

Who will recognize BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao if he crosses the state? Why did he not contest outside the state if he wanted to become Prime Minister of the nation? Event management is taking place in KCR's farmhouse and as part of it the BRS leaders are shifting the party activists to the farmhouse.



-- Adi Srinivas, Government Whip P4

www.dailypioneer.com

Published From: HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA

**Lalu claims Modi government could fall next month**

**'HYD'S HISTORY WHISPERS THROUGH ITS HAPPENING BAZAARS & MONUMENTS'**

**'I feel lucky to perform action sequence in my debut Tiragabadara SAAMI'**

**DON'T MISS...**

**AI-powered pharma hub in TG...**

An Artificial Intelligence-powered, Hyderabad-headquartered Pulsus Group is set to create 50,000 jobs at an AI-based Pharma Healthcare IT Hub in Ameerpet, Sangareddy, Telangana, at an estimated cost of Rs 300 crore. This project will significantly impact the healthcare and IT landscape, generating economic benefits. Dr Srinubabu Gedela, CEO and Managing Director of Pulsus Group, revealed the project details at the 73rd IPC Congress, an annual event for pharmacists in Hyderabad on Friday. According to the Pulsus Group...

-PAGE: 3

**Common environmental ...**

Toxins commonly present in the environment, such as nicotine and metals, have been linked with depressive symptoms like feeling hopeless or taking little interest in daily activities, according to a study conducted on US adults. Researchers found that inflammation brought about by these environmental toxins could be one of the possible underlying reasons. The team of researchers, including those from Peking University, China, analysed toxin levels in blood and urine samples of over 3,400 adults...

-PAGE: 5

**Kerala set to become leading ...**

The country's first international Gen AI conclave will be held in Kerala next week and it will give an impetus to the state's efforts to become India's leading hub in the field of artificial intelligence (AI). Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Friday. In a Facebook post, Vijayan said over a thousand delegates will take part in the two-day conclave being organised at Kochi by global technology company IBM in collaboration with the state government on July 11 and 12. In conjunction with the conclave, IBM is ...

-PAGE: 8

**New look India start their...**

A new-look Indian T20 team would embark on a journey of self-discovery without their constant talismans, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, hoping to unearth their mainstays for the future in a five-match series against Zimbabwe starting here on Saturday. Even as the euphoria of T20 World Cup triumph sweeps through the length and breadth of India, Shubman Gill, who was a reserve in that squad, will hit a refresh button along with a bunch of IPL performers. All the fresh faces are expected to make their international debut...

-SPORTS

**SHARING OF COMMON ASSETS, 30 INSTITUTIONS TOPS AGENDA**

**Crucial Telugu CMs' meet today**

Deputy CMs of both states may also attend

K VENKATESHWARLU  
 HYDERABAD

Telangana officials have made all arrangements for the meeting between the two CMs of the Telugu states. The meeting between Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is scheduled to be held on Saturday at 6 pm at the Praja Bhavan here.

The Deputy Chief Ministers of both states - Pawan Kalyan (Andhra Pradesh) and Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka (Telangana) - may also attend the meeting.

The Chief Ministers are meeting for the first time to discuss pending bifurcation issues and they would mainly discuss the division of firms mentioned in Schedule 9 and 10.

Chandrababu and Revanth could discuss the arrears of power companies of the two states. Telangana has been stating that Andhra Pradesh has to pay Rs 17,828 crore, however, Andhra Pradesh argues that Telangana has to pay Rs 6,742 crore to Andhra Pradesh.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is concentrating on pending issues of the Division Act after assuming office. The New Delhi AP Bhavan issue was resolved in March due to the initiative of Revanth. The problem of distribution of funds of the



Mining Corporation has also been solved recently. It may be recalled that 30 meetings were held between officials of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana till now.

Continued on Page 2

**Ticklish issues to be thrashed out**

Andhra Pradesh demanded payment of Rs 6,742 crore for the power supplied by it to Telangana after bifurcation. But Telangana claimed that AP owes Rs 17,828 crore to it.

If all issues are settled at the state level, TS power utilities have to get around Rs 17,828 crore from AP power utilities, says Telangana. APGENCO has filed a case in the Telangana High Court to direct the state to pay Rs 6,283.68 crore. Telangana filed a counter affidavit explaining that AP power utilities have to pay Rs 17,828 crore to Telangana power utilities. However, APGENCO withdrew the WP in June 2022.

In the first phase the dispute over 53 PSUs regarding which there is no difference of opinion between the two states shall be resolved. Later, 15 PSUs, which are agreeable to Telangana but not to Andhra Pradesh shall be resolved. In the final phase, 22 institutions which are not agreeable to Telangana shall be taken up.

2

**TG keen on part of coastal corridor access of Andhra**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will meet Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday to discuss several key issues concerning Telangana. A significant topic on the agenda is securing a part of the extensive 1000-km coastal corridor of Andhra Pradesh for Telangana, which currently lacks seaports. Telangana also seeks a share in the ports of Krishnapatnam, Machilipatnam and Gangavaram in Andhra Pradesh.

Another important issue to be discussed is the reintegration of seven mandals back into Telangana, which were merged into Andhra Pradesh through an ordinance post-state formation.

Continued on Page 2

I want to protect interests of both states: CBN P2



**'Revise land prices as per market rates'**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has directed officials to revise land rates as per current market values without burdening the middle class.

He conducted an extensive review of the Stamps and Registrations Department at his office in the Secretariat on Friday. Revenue Chief Secretary Naveen Mittal, Stamps and Registrations IG Jyothi Buddha Prakash and others attended the meeting.

The Minister announced that in view of the significant increase in land prices in Hyderabad and across the state it has been decided to revise land rates.

He suggested that the revision of land rates should be done scientifically to avoid discrepancies between open market values and

market prices. Areas with significant differences should be studied in depth to determine the feasible percentage of increase. In some regions, where the government rate is higher than the market value it should be reduced. He emphasized that the BRS government's arbitrary increase in land rates should not be repeated.

The Minister asked officials to prepare an action plan to completely revamp the Stamps and Registrations Department, plugging legal loopholes.

He said that sub-registrar offices across the state would be permanently constructed with state-of-the-art facilities to eliminate the need for people to wait for hours under trees for registrations.

He directed officials to identify land required for this purpose and to consider the time-slot aspect for registrations.

**Pharma clusters between ORR and RRR on anvil**



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu said that plans are underway to establish pharma clusters between the ORR and RRR.

The government has assured adequate power and water supply for industries with new policies on green energy and surplus electricity in the pipeline.

He said that Telangana exports medicines worth Rs 50,000 crore annually. Bhatti expressed optimism about Telangana's potential to export medicines worth Rs one lakh crore in the next five years.

Speaking at the 73rd Pharma Congress held at HITEX on Friday, he said that now 35% of the country's pharma output comes from Telangana. He praised pharmacists as the backbone of the healthcare system emphasizing their crucial role in patient safety.

Bhatti expressed optimism about Telangana's potential to export medicines worth Rs one lakh crore in the next five years.

He assured that the state government fully supports the pharma industry, making Hyderabad famous not just for its biryani but also for its bio-pharma products.

The Deputy CM stated that providing accessible healthcare can help build a stronger world, referring to Hyderabad as the 'Bowl of Pharma'.

He noted Telangana's transition from exporting spices to supplying life-saving medicines. Hyderabad has become a hub for numerous pharma innovations.

2

**'TG Legislative Council facing threat'**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The very existence of the Telangana Legislative Council is in danger, warned former MP Boyinapalli Vinod Kumar.

He expressed concern over the possibility of its dissolution, emphasizing that according to Articles 169, 170 and 171, the Legislative Council must have no fewer than 40 seats with Council members constituting one-third of the Legislative Assembly seats. He said that this is a constitutional crisis. "Currently, the existence of the Legislative Council is facing a threat. The removal of the



Anglo-Indian MLA has reduced Assembly members to 119. Consequently, the Council's membership has fallen to 39 which endangers its survival according to Constitutional provisions," he said. Vinod said that to maintain the

Telangana Council, the number of Assembly seats must increase. He urged the Chief Ministers of AP and TG to try to increase the number of Assembly seats as specified in Section 26 of the AP Reorganization Act. He stressed that Telangana Chief Minister Revanth should not compromise the state's assets. Despite several appeals to Prime Minister Modi and the Law Minister, their requests have been ignored.

Vinod criticized Modi for increasing seats in Kashmir while neglecting Telangana's need for a similar increase.

**Sudarshan Reddy appointed as TG Chief Electoral Officer**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

C. Sudarshan Reddy has been appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Telangana. The Central Election Commission issued orders to this effect on Friday. The current CEO, Vikas Raj, has been removed by the Election Commission.

2

**Congress hitting on KCR's lucky number 6**

NAVEENA GHANATE  
 ■ HYDERABAD

The BRS is facing a series of setbacks and the Congress is knowingly or unknowingly hitting on KCR's lucky number 6. In a coincidence, the number six, considered lucky for KCR, appears prominently in these defections and guarantees of the Congress. The BRS was defeated in the Assembly elections mainly due to the six guarantees of the Congress.

On Friday, a meeting at the Telangana Bhavan, chaired by former minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav on GHMC saw 30 corporation council-

lors and five MLAs, while six MLAs were absent.

The absence of the MLAs of Serilingampally, Kukatpally, Amberpet, Uppal, Malkajgiri and Quthbullapur became a point of discussion. So far six BRS MLAs and six MLCs have joined the Congress.

At 1 am on Friday, the six MLCs joined the Congress in the presence of Revanth Reddy, Dande Vital, Bhanuprasad Rao and MS Prabhakar. Boggaparu Dayanand, Egge Mallesh and Basava Raju Saraiya joined on Friday night.

2

**Revanth says govt committed to job calendar**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The state government is determined to fill up all vacancies in government service and will take decisions that will help the unemployed, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said.

He advised the unemployed not to fall prey to the conspiracies of some political parties and assured that the government would take appropriate decisions after considering the legal issues that may arise if rules are changed arbitrarily during examinations.

He expressed concern that if wrong decisions like those made by the BRS government are taken justice would not be served to the unemployed and existing notifications could also be cancelled.

The Chief Minister reminded that according to the promises made to the unemployed, the government has already undertaken recruitment to fill 28,942 vacancies.

2

**BRS student leaders detained during protest at TGPSC**

P2

**Alert as 263 dengue cases in June**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A comparative analysis of seasonal illnesses indicates a marginal improvement in the reported cases of dengue and malaria compared to last year.

The review was done at a meeting held by the Secretary of Health, Medical and Family Welfare on Friday.

A comparative analysis of the reported cases in Telangana between May and June 2023 and 2024 shows a marginal improvement.

In May 2023, there were 188 dengue cases, while May 2024 saw 113 cases, a decrease of 75. In June, the cases decreased from 284 in 2023 to 263 in 2024, a reduction of 21. Malaria cases in May dropped from 29 in 2023 to 21 in 2024, a decrease of 8, while June saw a reduction from 14 cases in 2023 to nine in 2024, a decrease of five cases.



Despite these improvements, the Heads of Departments have been asked to visit high risk districts to prevent epidemics.

Meetings with Additional Collectors (Local Bodies), District Health Officers and Panchayat Secretaries will be convened to review preparedness regarding human resources, drug and medi-

cine availability, daily case reporting, IEC activities and awareness programmes.

The meeting attended by RV Karnan, IAS, the Commissioner of Health & Family Welfare, M. Prashanthi, IAS, the Director of the AYUSH department, Dr B. Ravindra Naik,

2

**Centre, NTA oppose pleas for nixing NEET-UG**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the growing clamour for cancellation of the controversy-ridden NEET-UG, 2024 exam over alleged malpractices, the Centre and the National Testing Agency told the Supreme Court on Friday that scrapping it would be "counterproductive" and "seriously jeopardise" lakhs of honest candidates in the absence of proof of large-scale breach of confidentiality.

The National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses, and the Union Education Ministry have been at the centre of media debates and protests by students and polit-



ical parties over alleged large-scale malpractices ranging from question paper leak to impersonation in the test held on May 5.

The Union Education Ministry and the NTA filed separate affidavits opposing the pleas which have sought scrapping of the exam

plagued by controversy, a re-test and court-monitored probe into entire gamut of issues involved.

In their responses, they said the CBI, the country's premier investigating agency, has taken over the cases registered in different states.

Continued on Page 2

**New dates announced for NEET-PG 2024**

The NEET-PG 2024 entrance examination will be held on August 11 in two shifts, the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences announced on Friday. The exam was earlier scheduled to be held on June 23. "In continuation of NBEMS notice dated 22.06.2024, the conduct of NEET-PG 2024 examination has been rescheduled. It will now be conducted on August 11 in two shifts. The cut-off date for the purpose of eligibility to appear in the NEET-PG 2024 shall continue to be August 15, 2024," the Board said.

Continued on Page 2



# BRS student leaders protest at TGPSC office, detained

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Student wing of Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) on Friday tried to lay siege to Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) over job recruitments, leading to a tense situation and arrests. Raising slogans in support of their demands, scores of workers of BRSV, the student wing of BRS, gathered outside the Commission office in Nampally. They sat on the road, leading to traffic jams in the busy area. Police physically lifted the protesters to waiting police vehicles and whisked them to different police stations. BRSV State president Gellu Srinivas Yadav was among those arrested. BRSV was demanding that the government conduct a mega District

Selection Committee (DSC) exam in October to recruit 25,000 teachers. The student wing of BRS was also demanding an increase in the number of posts under Groups 2 and 3 by 2,000 and 3,000 respectively before conducting the exam. Srinivas said the Group I main exam should be conducted by allowing 100 candidates for one post. He said BRSV would continue to protest till the government accepted their demands. Meanwhile, BRS working president KT Rama Rao has condemned the arrest of students, unemployed and leaders of student groups. He urged the Congress government to accept the demands of the students. He alleged that the govern-



ment was acting in a highhanded manner on students peacefully staging a protest. He demanded that all those arrested be unconditionally released. Among those detained were

Gellu Srinivas Yadav, Thunga Balu, and Swami, who were moved to the Bollaram police station. Former Minister Harish Rao strongly condemned the arrest of unemployed youth and student leaders. He criticized the Congress government's failure to fulfill its promises and their repressive actions against peaceful protests at the TSPSC. Rao questioned the so-called democratic governance that denies the unemployed their right to protest and present their grievances. Former Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy also demanded the release of the arrested youth, condemning the arrests as inhumane. He criticized the Congress government for imposing an undeclared emergency in Telangana.

# Seethakka issues legal notice to KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister Seethakka sent legal notices alleging that the BRS is spreading false information about her on social media, damaging her reputation. Legal notices regarding this have been issued to KCR and the BRS. Seethakka's lawyer stated that on June 24, the BRS's official

social media page posted an item with the headline 'Sand Mafia Kingdom in Indiramma's Rule', targeting the Chief Minister, Seethakka and other ministers. Seethakka said that baseless allegations were hurled at her and demanded a written apology for levelling false charges. The legal notice was issued regarding the following com-



ment. "It is being talked about in media circles that one PA of a lady minister who was caught

during the initial days of the Congress government illegally transporting sand using lorries with Revanth's photo is coming back into the business of illegal sand transportation." As per the notice Seethakka wants KCR to issue an unconditional written apology and to broadcast a video apology acknowledging the defamatory nature of the video.

# KTR, Harish meet MLC Kavitha in Tihar jail

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLAs KTR and Harish Rao visited MLC Kavitha in Tihar jail on Friday. They discussed the bail petition they plan to file in the Supreme Court with a team of legal experts in New Delhi. KTR and Harish said that they intend to file Kavitha's bail

petition in the Supreme Court as soon as the court's vacation ends on Monday. Until the bail petition is filed, they will stay in New Delhi to coordinate matters with the legal team. Kavitha, a BRS MLC, was arrested in connection with the Delhi Excise Policy case and is currently in Tihar Jail.

# Harish asks CM to release funds to gram panchayats

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an open letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Siddipet BRS MLA Harish Rao demanded the immediate release of funds to panchayats and the resolution of problems plaguing the Panchayati Raj Department. He highlighted the initiatives of former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao who

launched the Palle Pragathi (Village Progress) and Pattana Pragathi (Urban Progress) programmes to realise Gandhiji's dream of village self-rule. These initiatives focused on sanitation, cleaning of drains, maintaining cleanliness, avenue plantations, nursery maintenance, weed removal and the construction of crematoriums and markets making villages and towns shine.

However, Harish pointed out that the negligence of the Congress government over the last seven months has severely impacted sanitation in both villages and towns. The government has not released funds to village panchayats, leading to a decline in maintenance. Villages are turning into dumps, with even basic expenses such as diesel for tractors going unpaid.

Some officials are borrowing money to buy diesel. Village panchayat employees and workers who diligently work to ensure sanitation are suffering due to the non-receipt of salaries, he said. This has forced them to stop working, halting garbage collection, tractor operations, street light maintenance, drinking water supply, fogging and the provision of bleaching powder.

# BRS leader Karthik rules out leaving party

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS leader Patolla Karthik Reddy asserted that neither he nor his mother, Sabitha Indra Reddy, would leave the BRS and would continue in the BRS. Addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan here on Friday, he highlighted the unusual political developments in the state, and accused the BJP and the Congress of maintaining an illicit alliance, 'selling off' the state's wealth and auctioning the Singareni coal mines. Karthik criticised the BJP for supporting the Congress's Vidut Commission and targeting KCR.

