

QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer Senior Congress MP Jairam Ramesh said that the 'PM Fasal Bima Yojana' was a total failure and has been used to fatten private insurance companies. Interestingly. the Congress government of Telangana is rolling out the red carpet for the same scheme. Similarly, Rahul Gandhi criticises Adani as a benefactor of the BJP, but the Revanth government is signing multi-crore deals with the Adani group. The Congress should clarify who is right: The Delhi **Congress or the**

- Harish Rao, BRS MLA

P2

DON'T MISS...

8 BJP MPs failed to speak for 8...

Former MP Boyinapalli Vinod Kumar expressed solidarity with those protesting for the establishment of a railway coach factory in Kazipet, Warangal. He criticised the current BJP MPs, stating that Telangana has elected eight MPs each from BJP and Congress, yet they have failed to accomplish anything significant.Vinod Kumar urged the Central Ministers to fight for Telangana's rights, even if it costs them their positions. He highlighted that neither the BJP nor Congress MPs have protested effectively in Parliament...

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MSP legal guarantee issue ...

Opposition parties led by the Congress on Friday created a ruckus and obstructed proceedings in the Rajya Sabha, as they were not satisfied with Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's reply on providing a legal guarantee on minimum support price (MSP) to farmers. The trouble began during Question Hour when Chouhan listed steps taken by the government for the welfare of farmers and spoke about the committee looking into strengthening the MSP system but stopped short ...



Married traders have edge over ...

Markets regulator Sebi has delved into the patterns of intraday trading, revealing a surprising new factor influencing trading performance: relationship status. The regulator's analysis suggests stark differences b trading behaviours and outcomes of married and single traders, as well as between male and female traders. The Sebi's study. on intraday trading in equity cash segment, found that married traders tend to outperform their single counterparts in several key areas. During the ... -PAGE: 8

Officials told to speed up process to hold polls to local bodies

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy ordered officials to speed up the process for holding local body elections. The Chief Minister reviewed local body elections at the Secretariat on Friday. The CM inquired about the challenges in beginning the process for local body elec-

tions. The officials told the Chief Minister that the State Election Commission (SEC) has not yet receives the new voters' list from the Election Commission of India (ECI).

When the CM asked the time required to receive the voters list, officials said the ECI has already sent the list to two states and Telangana along with six other states will receive the list in a week.

Revanth asked the officials to launch the election process soon after the voters list is received and also suggested the preparation of voters list for local bodies in a week.

60,000 posts filled so far: CM



3 NATIONS CALL FOR CEASE-FIRE IN GAZA 'Human suffering is unacceptable'

PNS CANBERRA

Canada, Australia and New Zealand issued a joint statement Friday on the need for an urgent cease-fire in Gaza and the risk of expanded conflict between Hezbollah and Israel."The situation in Gaza is catastrophic. The human suffering is unacceptable. It cannot continue," the statement from the three prime ministers said.

"Israel must listen to the concerns of the international community. The protection of civilians is paramount and a requirement under international humanitarian law. Palestinian civilians cannot be made to pay the price of defeating Hamas.

In the next 90 days, 30,000 more posts would be filled, says Revanth

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced that his government has filled around 60,000 posts in government service in less than a year during the firemen passing out parade. He announced that in the next 90 days, 30,000 more posts would be

filled, adding that in less than a year of coming to power, over 60,000 jobs had been provided. The government will continue to

fill vacant posts in government service promptly. The Chief Minister urged the unemployed and stu-dents to approach Ministers and MLAs with their issues, assuring them that he would always stand by them as their Revanth Anna. He extended his congratulations

to the young men who completed firemen training and said their par-ents are proud of their achievements. Revanth said the hopes of the youth who participated in the Telangana movement were not met by the BRS

government. He said that as soon as Congress the unemployed and students to approach Ministers and MLAs with their issues, assuring them that he would always stand by them as their 'Revanth Anna'.

The Chief Minister urged

came to power, they distributed appointment letters. The Chief Minister commended the newly trained firemen for coming forward to protect society. He emphasized that the government is moving forward in line with the people's hopes. Significant budget allocations have been made for education and agriculture, he said.

Revanth said the government has prioritized education and healthcare in the budget aligning with public expectations. He assured that government employees would get their salaries on the first of every month.



CM for detailed study to fix Dharani problems

Moots new law after all-party meeting

hief Minister Revanth Reddy asserted that a detailed study is Unecessary to find a permanent solution to the problems being faced by people while using the Dharani Portal. The Chief Minister wanted to formulate a comprehensive Act in view of increasing land ownership problems in the state. The CM reviewed the Dharani Portal's functioning at the

Secretariat on Friday. He observed that land records which were once available at the village level have been shifted to the state headquarters from mandals and districts gradually due to changes in rules. The Chief Minister reminded that earlier, an opportunity to appeal to resolve land issues was given to the people.

Continued on Page 2

PM MODI ON KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS Pak hasn't learnt lesson from history

PNS DRASS

Pakistan has not learnt any lessons from history and continues to wage a proxy war in the garb of terrorism to stay relevant, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, asserting that the evil designs of the enemy will not be allowed to suc-

ceed On the occasion of the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas, the prime min-ister paid homage to the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.



"Pakistan has not learnt anything from its past and has continued to wage war in the garb of terrorism and proxy wars to stay relevant," he

He also attended a 'shraddhanjali said. marks come in the bac maroh and Τh Gatha', briefing on Kargil War by drop of surge in terror incidents in non-commissioned officers and vis-Jammu region. Modi, however, asserted that the ited Amar Sansmaran, and Hut of Remembrance here. He also visited nefarious intentions of terrorists will the Veer Bhoomi. never be fulfilled. The prime minister slammed

Oppn slams PM

defeat in the past.

for 'petty politics'



KALESHWARAM PUMPS PRIMED FOR PITCHED BATTLE

We will switch ourselves if the govt does not: KTR

The Opposition parties slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday over his claims concerning the Agnipath scheme while paying tribute to martyrs on Kargil Vijay Diwas and demanded a review of the scheme.Modi said the Agnipath recruitment scheme was of necessary reforms

'Some employees misusing facility to return to their home districts'

O Cabinet Sub-Committee holds meet on GO 317

PNS HYDERABAD

A meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on GO 317 was held at the Secretariat on Friday under the chairmanship of Medical, Health and Family Welfare Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha to discuss previous decisions. The Cabinet sub-committee members and Ministers D. Sridhar Babu and Ponnam Prabhakar were present.

The sub-committee

GO 317 are still needed from other some individuals are attempting to

After reviewing applications their home districts, contrary to its purpose of addressing the legal demands of employees. The subcommittee directed officials to identify those who have been wronged by GO 317 and provide their details

World champions India look to...

India's newly-forged coachcaptain combination of Gautam Gambhir and Suryakumar Yadav will look to make instant impact against a Sri Lankan team in disarray when the familiar South Asian rivals face off in a limitedovers series starting with three T20Is, here on Saturday, Twotime World Cup winner Gambhir is now at the helm of the ship as India's head coach while the T20 reigns have been handed over to one of the best batters in the format. Survakumar.Gambhir. who has built his.

Pakistan, saying it has always faced

undertaken by the Army and accused the opposition of playing politics over the recruitment process aimed at keeping the average age in the armed forces low.

Continued on Page 2

hold a full inquiry and submit a report on the decisions taken at its last meeting. The meeting said that some government departments provided complete information and the sub-committee noted specific details regarding employees affected by

ded to

received by top officials of various government departments under GO 317, the sub-committee found that 30 to 40 per cent of the applications were repetitive.

The sub-committee noted that to the committee.



PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama MLAs, MLCs and others on a two-Rao issued a stern warning to the day field inspection of the Kaleshwaram Project. The BRS team inspected the LMD Project in government saying that if the pumps of the Kaleshwaram Project are not switched on by August 2, he and Karimnagar on Thursday. 50,000 farmers will take matters into their own hands.

BRS brass ought to be ashamed: Uttam

eclaring that instead of being ashamed about their actions and apologising, BRS leaders including KT Rama Rao are making Kaleshwaram a 'picnic spot,' Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy accused KTR of spreading lies on the Kaleshwaram Project issue. He rejected the demand of BRS Working President KTR to fill the Kaleshwaram Project's reservoirs by starting pumping at the Kannepalli Lakshmi Pump House. Uttam said the BRS Government did not allow Congress leaders, including MLAs to visit the Kaleshwaram Project. However, BRS leaders have visited the barrages many times without any restrictions. Speaking at a press conference held at the Jal Soudha, Uttam dismissed the statements of KTR who demanded filling up of the Kaleshwaram Project's reservoirs by starting pumping at the Kannepalli Lakshmi Pump House.

PHONE-TAPPING CASE Court asks cops to produce Prabhakar Rao & Sravan Rao in five days

PNS HYDERABAD

The Nampally Court on Friday ordered the police to produce all the accused in the phone-tapping case before the court on July 31. On July 19 also, the court had ordered the police to produce them but they could not do so as the accused were in other countries.

The accused are Prabhakar Rao (A1), Praneeth Rao (A2), Bhujanga Rao (A3), Thirupathanna (A4), Radhakishan Rao (A5) and Sravan Rao (A6). Out of the six accused, A1 and A6 are absconding. On Friday the court said, "As per



the record, this court already issued non-bailable warrant (NBW) against Prabhakar Rao (A1) and Sravan Rao (A6) on July 11, but till now the police neither filed the report nor executed the warrants.'

In NTA final NEET-UG results, number of

toppers down to 17

PNS NEW DELHI



Breast cancer killed 3001 TG women in 2023

-SPORTS

PNS HYDERABAD

The estimated number of breast cancer deaths in Telangana has surged from 2,382 in 2014 to an alarming 3,001 in 2023. The latest data of the

National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) highlights a steady rise in cancer mortality rates in the state over the past decade.

In response to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, the Minister of State of Health and Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav, provided 0detailed state-wise data on breast and cervical cancer mortality rates from 2014 to 2023.

According to the data, the estimated number of breast cancer-related deaths in Telangana has surged

year by year. It was 2,382 in 2014, 2,447 in 2015, 2,513 in 2016, 2,580 in 2017, 2,648 in 2018, 2,716 in 2019, 2,787 in 2020, 2,857 in 2021, 2,928 in 2022 and 3,001 in 2023.

Andhra Pradesh has also witnessed a significant increase, with deaths rising from 3,623 in 2014 to 4,435 in 2023

Notably, Uttar Pradesh reports the highest number of breast cancer deaths among Indian states, zooming from 9,121 in 2014 to a staggering 11,451 in 2023.

Continued on Page 2

Anganwadis as playschools? No way!

