence that despite enduring pain the resilient South African team would continue pushing boundaries.

Shedding the unwanted tag of perennial "chokers", the Proteas had marched into their maiden T20 World Cup final unbeaten. However, they faltered in the

summit clash, losing to India by seven runs.

"Í am gutted!! Really tough pill to swalllow after what transpired 2 days ago. Words don't explain how I am feeling. One thing I do know is how proud I am of this unit," Miller posted an Instagram story late on Monday.

Before the final, the Proteas enjoyed a sensational run, ekeing out wins in the pressure become situations to favourites for the title.

"This journey was an incredible one, with highs and lows throughout the entire month. We have endured pain, but I know this team has the



resilience and will keep raising the bar," he wrote. South Africa had looked on

course to a memorable win needing 30 runs in as many balls. However, Indian bowlers, led by Jasprit Bumrah, fashioned a remarkable turnaround picking the key wicket of Heinrich Klaasen followed by

Marco Jansen.

With Miller at the crease and 16 needed off the last over, the Proteas still remained hopeful. But a spectacular catch by Suryakumar Yadav at the boundary ended Miller's innings while deflating hopes of a South African win. It was the closest South Africa had come to winning a title,

having made seven semifinal

exits in ICC global events.

## Praggnanandhaa to take on Bogdan-Daniel; Gukesh up against Vachier-Lagrave

Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa will look to sharpen his game after winning squandering opportunities when he takes on last-placed Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania in the sixth round of the Superbet Classic Chess tournament.

While Praggnanandhaa has not been at his best in better positions, World Championship challenger D Gukesh has survived pretty well despite living dangerously in a couple of games in the tournament, which is a part of the Grand chess tour.

With five rounds gone and just four more to come, the two Indians with three points apiece, are within striking distance of the tournament leader Fabiano Caruana of United States who is on 3.5 points. Alireza Firouzia and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of Russian France, Nepomniachtchi

American Wesley So share the fourth spot on 2.5 points each, a half point ahead of Dutchman Anish Giri and Uzbek Nodirbek Abdusattorov. Bogdan-Daniel is at the bottom

of the table with 1.5 points.
Gukesh will have black pieces against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and it should not be a tall order for the Indian who has been trying various set ups against the King pawn opening. Vachier-Lagrave, on the other hand, will be hoping for a

complicated struggle but the fact that he is not very adventurous when it comes to opening choices makes his task a little more difficult. Praggnanandhaa will not only be favourite but will also be under pressure. In the previous round, the Indian

missed out straightforward winning manoeuvre against Wesley So while earlier on, Gukesh survived what was a technically difficult but theoretically lost endgame against him.

on

With the white pieces to back him the ball will be in Praggnanandhaa's court to deliver the goods.

Bogdan-Daniel is still hunting for an elusive victory with just three draws thus far and the Romanian knows it will not be easy to cross a tiger on the prowl. Caruana has had some good

games and will like to continue in similar fashion. The next round is against Ian Nepomniachtchi who has drawn all his games so far in round the tournament.

Pairings round 6: Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 2.5) vs D Gukesh (Ind, 3); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 2) vs Anish Giri (Ned, 2); Alireza

Firouzja (Fra, 2.5) vs Wesley So (Usa, 2.5) R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 3) vs Deac Bogdan Daniel (Rou, 1.5); Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 3.5) vs Ian Nepomniachtchi (FID, 2.5).

### axman-coached India team leave for Zimbabwe, Gill to link up from US

PTI MUMBAI

young-Indian cricket team under A National Cricket Academy head VVS Laxman left for Zimbabwe to play a fivematch T20I series starting in Harare on July

6. The team will be led by Shubman Gill while the likes of youngsters Riyan Parag and Abhishek Sharma have been rewarded for their exploits in the last IPL with maiden

Skipper Gill, the reserve opener for the T20 World Cup was on a break and will link up with the Zimbabwe-bound squad directly in Harare from the US.

The BCCI took to X to post pictures of those who boarded the flight, which includes Sharma, Parag, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Avesh Khan, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar, Tushar Deshpande and NCA head Laxman.

Five members of the squad -- Shivam Dube, Sanju Samson, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh and Khaleel Ahmed were either part



of the T20 World Cup-winning team or were travelling reserves are stranded in Barbados due to hurricane Beryl. They will ioin the squad later.

With Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja retiring form the shortest format of the game, the T20 series against Zimbabwe will provide the youngsters with the perfect opportunity to cement their

places in the team for future series. India's squad for T20I series against Zimbabwe: Shubman Gill (Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Abhishek Sharma, Rinku Singh, Saniu Samson (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), Shivam Dube, Riyan Parag, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Tushar Deshpande.



## Indians in County: Sudharsan scores 14 for Surrey, Shaw manages 31 and 37 for Northants

PTI LONDON

Young left-hand batter Sai Sudharsan and the seasoned Prithvi Shaw failed to get big scores in their ongoing English county games for Surrey and Northamptonshire respectively. Both are into their second season with their county sides. In a home game at the Oval against Essex, Surrey scored 262 in their first essay with Sudharsan, who normally bats at the top of the order for Tamil Nadu, coming in at No. 6 and managing 14 off 47 balls with two boundaries.

He was dismissed by left-arm medium pacer Paul Walter with South former international Simon Harmer taking the catch.

However, Sudharsan is yet to bat in the second essay where Surrey are currently 44 for 3 with a lead of 126 runs after taking an 82-run first innings lead bowling the visitors out for



In another game between Northamptonshire and Sussex, flamboyant right-hander Shaw struck 13 boundaries across two innings -- seven in a 22-ball-31 and another six in 37 off 41 balls, but failed to get a big score. In the first innings, Sussex's

second change medium pacer in their first innings. Fynn Hudson-Prentice got his In the second wicket, caught by Jack Carson. Shaw's score was the second highest in his team's dismal first innings performance of 97 all out in little over 20 overs. This was after Sussex had scored 143

Northamptonshire were 137 for four in a chase of 284 with Shaw contributing another quick-fire 37 before left-arm seamer Sean Hunt breached through his

## Error-prone Nagal makes first round exit from Wimbledon

India's top singles player Sumit Nagal committed 44 unforced errors as he made a first round exit from the Wimbledon, going down in four sets to Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia

Making his maiden appearance in the men's singles main draw, Nagal toiled hard for two hours 38 minutes and even managed to take a set off world number Kecmanovic before

conceding a 2-6 6-3 3-6 4-6 defeat on Monday night.
The 26-year-old, ranked 72 did show flashes of brilliance as hit 47 winners but in general, struggled on the grass court. In the end, he could manage only

104 points Kecmanovic's 122. The 53rd ranked Serbian fired six aces and only conceded two double faults.

This was Kecmanovic's second win in as many matches against Nagal, having beaten the Indian at the ATP 250 event in Cologne, Germany, four years

The Paris Olympics bound Nagal is the first Indian in five years to play a Wimbledon men's singles main draw match. Prajnesh Gunneswaran had made a first-round exit in 2019. Nagal is having a dream season as he had also qualified for the main draw of the Australian Open earlier this year. He had stunned 31st-seeded Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan in the opening round to become the first Indian male tennis player to beat a seeded player in 35 years in a Slam.

He had also qualified for the main draw of the Indian Wells Masters and Monte-Carlo Masters, the ATP 1000 events. The Indian has won two Challenger events this season the Heilbronn Challenger and the Chennai Open ATP Challenger. He also competed at the French Open, losing in the opening round.