Centre, NTA oppose pleas... Continued from page 1 "It is also submitted that at the same time, in the absence of any proof of any large-scale breach of confidentiality in a pan-India examination, it would not be rational to scrap the entire examination and the results already declared," the Centre said in its preliminary affidavit filed by a director in the Ministry of Education. "Scrapping the exam in entirety would seriously jeopardise the lakhs of honest candidates who attempted the question paper in 2024," the ministry said. The Centre said in any examination, there were competing rights, and interests of a large number of students who take it without adopting any unfair means must also not be jeopardised.

# Lok Janshakti to beef up its strength in Telangana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Lok Janshakti (Ram Vilas) party's Telangana President, Kommineni Vikas, said that they will strengthen the party all over Telangana. Vikas called upon party leaders to make youth and women join the party to fulfil the ideas of the late Ram Vilas Paswan. The Lok Janshakti (Ram Vilas) Telangana unit celebrated the 78th birth anniversary of Ram Vilas Paswan at its state office on Friday. Speaking on the occasion,

Paswan's son Chirag Paswan is taking the party forward and that the party has a bright future in Telangana. Lok Janshakti (Ram Vilas) General Secretary Ahmed Muneer said that Ram Vilas Paswan created a rare record by winning eight times continuously in LS polls. He said that Ram Vilas's son Chirag Paswan has been following the footsteps of his father and ensured the victory of five party MPs. Chirag is now a Minister in the NDA government and the party would gain strength under his leadership.

# Soon QR Code on electricity bills to make payments easy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Southern Telangana Power Distribution Company (TGPDC) is set to print QR codes on electricity bills. Customers will be able to scan this QR code using their mobile phones to pay their bills. These QR-coded bills will be available to consumers starting next month. Due to new RBI regulations, direct bill payment options through some third-party apps are currently unavailable. However, bill collections have not been impacted significantly. As of 10 am on Friday, nearly 1.20 lakh consumers have paid their bills, according to officials.

# Revanth says...

Continued from page 1

He mentioned that all court cases regarding the long-pending Group 1, Group 2, and Group 3 recruitments have been settled. He said they are trying to conduct competitive exams and fill vacancies according to the job calendar and that the job calendar would be released after discussions in the budget session of the Assembly. He assured that the calendar would be designed to ensure full justice to the unemployed without clashing with the dates of Central exams or other board examinations. He criticized some individuals for playing with the lives of the unemployed for political

gains while the government is making attempts to address their issues. He said that if decisions are made contrary to rules in the notifications due to some conspiracies the recruitment process will be halted harming the unemployed. In view of the concerns of the unemployed, the Chief Minister held a meeting at his residence on Friday. During the nearly three-hour-long meeting, the Chief Minister inquired about the demands and the protests of the unemployed. He immediately spoke to Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari and other officials to discuss the possibilities of addressing the demands raised by the unemployed.

# Sudarshan Reddy...

Continued from page 1

Sudarshan Reddy is currently serving as the Principal Secretary of the General Administration Department (GAD). He was transferred as the MD of HMWSSB immediately after the Revanth government came to power in December but was moved to GAD in June. He belongs to the IAS-2002 batch. He was a sub-collector in Paderu and later served as the Municipal Commissioner of Rajamahendravaram. He was the Joint Collector of East Godavari District and later he was posted as the Deputy

Commissioner in the Commercial Tax Department. He was also the Joint Collector of Ranga Reddy District and later was posted as the Kurnool District Collector from 2012 to 2014. Sudarshan served as Secretary to the Commissioner of the Commercial Tax Department. After that, he went to Central Services and was Director in the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment from March 2015 to September 2017 and later served as Director of the Defence Department from September 2017 to December 2019.

# Congress hitting on KCR's...

Continued from page 1

Already six BRS MLAs have joined the Congress. Among those joining the Congress are individuals closely associated with KCR. Already Danam Nagender (Khairatabad), Tellam Venkatarao (Bhadrachalam), Kadiam Srihari (Station Ghanpur), Pocharam Srinivas Reddy (Bansuvada), Dr Sanjay Kumar (Jagithiala) and Kale Yadava (Chevella) have formally switched allegiances. Other notable figures are also in touch with the Congress. Gadwala MLA Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy is poised to join the campaign despite opposition from ZP chairperson Sarita who voiced her concerns to Revanth Reddy. It is reported that six more BRS MLAs are likely to join the Congress. So far, six MLAs and six MLCs have joined the Congress. The BRS is however trying to use the same six analogy to hit back at the Congress. BRS spokesperson Krishank Manne said.

# Alert as 263 dengue cases...

Continued from page 1

the Director of Public Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Vani, the Director of Medical Education, and Dr Shiva Leela, the Director of IPM highlighted the efforts to control these diseases. The public has been advised to covering all water tanks and containers with well-fitting lids and to empty, scrub and dry water coolers every week before refilling. Properly dispose of unused containers, junk materials, tyres and coconut shells. Change water in flower vases, plant pots, and birdbaths every week. Cover the toilet seat if leaving home for more than a week. Wear full-sleeved clothing and use mosquito repellents to avoid bites. Use bed nets and aerosol vaporizers during the day. Observe Friday as dry day

every week. Seek medical attention at government health facilities for any fever or acute illness. Residents should avoid keeping water containers open, throwing broken utensils, unused bottles, tins, old tyres and other junk in open spaces. Prevent stagnation of water in coolers, buckets, barrels, flower pots, bird baths, freeze trays, coconut shells, etc.

# Pharma clusters...

Continued from page 1

The Telangana government maintains an industry-friendly approach, ensuring no problems for any industry in the state. Appreciating the pharma industry's contribution to healthcare, Bhatti assured 24/7 government support. He likened pharmacists to magicians who use small pills as powerful agents of health. Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu reiterated the Pharma Congress theme's relevance in meeting global

healthcare needs. He emphasized the transformative potential of current technologies, including IT and AI, in tackling healthcare challenges. He also announced the Telangana government's initiative to establish specialized universities aimed at enhancing skills in digital and life sciences. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the Telangana government is committed to expanding super speciality hospitals to serve the underprivileged through the Raji Arogyasri Scheme.

TODAY  
ALMANAC  
Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha  
Tithi: Pratipada: Jul 06 04:27 AM to Jul 07 04:26 AM  
Dwitiya: Jul 07 04:26 AM to Jul 08 04:59 AM  
Nakshatram: Punarvasu: Jul 06 04:06 AM to Jul 07 04:48 AM  
Pushya: Jul 07 04:48 AM to Jul 08 06:02 AM  
Rahukalam: 9:05 AM to 10:43 AM  
Yamagandam: 1:58 PM to 3:36 PM  
Varjyam: 01:12 PM to 02:53 PM  
Gulika: 5:50 AM to 7:28 AM  
Amritakalam: 02:19 AM to 03:58 AM  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:55 AM to 12:46 PM  
HYDERABAD WEATHER  
Forecast: Mostly Cloudy  
Temp: 31°C  
Humidity: 69%  
Sunrise: 5:47 AM  
Sunset: 6:55 PM  
Updated: July 5, 2024 5:00 PM

Crucial... Continued from page 1 It may also be recalled that the Union Home Ministry appointed the Sheela Bedi Committee regarding the assets and liabilities of 91 firms and for the distribution of cash balances mentioned in Schedule 9. There are no objections about 68 firms, however, there is no consensus between the two states about the distribution of 23 firms. There were differences between the two states about 30 entities like the Telugu Academy, the Telugu University and the Ambedkar University out of the 142 ones mentioned in Schedule 10.

# 'I want to protect interests of both states'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu made it clear that his policy is to protect the interests of both the Telugu states. He made it clear that he would discuss with his TG counterpart Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy about the

future of the two Telugu states at the Saturday meeting. Speaking to the media in New Delhi on Saturday, Chandrababu recalled that he had appealed to the Centre to do justice to both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana at the time of the division of United Andhra Pradesh. He said that he would discuss with the

# TG keen on part of...

Continued from page 1

principles, is also on the agenda. The immediate settlement of Rs 24,000 crore dues by Andhra Pradesh electricity companies to Telangana electricity companies, with mutual dues to be settled accordingly, will be another point of discussion. These issues highlight the ongoing negotiations between the two states to resolve matters arising from the bifurcation, aiming to address the critical needs of Telangana. The AP government insisted on the settlement of all Schedule IX institutions at one go. The AP government moved the court, while Telangana wanted to go by the definition of headquarters given by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Telangana contended that the Sheela Bhide committee took a different stand. The APDDCF has filed a case against the TSDDCF which then filed a counter affidavit. The assets and liabilities of the administrative office of the erstwhile APDDCF shall be divided as per Section 53 (1) (b) of the Act in the ratio 58:32:41.68. The guesthouse at Somajiguda in Hyderabad shall be apportioned as per the population ratio. The milk products factory at Lalapet in Hyderabad cannot be considered a common facility as its operations are confined to the territory of Telangana only. APSFC is listed under Schedule IX of APRA-2014. Telangana wanted an allotment of 271.39 acres in Gajularamaram and 6,219 sq. yards of the building located in the Nanakramguda Financial District of Rangareddy district to be allotted based on location in terms of Section 53 of the APRA Act, 2014. However, the expert committee did not take any decision on demerging APSFC. Both states have filed cases in court. The headquarters of APMDC was located in a

# Ticklish issues to be thrashed out

Continued from page 1

rented building in Khairatabad. There is a dispute on the demerger proposal of APMDC for apportionment of the 12,602 sq. ft. building located in the Pancom Business Centre in Amerpet even though it is not the head office. The expert committee has recommended apportionment of the said building as per the request of Telangana between AP and Telangana, although it does not form part of the head office. Telangana has not accepted the recommendations of the expert committee while AP has approved the demerger plan. There are 142 institutions listed under Schedule X of APRA-2014 which are covered by Section 75 of the Act. Of these 142 institutions, 122 institutions are exclusively located in Telangana, 16 are located in Andhra Pradesh and four with service centres located in Telangana will devolve to Telangana and those with service centres located in Andhra Pradesh will devolve to AP. As provisions of the Act do not provide any apportionment of the assets of Schedule X institutions, the AP government has claimed that the assets and liabilities of these institutions should be divided as per the population ratio. It says that pending division the institutions should be managed jointly. The Telangana government has been consistent in its stand that the assets of Schedule X institutions are not dividable and should go to the state where it is located.



# AI-powered pharma hub in TG to create 50,000 jobs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An Artificial Intelligence-powered, Hyderabad-headquartered Pulsus Group is set to create 50,000 jobs at an AI-based Pharma Healthcare IT Hub in Ameenpur, Sangareddy, Telangana, at an estimated cost of Rs 300 crore.

This project will significantly impact the healthcare and IT landscape, generating economic benefits. Dr Srinubabu Gedela, CEO and Managing Director of Pulsus Group, revealed the project details at the 73rd IPC Congress, an annual event for pharmacists in Hyderabad on Friday.

According to the Pulsus Group, the hub is expected to create 10,000 direct jobs and 40,000 indirect jobs through supporting industries and services. Srinubabu emphasised the transformative potential of



CEO and managing director of Pulsus Group Srinubabu Gedela is seen with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka

AI, stating, "This AI-powered hub aligns with the IPC Congress theme 'Role of Indian Pharma: For Global Wellbeing'. By integrating advanced AI, we aim to streamline processes, enhance drug development precision and improve patient outcomes, positioning Telangana in

the forefront of healthcare innovation in India.

Key features of the project include innovative AI applications in all aspects of pharma, from research and development to healthcare delivery, generating substantial employment opportunities for local res-

idents.

The hub which is located within the designated IT/ITeS Zone in Ameenpur, benefits from exceptional infrastructure and connectivity, with support from the Telangana government and the Software Technology Parks of India.

Hyderabad's pharma industry contributes more than 40% of bulk drug production in India and is known as the "Bulk Drug Capital of India" and the "Vaccine Capital of the World." The city's innovation, infrastructure and inclusive growth have paid rich dividends, with Telangana ranking second in manufacturing per the Innovation Index-2022 and leading the country with the highest per-capita income in 2022-23.

This AI-powered hub is set to significantly boost Telangana's economy and healthcare sector.

# People losing their hopes on Prajavani

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY  
■ HYDERABAD

Prajavani, which is known for solving people's grievances, has not met the expectations of the people. A majority of people have lost their hope by raising concerns whether or not their issues were tackled by the Telangana government. In all, 594 applications were received in Prajavani on Friday out of which 141 are revenue-related issues, 86 related to Civil Supplies department, 58 related to the Electricity department and 56 related to housing. Dr Chinna Reddy, Vice-President of the Planning Commission, participated in the programme at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan on Friday.

Srinivas (name changed) from Suryapet said, "I have visited Prajavani four times, but till now my land issue has not been solved. The officials themselves aren't able to figure out where my land documents are. I have constantly been on toes behind the officials for solving the problem but they



Dr Chinna Reddy, Vice-President of the Planning Commission, participated in the programme at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan on Friday

haven't given me the hope that I am expecting. I felt Prajavani let me down in all aspects - financially, emotionally and physically." Vatsalya Begum from Hanmakonda

said, "During my first visit, I went with the hope that my pension and ration card issues will be solved. However, the scheme didn't meet my expectations till now. This is my

third visit to Prajavani. It has been six months; my pension issues were not solved. Apart from pensions issues, the officials haven't even allotted or given Indiramma house and other beneficiary schemes for economically backward classes like us. Even my husband is not getting his pension. I have lost hope on this scheme."

Ramavajhula Sivarama shastri, junior assistant, retired, ICDS Project Office, Khammam, said, "Even though I have sufficient educational qualifications with my degree in Sociology and Hindi in 1986, my govt officials didn't offer me a single promotion ever since I have bagged the job as junior assistant. It's really unfair to witness my colleagues who didn't have any sufficient educational qualifications or skills being given promotions. I even filed a case in the High Court on this issue. Despite the judgment passed by the court in my favour, the officials didn't take any action. I have come here to solve this issue. I hope the officials here solve it."

# Coordination meet on Golconda Bonalu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With the Golconda Bonalu festival round the corner, Hyderabad City Commissioner of Police Kothakota Srinivas Reddy organised a coordination meeting with the officials of all departments - P Vishwa Prasad, Additional CP (Traffic), Anudeep Duri, R&B, and others on Friday.

The Commissioner said that strong security will be arranged during the Bonalu festival. This time, as women from remote villages are likely to attend the festival, all arrangements are being made accordingly.

According to the government orders, the Commissioner of Police and the District Collector and other officials from different departments have examined the arrangements in Golconda fort and surrounding areas. The municipal

department has asked them to hire enough staff to remove the waste that accumulates there during Bonalu. Otherwise, there is a chance of infections due to the rainy season. Similarly, RTC buses have been asked to park only at the places indicated by the traffic police.

The Commissioner also cautioned the public to beware of pick-pockets and chain-snatchers and special surveillance teams along with installation of CCTV cameras will be organised against such people. Apart from that, special SHE Teams will be organised to stop eve-teasers. Arrangements will be made in coordination with the officials of all departments to avoid any inconvenience to the devotees who come on the occasion of Golconda Bonalu and all measures are being taken to prevent any untoward incident.



# Orientation for NSS cadets on combating crimes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Women Safety Wing, Hyderabad, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS), conducted a comprehensive orientation programme on Friday which aimed at enhancing the understanding and skills of NSS cadets in safe and unsafe touch, Identification of victims, how to approach and whom to approach, to identify spy cameras and to ensure safe and secure environment.

The event was attended by Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Kothakota Sreenivasa Reddy, Principal Secretary of Education department Burra Venkatesham and Dara Kavitha, DCP Women Safety and Cyber Crimes, Hyderabad.

The objective of the programme was to equip NSS cadets with crucial knowledge and practical insights through sessions conducted by key units.

Burra Venkatesham emphasised the need for collaboration between the NSS and the police department.

# IRCTC PACKAGE Ayodhya-Kashi: Punya Kshetra Yatra from July 9

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has scheduled another trip of Bharat Gaurav tourist train from Secunderabad viz. Ayodhya - Kashi: Punya kshetra Yatra from July 9.

Having received positive feedback from the passengers, the Ayodhya - Kashi Bharat Gaurav tourist trains will commence its journey from Secunderabad railway station on July 9.

The nine-day punyakshetra yatra will cover Gaya, Varanasi, Ayodhya and Prayagraj. It offers a unique opportunity for rail passengers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to have darshan of newly constructed Ram Janmabhoomi (Ayodhya) and one of the Jyotirlingas (Kashi Vishwanath temple) for spiritual enlightenment or do the pind pradana rituals (paying homage to ancestors) at Gaya. Significantly, the train provides boarding / de-

# Awareness drive in schools on mosquito prevention

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The officials of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) held awareness campaigns on Friday in various schools in the city.

Awareness and health seminars are being held on mosquito prevention for students during prayers on every Friday. In these awareness and health seminars, public representatives, VIPs, GHMC officials and representatives of colony welfare associations are participating to create awareness.

Chief Entomologist Dr Rambabu said that about 30,000 students from 150 schools in 150 divisions in six zones were educated by the officers and staff of the respective divisions on how to prevent mosquito-borne diseases.

In those awareness programmes, stalls were set up for the students to make them aware on how a mosquito turns from egg and larval stage to a mosquito.