TEACHERS, HELPERS OPPOSE CM'S DECISION

PNS HYDERABAD

The recent decision of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to convert Anganwadis into play schools and to educate kids till Class 3 there has led to confusion and raised concerns among both Anganwadi teachers and helpers. The crux of the issue is that already several services provided under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program are crying for attention due to

lack of support. P. Jayalakshmi, the State Secretary of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) said, "The CM's announcement that Anganwadis would be converted into playschools has created confusion among 70,000 Anganwadi teachers and helpers in the

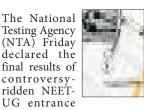
Anganwadi teachers are already facing many difficulties due to Integrated **Child Development Services** (ICDS) and lack of proper buildings, infrastructure and quality nutrition.

state. Anganwadi teachers are already facing many difficulties due to Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and lack of proper buildings, infrastructure and quality nutrition. In times like these there is a need to strengthen ICDS. Similarly, for 48 years Anganwadi teachers and helpers have been working in ICDS and providing services to the poor. Till now they do not have any benefits like



permanent jobs, minimum wage, job security, PF, ESI etc. The government should immediately withdraw the announcements as it is confusing the management of Anganwadis. We are informed that if the state government takes any measures to make it difficult for Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Anganwadi teachers and helpers the struggle will intensi-

fy."An Anganwadi worker said, "If the state government implements this decision, then ICDS will lose its identity and value, as ICDS is different from the education sector. We mainly focus on providing nutrition to children, conduct medical check-ups for pregnant women, infants, offer famplanning advice etc apart from teaching children.



exam, declaring that 17 candidates have shared the top rank, down from 61 in the revised results, while thousands of others have seen their marks and rankings change significantly. The number of qualifying candidates and the cut-off has also seen a marginal dip.



hyderabad 02



Bhatti's braggadocio budget borrows BRS playbook

the more things change, the more

they stay the same," French writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr said in 1849. The latest budget presented by Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, the Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister of the Congress government in Telangana, aptly proves this aphorism. The Congress, which came to power in the state promising 'Change', has presented a budget eerily similar to those of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government for the past nine years. Let us look at the numbers

first. This year's budget estimates the state government's spending at 2,91,059 crore rupees-almost the same as the last, at 2,90,296 crores. Like the previous year's budget, the current budget barely allocates funds for building assets that can earn future revenues. In fact, the

current budget reduced the allocation for capital expenditure by more than 10 per cent to 33,486.50 crore from last year's 37,524.70 crore. That means almost 90% of this, and the previous budget, went for current expenditure - salaries and pensions for government employees, servicing debt already incurred and paying for welfare schemes. Both budgets rely on heavy borrowings, increasing the government's cumulative debt. While the last budget envisaged addi-tional loans of Rs 46,317 crore, the current budget proposes to raise Rs 62,112 crore - a third more than in

the previous year. This budget's size, neglect of development, and increasing debt burden on the state and its people make it the same or even worse than the previous one presented by then-finance minister

This budget's size, neglect of development, and increasing debt burden on the state and its people make it the same or, in some cases, worse than the previous ones presented by the BRS government. It does not chart any new path. Even more pernicious is that it follows the same philosophy as the previous BRS budgets in designing and marketing it, with the same singular aim of deceiving the state's people.

Thanneeru Harish Rao of the previous BRS government presented, except for two years, the "actual" spending BRS. Except for a few changes in allocations to never reached the projected numbers. The deviations various departments, the budget does not chart any new path. Even more perniwere so consistent and high cious is that the Congress that even the Comptroller government followed the and Auditor General (CAG) same philosophy as the pretook the government to task vious BRS government in in its reports. As for last year, designing and marketing the the latest estimates show that the actual expenditure was budget, with the same singular aim of deceiving the less by more than 20%, that state's people. Let us go into is, by Rs 59,000 crore than the one projected in the bud-Of the nine budgets the get. Since it is safe to assume



that the bureaucrats in Telangana are no less capable of making budgetary estimates than those in other states, it is evident that the then BRS chief minister and the finance minister knowingly inflated the state's income numbers to claim record-breaking budgets year after year.

The above numbers show that the Congress government's latest budget matches last year's BRS budget numbers. The same budget also indicates that the state's share of central taxes will only increase by just over Rs 3000 crore from the previous year's estimate. That means grants from the Center, borrowings (loans) and the State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) should account for the remaining Rs 57,000 crore. One trick the previous government used, year after year, was heavily inflating projections for central grants beyond rational expectations and then blaming the Center for not matching their inflated numbers. For example, last year, the BRS government projected grants of Rs 41,259.17 crore, while the revised estimates put the number as less than one-fourth of their projec-

The Congress also used the same trick in this budget, though not as egregiously, projecting the number at Rs 21,636.15 crore, more than double the revised estimates for last year.

That leaves only borrowings and SOTR to fill in the gap. Even if the central grants are higher by a massive 50%, that leaves a gap of Rs 52,000 crore. After accounting for the higher loans, the government aims to raise this year over the last-Rs 18,000 crores more-the government needs to raise an additional Rs 34,000 crore through increased taxes. In that case, the residents of

Telangana are in for a hefty tax hike. The state's tax revenues come mainly from real estate, life tax on vehicles, fuels petrol and diesel, and the sale of alcohol. The state already ranks at the top in taxing fuels, making the cost of tions at Rs 9,729.91 crore. petrol and diesel the highest

in the country, after Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, the state already pushes alcohol to the hilt, with belt shops at every street corner, leading to alcohol abuse and a hefty rise in healthcare costs, domestic abuse and deaths of many people at a young age. The real estate in the state is seeing a slowdown, threatening to quash any hopes of a quick revival if the government raises taxes or land valuations.

These realities point to only one conclusion. Either the numbers presented in the budget are just for show, to fool people, like the earlier BRS budgets; or, the Congress is hell-bent on making the day-to-day lives of state residents miserable through high taxes and inflation-either way, we are doomed.

> (The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

CM asks TGSRTC. police to buy cloth only from govt bodies PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reviewed the functioning of the Telangana Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Limited (TGCO). The Chief Minister asked officials to provide jobs to handloom and power

loom workers. The Chief Minister directed officials to arrange meetings with those responsible for procuring uniforms in all departments after August 15. He suggested that the TGSRTC, police and health departments should procure cloth from government organizations to ensure employment for workers.

Revanth emphasized the importance of creating special designs and dress codes for members of women empowerment groups. He asked officials to ensure that only bonafide workers benefitted from these initiatives.

KCR cannot stomach younger **Revanth becoming CM: Jupalli**

details.

PNS HYDERABAD

Lashing out at BRS chief KCR's comments that the budget presented by the state government is nothing but trash and gas, Excise and Prohibition Minister Jupalli Krishna Rao asked KCR whether his Rs 2.90 lakh crore budget of 2023 which showed more income

was gas or trash. He said that if 25 per cent of the Telangana budget is spent on agriculture, then the government is allocating 15 per cent to pay off the debts of the previous BRS government.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, Jupally said the Rythu Bandhu scheme implemented by KCR has been changed to Rythu Bharosa and continued. An additional bonus of Rs 500 was also announced for farmers



Excise Minister Jupalli Krishna Rao addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Friday

depending on grain produced. guarantees are being implemented one by one, KCR is He said that KCR is saying that the Congress government criticising them. took a loan of Rs 30,000 crore seven months. the people in the Assembly and

Why didn't KCR come to Parliament elections. The BRS the Assembly for so many scored a big zero in Parliament days? As Revanth Reddy is elections. KCR is still unable to younger than KCR, is KCR digest the Congress coming to refusing to respect him by sitpower. The Congress governting before him in the ment has been paying Rs.48,331 crores to the EMIs of Assembly?" Jupalli said. He said that although the six the loans taken by the previous

BRS government and the interest incurred on it ", he said. Jupalli said the Congress government introduced a bud-

get based on reality although there were financial problems. He said that KCR did not come to the secretariat when he was in power and did not attend the Assembly for six months even though he is the Leader of the Opposition. That means that KCR has no regard for the Constitution written by Ambedkar. Jupalli said that KCR is

looking down on the people and the democratic system. KCR could not stomach the fact that Revanth Reddy became the Chief Minister at a younger age than him and that is why KCR thinks it is embarrassing for him to sit before Revanth in the Assembly, he said.

TG Mahila Congress

Court issues notice to NVSS on Deepa's defamation case

PNS HYDERABAD

The Nampally Court issued notices to BJP state Vice-President NVSS Prabhakar on Friday regarding AICC in-charge General Secretary Deepa Das Munshi's defama-tion petition. The court directed NVSS to attend court in this case on August 30 and directed officials to issue summons to NVSS.

It may be recalled that Deepa Das Munshi approached the court alleg-ing that NVSS had made false allegations that she took a Benz car as a gift and gave LS ticket to a Congress leader. NVSS had also declared that he has evidence regarding this.She said in her petition that NVSS's allegations defamed her. The court heard the case on Friday and issued notices to NVSŚ to appear in court on August 30.

'Cong hypocrisy on Fasal Bima Yojana exposed'

PNS HYDERABAD

In a pointed critique, Harish took to X to highlight the Congress's hypocrisy. He noted that while Congress MP Jairam had labelled the PM Fasal Bima Yojana as a failure, the Congress government in Telangana is now embracing the same scheme.

The Congress hypocrisy stands fully exposed! Congress MP and senior leader @Jairam_Ramesh ji claims the PM Fasal Bima Yojana is a complete failure and has been used to fatten private insurance companies. Interestingly, the Congress-led government in Telangana is rolling out the red carpet for the same scheme.

Harish also pointed out the contradiction in Congress leader Rahul's criticism of Adani while the Revanth government in Telangana signs multi-crore deals with the

company. "The Congress should clarify who is right: the Delhi Congress or the Telangana Congress?" he said.

Harish was responding to a March 2024 post by Jairam in which Jairam criticized the PM Fasal Bima Yojana as a political tool used by the BJP government in Maharashtra and promised a new, profarmer Fasal Bima Yojana as per the Congress's #KisaanNYAY guarantees.

Breast cancer...

cusecs of water is going waste KTR accused the governwater due to t towards KCR and warned that without immediate action, monsoon crops would also get destroyed. He reminded that last year, the BRS government had pumped the water on time ensuring supplies to LMD, Mid Manair, Ranganaikamma and Mallanna Sagar. He criticized the Congress government for allowing crops to dry out just to prevent KCR getting the credit.

to 4,763 in 2023.