# Nayar of UoH to be part of UNESCO project

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Pramod K Nayar, a Senior Professor in the Department of English, School of Humanities, University of Hyderabad (UoH) and UNESCO Chair on Vulnerability Studies, has been invited to join a project, 'Greening with Science, Innovation and Technology' being organised by the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC), in collaboration with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) on Friday.

The duration of this pilot project is 16 weeks from August to November 2024, to provide mentorship and guidance to young people as they navigate various challenges and opportunities. The UN's South-South University Cooperation Network (SUCN) will bring together 11 leading universities, which

will function as a network of regional and sub-regional hubs, and other member universities from four UNESCO Global South regions.

The project aims for four outputs - Greater access to capacity building among Global South youth at higher education level; Youth-led increased technology and innovation transfers across SUCN leading member universities; Promotion of innovative South-South cooperation partnerships and Greater evidence-based policy advocacy in higher education institutions. It lays particular emphasis on the following SDGs: SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Change), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



# Actor Raj Tarun's girlfriend files complaint against him

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telugu cine actor Raj Tarun's girlfriend has filed a complaint against him in Narsingi police station on Friday.

In the complaint, she said that she was in a relationship with Raj Tarun since 2012. "From May 11, 2014, we started living together. We were physically and emotionally connected."

The complainant mentioned that she got to know about Raj Tarun having an illegal affair with the actress Malvi Malhotra. After that they started shooting a film named "Thiragabada Saami". Raj Tarun frequently went to Mumbai to meet her. When she came to Hyderabad they



were staying in a director's house.

The complainant said, "They both started travelling to Goa, Chennai and Puducherry. After I got to know everything, I started questioning them." After that Raj Tarun abused her.

"Her father Susheel Kumar warned me to leave Raj and asked me to take some amount to break the relationship. Malvi's brother Mayank Malhotra is directly threatening me that they will kill me or send me to prison", the complainant said.

Raj Tarun said that they were in a relationship from 2014 to 2017. She used to take drugs and she was maintaining bad friends.

"After that, I did not have any contact with her. She was in a relationship with another person. However, I did not promise to marry her anytime," he added.

Speaking with The Pioneer, Narsingi Inspector said that an FIR has not been registered yet.

# Secunderabad's Shree Jagannath Yatra tomorrow

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Shree Jagannath Swamy Ramgopal Trust will be organising a Rath Yatra for the deities of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra on July 7 at Jagannath temple, General Bazaar, Secunderabad which will be coinciding with the Rath Yatra in Jagannath Puri.

The temple gates will be opened for darshan at 6 am and will be closed by 1 pm. Thereafter, the procession is scheduled to start from the temple at 4:00 pm and after passing through General Bazaar, it will be scheduled at MG.Road from 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm after which it will pass through the Hill Street, Ranigunj and will reach back the temple at around 4:00 am the following morning.



Purshottam Malani, founder trustee, Shree Jagannath Swamy Ramgopal Trust said, "It is with great joy that we announce the annual chariot festival of Lord Jagannath.

We expect that devotees from Secunderabad and Hyderabad will seek the blessings of the Lord in large numbers."

# TGANB nabs two medical students for consuming drugs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The sleuths of Sultan Bazar Police, along with Telangana Anti Narcotics Bureau (TGANB), on credible information, apprehended one ganja peddler and two medical college students on Friday.

Ganja peddler Suresh Singh alias Tinku Singh, who is a habitual NDPS offender, was arrested while he came to Koti to sell ganja to medical students. He along with two doctors, who came to buy the ganja were arrested. Both doctors tested positive for the ganja in the urine test.

TGANB said, "So far, four medical students have been identified and efforts are in progress to identify other medical students who consumed drugs."

TGANB said that the accused

Suresh Singh has been peddling ganja since 2016 and he used to procure it from Dinesh Singh of Dhoolpet and sell it to customers. He continued this for three years. During that period some medical students used to approach him to purchase ganja and through them many more students went to him and purchased ganja. Some of the students who used to come to him are K Manikandan, V Aravind and other students. There are around 10 medical students who used to purchase ganja from the accused.

Police seized 10 sachets of ganja weighing 80 grams and two from Suresh Singh. A case has been registered under the Sections of NDPS Act-1985 at Sultan Bazar police station, Hyderabad.

"In recent times, we have seen

several students getting addicted to drugs, committing crime and involving in other anti-social activities. Several families have become victims of this menace. It is an ardent request from Hyderabad City Police to the students not to fall prey to drugs and request the parents to keep a watch on the activities of their children and feel free to approach police or pass information to police on phone through 8712671111 to curtail such anti-social activities and strive for drug-free city", TGANB said.

The arrests were made under the overall guidance of TGANB director Sandeep Shandilya and overall supervision of TGANB SP Seetharam and the supervision of DSP TGANB K Narsing Rao and staff of TGANB, along with Sultan Bazar Police, Hyderabad.

# ACB nabs GHMC officer while taking Rs 15,000 bribe

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday red-handedly caught GHMC Circle XI assistant engineer L Balwanth Reddy while taking a bribe of Rs 15,000 from a civil contractor.

On Friday, the ACB mentioned that the accused demanded and accepted the bribe from the complainant, a Class V (Civil) contractor Mohammad Muzaffaruddin Quadri to do an official favour, which is to prepare the bill for the completed work and forward the bill to the deputy executive engineer for further process.

"Tainted bribe amount of Rs 15,000 was recovered from the accused officer. Fingers of both the hands of the accused yielded positive results in the chemical test. The AO performed his duty improperly and dishonestly to obtain undue advantage", the press note read.

Therefore, accused officer L Balwanth Reddy was arrested and produced before the ACB court and sent to remand. The case is under investigation.

The ACB requested that in case of demand of bribe by any public servant, the public are requested to contact toll free number 1064 for taking action as per law.



# Govt pledges 'industry-friendly' policies

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Emphasising that the Congress government will be industry-friendly and assuring that existing problems will be resolved without further issues along with unveiling of new industrial policy in next three to four weeks, said Minister for IT, Electronics & Communication, Industry & Commerce, and Legislative Affairs, D Sridhar Babu.

He was speaking at the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI)'s Annual Excellence Awards 2023 on behalf of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. The event took place at KLN Prasad Hall in Red Hills on Friday.

Addressing the gathering

# SKILL UNIVERSITY TO BE SET UP IN TG

# Govt pledges 'industry-friendly' policies



Minister D Sridhar Babu seen addressing the FTCCI excellence awards function

before presenting awards, Sridhar Babu said that the greatest asset is the human capability to propel Telangana's growth, despite having numerous colleges, many youths struggle to secure jobs due to skills gaps. Sridhar emphasised that bridging this gap

requires the establishment of a skill university, which the government is planning soon for industrial leadership. He assured that decisions regarding this initiative will be finalised within a few months, in collaboration with ISB, making of the Telangana State a skill

capital in the world. He also invited all industry leaders to participate by offering their suggestions and opinions.

The IT Minister also said that besides having numerous colleges, world-class universities and favourable weather conditions, the State has attracted significant interest for investment following his visit to the World Economic Forum.

He also stated, the new MSME policy, which will be unique to Telangana, promising growth through incentives and subsidies. He made a commitment to financial discipline, with the support by senior MP Mallu Ravi, ensuring the settlement of pending incentives promised by the previous government.

# Susheel Kumar takes charge as Rotary Club president

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BVR Susheel Kumar, Director of Mines and Geology, took charge as the president of the Rotary Club of Hyderabad North at the 61st installation ceremony on Friday. He has taken a formal oath of office along with his team of officers.

The other office-bearers include Dr K Venkata Murali, secretary; Nareesh Raman, treasurer; A Kameshwara Rao, Girish Joshi, Dr GM Rao, Pavan Kumar, Raghu Chandra, Dr A Ramakrishna as directors, Dr Sridhar Boppana, joint secretary and Dr S Manikandan as club treasurer.

Susheel Kumar said,

"Empowering girl students through bicycles, supporting their health, education through reusable napkins, fee reimbursement, building up confidence through protection techniques, career counselling sessions, construction of dining halls, dormitories, classrooms, etc through CSR activities at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Residential Welfare School at Urkundapeta, Nagar Kurnool district, at an outlay of Rs 50 lakh are some of the focus areas during the year."

Apart from these, many projects under focus areas of Rotary Club will be taken up during the Rotary Year 2024-25.





# Adi Srinivas: Who will recognise KCR beyond TG?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Government Whip Adi Srinivas has sought to know who will recognise former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao beyond Telangana.

Speaking to the media at Congress Legislature Party CLP Media Hall on Friday, Srinivas alleged that 'event management' has been taking place in KCR's farmhouse and as part of it the BRS leaders are shifting the party activists to the farmhouse. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy hit two sixes (6 MLAs and 6 MLCs) and is going to hit another six soon. Who will recognize BRS Chief K Chandrasekhar Rao if he crosses the state? Why did he not contest outside the state if wants to become Prime Minister of the nation? Event management is taking place in KCR's farmhouse and as part of it the BRS leaders are shifting the party activists to the farmhouse - Government Whip Adi Srinivas

He made it clear that the Congress will stay in power not only for five years but also 10 years because of people's governance of the CM Revanth Reddy. He said that the government will implement farm loan waiver scheme and former Minister T Harish Rao has to get ready to resign as MLA. There is no need for unemployed youth to agitate, he said, and added that the government would announce job cal-



Government Whip Adi Srinivas speaking to the media at Congress Legislature Party office in Hyderabad on Friday

endar.

Srinivas alleged that former CM KCR has been telling cock and bull stories by sitting in the farmhouse to BRS activists. KCR is living in illusions and it is better for him to consult a psychologist, Srinivas felt.

"KCR may say in the coming days that he is Chief Minister of the farmhouse if one sees the condition of the him", Srinivas ridiculed saying that the farmers of Telangana defeated KCR as they didn't like the policies of the KCR.

The Government Whip alleged that KCR gave Rs 24,000 crore in the name of Rythu Bandhu to mountains, hills and national highways in the last 10 years. Srinivas made it clear that the Congress government will give only to genuine farmers. He said, "We will waive the farmers' loans.. We will give Rythu Bharosa to the farmers who plow. We are going to give a bonus of Rs.500 to a super fine variety of

paddy".

Srinivas alleged that KCR never consoled a single family of farmers who committed suicide and he concentrated only on power. KCR confined himself to farmhouse when he was in power and even now being an opposition leader.

Srinivas said that six BRS MLCs joined Congress party as they have no faith in KCR. Nobody will be with KCR in the coming days, he said, alleging that KCR was the leader and started party defections in the state.

Srinivas said that KCR started defections by inducting Sircilla Congress MLA Paparao in the year 2000 into the BRS party.

Srinivas said, "Whether BRS working president KT Ramrao plucked the grass when KCR indulged in party defections in Pragathi Bhavan? Rahul Gandhi's family history is sacrifices, however, KTR family history is enjoyment".

# Indian cricketer Mohammed Siraj gets grand welcome in city



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Indian cricketer Mohammed Siraj on Friday received a huge crowd of fans outside the Hyderabad Airport and a victory rally, after winning ICC Men's T20 world cup 2024. The rally has been scheduled between Sarojini Devi eye Hospital and Edigah Maidanam via Mehdiapatnam. Huge billboards were placed in the

rally route.

Speaking to the media Mohammed Siraj said that it is a very unreal feeling, and I can't even express my feelings. India waited for the world cup for the last couple of years. Finally, I am very happy that we won the cup. Thousands of cricket fans participated in a rally from Mehdiapatnam. Huge fans have danced on roads at Mehdiapatnam.

## SOLEMN GATHERING



BJP MP from Nizamabad Arvind Dharmapuri met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Friday and sought his presence at the Shradhdanjali Sabha of his father D Srinivas, former APCC chief, who recently passed away

# Woman gives birth in RTC bus

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A woman gave birth in a Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) bus with the help of a woman conductor and fellow passengers on Friday at Bahadurpura.

The woman was identified as Shweta Ratnam, who boarded the bus in Aramghar, on reaching Bahadurpura. She experienced labour pains. Conductor R Saroja, who noticed it, was alerted and gave birth with the

help of female passengers.

Later, she was shifted to the nearby Government Maternity Hospital for better treatment. Currently, the mother and child are fine.

TGSRTC MD VC Sajjanar congratulated the female passengers including conductor Saroja who gave birth in the bus and showed humanity. He said that it is commendable that the RTC staff are showing the spirit of service while taking the passengers to their destinations safely.

# Cut-off for Rythu Bharosa Scheme 5 acres?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cabinet Sub-Committee on Rythu Bharosa headed by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka discussed the five-acre cut-off for implementing the Rythu Bharosa scheme, it is learnt.

Agriculture officials gave a report to the Cabinet Sub-Committee stating that 92 per cent of farmers are small and marginal and have less than five acres, it is learnt.

It is learnt that Agriculture Department officials submitted the report to the Cabinet Sub-Committee containing the opinions of farmers received through Rythu Vedikas. It is also learnt that the officials submitted details of cultivated land.

The Cabinet Sub-Committee on Rythu Bharosa



Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy Tummala Nageshwara Rao and D Sridhar Babu at Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting on Rythu Bharosa, in Hyderabad on Friday

has decided to meet again on July 16.

The four-man committee comprising Bhatti Vikramarka, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu met on Friday with offi-

cial of the Agriculture Department.

The Cabinet Sub-Committee decided to take the opinion of farmers from July 11 to July 16 by touring all districts. The Committee will conduct three meetings every day with farmers along with district in-charge ministers.

# AGI Greenpac invests Rs 230 cr to strengthen production

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Improving the reusability and recycling of glass packaging, AGI Greenpac is making a strategic investment of Rs 230 crore to modernise its existing furnaces in the State and across India. The CEO of AGI Greenpac, Rajesh Khosla, emphasised that the company is collaborating with IITs and

tech experts to learn innovations and techniques for sustainable improvements.

During a power-point presentation to the media at the AGI Glaspac Plant in Bhongir, Rajesh Khosla explained that the investment will help implement cutting-edge technologies and optimise production. This initiative will enable the company to better serve the

growing demand for high-quality glass packaging solutions.

Rajesh also mentioned that while there are alternative packaging solutions, glass is incomparable due to its health and environmental benefits. He emphasised that the importance of glass will increase in the future, even though it requires more investment.

# NIT Warangal student secures highest package of Rs 88 lakh

PNS ■ WARANGAL

National Institute of Technology (NIT), Warangal, has recorded 82 per cent placement rate for its B.Tech students. This year's recruitment drive saw participation from over 250 private sector companies and 10 public sector companies. Out of 1,483 eligible students, 1,128 received job offers, according to NITW authorities.

Ravi Shah, a B.Tech student in Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE), achieved the highest package of Rs 88 lakh per annum. He hailed from Ludhiana in Punjab. His father is a businessman. He secured the highest package when the Information Technology (IT) sector is facing rough weather, NITW authorities said.



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri Collector Hanumant K Zengde having lunch with hostel students Janampally on Friday

# Collector makes surprise visit to govt hostel

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI

District Collector Hanumant K Zengde has directed the officials to take special care of the students in the welfare hostels.

On Friday, the Collector made a surprise visit to the Janampally residential girls' school in Ramannapet mandal. He enquired about the staff and checked the atten-

dance register. Later, he interacted with the students and enquired about the facilities being provided to them in the hostel.

He checked the washrooms, toilets, toilets and kitchen of the hostel. He warned the hostel staff against laxity.

On the occasion, the District Collector had lunch with the hostel students.

# Two thieves of notorious 'Parthi gang' nabbed in Telangana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two members of the notorious 'Parthi gang', involved in thefts in various states, were nabbed

by a police team on the city outskirts on Friday morning.

The Abdullapurmet police received information about the gang travelling in an auto

and intercepted them, they said.

The police opened fire in the air when the thieves allegedly tried to escape.

# BJP MP DK Aruna felicitated at Shadnagar

PNS ■ RANGA REDDY

Mahabubnagar and Shadnagar BJP leaders on Friday felicitated Mahabubnagar Lok Sabha member DK Aruna.

A review meeting was held on Friday. BJP State working committee members Nelli Srivardhan Reddy, Ande Babaiah, Vishnu Vardhan Reddy and KVLN Raju participated in the meeting.

Following the review meeting, Aruna was felicitated. Key party members, including Depalli Ashok Goud, Narsimha Goud, Bhopala Chari, Murali, Hari Bhushan, Venkatesh Yadav, Chennaih, Boya Kurmaiah, Lashkar Naik,



BJP MP DK Aruna being felicitated in Shadnagar on Friday

Mohan Singh, Laxmikant Reddy, Akula Pradeep, and Sudhakarappa were present at the event.



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu being welcome by Telangana Telugu Desam Party activists at Begumpet airport in Hyderabad on Friday

# TTDP accords grand welcome to AP CM Naidu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TTDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu arrived in Hyderabad for first time on Friday after assuming office as Chief Minister of the Andhra Pradesh state for the fourth time. Naidu reached Begumpet

Airport here after completing the Delhi visit.

TTDP activists accorded a grand welcome to Naidu. The TTDP activists made special arrangements for welcoming him. The TTDP activists felicitated him with huge 'Gajamala' at Begumpet Airport.

Naidu greeted the fans and cadre. A huge rally was taken from Begumpet Airport to his Jubilee Hills residence.

TTDP activists welcomed him with yellow arches and welcome flexis. The rally continued even in the rain. Police made special security arrangements on this occasion.