On Friday morning, they at the Medigadda Barrage. visited the Kannepalli Pump House and Medigadda ment of not pumping the the

We will switch... ject areas, while 10 lakh

Continued from page 1 Across India, breast cancer

deaths have risen from 65,275 in 2014 to 82,429 in 2023.The number of cervical cancer deaths in Telangana l

8 from Telugu states make it to Paris Olympics

PNS HYDERABAD

Eight athletes from the Telugu states will represent India at the Paris 2024 Olympics, joining

Dandi (Athletics), Nikhat Zareen (Boxing), Esha Singh (Shooting), Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (Badminton) and

participation in the Olympics work and dedication. We are

Yarraji (Athletics), Jyothika Sri Pradesh have consistently as flag bearers, an honour shown exceptional talent. Their shared with Gagan Narang. This marks a significant is a testament to their hard moment as India rallies behind

"The BRS was torn apart by

plans dharna in Delhi for quota PNS HYDERABAD

the nation's contingent of 117 athletes competing in 16 sporting events. This includes PV Sindhu (Badminton), Sreeja Akula (Table Tennis), Jyothi Telangana and Andhra and badminton star PV Sindhu

(Archery) BRS MLA KT Rama Rao

Dhiraj

confident that they will make Bommadevara our nation proud."The opening ceremony will see veteran table posted on X, "Athletes from tennis player Sharath Kamal

Court asks cops to produce...

Continued from page 1

TODAY

ALMANAC

Tithi: Saptami:

Ashtami

Revati

Ashwini

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Temp: 28°

Humidity: 77% Sunrise: 5:54 AM

Sunset: 6:51 PM

Nakshatram:

Month & Paksham:

However, the police are trying to get back to India from abroad as they are seeking a red corner notice from the Interpol agency. A source said that the police requested for the issuing of red corner notice against former Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) T Prabhakar Rao and an MD of

Krishna Paksha

Jul 26 11:30 PM

to Jul 27 09:19 PM Jul 27 09:19 PM

to Jul 28 07:27 PM

Jul 26 02:30 PM

Jul 27 12:59 PM

to Jul 27 12:59 PM

to Jul 28 11:47 AM

9:10 AM to 10:46 AM

1:58 PM to 3:35 PM

5:57 AM to 7:33 AM

07:59 AM to 09:30 AM

10:44 AM to 12:14 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:57 AM to 12:48 PM

Updated: July 26, 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered Showers

a vernacular news channel Sravan Rao a few days back. But the request for the issuing red corner notice is pending with the Central Bureau of Investigation as it moved from the Crime Investigation Department (CID).However, on Friday during the arguments at Nampally Court, special prosecutor Sambashiva Reddy, who is arguing for the

State, told the court that they will take one month to issue the red corner notice against the absconding accused in the case. Advocate for the accused, Surender Reddy said that since the warrant is open dated, no report was filed in the court. Chargesheet is also incomplete, "Many documents have added.

In NTA final NEET-UG...

Continued from page 1

have been released three days after the Supreme Court rejected multiple petitions demanding a NEET-UG 2024 retest because of alleged paper leaks and other malprac-

tices The top court had, however, asked the NTA to revise the merit list in light of a controversial physics question which had two possible answers and the correct option was suggested by a three-member

decreased by five points with the court invalidating the disputed marks they The "re-revised" results

expert panel set up by the It led to a complete reworking of NEET ranks and scores for all 2.3 million students. The scores of at least 4,20,000 students, including 44 of the 61 who

not been given to us", he

got for the Physics question. However, the exact

impact on their rankings is not immediately clear. The exams was held on May 5 and the results were announced on June 4. Doubts about the sanctity of the exam arose when a total of 67 students scored a perfect 720, unprecedented in the NTA's history.The number of candidates sharing the top rank came down to 61 after the NTA announced the

revised results on July 1 after withdrawing grace marks awarded to six candidates to make up for loss of time some centres. On Friday, the NTA declared the "re-revised achieved perfect 720, result'

its athletes, hoping to surpass the record of seven medals won at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. "We extend our heartfelt wishes to the entire team," KTR added.

'Human...

Continued from page 1

It must end," the statement said. The prime ministers said they were "gravely concerned" about the prospect of further escalation across the region and condemned Iran's mid-April attack on Israel. They also called on Iran to refrain from further destabilizing actions in the Middle East and demanded that Iran and its affiliated groups, including Hezbollah, cease their attacks.

Hezbollah began firing rockets shortly after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel, saying it aimed to ease pressure on Gaza. The exchange of fire and airstrikes, which has been limited to a few kilometers (miles) on each side of the border, has displaced tens of thousands of people in both countries.

Oppn slams PM for 'petty...

Continued from page 1

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and other party leaders accused the prime minister of indulging in petty politics" over the Agnipath issue and said the prime minister's remarks that his government implemented the scheme at the behest of the Army was a "blatant lie".

"It is very unfortunate and deplorable that Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji is

Telangana Mahila Congress President Sunita Rao said that they have decided to stage a dharna in New Delhi on July 29 demanding reservations for women in nominated posts.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, Sunita said they are going to stage a dharna at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on July 29 as per the directions of All India Mahila Congress President Alka Lamba.

She said they are staging the dharna demanding that the Congress should implement 33 per cent reservations for women inside the party.

Sunitha said the Congress failed to give nominated posts to Mahila Congress leaders and appealed to the TPCC president and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to give opportunities to women too. She said the Telangana Mahila Congress had sought an appointment with Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi that they will raise their demands with Rahul and Sonia regarding the rights of women leaders.

doing petty politics even on

occasions like paying tribute

to martyrs on Kargil Vijay

Diwas. No Prime Minister

has ever done this before,"

Mukteshwar Swamy Temple in Kaleshwaram and at the Godavari River. After inspecting the

prayed

Continued from page 1

Kannepalli Pump House, KTR addressed the media, and urged the government not to sacrifice the interests of farmers at the altar of petty politics.

He said that crops are withering due to lack of water in Sriram Sagar, LMD, Mid Manair and Yellampalli pro-

Pak hasn't learnt lesson from...

Continued from page 1

"Our bravehearts will crush all terror attempts," he added. Paying tributes to the soldiers, Modi said the sacrifices made by the soldiers are immortal."Kargil Vijay Diwas reminds us that the sacrifices made for the nation are immortal. Even though months, years, decades and centuries pass by, the lives laid down to protect the nation's borders cannot be erased. The nation is forever indebted and deeply grateful to the mighty superheroes of our armed forces," Modi added.Recalling the days of Kargil war, Modi said he was fortunate to be amidst the soldiers back then, and that he still remembers how the soldiers carried out a difficult operation at such a height.

"I salute the brave sons of the country who made the supreme sacrifice to protect the motherland," he said.

In Kargil, we not only won the war, we presented an incredible example of truth, restraint and strength, the PM said.

shown increased: 948 in 2014, 975 in 2015, 1,001 in 2016, 1,029 in 2017, 1,057 in 2018, 1,085 in 2019, 1,114 in 2020, 1,142 in 2021, 1,173 in 2022, and 1,202 in 2023.In Andhra Pradesh cervical cancer deaths rose from 1,449 in 2014 to 1,788 in 2023. Uttar Pradesh again reports the highest number of cervical cancer deaths, with numbers increasing from 3,789 in 2014

BRS brass ought...

Continued from page 1

He said that KTR's suggestions were technically flawed and lacked understanding of the current situation. He stated that the demand to start pumping at Kannepalli was not acceptable. If water is pumped from Kannepalli, it must be released to the Annaram Barrage where all gates are currently open as per the directions of the NDSA. The Medigadda, Annaram Project's structures.

and Sundilla barrages which sustained huge damages during the BRS admin are undergoing repairs as per NDSA directions. He emphasised that KTR's statements revealed a lack of technical understanding and are just attempts to gain publicity. The NDSA, in its report dated May 1, highlighted several critical issues and recommended immediate measures to prevent damage to the Kaleshwaram

CM for detailed...

Act.

Continued from page 1

After the introduction of Dharani, all powers were delegated to Collectors instead of village and mandal authorities to solve land issues. The collectors' decisions have become unilateral and land issues are not getting solved in the Dharani Portal.

The Chief Minister asked officials to hold extensive talks with people and seek their suggestions to address land related disputes. An allif required.

Revenue officials were asked to select a mandal where Bhoodan, Poramboku, Bancharayi, Inam and Kandishika land issues have been pending and prepare a comprehensive report to get clarity on all issues. The CM also said that a debate will be conducted on Dharani during the Assembly's budget session

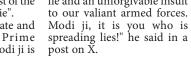
party meeting will also be

organized to seek opinions to

bring in a comprehensive

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Kharge said.





"Modi ji is saying that his government implemented the

Agnipath scheme at the behest of the Army. This is a blatant lie and an unforgivable insult



hyderabad 03

PRAJAVANI **'Apply crop loan waiver** with effect from 2017'

SAMUEL JOSHUA HYDERABAD

Farmers who attended Prajavani urged to apply the crop loan waiver scheme to those who applied since 2017, as the budget released also does not provide much for Rythu Bharosa. Many cried out that the present government only covers loans from 2018 to 2023, causing financial stress for many families.

In all, 681 people submitted their grievances at the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan on Friday, with many fresh applications related to land and 2BHK issues.

When asked, Bhukya Nagesh from Suryapet said he submitted a fresh application regarding a crop loan which he took based on his father's 4acre land worth Rs 1,60,000 due to poor financial status and health problems. He explained that he borrowed from the bank to avoid higher-interest. However, the bank later

800000 200000 శ్రీ ఎనుముల రేవంత్ రెడి గాంక

declared him ineligible for the loan waiver, pressuring him to repay the full amount. This has caused significant mental stress and financial difficulty for

Nagesh said, due to poor financial condition and family problems and stress, he had to borrow from private financiers. To manage the private financiers' pressure,

Nagesh said, he sold 2 acres of land to clear the debt, but still faces financial struggles. His current bank loan, with prin-

cipal and interest, amounts to Rs 3,60,000 where the bank demands repayment because the waiver only applies to loans

taken from 2018-2023, he added. Nagesh mentioned that the

officials told him to wait for

one week to process the grievance. Nagesh cried out for the new administration to do justice for farmers facing severe financial and health struggles to prevent mental agony and depression, which he has been dealing with alone.

In the same way, Siva Kumar from Jangaon also submitted a grievance for not being eligible for crop loan waiver, asking the government to support poor farmers facing financial difficulties. In another issue, Rameshwaram from Jangaon submitted a grievance regarding his mother's pension, which has not been activated despite having been applied an year ago. He accused officials of negligence and hoped for quick action as the officials requested to wait for a week.

According to the officials, 69 applications related to revenue issues, 132 for civil supplies, 87 for power, 232 for housing, 31 for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development and 130 for other departments were received.

Fund sanction helps push final phase-II MMTS works

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY HYDERABAD

Telangana government allocated Rs 50 crore for MMTS phase-II project in the Budget, which has kindled hopes among the daily passengers that the pending works of phase-II will conclude soon. The passengers urged the South Central Railway to complete the final phase of work between Moulali - Malkajgiri - Sitaphalmandi, so that it can facilitate direct train operation towards Kacheguda. The total coverage of MMTS in Phase-II is 84.05 km.

Noor Ahmed, president of Long Train & MMTS, Suburban Train Travellers Association said, "With allocation of funds in the Budget , we are having high hopes that the complete MMTS phase-II project can see the ray of light. As the project is in its final phase, only doubling and electrification of Moula Ali - Malkajgiri - Sitafalmandi is to be done. However, the work is moving very slowly for the past two years.'

Deepak, a daily passenger said, "MMTs phase-II works are going on at a snail pace



from 2014 due to delay of releasing funds by the State government. Once the MMTS phase-II services get launched many people will be benefited and also traffic congestion in

the city will be reduced." As per the officials of South Central Railway, it is a joint project of the Ministry of Railways and Telangana government on the basis of costsharing (one third by the South Central Railways and twothird by the State government). The originally sanctioned cost of Rs 816.55 crore has now escalated to Rs 1,150 crore due to the delay in pro-

ject execution for want of funds. Currently, the State

Collector extends support to underprivileged student

PNS HYDERABAD

District Collector M Manu Choudhary extended his support to B'Aryan Roshan, a student from an underprivileged family in Nakirekommula village, Kohada mandal, Siddipet district. Aryan Roshan, who studied at the Social Welfare Gurukula School in Kohada, achieved a perfect 10/10 GPA in his tenth grade. Despite financial hardships, he secured a seat in the Chemical Engineering branch at the prestigious IIT,

Tirupati. Responding to Aryan's situation, where poverty was a barrier to joining IIT, the District Collector provided assistance to continue his education.

On Friday, at the Collector's Chamber in the Integrated District Offices Complex, the District Collector, along with Additional Collector Garima Agarwal, presented Aryan Roshan with an HP laptop worth Rs 40,500 and a cheque for Rs 36,750 to cover the first semester fee at IIT.

664 deaths due to TB in TG in 2024, showing slight drop

PNS HYDERABAD

Tuberculosis (TB) continues to be a significant public health challenge in Îndia, with Telangana and Andhra Pradesh witnessing 664 and 825 deaths respectively reported in the first half of 2024. The statistics were tabled in the Lok Sabha on July 26, 2024, by Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel.

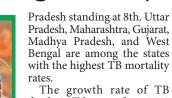
In Telangana, the number of TB-related deaths has seen fluctuations. The State recorded 1,850 deaths in 2019, which rose to 2,392 in 2020. However, there was a decrease in subsequent years, with 1,876 deaths in 2021 and 1,759 in 2022. The trend continued with a slight drop to 1,659 deaths in 2023 and 664 deaths reported in the first half of 2024.

Andhra Pradesh also reflects a concerning pattern. The State reported 3,636 TB-related deaths in 2019, which slightly to 2021, with 2,490 deaths, fol- mortality, while Andhra er applicable.



lowed by 2,223 in 2022. The trend continued downward with 1,484 deaths in 2023 and 825 deaths in the first half of 2024.

On a national scale, TB remains a critical health issue, with Uttar Pradesh reporting the highest number of TB deaths. The State recorded 13,424 deaths in 2019, escalating to 18,409 in 2020. The numbers slightly decreased in subsequent years, with 14,913 deaths in 2021, 16,500 in 2022, and 15,178 in 2023. The first half of 2024 saw 9,114 deaths.



deaths in Telangana from 2019 to 2023 is approximately -10.33%, indicating a decline over the period. In Andhra Pradesh, the growth rate is about -59.19%, showing a significant reduction in TB mor-

tality. Nationally, the growth rate of TB deaths over the same period is about 13.05%.

The government, recognising the gravity of the TB epidemic, has implemented several measures under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). This includes free screening, diag-nosis, and treatment for all TB patients in public health facil-ities and identified private healthcare facilities. The programme also emphasises continued disease surveillance Among Indian states preventive measure There was a significant drop in Telangana ranks 13th in TB including vaccination wherev-



100 special buses arranged for Lal Darwaza Bonalu

PNS HYDERABAD

In view of the Lal Darwaza Bonalu on July 28, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) arranged a total of 100 special buses for devotees who will attend the festival.

In all, 9 buses were arranged from Secunderabad railway station to Lal Darwaza, five buses from Kachiguda railway station, 9 buses from Jubilee bus station (JBS), four buses from Jeedimetla, four buses from Patancheru, five buses from ECIL X roads, five buses from Mehdipatnam, five buses from Dilshukhnagar, four

buses from Risala Bazar, four buses from Cherlapally, four buses from Rajendranagar, four buses from Ramnagar, five buses from Uppal, four buses from Borabanda, four buses from Midhani, five buses from KPHB Colony, four buses from Old Bowenpally, four buses from Malkajgiri and four buses from Balaji Nagar. The TGSRTC also arranged

help desks at various bus depots in the city. People can reach Lal Darwaza depot manager through 9959226131, MGBS depot manager 9000406069, through lerabad depot through

FGG urges CM to stop irregularities in HRDCL

government has to deposit Rs 760 crore towards its share, out of which only Rs 379 crore has

A senior SCR officer, said

"The sections completed till

date are - Malkajgiri - Bolarum

double line electrification for

Ramchandrapuram for 6 kms,

Medchal-Bolarum doubling

for 14 kms, Moula Ali

Ghatkesar quadrupling for

12.2 kms, Falaknuma-Umdanagar doubling for 13.5

kms and Sanathnagar - Moula

Ali for 22 km has been com-

pleted. Currently, works are

underway for Moula Ali -

Malkajgiri - Sitafalmandi dou-

bling with electrification.

14 kms, Tellapur

been deposited till date.

PNS HYDERABAD

The Forum for Good Governance (FGG) has submitted a representation to the Chief Minister requesting an end to the irregularities in the Hyderabad Road Development Corporation (HRDCL).

The letter highlights that providing good roads in and around Hyderabad is a key responsibility of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). Residents pay property tax to the GHMC for civic amenities, including roads. GHMC has a large engineering wing to lay and maintain roads. To further support these efforts, the Quli Qutubsha Urban Development Authority was established in 1981, chaired by the Chief Minister. Additionally, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority also undertakes similar works. The Strategic Road Development Programme was launched to improve Hyderabad's roads



Telangana created the HRDCL as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with deceptive intentions, as per GO 106 dated 11-3-2017. The Forum stated that HRDCL's role is to build and manage roads in Hyderabad, raising loans worth thousands of crores. By 2023, two phases were completed, and the third phase is set to start in August 2024 with an estimated cost of Rs 1,500 crore.

Many works from the first two phases remain incomplete, yet the third phase, as per GO 296 dated 10-7-2024, identifies 49 works grouped into condi two packages tions favouring specific conpriated. isations, the Government of tractors. There are concerns

that the entire Rs 1,500 crore is divided into two packages (Rs 698 crore and Rs 802 crore) to benefit selected contractors.

The Forum also mentioned that loans taken by HRDCL in the first two phases are not reflected in the GHMC or State budgets, and the Rs 1,500 crore loan for the third phase will also be omitted. Partiality in the allotment of works, lack of transparency, and accountability are leading to corruption. The members of the Forum warned that the newly elected government will get dirty if HRDCL continues and large-scale loans are misappro-

buses from Kukatpally, four

buses from Hayatngar, four 9959226147 and JBS through 9959226144

Despite these multiple organ-

Dilsukhnagar blasts convict dies of health issues in prison

PNS HYDERABAD

Convicted in 2013 Dilsukhnagar serial blasts, terrorist Syed Maqbool Zuber(44), a key member of the Indian Mujahideen (IM), died at Gandhi Hospital on Thursday morning while under-going treatment. He had been in Cherlapally central prison since November.

The deceased was from Nanded in Maharashtra. In October 2023, the NIA court in Delhi sentenced him to life imprisonment for his role in the bomb blasts at Dilsukhnagar. It may be reacalled that 18 people had died and over 130 people injured in the blasts which occurred on February 21, 2013 in Dilsukhnagar.

Cherlapally police told The Pioneer that in May and June, he

had undergone open heart surgery. After recovery he was shifted to the Cherlapally central prison on November 6, 2023. After that he was diagnosed with kidney failure and later multi organs failure. Due to his health issues, he had been shifted to NIMS and later to the Gandhi

was undergoing treatment, he was declared dead

the postmortem report.

Hospital. On Thursday, while he Cherlapally police registered

a custodial death case under 196 BNSS. Police said that a postmortem was conducted, though his death is suspected to be health issues, but the exact cause of death would be known after

GENCO PROJECTS BHEL committed to timely execution

PNS HYDERABAD

In a crucial meeting held at Vidyut Soudha, Hyderabad, K Murthy, Sadashiv CMD/BHEL, and D Ronald Rose, Secretary to Government of Telangana, Energy Department and CMD/TGGENCO & TGTRANSCO, discussed the progress of ongoing power projects and introduced plans for advanced technologies. They reviewed the progress

of the remaining works at BTPS plant, construction of Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) systems being constructed at BTPS and KTPS-VII stage, and agreed to complete the works as per the committed schedules.

Ronald Rose requested CMD/BHEL to engage a sufficient number of labourers at all locations of works of TGGENCO.

BHEL will certainly extend the required cooperation to attend to any sort of operational emergencies in the plants of **TGGENCO** to minimise the downtime of the units, official said

During the review of Yadadri Thermal Power Station (YTPS) works, it was insisted to ensure necessary measures to meet the schedule of commissioning two units of Stage-I by October 2024 and three units of Stage-II by March 2025.

Sadashiv Murthy responded positively and accepted to commission five units of YTPS as per the committed schedule and also informed that BHEL will certainly extend the required coopera-tion to attend to any sort of operational emergencies in the plants of TGGENCO to minimise the downtime of the units.

Further, Ronald Rose enquired about the advanced technologies propping up in the thermal power sector such as advanced ultra super critical technology and coal gasification.



DGP Jitender conducting a video-conference on Friday along with other officials

DGP holds meet to improve Dial 100 /112 call efficiency

PNS HYDERABAD

service.

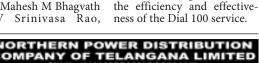
Director General of Police Dr Jitender held a video-conference on Friday with all Commissioners of Police, Superintendents of Police and Station House Officers to discuss about improving the efficiency of Dial 100/112 calls. During the conference, DGP

Ramesh and V Satyanarayana, Hyderabad City Joint CP Parimala Hana Nutan, and other senior officers attended the meeting. They provided insights and suggestions for further improving the Dial 100 service. All officers committed to making timely improvements.