# Minor girl raped by youth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 17-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a youth here, police said on Friday. The youth (19), a B Tech student, and the minor girl, who was studying Intermediate, got acquainted to each other on an online messaging app.

The youth visited the girl's residence on Thursday evening where he allegedly raped her. A case of rape under BNS and POCSO Act was registered following a complaint by the girl's mother, they added.

# Siddipet ZP witnessed ups and downs throughout

PNS ■ SIDDIPEET

The tenure of the first governing body of Zilla Parishad of Siddipet district came to an end on Thursday. The then BRS government is accused of not able to provide funds to the Zilla Parishad, according to the ZPTCs and MPTCs.

The ZP was dogged by shortage of funds for over five years. Whatever funds were allotted was inadequate, the local representatives said.

During the past five years, the ZP received only Rs 20.35 crore. At this rate, devolution of funds to each ZPTC is about Rs 70 lakh.

The governing body of the ZP assumed office on June 5,

2019. Of the 23 ZPTC posts, BRS won 22 posts while Congress one ZPTC seat. Chinnakoduru ZPTC Veleri Roja Sarma became the first chairperson of the ZP. She assumed the office of the ZP chairperson on July 5, 2019.

During the past five years, 20 general body meetings were held. Gajwel MLA K Chandrasekhar Rao, who was the ex-officio member of the ZP, did not attend the ZP session at least once.

During the current fiscal year, Rs 2 crore is yet to be released under the 15th finance commission funds. The ZP officials have sent the proposals to the Finance Commission. In several man-

dals, civil works of the PHCs have completed and also construction of additional class room. The inauguration of these facilities have been kept under pending. Various funds to be released to the ZP through collection of cess were not devolved on the ZP. It impacted the development works, according to ZPTCs and MPTCs. The ZP did not receive its share of stamp duty, mining cess, entertainment tax and per capita grant issued on the basis of population causing shortage of funds to the local body.

In the absence of release of funds, the elected people's representatives of the ZP did not get their due respect, they

said. They said that release of funds to ZPs has become a problem after creation of small districts, whereas the ZPs in undivided districts did not face any problem at all.

Meanwhile, ZP chairperson RojaSarma described her five-year term as satisfactory. Drinking water facility is provided in government schools 100 per cent. Starting additional class rooms in ZP schools and starting yoga training programme gave her more satisfaction, she said.

Compared to other districts, the development in the district during the past five years inspite of the funds crunch is satisfactory, she added.

## CM'S OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

# Applications open for minority students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Applications are now open for minority students in the state under the Chief Minister's Overseas Scholarship Scheme. The government issued orders in G.O.Ms.No.24, Minorities Welfare (EST.I) Department, dated 19.05.2015, introducing the "Chief Minister's Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Minorities." Under this

scheme, minority students can pursue higher education in Post-Graduation and Ph.D. courses in foreign universities in the USA, UK, Australia, Canada, Singapore, Germany, South Korea, Japan, France, and New Zealand.

According to the Scheme, the selected candidates will be eligible for a scholarship of up to Rs 20 lakh or the actual fees, whichever is less. The applica-

tion procedure details are available at www.telanganaepass.cgg.gov.in.

The general public is informed that the Minorities Welfare Department is seeking applications for scholarships under the Chief Minister's Overseas Scholarship Scheme for the Spring Season 2024 from 08.07.2024 to 07.08.2024.

Interested candidates are informed that the last date for

receiving applications for Overseas Scholarships is 07.08.2024 by 05:00 PM.

All eligible candidates are advised to apply for the Chief Minister's Overseas Scholarship by logging into the above website between 08.07.2024 and 07.08.2024. (For the Students who have taken admissions during the period of 01.01.2024 to 31.07.2024)

# NTPC SRHQ supports leprosy patients through CSR programme

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Southern Region HQ, as part of its CSR initiatives, reached out to one of the most marginalised groups affected by leprosy on Friday.

Under an MOA with Lepra Care Society, an NGO working extensively for leprosy and lymphatic filariasis, the

NTPC SRHQ team distributed self-care kits to nearly 60 patients at a camp organised at IPOD (Integrated Prevention of Disability Camp) in the city.

According to the Lepra Care Society, these self-care kits aim to enhance mobility, empower individuals, and create proactive health management for the affected people.

Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium leprae, affecting the skin, peripheral nerves, mucosal surfaces of the upper respiratory tract, and the eyes. Early intervention is crucial to cure it and prevent disability.

SN Panigrahi, GM (HR) SRHQ, attended the event as the Chief Guest and handed over the kits to the patients.

He also spoke about the role of NTPC and its various community-driven initiatives. The people of the Leprosy Society thanked the management of NTPC for extending help in providing necessary healthcare to the patients.

The Southern Region HQ sponsors a total of 2000 such kits, which will be distributed across six camps in Hyderabad.



INDIA CORNER

## Woman, six-year-old son charred to death; husband seriously injured

A woman and her six-year-old son were burnt to death while her husband was seriously injured in a fire in their house in West Bengal's Birbhum district on Friday, police said. The incident took place in Rajakpur village near Bolpur in the early hours when Rupa Bibi, aged around 30 years, and her son Ayan Sheikh, along with her husband Abdul Alim were sleeping inside their single storey house, he said. Alim, who is under treatment at Burdwan Medical College and Hospital, claimed that he had woken up and spotted someone throwing a blazing stick through an open window of the room they were sleeping in and the flames spread quickly, the officer said. Hearing their screams, the neighbours doused the blaze and brought out the three persons who were trapped inside. While the woman and her son were declared brought dead by doctors at Bolpur hospital, Alim was referred to Bardhaman for better treatment.



## K'taka Governor appeals to younger generation to preserve religion, culture

Karnataka Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot on Friday stressed the importance of non-violence in Jain philosophy and appealed to the younger generation to embrace and preserve religion and culture. He was speaking after releasing a book titled "Jain Purana Part-3 Acharya Charitra" at a function organised by All India Jain Forum here. Gehlot emphasised the significance of religious literature in transmitting religion, culture, rituals and traditions from generation to generation. He highlighted the importance of religion in keeping society organised and its impact on individuals religiously, socially, and spiritually. He also stressed the importance of ahimsa (non-violence) in Jain philosophy and appealed to the younger generation to embrace and preserve religion and culture. The Governor termed the book "Jaina Purana Part-3" as useful for all.



## BJP flays TMC MP Mahua Moitra over her remarks against NCW chief

The BJP on Friday flayed TMC MP Mahua Moitra over her comments against NCW chief Rekha Sharma and demanded that she be "sacked" from her party. This came a day after the TMC, commenting on a video posted on X showing the NCW chairperson's arrival at the site of a stampede that recently took place in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras, wrote, "She is too busy holding up her boss's pajamas". Reacting sharply, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla termed Moitra's comment on the microblogging site as "extremely indecent, objectionable and shameful", and said this is the "true face" of the TMC and the opposition parties' INDIA bloc. "MP Mahua Moitra who justified and remained silent during Sandeshkhali, Chopra Talibani flogging, silent on Swati Malialu now makes a disgusting comment at a women that too the NCW Chief," he charged.



### RAHUL GANDHI ON HATHRAS STAMPEDE

# 'Don't want to make it political but administration made lapses'

PNS ■ HATHRAS/ALIGARH (UP)

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday said there were lapses on the part of the administration in the Hathras stampede incident that killed over 100 people, but added that he did not want to make it a political issue.

Gandhi, after meeting the victims of the stampede in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras on Friday morning, urged Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to release "maximum compensation" for the victims without any delay.

One of the family members who met Gandhi said he assured them that he will raise the issue in Parliament so that such incidents do not happen in future.

Speaking to reporters in Hathras on Friday morning,



Gandhi said, "It is a matter of grief that so many families have suffered, so many people lost their lives."

"I don't want to speak from a political prism, but there have been some lapses on part of the administration. There have been mistakes, which should be identified," the senior Congress leader said.

A total of 121 people, mostly women, died in the stampede at self-styled godman

Baba Bhole's satsang in Hathras on Tuesday.

Gandhi said this is a tough time for the victims and they would need the compensation quickly as they are poor. He urged the UP chief minister to provide "maximum compensation".

"They are poor people and they need it (compensation) now. If you give them after six months, after a year or delay it, then it will not benefit anyone.

Compensation should be given as soon as possible," Gandhi said.

The government has announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh for those killed and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

Gandhi also said that he had a "personal" interaction with the family members of the stampede victims.

"They said that there was a lapse on the part of the administration. They said that the police arrangement that should have been made was not there. But they are grieving and are in shock. I am trying to understand their situation," he said.

Before meeting family members in Hathras, Gandhi made a stop at Aligarh and met the kin of victims from the district. According to police, 17 people from Aligarh and 19 from Hathras were killed in the stampede.

## Sanjay Singh appointed as chairperson of AAP Parliamentary Party

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh has been appointed as the chairperson of the AAP Parliamentary Party.

He has also been chosen as the leader of the party in Rajya Sabha.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has always given me the opportunity to raise my voice from the streets to the Parliament. I will fulfil the responsibility of the party's parliamentary group chairperson with utmost dedication. I am deeply grateful to Arvind Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party," he said in a post on X in Hindi.

Previously, Singh served as the leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the Rajya Sabha during his first term. He was re-elected to the Rajya Sabha and took his oath as a member of the Upper House on March 19 this year.

## Lalu claims Modi government could fall next month

BJP says he is 'hallucinating'

PNS ■ PATNA

RJD president Lalu Prasad on Friday claimed that the Narendra Modi government at the Centre was "weak" and could "fall" as early as within a month.

The remark was promptly dismissed by the BJP, which said the ailing septuagenarian was "hallucinating" and that the recent general elections were a reaffirmation of the people's faith in Modi's leadership.

Prasad made these predictions at an event organised to commemorate 28 years of the formation of his party, which he founded by splitting the Janata Dal.

Prasad, who spoke in a weak voice for less than 10 minutes, with younger son and heir apparent Tejashwi Yadav by his side, said "the Modi government is weak (kamzor). It can



fall any time. It can fall in August."

He urged party workers to be prepared for such a scenario. He highlighted that in the recent Lok Sabha elections, the RJD had increased its seat count and vote share compared to five years ago.

"For quite some time, we have been the single largest party in the Bihar assembly. Unlike many others, we have

never compromised on ideology," said Prasad, a staunch opponent of the BJP, recalling his tenure and achievements, including the arrest of Lal Krishna Advani in 1990.

Prasad made the remark at a time most leaders of the NDA were at a BJP function where the newly inducted Union ministers, from Bihar, were felicitated.

Reacting to Prasad's statements later, Union Minister Nityanand Rai, a former Bihar BJP president, accused the RJD supremo of hallucinating, using a colloquial Hindi phrase "Mungeri Lal ke hasin sapne." "People have voted for Modi, who is now serving a record third term. Under his leadership and guided by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the NDA in Bihar will continue to defeat the opposition, which was disgraced during RJD's rule," Rai said.

## Bill to curb malpractices in competitive exams tabled in Maha

Provides for jail term, fine

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Amid concerns over exam paper leaks, the Maharashtra government on Friday tabled a bill in the state legislative assembly that aims to prevent malpractices in competitive examinations, and provides for a jail term of up to five years to the offenders.

The bill titled Maharashtra Competitive Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, was tabled by minister Shambhuraj Desai in the lower house of the state legislature.

Under the bill, the offences related to the conduct of competitive examinations shall be cognisable, non-bailable and non-compoundable.

According to the bill, those found indulging in unfair means and offences in the conduct of competitive examinations shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not less than three years, which may be extended to five years and with a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh.

In case of default of payment of fine, an additional punishment of imprisonment shall be imposed as per provisions of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023.

The service provider, who is engaged by the competitive examination authorities for the conduct of the exam, will be liable to be punished with a fine up to Rs 1 crore and the proportionate cost of examination shall be recovered from such provider. It shall also be barred from being assigned with any such responsibility of conducting any competitive exam for a period of four years, the bill says.

The salient features of the bill include making provisions to avoid disruption in the conduct of competitive exams, mandates it to specify duties of paper setters, to empower the officers not below the rank of deputy superintendent of police or assistant commissioner of police to investigate the offence.

The bill was tabled in the assembly in the wake of alleged irregularities in the conduct of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Under graduate). The NEET-UG exam was conducted on May 5 and the results were announced on June 4, but they were followed by allegations of question paper leaks in states such as Bihar, besides other irregularities.

## Amid spike in dengue cases, awareness drive launched

PNS ■ MANGALURU (KARNATAKA)

Amid a spike in dengue cases in Karnataka, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Friday launched an awareness campaign in this district headquarters town of Dakshina Kannada to eliminate breeding sites of Aedes mosquito that causes the vector borne disease.

He conducted a house-to-house inspection in parts of the city along with health workers and checked breeding areas of Aedes mosquitoes. Rao, who is also district in-charge Minister, inspected places where Aedes mosquito larvae were produced in water stagnated in coconut shells, tubs and tyres and observed the measures being taken by Health Department staff to destroy them.

He advised the local residents to be vigilant.

Speaking to reporters later, the Minister said the Department has launched a campaign to destroy breeding sites of Aedes mosquitoes every Friday for dengue control and urged the public to extend their cooperation. Health workers are engaged in creating awareness among people. People need to ensure that water does not stagnate in places around their houses.

## Advocates in TN protest against 3 criminal laws, seek withdrawal

PNS ■ CHENNAI

A large number of advocates in Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu staged a protest on Friday against the Sanskritised Hindi names for the three new criminal laws that came into effect across the country from July 1 and demanded their immediate withdrawal.

The AIADMK advocates wing led by its secretary I S Inbadurai staged a demonstration in front of the Madras High Court protesting against the three new criminal laws - the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita - replacing



the Indian Penal Code, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, respectively.

Inbadurai, a former legislator, later told reporters that these laws should immediately be revoked as they would cause confusion.

DMK advocate wing secretary N R Elango, who led a

similar protest here, alleged these three criminal laws were "anti-democratic and anti-constitutional as they are named in Sanskrit which cannot be done as per Article 348."

"Not only that, they are against the interests of the persons accused of the offence and persons who are victims of the offence. So, this cannot be implemented. They have to be abolished and revisited," Elango told reporters.

The Parliament, he said, has to take up the exercise of revisiting these laws. Otherwise the DMK's legal wing and advocate fraternity of Tamil Nadu will not rest, he added.

## More rains likely in northern West Bengal

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The rain-drenched northern West Bengal is likely to receive more showers till July 9, the Met Department said on Friday.

A trough from Rajasthan to the Northeast and an active monsoon over northern West Bengal is likely to bring heavy rainfall in the region, it said.

Heavy to very heavy rain with extremely heavy rain in one or two places is likely in the sub-Himalayan districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Coochbehar till July 9, the Met



Department said in a special bulletin.

The heavy downpour may cause landslides in the hill districts of Darjeeling and Kalimpong and waterlogging of low-lying areas in the plains, it said.

Water levels of rivers such as



## Himachal's Una adjudged best in country in implementing 'Ek Yudh Nashe Ke Virudh' campaign

PNS ■ UNA (HP)

positive results.

Lal said that under the campaign, 26,000 students were engaged through various skill and life development programmes at school and college levels to raise awareness against drug abuse. Additionally, about 247 teachers and school heads received training.

The main objective of the programme was to strengthen the emotional and mental health of students and keep them away from negative thoughts that could lead to drug addiction, he said.

Along with this, 'Har Ghar Dastak Abhiyan' was also conducted in Una to raise awareness against drug abuse in one lakh houses, Lal said. Under this initiative, people were made aware about the ill effects of drugs, he added.

The deputy commissioner thanked Una residents for joining the 'Nasha Mukh Una Abhiyan' and expressed hope that they will continue to cooperate in future campaigns to make the district drug-free.

## Common environmental toxins linked with depressive symptoms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Toxins commonly present in the environment, such as nicotine and metals, have been linked with depressive symptoms like feeling hopeless or taking little interest in daily activities, according to a study conducted on US adults.

Researchers found that inflammation brought about by these environmental toxins could be one of the possible underlying reasons.

The team of researchers, including those from Peking University, China, analysed toxin levels in blood and urine samples of over 3,400 adults. The data was taken from the National Health and Nutrition Examination and Survey (NHANES), which tracks Americans' health and nutrition.



Depression in the participants was assessed using the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), which can establish diagnosis, along with severity of

symptoms. The researchers found that toxins, including heavy metals, nicotine, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) present in paints and varnishes, increased the risk of depressive symptoms in the participants.

Those with detectable levels of MHBMA2, a VOC, were at 74 per cent higher risk of experiencing depression-like symptoms compared to those with undetectable levels, the authors found.

Further, men were found to be more vulnerable to the depressive effects of environmental toxins, compared to women. The authors found that inflammation, measured through white blood cell (WBC) count, was one of the processes driving these links between toxins and depression-like symptoms.

## Unexploded ordnance found in hospital

PNS ■ KARGIL/JAMMU

The Army Friday safely defused an unexploded ordnance found in the District Hospital Kargil during construction activities, officials said.

"Acting promptly on an information received from the Police regarding an unexploded ordnance, found in the District Hospital Kargil during construction activities, the fearless Sappers of Forever in Operations Division in coordination with local authorities shifted the unexploded ordnance to a safe location and destroyed it," Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps said on X.

## Chhattisgarh: Man, two sons among five dead after inhaling suspected toxic gas inside well

PNS ■ JANJIGIR-CHAMPA

Five people, including a man and his two sons, died due to suspected inhalation of poisonous gas inside an unused well in Chhattisgarh's Janjigir-Champa district on Friday, police said.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai expressed grief over the incident that occurred in Kikirda village under the Birra police station area in the morning.

He also announced a financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of each deceased.

A team from the state disaster response force (SDRF) fished out the bodies from the well, they said.

Ramchandra Jaiswal (60),



Ramesh Patel (50), his two sons Rajendra (20) and Jitendra (25), and Tikeswar Chandra (25) have died in the incident, Inspector General of Police (Bilaspur Range) Sanjeev Shukla said.

As per preliminary information, Jaiswal entered the 30-

foot deep well on the premises of his house to retrieve a wooden strip that had fallen in, he said.

When Jaiswal fainted, his wife shouted for help, following which three others from the Patel family in the neighbourhood entered the water body, he said.

When none of them came out, Chandra entered the well, but he also fell unconscious, prompting locals to alert the police, the official said.

Prima facie, it appears that the men died after inhaling some poisonous gas inside the well. However, the exact cause of the deaths will be known after the autopsy, an official from the district administration said.





www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

## Momentous meeting

The meeting of PM Modi with President Putin would solidify India's role as a key player in the emerging global order

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin. It was a meeting for which preparation was underway for a long but was delayed due to the elections. Indian Russian ties are historic but have become more important in the evolving multipolar world order. This will be Modi's first visit to Russia since the onset of the Ukraine war in February 2022. Despite the West's increasing isolation of Russia due to the Ukraine conflict, India has maintained a neutral stance. India has called for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the dispute but has refrained from condemning Russia outright. This approach aligns with India's historical policy of non-alignment and strategic autonomy. India continues to buy Russian oil despite Western sanctions. India and Russia share a long-standing relationship dating back to the Cold War era. The two countries have traditionally enjoyed strong defence and economic ties, with Russia being a major supplier of military hardware to India. This relationship has persisted through various political changes and has been marked by cooperation in multiple areas, including nuclear energy, space exploration, and trade. Indeed, the Ukraine war has had far-reaching implications for global politics, economics, and security. The conflict has disrupted global energy markets and supply chains, contributing to inflationary pressures worldwide. India nonetheless did not snap ties with Russia despite its good relations with the US and the Western pressure. While maintaining its stance of neutrality, it has continued its trade relations with Russia, including increased imports of discounted Russian oil.



In this backdrop the meeting of Modi with Putin is significant. It is expected to cover a broad range of topics, reflecting the multifaceted nature of India-Russia relations. PM Modi may seek to secure long-term energy supplies from Russia to ensure stability in its energy markets. Both leaders may discuss ongoing and future defence projects, including the delivery of military hardware and the joint development of defence technologies. India's defence modernization plans, which include acquiring advanced weaponry and upgrading its military capabilities, are likely to be a focal point of discussion. Modi and Putin are expected to discuss the evolving international order and regional security issues. India's position as a rising global power and its role in regional stability will likely be a major point of discussion. The conversation may also touch upon India's vision for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, where it seeks to counterbalance China's influence. Bilateral trade has seen growth despite sanctions on Russia, and both countries may seek to expand this further by identifying new areas of cooperation. Though it may not augur well for the US which may frown but then for every country its interests are paramount. This balancing act could position India as a crucial player in mediating global conflicts and fostering international cooperation, enhancing its role on the world stage.

PM Modi may seek to secure long-term energy supplies from Russia to ensure stability in its energy markets. Both leaders may discuss ongoing and future defence projects, including the delivery of military hardware and the joint development of defence technologies. India's defence modernization plans, which include acquiring advanced weaponry and upgrading its military capabilities, are likely to be a focal point of discussion. Modi and Putin are expected to discuss the evolving international order and regional security issues. India's position as a rising global power and its role in regional stability will likely be a major point of discussion. The conversation may also touch upon India's vision for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, where it seeks to counterbalance China's influence. Bilateral trade has seen growth despite sanctions on Russia, and both countries may seek to expand this further by identifying new areas of cooperation. Though it may not augur well for the US which may frown but then for every country its interests are paramount. This balancing act could position India as a crucial player in mediating global conflicts and fostering international cooperation, enhancing its role on the world stage.

### PICTALK



Locals move their belongings on a boat as they move to a safer place during floods, in Darrang district PTI

## Give freebies only when essential and unavoidable

While 'freebies' schemes are intended to offer immediate relief to the targeted groups, their effectiveness and necessity remain suspect

Delhi Government on 1st July 2024 buckled down for implementing the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana, which aims to provide aid of Rs 1,000 to Delhi women above 18, barring the taxpayers, government employees and other government pension plan beneficiaries. An amount of Rs 2,000 crore has been set aside for this scheme. Several such schemes or freebies are provided by different state governments across the length and breadth of the country. Many times these freebies of diverse nature are strategically planned to precede elections and are highly poll-driven in a bid for electoral success. These freebies or Rewari culture as mentioned by PM Modi, have been defined by the Reserve Bank of India report as "a public welfare measure that is provided free of charge". They are generally aimed at benefiting the targeted population in the short term and are different from long-term welfare schemes which are categorized as public/merit goods

and are a way of promoting social justice, equity, and human development. Some examples of welfare schemes are the Public Distribution System, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGN-



REGA), the mid-day meal scheme, etc. While freebies are frequently used by political parties to build public trust, it is worthwhile to analyse them as a necessity or waste. Such schemes stimulate economic growth by incentivising and increasing the productive capacity of the workforce along with providing necessities and social welfare to the poor and marginalized sections of society. For example, freebies such as uniforms, textbooks, bicycles or health insurance can improve the literacy, mobility, health, and quality of life of the needy and vulnerable groups. By increasing the

disposable income of the poor, freebies can stimulate demand for goods and services, thereby boosting economic activity. Besides, if rationally devised, they can also reduce income inequality. For example, loan waivers, or cash transfers can empower the weaker and indebted households by giving them access to assets, credit, or income support. However, freebies are like a double-edged sword, with heavy economic and social costs. Foremost, large-scale public expenditure comes with a huge and permanent fiscal burden and macroeconomic distortions. It leads to an immediate increase in demand, disrupting inflation; diverting funds from more productive and essential sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture, industry, etc. leading to resource misallocation. Besides the freebies in the form of free water, electricity, or fuel can lead to the deterioration of the environment, by encouraging their

overuse and wastage of natural resources. Freebies can also lead to negative externality by creating a dependency culture and loss of productivity, reducing the incentive for individuals to seek employment or improve their economic situation through their efforts. Additionally, cash vs. kind grants are always debatable and in general cash benefits generally lead to misuse of funds such as gambling, liquor consumption, adultery, etc. which leads to deviation from the desired benefits. In conclusion, freebies can play a crucial role in addressing immediate social and economic challenges, they must be implemented with careful consideration of their long-term impact and sustainability. A rational policy framework is needed foremost, to define the targeted section and then design the nature and amount of benefit to minimize inappropriate utilization of resources (The author is assistant professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi; views are personal)



KAJLEEN KAUR

## Nuanced shift in parliamentary conduct

As parliamentarians navigate new complexities, the emphasis remains on upholding the dignity, decorum, and effectiveness of legislative processes



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

The 18th Lok Sabha has been ushered in with customary procedural formalities on the 25th of June, 2024. Certain rituals convert the reality of Lok Sabha into the sanctified existence of a group of people meant to lead this country through such vicissitudes as it may face. This is, as it should be, an extraordinary phenomenon. The nation can be legitimately proud of this event. Yet in certain ways, it's different from some of the preceding Lok Sabhas because this time there was no consensus on the identification of a Speaker for the Lok Sabha.

It is not as if in each of the preceding Lok Sabhas, the selection of the speaker was unanimous. There were instances when the Speaker was chosen by ballot and the Lok Sabha still, functioned with a fair degree of cohesiveness. The unique situation in the 18th Lok Sabha included a demand by the opposition to promise it a Deputy Speaker's position. In the preceding Lok Sabhas, it did not seem to matter to many people. An assurance here and now seemed to be the demand. The matter seems to have not been settled. The crux of the situation seems to be putting up the Deputy Speaker's position as a factor in negotiation. In the preceding Lok Sabhas, a consensus was built around these issues, which this time around did not seem to bother many people. This is a settled and yet important proposition about the style of conduct of affairs. An illustration may help to establish the point with better clarity. In one of the preceding Lok Sabhas, at a time when Jawahar Lal Nehru dominated the scene in Indian politics, there was a bye-election schedule from Muzaffarpur Constituency in Bihar. Then socialist parties sought to put up Acharya Narendra Dev as their candidate for election from this constituency. Jawahar Lal Nehru, who was one of the tallest figures in the political scene, seized this situation to make a point. He felt that even if Acharya Narendra Dev was a candidate for the opposition, yet there was



no bitterness that Congress as a party had towards him. Ordinarily, Congress was expected to win this election of the parliamentary seat to the Lok Sabha, yet Jawahar Lal Nehru felt that the Lok Sabha should have more different types of people, and therefore Congress would not contest for the Lok Sabha seat from Muzaffarpur against Narendra Dev. Those times were different. There was a predominantly universal sentiment for merit and goodwill, and Narendra Dev sailed home well on that argument. As stated, with the main opposition and Congress working together for Narendra Dev, it was not difficult for him to get elected to the Lok Sabha. Those times were different, and those times still resonate with many people as to what good traditions in the parliamentary system are all about. It's remarkable that during the arguments for Deputy Speakership, no one in public even recalled this episode from the perspective of parliamentary history. It is indeed a case for a two-tiered split on which way the parliamentary traditions could be heading. One can only hope that over time, the good sense and goodwill of parliamentar-

ians will prevail and matters take their course in a more enlightened way. Be that as it may, one is not quite sure what the adamancy of a prior commitment about the Deputy Speaker's position being given to the opposition has been all about. In any case, the convention has been for the Deputy Speaker's position to be given to the opposition, so ultimately, the contention was only about the timing of the formalization of this kind of prior agreement. It is indeed a small matter, but if the loftiness of parliamentary traditions were to be seen in its due weightage in the conduct of affairs, it is important. Running a parliament cannot and should not be solely about positions, it has also to be about patterns, graces, decency, and above all, dignified conduct in electoral and consensual politics. The people show their class through their representatives, behaviours, and the way arguments are made or not made. This becomes the algorithm for the conduct of public affairs. Every parliament loses at least 20 to 40% of its members who fail to return for various reasons or who

may only serve for one term. Therefore, being a member of parliament, especially the Lok Sabha, carries a huge moral weight that goes beyond simple political votes. Parliamentary traditions are important, and it may well be that the 18th Lok Sabha will have some daring challenges to its method of work, to which both the ruling party and the opposition, led by some old veterans, will need to adapt and take responsibility. This is a simplified version of what happens, as the method of working is nearly as critical as the methods of resolving differences. All said and done, even parliament has to operate within the bandwidth of rules, regulations, bylaws, practices, and more. It is best done through goodwill and grace. Senior members in the Lok Sabha need to conduct affairs with statesmanship and dignity. The Prime Minister has done well to emphasize that for a nation to work well, all must work together, not just the majority. (The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### NEW BUILDING NORMS

Madam — This letter refers to the news titled "Haryana Permits Stilt plus Four-Floor Construction" published on July 3. In Haryana, the government led by Nayab Singh Saini has given approval for the construction of Stilt plus Four floors for homeowners, builders, and property dealers.

This decision has sparked a mixed response from both society and the construction industry. There is a requirement to obtain permission from neighboring plot holders before commencing Stilt plus Four construction. However, many Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) across the state have expressed opposition to the government's decision through various channels. The government's intention seems to be to increase the income of those involved in the construction sector, despite some technical and legal challenges. It is crucial, however, to strike a balance between the structural changes, such as the reconstruction of sewage systems, public facilities, and the concerns of the public.

For residents of builder floors, the use of parking spaces will be significantly improved. Nevertheless, the construction of Stilt plus Four buildings will present both opportunities and challenges.

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

#### MAKE QR CODE PAYMENTS UNIVERSAL

Madam — There is a recurring problem with currency change across various services, including both government and private sectors such as transportation (RTC buses, metro trains), and e-seva centers. To address this issue, it is crucial to provide the option of QR code-based online payments everywhere. Additionally, offering a choice between partial cash payment and partial online payment would be beneficial. QR code payments are a secure, contactless method that reduces the risk of account hacking compared to credit or debit card payments. It would also be

#### Vigilance urged for Zika virus



Among Pregnant Women Dear Editor, The Union Health Ministry has called on states to maintain constant vigilance by screening pregnant women for Zika virus infection

and monitoring the development of fetuses in those who test positive. Each health facility and hospital has been assigned a nodal officer responsible for ensuring that the premises remain free from Aedes mosquitoes, the carriers of the Zika virus. States have also been directed to enhance their entomological surveillance and intensify vector control efforts in residential areas, workplaces, schools, construction sites, institutions, and health facilities. The spread of Zika has been reported in Pune, where two more cases have recently emerged, bringing the total to six, with both new cases involving pregnant women from Erandwane. The rising number of cases poses a significant health risk, and it is imperative that the government takes appropriate action to curb the spread of the virus across the country.

Shanthi Ramanathan | Ghaziabad

advantageous to install ticket vending machines inside metro coaches for last-minute passengers. This would enhance convenience for both employees and customers, reducing arguments, stress, and conflicts, ultimately leading to a more harmonious and healthy lifestyle. In any case the digital payment is the future so why not embrace it wholeheartedly.

PVS Sreelekha | Secunderabad

#### PM ON MANIPUR

Madam — Prime Minister's Response to Manipur Crisis Questioned Dear Editor, Regarding the news "Modi Silences Critics on Manipur" published on July 4, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, facing criticism from the opposition over the handling of the ethnic conflict in Manipur, broke his silence on July 3, claiming that violence in the state has been declining. This statement is characteristic of Modi's tendency to address issues long after they have escalated, often offering little more than empty promises. Despite

both central and state governments being under BJP control, there has been minimal action to address the crisis effectively. Kuki residents have been unable to use Imphal airport since May 3, 2023, and essential supplies have to be transported through Mizoram. Modi's recent comments seem insincere and detached from the reality on the ground. The Prime Minister, who has ample time for inaugurating projects and foreign visits, has not visited Manipur, which has been plagued by violence for the past 14 months. The Supreme Court has expressed its distrust in the Manipur government, reflecting the sentiment of the people towards Modi's assurances. Even as Manipur starts to stabilize, it is imperative for the Prime Minister to prioritize visiting the state and addressing the issues directly, rather than focusing on his image and political importance. Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com







MONEY MATTERS

### Colruyt Group sets up IT Global Capability Centre in Coimbatore

Colruyt Group has inaugurated its second information technology global capability centre in Coimbatore, the company said on Friday. The first such facility has been set up in Hyderabad in 2007 and offers IT services to multiple business units of the Euro 10.8 billion Colruyt Group. The addition of Coimbatore facility is part of the company's India strategy to support the business continuity of the IT operations and services. "The opening of our new office in Coimbatore is of strategic importance as this augments our ambition to continuously add value to our group's strategic initiatives with a focus on digital enablement and transformation," said Colruyt Group India Managing Director Hari Subramanian in a company statement on Friday. "This decision also accentuates the business sustainability for all our operations from India. Coimbatore's rich and diverse entrepreneurial culture, a robust engineering hub and a solid educational ecosystem made this city an ideal investment for us," Subramanian added.



### RBI launches quarterly survey on order books of manufacturing sector

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday announced the launch of quarterly "order books, inventories and capacity utilisation" survey of companies in the manufacturing sector -- a key input it uses to formulate the monetary policy. The RBI has been conducting the order books, inventories and capacity utilisation survey (OBIGUS) of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis since 2008. The information collected in the survey includes quantitative data on new orders received during the reference quarter (April-June 2024), backlog of orders at the beginning of the quarter, pending orders at the end of the quarter, total inventories with a breakup between finished goods, work-in-progress and raw material inventories at the end of the quarter. Item-wise production in terms of quantity and value during the quarter vis-à-vis the installed capacity from the targeted group and the reasons for changes in production/installed capacity during the quarter is also collected.



### QMS Medical acquires 51% stake in Saarathi Healthcare

QMS Medical Allied Services on Friday said it has acquired a 51 per cent stake in Saarathi Healthcare for Rs 450 crore. Mumbai-based QMS MAS is engaged in the marketing and distribution of a wide range of medical products. "The acquisition of Saarathi is the natural extension of our services and another step of our expansion plan. Where QMS MAS specializes in patient screening, Saarathi specializes in disease management leading to better disease outcomes essentially enabling us to provide a comprehensive portfolio to our clients," QMS Medical Allied Services CMD Mahesh Makhija said in a statement. This move will have a significant addition to company's revenues and profitability from the onset of the next fiscal year, he added. Saarathi Healthcare Founder & CEO Ranjeeta Vinil said the companies will forge ahead with collective strength in products and services.



## Govt infra push steers steel demand

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With a sustained momentum of investment across different sectors, overall steel demand in India is projected to grow at a CAGR of 5 per cent to 7.3 per cent over the next decade leading to a steel demand of 221-275 million tonnes by FY 34 (under different scenarios), according to a report by Deloitte released on Friday.

The report, released at ISA Steel InfraBuild Summit here, also said Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have established themselves as leaders in steel consumption, leading to 41 per cent of the total consumption in FY23.