Inspectors General of Police M

The DGP urged officers to Jitender emphasised the importance of Dial 100/112 in ensurmaintain high standards of ing public safety and quick professionalism and responpolice response. He shared new siveness to build public trust in strategies for enhancing the the police force. The meeting ended with a collective commitment to work together to boost

Additional Directors General of Police Mahesh M Bhagvath and VV Srinivasa Rao,



NORTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED CIN No.U40109TG20005GC034119

TENDER NOTICE NO. 01(2024-25) Construction of ERO & Sub-Division at Machina, ERO Office at Kusamanchi and ERO & Divisio officebuildings at/Machina of Khammani circle, ERO & Sub-Division building in Manugaru o Bhadhadhi kothagudiem circle and Laying CC road, open shed 10" x 30" at Mancherial stores o Mancherial circle and Compound vall at PSCC Pole center Kalimnager (vide Bid No. 1-37,38,39,40,41 42,43(24-25). For further details please visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in or www.tendel.com Sci- Chief General Manager (Projects), TGNPDCL / Waranga

Tender Notice No. 10/24-25 o DE/OPN/KOTHAGUDEM. With Specification No. 01/ 2024-25

Sealed tenders are invited from TGNPDCL registered Contractors of Bhadrachi Kothagude circle for fixing of agency for Estimate Proposal for Els to 1075HP AGL Load to Sri. Sangarr Korrejulu and Others at Malkaram (V) in Dammapeta Section of Aswaraopeta Sub-Division of Palvancha Division. WBS No: A-2401-06- 02-04-01-017, The details of the tender can be bitained from our website www.tgnpdcl.com Sdi- Divisional Engineer, Operation, Kothagud R.O. No.: 2149-PP/CL/ADVTI1(2024-25, DL 25-07-2024

Expo on Kargil Vijay Diwas inaugurated

PNS HYDERABAD

The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Hyderabad, under the Ministry Information and Broadcasting, organised the silver jubilee celebrations of 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' at Vivek Vardhini Degree & PG College in the city on Friday. On this occasion, CBC, Hyderabad has arranged a two-day photo exhibition on the college premises.

Former Commandant of Air Force Academy, Air Marshal B Chandra Sekhar (Rtd) was the chief guest. Sadashiva Sawrikar, President, VV Education Society, was the special guest



Chandra Sekhar said that wellwhile Shruti Patil, Addl. being of an individual is key for Director General, CBC & PIB, went through the photo exhithe well-being of the country. bition that showcased the val-"Country is a part of you and our and might of Indian forces if you do well, the country will during the Kargil War. do well," he told students. He Addressing the students, said that Army defends the

country but the society should also play a role in making India stronger by creating more scientists, doctors, farmers and others professionals. He recalled the phrase 'Desam ante Matti Kadoi, Desam ante Manushuloi (Nation is not soil, notion is the people)' by

poet Gurajada Aapparao. Shruti Patil said that youth should have a sense of duty towards the nation and always think of a larger picture in the interest of the country. Sadashiva Sawrikar said that such exhibitions are an opportunity for the younger generates to know about the Indian forces.

Govt dues to GHMC Rs 3,759 cr; but allocates Rs 3,065 cr

PNS HYDERABAD

As the Telangana government announced an allocation of Rs 3,065 crore to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), some of the political leaders praised it. But the total dues from the State government to GHMC are Rs 3,759 crore, which is around Rs 700 crore more than the government allocation in the Budget.

Assembly session in February 2024, Chandrayangutta MLÁ Akbaruddin Owaisi told the Assembly that 5,541 bills are

pending. The amount that is due to the contractors is Rs

He told the Assembly that

regarding funds.

During the Telangana

1,153.57 crore.

the government is dues to the GHMC for the current financial year was Rs 3,759.46 crore. Out of these, professional tax of Rs 300 crore, property tax for government buildings Rs 107 crore, funds for Pattana Pragathi was Rs 227 crore, Mutation Fees of Rs

175.46 crore and Transfer Duty was Rs 2,950 crore. In the GHMC Council meeting in February 2024, the council passed a resolution



Komatireddy: Why did KCR not comment on Union Budget? 8 BJP MPs failed to speak for 8 minutes in Parl Former MP crititicised BJP and Congress MP for failing to bring pressure on the Centre for new prejects

PNS NALGONDA

Minister for Roads and Building Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Friday demanded an explanation from former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao as to why he failed to comment Únion Budget. on Chandrashekar Rao, known as KCR, the Minister said, had, however, criticised Telangana State budget. It showed that KCR has tacit understanding with the BJP. Venkat Reddy pointed out

that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy condemned the injustice meted out to Telangana in the Union budget on the very evening of presenting the

Union budget. Why KCR did not condemn the injustice done to Telangana in the Union budget, he queried.

Addressing a press confer-ence at his camp office in Nalgonda district headquarters on Friday, he expressed surprise over KCR, T Harish Rao and KT Rama Rao remaining



Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy speaking to the media in Nalgonda on Friday

mute about the injustice meted out Telangana in the Union Budget.

He said that the allocation of Rs 72,659 crore for the agriculture sector in the State budget showed that the government is 100 per cent pro-farmer. "I have been in the legislature for 30 years and have never seen

sector and a large amount of funds have been allocated for SLBC, Shivannagudem, Brahmana Vellemula, Palamuru-Rangareddy and Seetharama Onti projects in southern Telangana. He said that the trial run of

the Brahmana Vellaimula project would be conducted in 10 days and the canals would be completed by December. He said a new machine will be brought from the US to complete the SLBC tunnel at the earliest.

Apart from the pending projects in Nalgonda, Palamuru-Rangareddy projects will be completed. The Minister announced that multi-purpose hostels will be set up in an area of 20 acres with Rs 80 crore in each Assembly constituency. Nakrekal MLA Vemula

crore, out of which Rs 72,659 crore has been allocated for the Veerasam accompanied the agriculture sector alone, out of Minister. which Rs 31,000 crore has

Later, the Minister received complaints from the public at the Municipal Park near the camp office.

PNS HYDERABAD

Former MP Boyinapalli Vinod Kumar expressed solidarity with those protesting for the establishment of a railway coach factory in Kazipet, Warangal. He criticised the current BJP MPs, stating that Telangana has elected eight MPs each from BJP and Congress, yet they have failed to accomplish anything signif-

icant. Vinod Kumar urged the Central Ministers to fight for Telangana's rights, even if it costs them their positions. He highlighted that neither the BJP nor Congress MPs have protested effectively in Parliament for key projects like the Bayyaram Steel Plant and the Kazipet Railway Coach Factory.

He pointed out that the BJP government at the Center did not come to power independently but relies on alliances with TDP and Janata Dal parties. Vinod Kumar accused Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu



Former MP B Vinod Kumar participating in a protest staged to press for coach factory at Kazipet at Kazipet on Friday

of securing funds for the tenure as an MP, BRS party Polavaram Project and members fought hard in par-Amaravati Capital while liament to secure permissions neglecting Telangana. for several national highways The former MP mentioned and projects, but the current

that the Central government MPs have failed to achieve similar results. has not allocated any funds to Telangana in the current budthe central and state governget, and this injustice is due to the incompetence of the BJP ments have ignored the and Congress MPs. He promises made in the bifurcareminded that during his

long-standing demand for the Kazipet Railway Coach Factory, which has been ongoing since 1985. He also criticised the allocation of funds to Andhra Pradesh's backward districts while ignoring similar needs in Telangana.

Furthermore, he noted that new Navodaya schools have not been sanctioned for the new districts of Telangana, and only nine schools exist in the old districts. He lamented that Congress's flawed decisions have left Telangana's projects without water even during the rainy season.

Vinod Kumar recalled that during his tenure, he fought in Parliament to bring the All India Medical Institute to Bibinagar. He urged the current BJP and Congress MPs to fight for Telangana's funds by directly appealing to the Prime Minister during the budget sessions.

Vinod Kumar stressed that The event saw the participation of former MLA Vinay Bhaskar, former chairman Yadav Reddy, corporators, and tion act. He emphasized the senior BRS party leaders.

Need to observe Friday as dry day stressed

PNS MEDAK

Additional Collector Venkateswarlu on Friday visited Devulapalli village in Kaudipallimandal as part of observing today as the dry day.

He toured various villages and interacted with people to enquire from them about the implementation of the sanitation programmes.

He asked the people to observe day day on Fridays and ensure that there is no wat er stagnation in and around the houses

To check breeding of mosquitoes on stagnated water, the people should spray kerosene or crude oil. He asked the people to remain alert to prevent the incidence of viral diseases like Malaria, Chicken gunya.

Objects like old tyres, coconut shells, broken glass bottles, plastic covers, used tea cups and other paraphernalia capable of storing the stagnant water should be removed from time to time. The vessels should be cleaned once in a week to fill water. The waterused in air coolers,

The additional

for observing personal hygience and advised people to drink water only after boiling. **Only freshly cooked**

breakfast and lunch should be eaten

refrigerators should be changed once in a week. He suggested closing the old

and disused wells, razing to the ground dilapidated buildings. There is a threat of outbreak of seasonal diseases like malaria, dengue and typhoid, the officials conduct diagnostic tests at the ground level, he

said. The additional collector also called for observing personal hygience and advised people to drink water only after boiling. Only freshly cooked

breakfast and lunch should be

eaten. The people should keep

away from stale food and food

procured from market.

collector also called

PNS NIZAMABAD

of mobiles

The one-town police station in the city achieved the distinction of ranking number one in Telangana in the recovery of stolen mobile phones. It may be recalled that

such a good budget." He said

that the state government has

brought a budget of Rs 2,91,191

been allocated for farmer loan

waiver, Rs 22,000 crore has

been allocated for the irrigation

City PS ranks

number one in

TG in recovery

mobile phones have been playing crucial role in the lives of people. Earlier, it became extremely difficult to recover the stolen mobile phones. However, nowadays the police are able to recover six out of 10 stolen mobile phones.

The department of telecommunications introduced the CEIR (central equipment identity register) portal at different dates in various places across the nation. In Telangana, the portla was introduced on March 15, 2023. Through the portal the one-town police station received 1432 complains about loss of the mobile phone.



Police taking father-son duo for growing marijuana plants at Nagulavancha village in Khammam district on Friday

Police arrest father-son duo for growing marijuana plants

PNS KHAMMAM

Police on Friday arrested a father-son duo on charge of cultivation of marijuana cultivation at their home at Nagulavancha village under Chintakani mandal in the district. They had been allegedly selling marijuana to local people.

Acting on tip-off, the police raided the house of K Venkateswarlu and found cannabis plants. Venkateswarlu and his son Srihari got into an arguments

with the police saying that they were growing greens and in fact that they did not know that they were cannabis

plants. The police said that 10 grams of dry ganja was also found inside the hosue during the search. The police seized plans and sent them to forensic lab for testing. Sub-Inspector Nagul Meera

booked a case against the accused under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Further investigation is on.

Collector calls for training Anganwadi teachers

PNS PEDDAPALLI

Collector Koya Sri Harsha has called for sensitising Anganwadi teachers about their role as pre-school teachers in view of upgrading the Anganwadi Centers into preschools.

He reviewed the working of the Woman and Child Welfare Department at the Integrated

District Offices' Complex here ing uniforms. on Friday along with additional collector J Arunasri.