"Government spending on infrastructure projects will



The report, released at ISA Steel InfraBuild Summit here, also said Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have established themselves as leaders in steel consumption, leading to 41 per cent of the total consumption in FY23

drive the initial growth phase in the next decade. The development of 11 industrial corridors comprising 32 projects, to

be developed in four phases under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, will be a key driver for steel consumption," the report explained.

From FY14 to FY24, India's finished steel consumption posted a CAGR of 5.67 per cent. In FY24, domestic finished steel consumption reached 136 million tonnes, marking more than 14 per cent year-on-year growth driven by sustained momentum across developmental projects and increased government spending in various end-use industries.

The steel industry plays a crucial role in Telangana's economic landscape as during the last fiscal, the state's steel consumption grew by 15.75 per cent year-on-year from 4.730 million tonnes in FY22 to

5.475 million tons in FY23, outpacing the national average, it said.

"Telangana's steel consumption in FY23 was 5.48 MT for a population of 3.5 crore which translates to a per capita steel consumption of 156.43 kg, significantly higher than the national per capita steel consumption of 93.4 kg. This not only underscores the state's robust industrial activity but also positions Telangana as a key driver of future economic growth," it said.

The rising growth of electric vehicles in Tamil Nadu will lead to an increased demand for electrical steel, while the growth of food processing industries will drive the demand for stainless steel, the report further said.

## Govt, industry to discuss growth of Indian toy sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Government officials and industry will hold a detailed discussions on ways to further boost domestic manufacturing and exports of toys on July 8, an official said.

The meeting is organised by Invest India, an arm of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), in collaboration with the Toy Association of India.

The main issues that would figure in the meeting include growing opportunities

and regulatory developments in the toy sector to chart a path forward; making India a global toy hub; and ways to integrate Indian toy manufacturers in the global supply chain.

To showcase domestic products, an international fair is being organised from July 6-9

here at Pragati Maidan where over 150 foreign buyers from 35 nations are visiting. Over 400 domestic toy players will exhibit their innovative products, Gautam said, adding that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has mentioned about the sector in one of his

'Mann ki Baat' programmes and that has given an extra thrust for pushing growth of this labour-intensive segment. He also suggested that government extend fiscal support measures to stall holders.

He added that the July 8 'Toy Industry CEOs Meet' will be attended by senior officials of the DPIIT, Invest India and domestic industry.

Toy exports have jumped 240 per cent since 2014 and imports declined 52 per cent during the period.

He added that huge opportunities are there for women and as per estimates, about 70 per cent of the workforce are women.

Further, he said construction work has started for the development of a big toy cluster in Noida.



## Rupee rises 1 paisa to close at 83.49 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee pared initial gains and settled for the day almost flat at 83.49 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, as muted domestic equities and rise in crude oil prices capped gains for the local unit.

At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.48 and hit the intraday high of 83.45 and a low of 83.50 against the American currency during the session.

It finally settled at 83.49 (provisional) against the dollar, 1 paisa higher than its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee pared its initial losses and settled for the day on an almost flat note at 83.50 against the US dollar.

Forex traders said rising crude oil prices at around

US\$ 87 per barrel weighed on investor sentiments and restricted the upside. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.19 per cent to US\$ 87.26 per barrel.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 104.96, lower by 0.16 per cent.

## Nifty scales new lifetime high; Sensex retreats from record to slip below 80k

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The broader NSE benchmark Nifty advanced further to settle at an all-time high for the third straight session on Friday, while the BSE gauge Sensex retreated from the record to slip below the 80k level.

The broader NSE Nifty rose 21.70 points or 0.09 per cent to close at its lifetime high of 24,323.85.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 53.07 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 79,996.60.

Among the 30-share Sensex pack, State Bank of India, Reliance Industries, Hindustan Unilever, NTPC, Larsen & Toubro, Nestle India, Power Grid, ITC, JSW Steel and Sun

Pharmaceuticals were the major gainers. On the other hand, HDFC Bank, Titan, Mahindra & Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, UltraTech Cement, Tata Motors, HCL Technologies and Asian Paints were among the laggards.

"The domestic market traded with a mixed bias, with the heavy-weight banking sector acting as a laggard. Adding to the worry are the top lending banks, which recorded a sequential decline in deposit growth in the June quarter."

"Midcap and Small Cap outperformed, and the respective BSE indices hit an all-time high," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

## Foreign investors put US\$ 3.1bn in real estate in Jan-Jun: JLL-India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign investors infused US\$ 3.1 billion in Indian real estate during January-June this year, accounting for 65 per cent of the total institutional investment, according to JLL India.

Real estate consultant JLL India data released on Friday showed that the total institutional investment in real estate rose 62 per cent to US\$ 4,760 million in January-June 2024 from US\$ 2,939 million in the same period of last year.

In complete contrast, another property consultant Colliers

India, earlier this week, reported a 6 per cent decline in total institutional investment in real estate at US\$ 3,523.6 million during the first half of 2024 as



against US\$ 3,764.7 million in the year-ago period.

According to JLL India, institutional investments in real estate surged to US\$ 4.8 billion

in January-June this year.

"This already represents 81 per cent of the total investments in 2023, which amounted to US\$ 5.8 billion," the consultant said, adding that "unshakable investor confidence in India prevails amidst global uncertainties and the election season, exemplifying the country's robust economic growth story".

Out of the total inflows, the warehousing sector led at 34 per cent share of investments followed closely by residential at 33 per cent share and office at 27 per cent.

## SAIL mulls Rs 6,500 cr capex

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Steel Authority of India Ltd will be investing Rs 6,500 crore towards capex during the current financial year as part of its Rs 1 lakh crore investment plan over the next few years, SAIL CMD Amarendra Prakash said on Friday. Speaking to media-persons on the sidelines of a programme organised by Indian Steel Association here, Prakash said the steel industry approached the government seeking measures to control the dumping of cheap metal by China into India and hoped that steps will be taken to address the menace.



"This year, the capex target is Rs 6,500 crore. We also have regular capex on maintaining our facilities, as well as debottlenecking exercises. Most of the capex expansion (Rs 1 lakh crore by 2030) will start flowing from FY26.

lenecking exercises. Most of the capex expansion (Rs 1 lakh crore by 2030) will start flowing from FY26.

In the first phase from (the capacity) 20 million tonnes, we go to 35 million tons tonnes per annum by 2031. In the next phase, we will make it 50 million tonnes," the SAIL CMD told reporters. In the past, SAIL management had informed investors about a planned Rs 1 lakh crore investment across its plants for greenfield and brown-field expansions over the next 3-4 years, while aiming to maintain a debt-equity ratio of 1:1.

On the steel outlook, he said the world is growing at 0.5 per cent while India grew at 13 per cent last year and will continue to grow at 8 per cent CAGR in the next 10 years.

## No impediment in banning use, sale of plastic flowers of less than 100 micron thickness: HC

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Friday said there was no impediment in prohibiting use and sale of plastic flowers of less than 100 micron thickness if other such plastic items are banned.

A division bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar sought the response of the Union and Maharashtra government to a petition seeking a ban on the use of artificial flowers for decoration purposes. The court also issued notices to the

Central Pollution Control Board and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

The petition filed by Growers Flowers Council of India (GFCI) claimed the maximum thickness of plastic flowers used for decoration purposes was usually 30 microns. "Concerns need to be addressed at the earliest for the simple reason that if other items less than 100 microns have been banned then there does not appear to be any impediment in prohibiting plastic flowers as well," the court said.

## Central banks should have independence to deliver on price stability: US Fed official

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Central banks ought to own up for delivering on price stability and must be given the independence to act for achieving it, a top official from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said on Friday.

In a talk at the Reserve Bank

of India (RBI) headquarters, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York President and Chief Executive John C. Williams -- who is also a member of the rate-setting panel of the US' Federal Reserve -- said uncertainty will continue to be the defining characteristic of monetary policy for the foreseeable future.

"Central banks must own the responsibility to deliver price stability and have independence to act to achieve it," he said, while delivering the fourth Suresh Tendulkar Memorial Lecture.

History has taught us that central banks can be more successful at delivering sustain-



ably low inflation rates when they are accountable and independent, he added.

He said in the 1970s, many central bankers believed monetary policy could only play a minor role in reducing inflation, while some also thought lowering inflation was completely outside of their control.

This led to persistent high inflation rates and economic stagnation, Williams added.

"Today, regardless of economic shocks, changes in fiscal policy, or globalisation and deglobalisation swings, central banks recognise that attaining and maintaining price stability is their job to do," he said.

### GEN AI CONCLAVE

## Kerala set to become leading hub of AI: Vijayan

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The country's first international Gen AI conclave will be held in Kerala next week and it will give an impetus to the state's efforts to become India's leading hub in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Friday.

In a Facebook post, Vijayan said over a thousand delegates will take part in the two-day conclave being organised at Kochi by global technology company IBM in collaboration

with the state government on July 11 and 12. In conjunction with the conclave, IBM is also organising the WatsonX Challenge, he said.

The WatsonX challenge is the connecting of academic knowledge and real-life use cases using generative AI.

The CM said that the team that wins the challenge, in which over 50 startups working in the field of artificial intelligence will take part, will not only get an award, it will also get an opportunity to present their ideas in front of



In a Facebook post, Vijayan said over a thousand delegates will take part in the two-day conclave being organised at Kochi by global technology company IBM in collaboration with the state government on July 11 and 12.

investors from the global level. Vijayan, in his post, also said that besides IBM, various other companies were expressing willingness to invest in Kerala. The government expects

more artificial intelligence-based investments to flow into Kerala this year, he said.

The official website of the July 11-12 event was launched in June.

The state government had earlier said that the event will bring together industry leaders, policymakers and innovators to explore the transformative potential of AI and its impact on society and the economy.

This event will be a significant milestone in the advancement of AI in Kerala and the country, they had said.

## Thapar Institute, NVIDIA to establish school on AI, data science

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology on Friday inked a pact with American chipmaker NVIDIA to establish Thapar School of Advanced AI & Data Science.

A memorandum of understanding was signed by R R Vederah, Chairman, Board of Governors at Thapar University and Vishal Dhapar, Managing Director - Asia South at NVIDIA.

Thapar School of Advanced



AI & Data Science (TSAAI) will be established at Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology (TIET) campus in Patiala, Punjab.

"We are excited about the

opportunity to establish this AI school, in technical collaboration with NVIDIA. This work will not only bridge the gap in AI (artificial intelligence) expertise but also pave the way for cutting-edge research and innovation in this transformative field.

"This also establishes our vision of providing education that creates future-ready students," Padmakumar Nair, Director of Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology, said.



## 'HYD'S HISTORY WHISPERS THROUGH ITS HAPPENING BAZAARS & MONUMENTS'

**Back again with an interesting Hyderabad segment, Eshitha Guna, who hails from Chennai and has created her mark here in the 'City of Pearls', joins The Pioneer sharing her affinity for the city**

AARTI SREENATH

Eshitha Guna isn't just a designer; she's a storyteller, the artist behind Andal Gems & Jewels. She's not just creating jewellery but also translating the vibrant energy of Hyderabad, into sparkling stones and exquisite designs.

"Hyderabad is home and heart for me in a nutshell," Eshitha shares, brimming with warmth. Born in Chennai but raised in the City of Pearls, her connection with Hyderabad runs deep. "I was born in Chennai, but my parents moved to Hyderabad when I was just months old. It's where I grew up and have all my wonderful memories. The city intertwines seamlessly with my identity and cherished memories, becoming the very essence of my upbringing and cultural foundation."

Eshitha's childhood memories are a treasure trove of inspiration. When asked about her journey in the city, her affection for Hyderabad shines through. "Hyderabad will always have my heart; it's a city with a 'giving' nature, offering opportunities all around for those who seek them. Personally, it's where my friends, family, and work are! The city by itself is beautiful, with a lot of variety in food, culture, and activities," she added.

For those migrating to Hyderabad and harboring apprehensions, she offers words of wisdom drawn from her own experience. "Moving to a

new place comes with its fears and excitement, but until you get into the shoes of a local and try it out yourself, you won't know the true essence of that city. Give it time, settle in and get a breath of the new air. Hyderabad is definitely a city of opportunities. The people here are warm, welcoming and open to trying new ideas. There are multiple areas one could venture into, be it F&B, IT, finance, fashion and many more. The city is brimming with variety."

Also a gemologist, she shares that Hyderabad's uniqueness lies in its well-segregated specialities. "If there's anything particular you're looking for, you know exactly where to go, which locality in particular. Hyderabad has a balance in living which may top it off on the list of cities in India, from the historic forts, palaces, parks, and Nizam's legacy to the ever-growing IT hubs, eateries, breweries, greenery, and lakes!"

"The city's history whispers through every happening bazaar and ancient monument," Eshitha explains. "It's a constant source of inspiration, from the intricate carvings on the Charminar to the kaleidoscope of colors in the local markets." This influence translates into her work, where traditional motifs find a new life alongside contemporary cuts and bold gemstones. Hyderabad becomes more than just a backdrop.

When prompted about the first thing that comes to mind when thinking of Hyderabad, Eshitha's response was heartfelt. "The people. My friends, family and team are majorly from Hyderabad. They mean everything to me! It'll always be my first thought. Apart from that, it's the ever-growing nature of the city to keep improving and upgrading, from new infrastructure to more fitness parks."

Her fondest memories are rooted back to her schooling days. "Schooling in Hyderabad is one special memory. The OG landmarks of the city like the Necklace Road drive, IMAX theater, KBR Park; these were some fond memories for me as a kid."

Hyderabad also plays a pivotal role in her career. "Hyderabad will always be the city of Andal's flagship. The people of Hyderabad have been so warm and appreciative; they are fun-loving and take the time out to celebrate the little

and big moments in life. That resonates with our brand ideology and also fits our category of products. The cherry on top is the work culture, which has a great balance as well."

Eshitha speaks passionately about Hyderabad's rich stone culture. "Hyderabad's stone culture is deeply rooted in its historical fascination with gemstone jewelry, initially favored by the Nizams for their warm-toned royal hues of rubies, emeralds and tourmalines. Today, this tradition has evolved into a vibrant market embracing a broader spectrum of colors, from pastels to vivid pops in gemstone jewelry. This shift reflects not only changing fashion trends but also a growing appreciation for diversity in gemstone aesthetics, catering to modern tastes while honouring the city's rich heritage in jewelry craftsmanship."

When asked about her likes and dislikes about Hyderabad, Eshitha noted, "I like the variety the city has to offer in terms of food and things to do. I am disliking the recent rise in traffic, which can make commuting a challenge."

Living in Hyderabad has allowed Eshitha to witness significant transformations. "I've seen a noticeable transformation characterised by rapid growth in every aspect. There are more high-rises dotting the skyline, offering a modern contrast to the city's historic architecture. The culinary scene has expanded dramatically, offering diverse cuisines and dining experiences. Likewise, there's been a surge in recreational activities, catering to varied interests and preferences. Amidst this growth, Hyderabad has also seen an increase in job opportunities and economic activities, making it a thriving hub with dynamic possibilities for residents and visitors alike."

When people from other cities visit Hyderabad, they always look forward to certain experiences. "Most people who visit Hyderabad want to take back Biryani! It is one of our specialties here. There are many great places for that. They also like to visit Charminar, Old City, Necklace Road and many more historic areas filled with charm and culture," she asserts.

For Eshitha Guna, Hyderabad is more than just a city; it is a place of profound emotional significance. "Home with all my heart," she concludes, her tone filled with affection and pride for the city.



## 'I can fit in any role and not just comedy'

TEJAL SINHA

Rajesh Kumar has been a popular name in the Television industry. And why not? Every time on screen, he sure turns out to bring out the best of his prowess. Often known for his character as Roshesh Sarabhai from Sarabhai vs Sarabhai, undeniably he has evolved with his craft over the years, now with his films and OTT shows. Undeniably, the actor has been on the verge of showing his prowess that goes beyond just comedic roles.

Currently seen in Zee5's *Rautu Ka Raaz* as sub-inspector Naresh Dimri, it has been a double bonanza for him to work on back-to-back shows not only on the streaming platform but also with Nawazuddin Siddiqui. *Rautu Ka Raaz* has received high praise from critics for its deft direction and superb acting from the performers. The narrative centers on Rautu, a small village in Uttarakhand with a remarkably low crime rate. And now, Deepak Negi and Naresh Dimri along with the team are on a quest to solve the case. Now to know what really happens, you got to head and watch the show.

The *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya* actor believes that with *Rautu Ka Raaz*, the audience will take away a realistic portrayal of a slow-paced murder investigation, offering a glimpse into how investigations in small towns unfold. Basically, "It's not a typical cinematic experience but rather a straightforward storytelling approach. The suspense builds throughout the film, keeping viewers engaged until the end, where they'll finally discover the resolution. I hope viewers who have watched the film refrain from spoiling it for others, allowing everyone to enjoy and uncover the identity of the actual murderer themselves."

The film does not perceive it to be a fast-paced

thriller, but rather as an authentic portrayal of the laid-back attitude of real mountain police solving a case. The *Excuse Me Maadam* actor shares, "The pace of solving the case mirrors what actually happens on the ground, in villages, with its own rhythm and tempo. So, immerse yourself in this village-based investigation, embracing its unique pace. Don't anticipate too many dramatic events, but rather let yourself be drawn into the story. You'll find that it's captivating and the characters will linger with you long after the film ends."