He asked the officials to complete the training programme for the Anganwadi teachers in 15 days and ensure that the pre-schools are run with 100 per cent efficiency. center. Further, he asked them to see to it that the Anganwadi stu-

Further, he asked them to provide nutritious food to expectant mothers. The Anganwadi centre supervisors should monitor regularly whether the pregnant women receive nutritious food at the

Later, he inspected Sakhi center for women and Bala Raksha Bhavan.

patients were found to be suf-

fering from fever. Over 30

patients took admission in

The number of patients vis-

iting the PHCs at Metpally,

Korutla and other places is

The outpatient ward at civil

hospital at Peddapalli receiv-

ing 300-350 patients per day

for the past four days. Of

them, 90-100 cases pertain to

headquarters government hos-

pital outpatient ward receives

The Peddapalli district

the hospital at Jagtial.

steadily increasing.

fever.



Peddapalli Collector Kova Sree Harsha inspecting Anganwadi centre in Peddapalli on Friday

Alleged ragging at engineering college; 2 students hurt

PNS RANGAREDDY

An incident of ragging has been reported at Mahaveer Engineering College in Mylardevpally. The trouble began when first-year diploma students were subjected to severe harassment by their seniors.

The conflict started when a first-year student, tasked with organising a seminar, called upon everyone, including the seniors, to attend. This seemingly innocent invitation sparked rage among the senior students, who felt insulted by being summoned by their juniors.

In retaliation, the seniors allegedly locked the first-year students in a college bathroom and subjected them to physical assault. The violence result-

Residential school student dies

PNS KARIMNAGAR



Jagtial district of Telangana died following ill-health on Friday, police said.

The boy suffered seizures in the wee hours and died on the way to a hospital, the school principal said.

A case of suspicious death under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) was registered based on a complaint made by the boy's father, police said, adding that a probe was underway.



Mahaveer Engineering College

ed in injuries to two students, who subsequently filed a complaint at the Mylardevpally Police Station.

The Mylardevpalli Police took swift action, launching an investigation and registering a case under multiple sections. The investigation is ongoing, and the authorities are committed to addressing the serious allegations of ragging and ensuring the safety and well-

increasing from Rs. 90,857 crore in 2022-23 to Rs. 98,961

sector, including veterinary services provided through 100 IT-enabled Mobile Veterinary Clinics, which have treated 39,10,853 cases as of April 2024. One of the notable schemes is the Milk Incentive Scheme, which supports dairy farmers by offering Rs. 4 per litre of milk supplied to coopbeing of all students at the erative dairies.

The Government of India

Habitual offender held, jewellery

worth Rs 21 lakh recovered

Livestock a driver of growth in primary sector

PNS HYDERABAD

Veterinary Units for Telangana to provide livestock farmers The livestock sector in with free veterinary and animal Telangana is a significant drihealth services. ver of growth in the primary sector, with its contribution to A new vaccine production unit at Mamidipally, sancthe Gross State Value Added

(GSVA) at current prices tioned under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, will produce 10 lakh doses annually. crore in 2023-24, As per socio Additionally, veterinary institutions are being expanded, economic outlook report. with plans to upgrade 25 Area The Telangana government has been implementing sever-Veterinary Hospitals to District al initiatives to enhance this Veterinary Hospitals and 63 sub-centres to Primary Veterinary Centers.

Telangana's livestock population includes 190.63 lakh sheep, 799.99 lakh poultry, 42.26 lakh buffalo, 49.35 lakh goats, 42.31 lakh cattle, and 1.78 lakh pigs. The per capita availability of eggs was 392, and the per capita availability of meat was 23.97 kilograms for the fiscal year 2022-23. Small

and marginal farmers and the has also sanctioned 100 Mobile landless poor contribute significantly to the livestock sector, accounting for 62% of total milk production and owning 70% of livestock in the state. Women constitute about 69% of the workforce engaged in the

livestock sector, highlighting the sector's role in socio-economic change and rural development. The state is also focusing on improving milk produc-tion and supply. In 2022-23, no financial releases were made under the Rs. 4/- per litre Milk Incentive Scheme. However, the government has approved the resumption of payments to dairy farmers starting in April 2024, with a directive to update the E-Laabh data details of farmers and milk pourers from all dairies, ensuring payments are made directly to dairy farmers'

bank accounts through Direct

60.15% decrease.

total number of sheep and goats has decreased by 32.40% from 1,90,81,065 in 2019 to 1,28,41,299 in 2024. But BRS claimed that the livestock census will be done from September and this data is false of decline in livestock.

ganja.

Special drives

will be conduct-

ed to check

ganja smug-

gling using sniffer dogs to

detect ganja, he

said. However, he

said, it has become diffi-

8 ganja smokers held; 390 grams of ganja, 5 cigarettes recovered

PNS SIRCILLA

District Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan has acknowledged receipt of testing kits to check those who inhale ganja by all stations in the district and hinted

at daily conducting checks using the kits, on the lines of drunken drive, to detect the drug abusers. Using the kits,

tests were conducted on suspected sub-

stance abusers leading to arrest of eight persons and recovering 390 grams of cult to identify those who abuse ganja. In this backdrop, ganja. The police recovered all police stations in five ganja cigarettes from them, the SP said. Telangana are equipped with the special test kits.

He along with additional SP, special branch DSP and Hereafter, the abusers of ganja would not be able to Sircilla town CI released the avoid detection, he said

Benefit Transfer (DBT). The total number of live stock-owning families has also decreased, indicating a potential decline in livestock farming activities.

According to the District Wise Sheep and Goat Census data shared by Government sources, there has been a significant decrease in the livestock population across various districts from 2019 to 2024. For instance, Medchal district saw a 60.45% decrease in livestock numbers, while Warangal experienced a

The census shows that the

Dengue cases are on the rise in Karimnagar dist

PNS KARIMNAGAR

In undivided Karimnagar district, 42 dengue cases have been reported during the current season. It has become a cause of concern for district as well as medical authorities.

The viral fevers and seasonal diseases are on the rise with inclement weather in the district for the past several days. People, especially the chil-

dren, have been suffering from cold, cough and fever. The rush of the patients has increased from the PHCs in villages to district hospital.

at least 1,000 patients per day, while the Area Hospital at According to medical offi-Sircilla receives not less than cers, the number of patients 900 cases a day. According to Dr Veera visiting the hospitals with these symptoms has almost doubled during the past one week.

The outpatient department of the government hospital here has been receiving at least 1,000 cases per day. On July 22, the outpatient ward had so far received 1,210 cases. The government hospital at Jagtial received at least 1,000 cases per day during the past one week. Of them, 300





The Peddapalli district headquarters government hospital outpatient ward receives at least 1,000 patients per day, while the Area Hospital at Sircilla receives not less than 900 cases a day

The city police in coordination An eighth standard stuwith the Central Crime Station dent of a personnel on Friday apprestate-run reshended a habitual criminal roaming in Gandhi Chowk idential school in areas under suspicious cir-

institution.

cumstances and recovered from him 29 tolas of gold jew-ellery worth Rs 21 lakh, including the jewellery stolen from a house under the limits of three-town police station in the city.

PNS KHAMMAM

The arrested was identified as Sampati Uma Prasad alias Uma, 24, resident of RamalayamVeedhi in Pandurangapuram, Ballepalli, Khammam.

Acting on a complaint that he broke into a locked residence in Saradhi Nagar on the



night of June 20 breaking eve on the movements of old open the lock when the criminals. They found Uma Prasad moving under suspi-cious circumstances. They inmates were away and decamped with jewellery kept in the almirah, the three-town took him into custody and police inspector D Ramesh questioned him. Uma Prasad and his staff, in a joint operadmitted to his complicity in ation with the CCS, kept an several crimes

kits at a programme held at

Sircilla district police headquarters here on Friday. The police department will implement novel programmes to make the district free from ganja and sensitise the people against



nation 05

Two held from Ujjain in MP for extorting from Thane hoteliers

wo persons were arrested from Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh for allegedly extorting money from hoteliers in Thane by posing as media and civic personnel, a police official said on Friday. The accused used to threaten hoteliers in Kashimira area by posing as correspondents of renowned television channels as well as staff of the Mira Bhayander Municipal Corporation, Zone I Deputy Commissioner of Police Prakash Gaikwad

said. "Acting on a tip off, a police team went to Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh and then to MP's Ujjain, from where accused Jayesh Sawant (41) and Himanshu Singh (24) were arrested on July 24. Sawant has six cases against his name in Mumbra, Kasarvadavli police stations in Thane and Dahisar, Vile Parle and Bhandup police stations in Mumbai," the DCP said. They were booked under Indian Penal Code and Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita provisions for extortion and other offences, he said



SP chief takes dig at 'rift' in UP BJP, calls Deputy CM Maurya 'pawn'

Sheard that Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya is a "pawn". He was speaking to reporters after unveiling a 'Samvidhan-Manstambh' at the SP headquarters here, where he also targeted the Yogi Adityanath government over the issue of corruption. "The government used to

claim that there is a zero tolerance policy especially on corruption and law and order. But now their leaders themselves are saying we have not seen such corruption in our political life," said Yadav. Recently, a former state minister had made such remarks about corrup Otion, although he backtracked from his statement later. "Corruption is being exposed because some people have become pawns," Yadav said, hinting at the speculated rift within the BJP.



Congress asks Kerala govt to withdraw from coastal highway project

he Opposition Congress in Kerala on Friday asked the Left government to withdraw from the ongoing coastal highway project in the state as there has allegedly been no scientific planning for it, and it would displace coastal communities. In a letter written to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan said the government should reconsider the decision to embark on the project, which he claimed

to be initiated without preparing a detailed project report (DPR). Satheesan alleged that the government has not yet resolved the issues faced by the fishing community for the Vizhinjam International transshipment seaport project. "The question arising now is whether there is a need for a coastal highway when the NH 66 is passing through the coastal areas of the state with distances ranging from as close as 50 metres to as far as 15 kilometres from the shoreline," Satheesan said



OPPOSITION STAGES PROTEST

MSP legal guarantee issue rocks Rajya Sabha session

PNS NEW DELHI

Opposition parties led by the Congress on Friday created a ruckus and obstructed proceedings in the Rajya Sabha, as they were not satisfied with Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's reply on providing a legal guarantee on minimum support price (MSP) to farmers.

The trouble began during Question Hour when Chouhan listed steps taken by the government for the welfare of farmers and spoke about the committee looking into strengthening the MSP system but stopped short of talking about a legal guarantee for crop support prices

Following the minister's remark, Congress MPs, including Randeep Surjewala and Jairam Ramesh, protested, saying that Chouhan's reply was incomplete.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar tried to diffuse the situation, saying the minister had given a detailed reply and if the members were not satisfied, they should use available avenues to seek answers.

Dhankhar repeatedly asked

Agniveers will be 'very useful' for ITBP: DG



the members to allow the proceedings to continue and also threatened to name members for disrupting the House. As per the rule, an MP

named by the Chair has to withdraw from the House for the remainder of the day. Opposition members, however, refused to relent and

continued to shout slogans, disrupting proceedings for a few more minutes. Earlier, in his replying dur-

ing supplementaries, Chouhan said the government has set up a panel on MSP and would consider the recommendations once the report is submitted. "I would like to state that

To ensure higher prices of crops for farmers, a mandate has also been given to the committee to suggest steps for strengthening the agricultural marketing system in line with the changing needs of the country. This committee is also working on issues like nat-

The meetings of this committee are being organised regularly. Since July 22, 2022, the committee has met 6 times. Additionally, 35 meetings of

"Whenever the panel submits its report, the government will examine it," Chouhan said. On the question of whether the government wants to give a legal guarantee of MSP to farmers or not, the minister said it is continuously working towards farmers' welfare.

The MSP rates have been increased regularly to give proper prices to farmers, he

The agriculture minister give appropriate MSP to farm-

UP: 9 of family

among 14 get life

term in 17-yr-old

A court here awarded life

imprisonment to 14 people,

including nine of a family, in

connection with a 17-year-

old murder case , a lawyer

murder case

PNS BUDAUN (UP)

A neta who backed farmers to the hilt

DR YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI

Politics is not just a stepping stone to power. The aim of politics is to purture politics is to nurture, preserve, and pass on to posterity the highest human values. Dr Yelamanchili Sivaji, a parliamentarian who has backed farmers to the hilt against odds, reflects this in the best possible manner. Sivaji has always excelled in his own style. Even at the age of 77, he is enhancing people's awareness of various social issues through his writings, articles, and lectures. In today's political landscape, few lead-ers are as versatile as Dr Sivaji.

Many leaders know Dr Siváji only as a member of the Rajya Sabha (1988 to 1994). But if you look closely at Dr Sivaji's political journey, you will understand the unique aspects of his personality. Dr Sivaji was arrested under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act on 26 June 1975 -- a day before the proclamation of Emergency in the country. Dr Sivaji was the first detainee to be arrested under that Act in combined Andhra Pradesh. Though not a lawyer, Sivaji created a sensation by arguing the case registered against him in the High Court. The Janata Party took shape during 18-23 January 1977 when all opposition parties in the country decided to contest together under one name, with one election symbol, one flag and a common agenda. Talking to the likes of Chaudhuri Charan Singh from time to time, Dr Sivaji announced the birth of the Janata Party first at a press conference in Vijavawada.

Dr Sivaji did get an opportunity to contest in the elections held then. However, he politely refused due to lack of financial resources. When Charan Singh came to know about it,



are confused in the selection of Lok Sabha candidates. In this context, I would like to bring one thing to your attention. It would be better if you choose Dr Sivaji as your party's candidate for a constituency. It will benefit your state and your party.

Dr Sivaji worked with me in the independent party. I observed his performance and ability. NTR then declared that Sivaji would be the candidate for the Guntur Lok Sabha seat and suggested that he should come the next day and take the documents and materials related to the election. Due to subsequent developments, someone else was announced as the candidate in place of Dr Sivaji.

It is indeed a great thing that a nationally renowned leader like Minoo Masani chose to write a letter of recommendation about a common man like Dr Sivaji, who had never contested in any election till then. Later, in 1986, he got an opportunity to contest as a laiva

candidate, but he passed it at the last

minute. Dr Sivaji was finally elected

to the Rajya Sabha in 1988.

Dr Sivaji's tenure as Rajya Sabha member proved to be a golden age for farmers. Even before he became a member of the Rajya Sabha, Dr Sivaji used to fight for resolution of problems concerning tobacco and cotton farmers. At that time, cotton farmers used to commit suicide. Till the year 1988, the suicides of cotton farmers used to cause a storm across the country. Dr Sivaji studied the problems of cotton farmers and worked sincerely to solve their problems. He used to meet many people inside and outside Parliament and fight relent-lessly for the solution of the problems of cotton farmers. As a result, from 1988 till 1994 (when Sivaji's Rajya Sabha membership ended) not a single cotton farmer committed suicide! In a way, that time can be considered as the golden period for farmers. NTR's intention of sending Sivaji to the Rajya Sabha was fulfilled.

At that time, NT Rama Rao, as chairman of the National Front, included in the manifesto that farmers' loans should be waived off. When things did not move, Sivaji took up the issue of loan waiver and fought in Parliament, resulting in waiver of farmers' loans.

This was a record of sorts at that time. Thanks to Dr Sivaji's willpower, his struggle for waiver of farmers' loans paid rich dividends.

Dr Ŝivaji's role in the development of the Guntur Railway Station is noteworthy. Since at his behest many trains passing through Guntur were sanctioned, he was hailed as 'Train Sivaji'. Although Sivaji did not study economics, he made a lot of observations in that direction. Many consider Dr Sivaji as an economist. Many people do not know Sivaji had a role in all the central budgets introduced from 1989 to 2023. It has become a custom for the Union Finance Minister, regardless of the party to which he or she belongs,to send a letter to Dr Sivaji before the Budget meetings. The same convention continued till last year's Budget. Most of Dr Sivaji's proposals were included in the Budget.

serving farmers for us is like worshipping God," he said, and asserted that "pradhan mantri Modi ji se bada koi Kisan hitashi nahi hai (There is no bigger well-wisher of farmers than Prime Minister Modi)"

Chouhan said the panel has been formed to give suggestions on making the MSP system more effective and transparent.

committee has been asked to examine the feasibility of giving greater autonomy to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and ways to make it more scientif-

Additionally, he said, the

ural farming and crop diversi-fication, the minister said.

various sub-committees have also been held.

added.

informed that the government has a six-pronged strategy to

PNS NEW DELHI

Agniveers will prove to be "very useful" for the ITBP, which guards the Line of Actual Control between India and China, its top officer said on Friday.

All preparations have been made for the recruitment of these "well-trained and disciplined" soldiers, who will join the border force from the Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Director General (DG) Rahul Rasgotra said in a video message posted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on its X handle.

As it is known, he said, the ITBP and Army personnel guard the India-China front and hence "these well-trained and disciplined Agniveers will prove to be very useful for the force".

The DG said the force "believes that the joining of Agniveers will provide a new energy to the ITBP and the force will benefit from them".

The required amendment in the recruitment rules of the ITBP for inducting Agniveers has been issued by the MHA and they will be eligible for age and physical efficiency test relaxation, Rasgotra said.

The statement comes at a

together by Fevicol-like bond: Min Rajiv Ranjan

JD(U)-BJP-TDP held

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Minister and JD(U) leader Rajiv Ranjan Singh on Friday asserted that the alliance between his party, the BJP and the TDP was held together by a Fevicol-like bond as he rejected the opposition's charge that the

the two key allies. Intervening in the Lok Sabha during a discussion on the budget, Singh target-ed the Congress using a 'snakes and ladders' analogy, saying the party will fall to

being bitten by a snake -referring to the grand old party winning 99 seats in the Lok Sabha polls. "Ye pre-poll alliance hai aur

ye alliance Fevicol se sata hua hai (This is a pre-poll alliance and it is held together by Fevicol-like bond)... We've seen your character closely and you attack us like a vulture," he said, criticising the opposition's tactics.

and come down directly to zero. This is just the beginning. In five years, you'll be bitten by a snake and end up at zero," he said,

zero from 99 after ing Rae Bareli in Uttar Pradesh. He argued that the budget aims to make India

self-reliant, but the opposition is more focused on opposing Prime Minister Narendra Modi than discussing the budget itself. "The people of this country have chosen him and given him the mandate for a third term," he said to the opposition, amid constant interruptions from them.

budget appeased

Singh also took a jibe at the Congress's performance in the Lok Sabha polls, saying, "Ninety-nine is a very dangerous number...in a board game you can get bitten by a snake

ladders.

The Congress

had won 99 seats in

the Lok Sabha polls

but its tally went

down to 98 after

party leader Rahul

Gandhi vacated the

Wayanad seat from

Kerala while retain-

A court of special judge Rekha Sharma on Thursday gave sentenced them after convicting them for the killing of Pan Singh in Kharkhoul village here in referring to the Badaun district. game of snakes and

said on Friday.

The court also slapped a fine of Rs 50,000 each on six of the convicts while the remaining eight were asked to pay a penalty of Rs 30,000 each.

"Radheyshyam was allegedly murdered in Kharkhoul village under Karib Nagar Police station area in February of 2007. Eight days after the incident, relatives and family members of Radheyshyam attacked one Pan Singh at his house," government counsel Rajesh Babu Sharma said on Friday.

As per the police complaint lodged in the matter, they opened fire at the house, attacked with sticks, and looted Pan Singh's house. They also took Pan Singh and hacked him to death with an he sent a message to Dr Sivaji that he would personally give Rs 1 lakh if he had a problem with money to contest the elections. However, Dr Sivaji politely rejected the offer.

After the emergence of the Telugu Desam Party, the selection of candidates for the Lok Sabha elections was held in 1984. At that time, prominent parliamentarian Minoo Masani sent a letter to TDP founder-president NT Rama Rao through a special messenger, stating: "Rama Rao, perhaps you

At that time, NTR blessed Sivaji, saying: 'Brother show me your glory' Before taking oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha, Sivaji visited Charan Singh's tomb in Delhi.

He then took an oath that he would support the uplift of the peasantry for the rest of his life. This was prominently published in all the national newspapers of the day.

(Tomorrow is Dr Yelamanchili Sivaji's birthday)

Farmers paid premium of Rs 32,440 crore under PMFBY; Rs 1.63 L cr claims cleared

PNS NEW DELHI

Insurance claims of 1.63 lakh crore have been paid to farmers, as against the premium paid at Rs 32,440 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Parliament was informed on Friday.

"The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) introduced in the country from the Kharif 2016 season is voluntary for the states. All farmers growing notified crops in notified areas are eligible for coverage under the scheme voluntarily," Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said in a written

reply to the Rajya Sabha. Under the scheme, a compared to 501 lakh hectares in 2022-23. prehensive risk coverage for

The number of farmers crops of farmers against all non-preventable natural risks enrolled was 3.97 crore in 2023-24, as compared to 3.17 crore in 2022-23 with a growth from pre-sowing to post-harof over 25 per cent. Hence, the vest stages of the crops at a very coverage of area and farmers is reasonable premium for the

Rs 32,440 crore paid by farmers till date, claims of Rs covered in 2023-24 has grown 1,63,519 crore have been paid to 598 lakh hectares, as com-

Delhi High Court on Friday dismissed a PIL challenging the Centre's decision to declare June 25, the day the Emergency was imposed in 1975, as 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' The petitioner said the deci-

PIL against Centre's

'Samvidhan Hatva

Diwas' dismissed

PNS NEW DELHI

sion was not only in violation of the Constitution but also "insulting" as it used the word "hatya (murder)" with the "Samvidhan (Constitution)" -- a "living document". A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan said the Centre's notification was not in viola-

tion of the Constitution

²⁵ YEARS OF KARGIL VICTORY War heroes join in as celebrations begin at Dras

PNS DRAS (LADAKH)

Twenty-five years after Indian bravehearts scripted a memorable victory for the country post winning decisive battles in icy heights of Kargil, the Indian Army is honouring the valour, indomitable spirit and supreme sacrifices made by them in service of the nation with a solemn celebration in Dras.