His previous venture with Zee 5 and Nawazuddin Siddiqui, *Haddi* received immense appreciation not just the audience but also the critics. It was also the film that showcased him in a completely different light.

"Those who thought I could only do comedy roles saw me in a negative character, broadening their perception," affirms the *Super Nani* actor. For him, the measure of success lies in whether people appreciate his performance even after the film is over, regardless of their overall opinion of the movie. "When viewers connect with your character, that's true success in my book. Reviews tend to compartmentalise, but the film as a whole leaves something lasting. *Haddi* changed me as an actor, altering the perception of those who primarily cast me in comedy roles. They now see that I can fit into any role. I'm hopeful that *Rautu Ka Raaz* will continue in that direction and I anticipate audience appreciation for the film as well," says the star on a concluding note in this chat.



**Actor Rajesh Kumar, who continues to entertain the audience with his roles beyond just comedy, shares insights about his latest project *Rautu Ka Raaz*.**

## REBUILDING HOPE AFTER MISCARRIAGE

Experiencing a miscarriage can be an emotionally and physically challenging event, and preparing for a healthy pregnancy afterward requires a multifaceted approach. Here are some comprehensive tips to guide you through this sensitive journey. First, prioritise emotional healing. Grieving is a personal process and seeking support from loved ones or professional counselors can be immensely beneficial. Sharing your feelings and concerns can alleviate stress, which is crucial for your overall well-being and future pregnancy. Physical health is equally important. Schedule a preconception appointment with your doctor to discuss your health history and any potential risk factors. This consultation can help identify any underlying issues that need addressing before trying to conceive again. Your doctor may recommend a series of tests, such as hormone levels, thyroid function and uterine evaluations, to ensure everything is in optimal condition for pregnancy.

Maintaining a balanced diet rich in essential nutrients is vital. Make sure to eat a variety of healthy grains, fruits, vegetables, lean meats and healthy fats. Folate or folic acid supplements are particularly important as they help prevent neural tube defects. Consult your doctor for personalised vitamin and supplement recommendations.

Regular physical activity is another cornerstone of preparing for a healthy pregnancy. Engage in moderate exercises like walking, swimming, or prenatal yoga. These activities not only enhance physical fitness but also reduce stress and improve mood. Always consult your doctor before starting any new exercise regimen to ensure it is safe for your specific situation.

Managing stress is crucial for a healthy pregnancy. Incorporate relaxation techniques such as deep breathing exercises, meditation, or mindfulness practices into your daily routine. These can help calm your mind and body, creating a more favorable environment for conception and pregnancy. Adequate sleep is also essential. Aim for 7-9 hours of quality sleep each night to support your physical and emotional health. Avoiding harmful substances is non-negotiable. Stay away from tobacco, alcohol and recreational drugs as they can adversely affect fertility and pregnancy outcomes. If you are on any prescription medications, review them with your doctor to ensure they are safe for pregnancy. Environmental factors also play a role. Minimise exposure to toxins and chemicals by using natural or organic products whenever possible. Avoiding exposure to pollutants, heavy metals and certain cleaning agents can reduce

potential risks to your reproductive health.

Understanding your menstrual cycle can improve your chances of conception. Track your cycle to identify your fertile window, the days in your cycle when you are most likely to conceive. Ovulation predictor kits, basal body temperature charts, or fertility tracking apps can be helpful tools. Fertility and pregnancy can be unpredictable and it may take time to conceive. Avoid putting undue pressure on yourself and acknowledge that each person's journey is unique. Engaging in open communication with your partner about your feelings, concerns, and expectations can strengthen your relationship and support system during this time.

Education is empowering. Read books, attend workshops, or join support groups for individuals who have experienced miscarriage and are trying to conceive again. Knowledge about the process, potential challenges and coping strategies can provide comfort and confidence. Financial planning is another aspect to consider. Pregnancy and raising a child come with financial responsibilities. Assess your financial situation, create a budget and explore insurance



options to ensure you are financially prepared for the journey ahead. Lastly, cultivate a positive mindset. Visualise a healthy pregnancy and a happy outcome. Surround yourself with positivity and avoid negative influences or stories that may cause undue worry. Positive affirmations and maintaining hope can significantly impact your mental and emotional state, fostering a conducive environment for pregnancy.

Preparing for a healthy pregnancy after miscarriage involves emotional healing, physical health optimisation, proper nutrition, regular exercise, stress management, avoiding harmful substances, understanding your menstrual cycle, practicing patience, and maintaining a positive outlook. By addressing these aspects, you can enhance your chances of a healthy pregnancy and create a supportive environment for yourself and your future child.

(The author, Dr. Tejashri Shrotri, is a Senior Consultant- Obstetrics and Gynecology, at Apollo Cradle and Children's Hospital - Chirag Enclave in New Delhi.)





Hilife exhibition is all set to come up with its next fashion and lifestyle expo, which is going to be held from July 13 to July 15, at HICC-Novotel in HITEC City. The expo will feature creative fashion wear, lifestyle wear, bridal wear and many more.



● Aashi



● Sravanthi



● Kusum



● Chandu



● Vedvika

Photos by- SV Chary

Teach for Change, in collaboration with Pegasystems Inc., announced the successful completion of a significant renovation and upgradation project at the Government Primary School and Government High School in Devaljamsingh, Gudimalkapur. This initiative aimed at enhancing the educational environment, included the renovation of eight toilets for children, one toilet for school staff, installation of two water tanks for washrooms and more.



PPS Motors has announced that it has reached a milestone of selling 40,000 Volkswagen vehicles and therefore becoming India's first multi-state dealer to record this feat.



Following the successful inaugural edition of the ISA Steel InfraBuild Summit in Lucknow, the Indian Steel Association (ISA) has announced their second edition at the Hotel Westin Hyderabad Mindspace in HITEC City, Hyderabad. The 2nd ISA Steel InfraBuild Summit 2024 aims to accelerate the development and delivery of infrastructure in India, with a special focus on the state of Andhra Pradesh and its surrounding regions.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



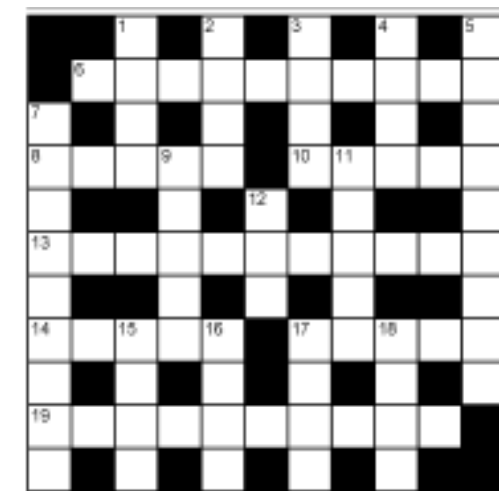
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP

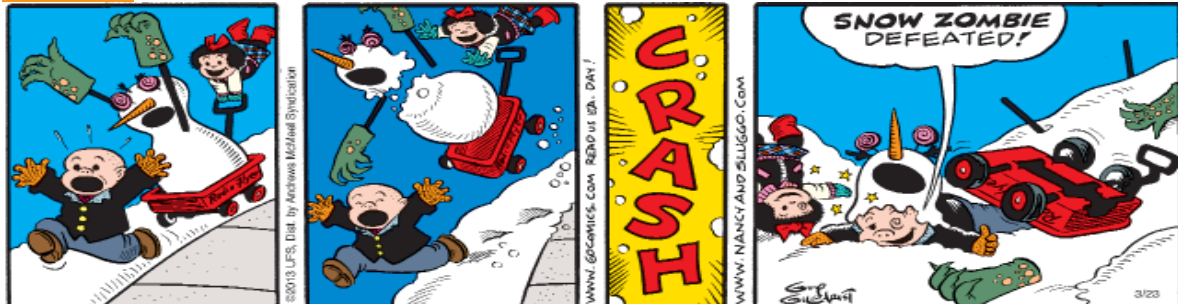


### CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 6 San Francisco is in this American state
  - 8 Precise
  - 10 A kind of play where all the words are sung
  - 13 At once
  - 14 Articles
  - 17 Push roughly
  - 19 Having no paid work
- DOWN**
- 7 Very tasty to eat
  - 9 Make butter with this
  - 11 A piece of material to cover a hole
  - 12 Baby goat
  - 15 The organs of sight
  - 16 Drinks little by little
  - 17 Black stuff in chimneys
  - 18 Unlock

### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



### SUDOKU

		7	8	5				
8	4		2					4 9
			6					
5	2					3	1	7
4	3	8						9
9	8				7			
					9		3	8
		3	5		9			

**Yesterday's solution**

8	3	6	1	9	4	7	5	2
9	7	4	2	6	5	1	3	8
5	1	2	3	8	7	9	4	6
3	2	8	6	4	1	5	7	9
4	6	9	5	7	2	3	8	1
1	5	7	8	3	9	2	6	4
6	9	3	7	2	8	4	1	5
2	8	5	4	1	3	6	9	7
7	4	1	9	5	6	8	2	3

**Rules**

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





# 'I FEEL LUCKY TO PERFORM ACTION SEQUENCE IN MY DEBUT TIRAGABADARA SAAMI'

**MALVI MALHOTRA, WHO WILL BE SEEN MAKING HER DEBUT IN THE UPCOMING WHOLESOME ENTERTAINER TIRAGABADARA SAAMI, INTERACTS WITH THE MEDIA SHARING INSIGHTS ABOUT HER ROLE AND THE MOVIE**

K. RAMYA SREE

Director AS Ravikumar Chaudhary is helming a wholesome entertainer *Tiragabadara Saami* starring actors Raj Tarun and Malvi Malhotra in lead roles. Bankrolled by Malkapuram Sivakumar under Suraksh Entertainment Media banner, the already released promotional content from the film has garnered good response from the audience.

As the film is heading for a grand theatrical release soon, the lead actress Malvi Malhotra, in an interaction with the Hyderabad media, spoke about her role in the movie, background and more. Fresh off to the Telugu audience, this film marks Malvi's debut in the Telugu cinema after having starred in Hindi, Malayalam and Tamil films. What started off as a TV artist, Malvi, the Pahadi girl from Himachal Pradesh did theatre and is now all set to impress the audience playing the role of a diehard fan of Nandamuri Balakrishna in this Tollywood debut film of hers.

Speaking about the same, she expressed, "My character is very interesting. She is a very energetic and hyperactive girl. The entire story happens because of my character. It also has family elements and also has an action sequence. It can be related to

Balakrishna. There is no filter when Balakrishna speaks. He speaks his heart. My character is also like that. My character teaches women the importance of self-defense. I feel lucky that I got an opportunity to do an action sequence in the first film."

"I watch Balakrishna's movies. He has a huge fan following across all industries. He is very funny. I enjoyed his last film *Bhagwanth Kesari* very much," she added.

Working with director Ravikumar, Malvi calls it a great learning experience as she feels Ravikumar is a director with a very good vision.

Asked what attracted her to sign *Tiragabadara Saami*, she answered, "It has many elements like emotions, action, drama, romance, fun. Raj Tarun's character is very interesting. A character who starts as silent and becomes violent. It has all the elements that the audience will enjoy."

Hailing from Himachal Pradesh, Malvi has watched a good number of Telugu films and Siddharth and Genelia starrer *Bommarillu* remains her all time favourite.

"Recently I watched the movie *Baby*. I love Rajamouli's movies. It is my dream to be part of his film. Also want to work with Mani Ratnam," she shares, but on the actor's front Nani is someone whom she adores. She explained, "I love all heroes in Tollywood. But as a theater artist, if I talk about the depth in the actor's eyes, I will say Nani. He is an actor who conveys wonderful expressions and emotions with his eyes. Love to work with him."

The newbie even before the release of her first film lined up a few other projects in Tollywood with whom she is in talks with and she is excited to reveal those details soon.



## Bimbisara 2 announced

Nandamuri Kalyanram, has announced the epic fantasy thriller *Bimbisara 2* under his NTR Arts banner, promising an exciting prequel.

Known for his knack for unique scripts, Kalyan Ram has carved a niche as an actor who thrives on exploration and experimentation. *Bimbisara*, a monumental hit in his career, is now set to expand with its highly anticipated prequel.

The announcement of *Bimbisara 2* comes on Kalyan Ram's birthday on Friday, accompanied by a creative concept poster unveiling. Promising to reveal the legend who ruled Trigarthala ages before *Bimbisara*, the prequel has already heightened expectations. Kalyan Ram's portrayal of *Bimbisara* garnered acclaim, and the prequel aims to delve deeper into his character's backstory, offering a compelling narrative. As preparations advance, anticipation mounts for this cinematic journey back into the world of Trigarthala.

Directed by Anil Paduri, acclaimed for *Romantic*, *Bimbisara 2* will be a grand production from the NTR Arts banner, set to deliver a visually stunning experience. With pre-production in full swing, shooting is scheduled to commence soon, promising an unparalleled cinematic experience.



## Kalyan Ram's ferocious avatar from #NKR21 revealed

On his birthday, the makers of *#NKR21* treated fans with a striking new poster featuring Nandamuri Kalyan Ram. The poster showcases Kalyan Ram in a fierce demeanor, his fist engulfed in flames as he sits surrounded by goons, exuding an intense gaze. Sporting a stylish makeover, Kalyan Ram appears remarkably aggressive, seemingly setting the scene ablaze. Directed by Pradeep

Chilukuri, *#NKR21* promises daring stunts from Kalyan Ram, with this fiery action sequence set to be a standout moment in the film. Produced by Ashok Vardhan Muppa and Sunil Balusu under Ashoka Creations and NTR Arts banners, the film is presented by Muppa Venkaiah Chowdary.

Vijayashanthi portrays a powerful IPS officer, adding to the film's dynamic ensemble which includes Sohail Khan,

Saiee Manjrekar, and Srikanth in pivotal roles. The production is currently underway, supported by a talented team of technicians. Ram Prasad handles cinematography, Ajaneesh Loknath oversees music, and Thammiraju edits the film, with screenplay by Srikanth Vissa. The teaser has already showcased the expertise of the technical crew, building anticipation for *#NKR21*, which promises to be a thrilling cinematic experience.



## Rashmika Mandanna's suspenseful dimension to Kubera

Renowned filmmaker Sekhar Kammula is all set to captivate audiences with his highly anticipated mythological pan-Indian film, *Kubera*, featuring Superstar Dhanush and King Nagarjuna. Earlier, the makers teased audiences with glimpses introducing these two iconic stars, heightening anticipation for the film. National heartthrob Rashmika Mandanna plays a pivotal role in this cinematic venture.

On Friday, the makers unveiled Rashmika's first look and a character introduction glimpse, showcasing her in a distinct and intriguing avatar that has sparked immense buzz among fans. Rashmika's role bridges the narratives of Dhanush and Nagarjuna, adding depth and intrigue to the storyline. Her first look promises an exciting and suspenseful dimension to the film. Sekhar Kammula, known for his captivating storytelling, intertwines diverse characters in this eagerly awaited social drama. The teaser, nearly a minute long, tantalizes with glimpses of hidden wealth and insights into Rashmika's character. Set against a

backdrop of intricate plotting and backed by Devi Sri Prasad's powerful music, the teaser promises a compelling cinematic experience that blends anticipation with mystery. Sekhar Kammula's *Kubera* stands as one of the most anticipated pan-Indian films, featuring a stellar cast and crew with multiple National awards to their credit. The film, jointly produced by Suniel Narang and Puskar Ram Mohan Rao under Sri Venkateswara Cinemas LLP and Amigos Creations Pvt Ltd banner, is a multilingual production simultaneously filmed in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi. Currently shooting in Hyderabad, the film is also undergoing simultaneous post-production to ensure a high-quality visual and narrative experience for audiences worldwide.



## Double Ismart shooting wrapped up

The eagerly awaited *Double Ismart*, featuring the dynamic duo of Ustaad Ram Pothineni and director Puri Jagannadh, has completed filming and is slated for release on August 15th, as a special Independence Day treat. The post-production phase is currently in progress. The film's promotional campaign has kicked off with the chart-topping mass song of the year, *Steppa Maar*, setting a high note for the upcoming audio releases. Fans can expect regular updates as the makers ramp up publicity efforts.

*Double Ismart* is a much-anticipated Pan-Indian project and the eagerly awaited sequel to *Ismart Shankar*. Produced by Puri Jagannadh and Charmme Kaur under the Puri Connects banner, the movie stars Sanjay Dutt in a pivotal role alongside Kavya Thapar, who plays the female lead opposite Ram. Cinematography duties were handled by Sam K Naidu and Gianni Giannelli, with Mani Sharma providing the music.



## Shruti Haasan joins Rajinikanth in Coolie

Shruti Haasan has officially joined the cast of the highly anticipated film *Coolie*, starring Superstar Rajinikanth. Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, the film is set to deliver an action-packed drama, blending Rajinikanth's iconic screen presence with Kanagaraj's adept direction.

On Friday, Shruti delighted her fans by sharing a picture from the film's set. Her inclusion in the cast has intensified the already soaring excitement and anticipation surrounding the movie.



## MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy releases Saikumar's intense look from Pranayagodari

Known as the Dialogue King, Saikumar is celebrated for his ability to immerse himself in any role and captivate audiences. He is set to surprise viewers once again with his powerful portrayal as Pedakapu in the upcoming film *Pranayagodari*. Directed by PL Vignesh, the movie stars Sadan, from comedian Ali's family, in the lead role, with Priyanka Prasad as the heroine and Sunil Ravinuthala in a pivotal part. Produced by Paramalla Lingaiah under the PLV Creations banner, *Pranayagodari* is anticipated as a feel-good movie that showcases the natural beauty and lifestyle of the Godavari region. Telangana MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy recently unveiled Saikumar's first look poster, prais-



ing the film and expressing confidence in its success.

During the unveiling, MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy congratulated Lingaiah, emphasizing his support for local talent and expressing hopes for the film's triumph. Lingaiah, in turn, expressed gratitude for the MLAs encouragement and highlighted the film's appeal as a fresh and entertaining experience for all audiences.

Saikumar's character in the poster exudes power, adorned in traditional attire with a Rudrakshamala necklace, a bracelet, and a cigar, setting the tone for his impactful role in the film. The production team is gearing up to announce the release date soon, promising a narrative that promises to captivate and entertain viewers seeking something new and engaging.

## World tour lyrical video released from Tuk Tuk

The upbeat comedy *Tuk Tuk*, starring Harsha Rohan, Karthikeya Dev, Steven Madhu, Saanve Megghana and Nihal Kodati in leading roles, is being produced under the

banners of Chitravahini and RYJ by Rahul Reddy, Lokku Srivaran, Sriramulu Reddy and Supreet C. Krishna. Directed by C. Supreet Krishna, the film's recently unveiled promotional posters have

garnered widespread attention. The first lyrical song from the movie, titled *World Tour Nazbhaja Ja... Ja... Ra Kathaleno Vinara... Mana Katha Vinnani Di Ra...*, has now been released. Composed and sung by Santhu Omkar, with lyrics by director Supreet himself, the song is geared towards the youth, featuring trendy and catchy tunes. Director Supreet expressed, "*Tuk Tuk* promises to be a delightful cinematic journey. The introduction of new fantasy elements will surprise the audience, offering a fresh and entertaining experience, particularly appealing to young viewers." He further added, "*Tuk Tuk* is an exhilarating cinematic adventure that we believe will resonate with audiences of all ages."



## Pourusham - The Man Hood trailer launched

Directed by Sheraz Mehdi, *Pourusham - The Manhood* is an upcoming film produced by Ashok Khullar and Devendra Negi under UVT Hollywood Studios (USA) and Shriya Productions. The movie boasts a talented ensemble cast and is currently shooting, with the soundtrack nearing release. Simultaneously, the promotional activities for the film are in full swing. The theatrical trailer was unveiled, drawing attention at its launch event in Los Angeles. The event saw esteemed guests such as Dr. Olympia A. Gellini, Hollywood actress and singer Lumba Pam, Amber Martinez, Sage and Lenny Vitulli, co-producer at Hollywood Lux Angels Studios.

The film stars a notable cast



including Suman Talwar, Meka Rama Krishna, Sheraz Mehdi, Ashok Khullar, Jyoti Reddy, Shailaja Tiwari, Ananth, Kanika, Jabardasth Kevvu Karthik, Jabardasth Heena, Jabardasth Kattappa, Bala Gangadhar, Vizag Sharif, Lakshmi, and Ravi Varma. Sheraz Mehdi handles the story, screenplay and music, with DV Prabhu serving as the editor. The trailer of *Pourusham - The Manhood* tackles themes of challenging traditional norms and the dynamics within joint families. Promising a blend of action and emotional family drama, the trailer resonates particularly well with today's audience, sparking heightened anticipation for the film.



# New look India start their journey without Virat, Rohit against Zimbabwe

PTI ■ HARARE

A new-look Indian T20 team would embark on a journey of self-discovery without their constant talismans, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, hoping to unearth their mainstays for the future in a five-match series against Zimbabwe starting here on Saturday.

Even as the euphoria of T20 World Cup triumph sweeps through the length and breadth of India, Shubman Gill, who was a reserve in that squad, will hit a refresh button along with a bunch of IPL performers.

All the fresh faces are expected to make their international debut during the series scheduled to be played entirely in the Zimbabwean capital.

Two young men, who are lined for debut could be Punjab's Abhishek Sharma, who had a stupendous IPL for Sunrisers Hyderabad and the young Assamese lad Riyan Parag, who has given ample demonstration of his capabilities as a competent T20 batter. Both of them tick all the boxes for this format.

While over the past few years, Rohit and Kohli have skipped a lot of bilateral series, especially in the

shortest format, their international retirement from the format is bound to be felt more strongly. The skills and quality that the two modern greats brought to the table will be hard to replicate but as it is the order of nature, the old guard has to make way for the new one. Zimbabwe certainly isn't the most formidable opposition but in T20 format, the gulf between sides is comparatively lesser than the other two traditional forms of the game.

The hosts, led by the gutsy Sikandar Raza, who played for Punjab Kings in the IPL recently, could prove to be a handful on nippy afternoons at the Harare Sports Club where the ball will jag around during the afternoon starts.

Some solid performances in this series will keep these youngsters in contention for future when the first team players of the world champion side are back on national duty. Shivam Dube, Sanju Samson, and Yashasvi Jaiswal will be available from the third match onwards and some of the young men would only get a couple of games to prove their mettle.

In future, the likes of T20 captain-in-waiting Hardik Pandya, his likely deputy Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, and Kuldeep Yadav will also be back



playing the format and there won't be too many vacancies in the playing eleven. From now till the 2026 T20 World Cup in India, the national team will play 34 games in the shortest format.

While skipper Gill is expected to open, one needs to see whether his best friend Abhishek gets his maiden India cap or the seasoned CSK skipper and captain of the Asian Games gold medal-winning team Rituraj Gaikwad ends up being the chosen one.

In case Abhishek opens, Gaikwad could come in at No.3 or swap positions with the Punjab southpaw. Parag's chances of a debut are brighter compared to Abhishek as he can bat at No. 4 in the first match, a slot he made his own for the Royals.

Rinku Singh, the designated finisher of the Indian T20 team for years to come, is expected to arrive at No. 5 in this new look line-up while one among Jitesh Sharma or Dhruv Jurel will bat at No. 6 while donning the big gloves.

If one looks at selection pattern, Jurel was the second keeper behind Sanju Samson for this series and Jitesh was a late entrant because of the unavailability of the World Cup squad members.

Hence Jurel, who made an

impressive Test debut against England is likely play in the first two games before Samson arrives.

In the bowling department, Avesh Khan and Khaleel Ahmed, the two standbys during the T20 World Cup are certainties and Mukesh Kumar, who is a very steady death bowler could be the third seamer pipping Harshit Rana, who is a better slogger with the willow.

Washington Sundar with his all-round abilities will hold his place till Dube arrives while leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi is expected to play all games.

**SQUADS**  
**India (first 2 games):** Shubman Gill (c), Rituraj Gaikwad, Abhishek Sharma, Rinku Singh, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Riyan Parag, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Tushar Deshpande, Sai Sudharsan, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Harshit Rana.  
**Zimbabwe:** Sikandar Raza (captain), Faraz Akram, Brian Bennett, Johnathan Campbell, Tendai Chatara, Luke Jongwe, Innocent Kaia, Clive Madande, Wessly Madhevere, Tadiwanashe Marumani, Wellington Masakadza, Brandon Mavuta, Blessing Muzarabani, Dion Myers, Antum Naqvi, Richard Ngarava, Milton Shumba.



## Inspirational, emotional: New-Gen India stars hail T20 WC triumph, eye their own glory

PTI ■ HARARE

India's emotional and epochal triumph in the just-concluded T20 World Cup found its resonance in Gen-Next stars such as Shubman Gill and Riyan Parag who termed it as an "inspiration" while vowing to bring more glory to the nation in future.

The new line of Indian players is here to play a five-match T20I series against Zimbabwe, which is starting from Saturday at the Harare Sports Club.

Gill, who is leading the contingent here, was a travelling reserve with Rohit Sharma's men before returning to India after the group stage of the T20 WC which was held in the USA.

The 24-year-old rated the victory as a "feather in the cap". "This must have been very special for all of them, and special for me. They have been working very hard for this. So, it's a feather in the cap," Gill told BCCI while sharing his feelings about India's thrilling seven-run win over South Africa in the title match at Barbados last week.

Abhishek Sharma, who had a stellar run for the Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL 2024, had a special companion while watching the final - multiple World Cup winner Yuvraj Singh.

"I was watching the match (T20 WC final) with the one and only Yuvraj paji (Yuvraj Singh). He got very emotional when India won the final. Watching that, I felt very good and got very inspired.

"It's a dream for all of us to win an ICC trophy, and he has won it for India many times," Sharma said.

"I will never forget that moment, and then we went outside and celebrated. I think this World Cup was very special and now I am really motivated to win a Cup for the country," he added.

Riyan Parag, who is set to make his T20I debut against Zimbabwe, called the victory an inspiration to all budding players in the country.

"It's an inspiration for all of us, the young players here in this squad to win a World Cup, to win something this big in stature. I think it's motivating for all of us, and the young cricketers in India," said Parag.

Wicketkeeper batter Dhruv Jurel used inverse logic while watching the final.

Jurel did not want to jinx India's chances of winning the match, hence he was telling everyone that South Africa would lift their maiden World Cup. "I was thinking that if I say India will win, then SA might win. So, I was saying SA will win, and eventually India won. I was celebrating like a kid after that," Jurel chuckled.

Rituraj Gaikwad was delighted to see three modern day giants in Virat Kohli, Rohit and Ravindra Jadeja, his teammate at the Chennai Super Kings, retiring from T20Is with a title win.

"To have a win of this kind, where we were almost in the jaws of defeat, and then to come back from there and win is a special moment. Obviously, a great end to the

T20I career of three legends (Kohli, Rohit and Jadeja). For pacers Mukesh Kumar and Tushar Deshpande, the victory was nothing short of a "miracle".

"As we say, the game is not over, till it's over. The final was the best example for it. We believe that miracles can happen," said Deshpande.

Mukesh joined him. "God! It was a different feeling seeing them winning."

Pacer Avesh Khan shared the big moment with local fans and now he wants to create his own piece of history.

"There is a place near my native - Rajwada - where people gather in a public space to watch big matches. I also went there to watch the match. I celebrated with everyone.

"I feel so proud to watch those videos and photos coming out in social media after our trophy win, and we will strive to maintain this standard of performance in future too," he noted.

Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi exploited the luxury of loneliness inside a hotel room to scream his lungs out, while all-rounder Washington Sundar said the win has created an emotional chord with the country.

"It was a great feeling that day. I was alone in the hotel and I was screaming all along inside the room," said Bishnoi.

"It's a huge thing for all of us. We saw it on TV as it was emotional for every one of them. It's a huge inspiration and huge congratulations to every one of them," said Washington.

## Kohli, Jadeja thank Mumbai Police for phenomenal job managing victory parade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Floored by the grand reception and also the comprehensive police presence that ensured an orderly conduct of proceedings for most part, star India Virat Kohli on Friday thanked the Mumbai Police for doing a "phenomenal job" in crowd control during the victory parade of the T20 World Cup-winning Indian team here.

The side returned to a euphoric reception on Thursday after a 16-hour non-stop flight from Barbados. It was hosted for breakfast by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi before heading to Mumbai for the victory parade which was attended by lakhs of fans.

It culminated into a felicitation

ceremony at the iconic Wankhede stadium where the players danced and took a victory lap after sharing their thoughts on the triumph that ended a trophy drought of 11 years.

"Deep respect and heartfelt thanks to all the officers and staff of @MumbaiPolice & @CPMumbaiPolice for doing a phenomenal job during Team India's Victory Parade. Your dedication and service is highly appreciated. Jai Hind," Kohli posted on 'X'.

The 35-year-old, who was adjudged player of the match in the seven-run final win over South Africa last Saturday, flew out to London early this morning after completing the engagements here.

He had announced T20 international retirement at the end of the final.



All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja also posted a similar note of thanks for the police force that was deployed to manage the sea of humanity that descended on Marine Drive to greet the players and be a part of the celebrations.

"Big thank you to Mumbai

Fans also thronged the complex to catch a glimpse of him and he duly obliged amid heavy police presence, waving and smiling at them.

"...This is for you," read his post, prefixed with the emoji of the national flag, on 'X'.

Senior off-spinner R Ashwin, who was not a part of the squad in the Americas, said he felt overwhelmed while watching the celebrations.

"Watching all the videos and pictures from the celebrations yesterday in Mumbai just fills my heart. This nation has given and continues to give so much to the sport. Once again so proud of the champions," he said.

At least 11 persons were rushed to hospitals for sustaining minor injuries or feeling dizzy during the massive fan gathering.

## I want Sikandar to lead from front: Zimbabwe coach Sammons

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sikandar Raza's vast experience of playing in various T20 leagues would certainly come in handy for an inexperienced Zimbabwe outfit, which would like to punch above its weight against a talented Indian side full of IPL performers, head coach Justin Sammons said ahead of five-match series, starting Saturday.

"I think we're very fortunate to have a player like Sikandar Raza leading the side. He brings great experience. We want him to lead from the front. He's been superb in the changing room and taking the players under his wing. We want his bat to do the talking. As well as his bowling," Sammons told PTI Videos in an exclusive interview from Harare.

Over the years, Indian selectors have always rested its top players during the summer months when the team tours the African nation where a five-match T20I series' broadcast rights helps in keeping the host country's cricket board in good health and best of spirits.

Even then three players from the T20 World Cup winning squad -- Shivam Dube, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Sanju Samson are expected to be available from the third game of the series and all four standbys, including skipper Shubman Gill are part of the set-up,



taking the count up to seven.

"This is an opportunity for this team to do that and to showcase their skills against the best and obviously to get an understanding of where they're at," said Sammons, who was South Africa's batting consultant between 2021 to 2023.

Sammons said that his focus is on the future and he wants to build a good team in next two years with players improving their game awareness and also honing their skills adequately for

the elite level.

"I don't want to dwell on what happened in the past, but what I want to do is obviously focus on the future. We've created a clear vision in terms of where this team wants to go within the next two or three years..."

"We're encouraging players to continually want to up-skill and improve. And they know they're going to be taken out of their comfort zone in doing that," he added.

Sammons waxed eloquent about young

India skipper Shubman Gill, praising his work ethic which translated into a golden period of 18-odd months across formats.

"Shubman is a superb cricketer, I remember first seeing Shubman, I think I was with the Proteas. We were playing that Test series against India. I think it was December 2021. He didn't get any game time there, but you could see his work ethic and how professional he was in the way he went about his business in the nets during that test series was something exciting to watch. And like I say, his record speaks for itself."

Talking about the swashbuckling southpaws Rinku Singh and Shivam Dube, the coach said, "They're exciting, they're dangerous. They have proven records against their names. It's an amazing opportunity for us... I think as a youngster growing up you always dream of playing against the best in the world."

The coach also heaped praises on newbie Riyan Parag.

"We can see how dangerous Riyan Parag is. He had a great IPL, showed his worth there. Again, another exciting prospect for India. Again, it's another opportunity for our guys to test themselves against the best," he concluded.

## Diksha rises to tied 4th in Aramco Series London, Tvesa makes cut

PTI ■ LONDON

Indian golfer Diksha Dagar shot an impressive bogey-free 5-under 68, best round of the second day, to rise 45 places to tied fourth spot at the Aramco Series London here.

Another Indian Tvesa Malik (73-77) was 4-over and T-41st, as top 60 and ties made the cut at the Par-73 Centurion Golf Club. Pranavi Urs, who had a disappointing 80 in the first round, retired with an injury.

Diksha, who was way down in T-49th place when the first round finally ended, made big amends in the second round as she carded 68 to get to 8-under for 36 holes to climb up

the leaderboard.

Diksha, who started her second round late in the afternoon from the 10th tee, had two birdies on the back nine on 11th and 16th. She added three more birdies on the first, seventh and ninth.

Another Indian making the cut was Tvesa, runner-up at the Swiss Ladies Open last week. She was T-24 after the first round but fell dramatically on the back nine. Even par for the first round, she parred the entire front nine but dropped shots on 10th and 11th. Then came a roller-coaster, as she birdied the Par-3 14th, but dropped a double bogey on Par-5 15th. Then she birdied Par-4 17th and dropped a second double



bogey on Par-5 18th to close at 4-over 77 and was T-41st.

Diksha, winner of two Ladies European Tour titles and third last year at Hero Women's Indian Open, is five shots behind the leader, Leona Maguire of Ireland. Maguire shot 66-72 for 8-under and England's Georgia Hall (70-70) was second at 6-under. Austrian Sarah Schober (67-75) was sole third while Diksha shared the fourth place with Welsh golfer Chloe Williams (69-74), Ines Laklalech of Morocco (72-71) and Laura Fuenfstueck of Germany (70-73) at 3-under.

In team competition, Team Naudas with France's Naudas Naudas, Czechia's Kristyna Napoleova, Spain's

Mireia Prat and amateur George Brooksbank, set the early pace to reach 24-under.

They were joined by Team Hall, which had Georgia Hall, Hannah Burke alongside Morocco's Lina Belmonti and amateur Shane Hart-Jones.

With both teams level on 24-under-par, they will feature in a play-off for victory at Centurion Club at the end of the third round on Saturday afternoon.

In the individual competition, Maguire holds a two-shot lead heading into the final round after carding a round of 72 (-1) to sit on eight-under-par.

The cut fell at +6 with 69 players making it through to the final day of the individual competition.