The silver jubilee celebrations of the Kargil Vijay Diwas will culminate in Dras on

Friday amid a patriotic fervour.

The two-day event of the 'Kargil Vijay Diwas Rajat Javanti Varsh' began on Thursday in Dras.

This significant milestone honours the valour and sacrifice made by the Indian armed forces during the Kargil War. Over the past one year, numerous events have been held across India to mark the

landmark occasion. Prime Minister Narendra Memorial on July 26 and pay Modi will visit the Kargil War homage to the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty, his office

At Dras, today's events were graced by a large number of senior serving officers, gallantry awardees, veterans, and next of kin of the bravehearts who laid down their lives dur-

View Point, 'Vijay Bhoj', and 'Shaurya Sandhya', officials

Dras, a special event was held to remember the bravehearts of the Kargil War.

The event commenced with a microlight aircraft demonstration followed by an audiovisual narration of the battles, vividly recreating the scenes of each confrontation against the backdrop of the very mountains where these fierce battles were fought, a senior official said

'Gallery for a Cause': An art and nature initiative to boost conservation efforts

important cause.

PNS NEW DELHI

Tiger Tadoba-Andhari Reserve (TATR) will be launching "Gallery for a Cause," a unique initiative tament to the powerful synergy between art and nature. designed to celebrate and pro-Through this initiative, we mote the special relationship aim to inspire a deeper appre-ciation for our natural world between art and nature. The inaugural exhibition will and mobilize resources for launch online on July 29, 2024, the conservation of the majesin honor of International Tiger tic tiger and its habitat. The Day, allowing a global audiobjective is to spread awareence to participate in this ness about conservation efforts

while generating self-sustain-Dr. Jitendra Ramgaonkar, ing funds to support the ongo-Executive Director, said, ing preservation of our pre-"Gallery for a Cause is a tescious wildlife and natural habitats?

Following the online launch, the first offline exhi-bition will take place in Chandrapur on August 15, 2024. Subsequent phases of the exhibition will travel to major cities including Mumbai, Pune, and Nagpur, broadening its reach and impact.

said on Thursday.

ing the Kargil War.



The key highlights of today's celebrations included the battle reminiscence at Lamochen

said.

At Lamochen View Point in

farmers is being provided. "The PMFBY is successfulat its highest level till date. Recently, Jharkhand and ly fulfilling the objectives and Telangana have also decided to targets of the scheme especialrejoin the scheme which is ly in natural calamity hit sealikely to further increase the sons/years/areas," he said. coverage area and number of Due to various initiatives farmers enrolled. "As against the premium of taken under the scheme, the minister highlighted that the Gross Cropped Area (GCA)

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pinion 06

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Honouring the heroes

Kargil Vijay Diwas marks India's triumph over adversity and the enduring spirit of its armed forces

wenty-five years ago, India won a war that was thrust upon it. The war with Pakistan was won by some exemplary soldiers who fought valiantly and many laid their lives for the honour of the country. Kargil Vijay Diwas, commemorating the victory in the Kargil War against Pakistan in 1999 is celebrated on July 26. Prime Minister Modi paid rich tributes to the martyrs on the Vijay Diwas at Kargil Memorial. This year is special as the nation celebrates the silver jubilee of the victory. Prime Minister Modi visited the Kargil War Memorial in Drass, Jammu and Kashmir, to pay homage to the brave soldiers. However, the Indian borders are still far from secure. Terrorist activities are on the rise. So the big question is where do we stand today? Have we learnt our lessons? The Kargil War took place in the months of May and July 1999 and was a result of Pakistan's infiltration into the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC). Pakistani soldiers, disguised as militants, occupied strategic heights in the Kargil sector of Jammu and



Kashmir. This unexpected intrusion led to Operation Vijay; a historic military campaign launched by India to reclaim the occupied territories. Despite the adverse circumstances, the Indian Armed Forces displayed unparalleled bravery and strategic acumen. The conflict culminated on July 26, 1999, with India successfully regaining control over the occupied regions. The Kargil expedition of Pakistan was indeed an eye-opener. India came to know of it rather late and that too from the locals who reported suspicious activitv in the hills.

This was indeed a glaring intelligence failure that cost more than five hundred lives of soldiers. The war under-

scored the need for better intelligence and surveillance. India has since fortified its intelligence network and improved border security to prevent such infiltrations. The Kargil War also highlighted the importance of modern weaponry and equipment. In response, India has made significant investments in modernising its military capabilities. But the biggest lesson learnt by the Indian army was to prepare itself for high-altitude warfare. The conflict emphasised the need for specialised training for high-altitude warfare. The Indian Army has since established dedicated training programs and infrastructure to prepare soldiers for such challenging environments. The war also showcased the significance of international diplomacy. India effectively garnered global support against Pakistan's actions, leading to increased diplomatic pressure on Islamabad. The lessons learnt from the conflict have led to significant advancements in military strategy, technology, and international relations. However, we have a long way to go as the strained relations with two neighbours — Pakistan and China — can anytime erupt into a war. Indeed, Prime Minister Modi's visit to the Kargil War Memorial serves as a reminder of the nation's gratitude and respect for its armed forces. It also reinforces the commitment to safeguarding the nation's integrity and sovereignty. Jai Hind!



Urban violence: Human nature vs city life



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Urban violence and crime persist globally, often blamed on policing and socio-economic factors. However, the deeper cause is the conflict between urban life and human nature

rban violence and crime have been matters of continuing global concern. While the quality and adequacy of policing, and some social and economic factors, have been discussed in this context, the basic, underlying cause has escaped sufficient attention. It is the conflict between the very character of urban life and the orientation of the human ethos as it has evolved. The matter has been dwelt upon comprehensively by Desmond Morris in The Human Zoo. His focus has not been on crime but on the wider consequences of the conflict in terms of the future of human beings. His observations, however, have implications which no serious researcher in urban vio-

lence and crime can ignore. The primary cause of conflict between urban life and human ethos, according to Morris, is overcrowding caused by popu-lation growth. He describes two vastly different scenarios at the very beginning of the book. In the first, people are members of a tribe, comprising a "compact group" of 60, living in a piece of land 20 miles long and 20 miles wide, which is forested and inhabited by "animals, small and large." In the second, they live in an area of the same dimensions but which is "civilized, inhabited by machines and buildings," and where there are a "compact group of six million human beings," a "hundred thousand individuals for everyone in the first scene."

The change has taken place in the course of the past few thousand years, which, says Morris, is "almost instantaneous" in evolutionary terms. Human beings have adapted themselves so brilliantly to their new environment that they have come to believe this to have been a gradual process, and they are not biologically equipped to biologically fully equipped to cope with a mass of strangers deal with it. This is not the case. Biologically, humans remain the simple, rural animals described in scene one above. According to Morris, they "lived like that, not for a few centuries," but "for a million hard years." They "changed biologically" and

"evolved spectacularly" during this period when the pressures of survival, which were great, moulded them. The problem, according to Morris, is that humans had evolved as tribal animals and "the basic characteristic of the tribe is that it operates on a localized, inter-personal basis. To abandon this fundamental social pattern, so typical of the ancient human condition, was going to be against his grain." This, how-ever, is precisely what humans had to do with the

EVEN WITHOUT MOBS AND GANGS, TRIVIAL CAUSES SPARK VIOLENCE WHEN **OVERCROWDING** GRATES ON ONE'S NERVES. INSTANCES OF 'ROAD RAGE' ARE EXAMPLES

their desire for cooperative personal relationships by forming tribe-sized "subgroups or pseudo-tribes within the main body of super-tribes" with social or professional companions. This, however, has also meant viewing other sub-groups as being beyond the pale and enabling their members even those personally known to one—to be treated as badly as members of an imperson-

al mob. This writer feels that criminal gangs constitute a form of such sub-groups or pseudotribes. These are small groups whose members can be compared to tribal hunters searching for prey, which, instead of animals, are the human victims of their crime. This is particularly so in instances of armed robberies or targeted mob violence. Gang leaders, like leaders of the earlier hunters, guide and protect gang members but also demand unquestioning obedience and treat mercilessly anyone who, they feel, have deserted or

betrayed them. Mobs have been tive violence. Also, tussles for leadership lead to attempts to garner support by resorting to competitive encouragement of violence. Equally, individual members of mobs can try to stand out in a crowd by perpetrating or calling for singularly violent acts.

Even without mobs and gangs, trivial causes spark violence when overcrowding grates on one's nerves. Instances of "road rage" are examples of this. Things are going to get worse as rising temperatures, cloudbursts, flash floods, cyclones, tornados and massive tidal waves, become increasingly frequent as a result of climate change--thereby severely affecting cities and towns.

There has to be a serious global discourse on all aspects of urban life including law and order. There can doubtless be no question of reversing the course of history and returning to tribal life. One can, however, think of devising patterns of community existence which consciously addresses this problem, encouraging inter-personal contacts and diminishing the scope for sub-group conflicts. Unfortunately, no such effort is under way. (The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The *views expressed are personal)*

masquerading as members of our tribe. It was something we had to learn to do, but it was not easy we are still fighting against it in all kinds of hidden and ways-and some that are not so hidden." People have tried to satisfy

emergence of towns. Inter-

city coordination developed

with the growth of agricul-

ture and trade. The human

being "became a citizen, a super tribes man, and the key

difference was that as a super

tribes man he no longer

knew personally each mem-

ber of his community." It was

this change from the person-

al to the impersonal society,

"that was going to cause the human animal the greatest

agonies in the millennia

ahead. As a species we were

OF THIS

urban life since the very beginning, and a proneness to violence and criminal activity is inherent in their dynamics. The anonymity it lends to members, hinders detection in cases of collec-

Exploring our bonds: From castes to communities



Our innate desire for connection spans from school rivalries to the unique structures within organisations revealing the deep-seated need for identity and bonding

group.

me to buy an expensive item.

I did not have the money, but

the pride of an Indian face on

for the lack of resources.

umans, as we are now, evolved around 700,000 years back. It took us millennia to be domesticated, seeking warmth and the safe environs of a family, community, caste, religion, faith, ideology, locality, city, and the country.

One only has to travel in a train to understand these bonds. No sooner are you settled, when the friendly cotraveller wants to know the place that you belong to. The ice breaker is enough for complete strangers to explore more intimate details and search for relatives in case of a shared caste, or neighbours or even mutual friends otherwise.

I remember a few interesting incidents. I was around 8, when our teacher asked us our castes. I was not aware and was tasked to inquire from my parents. The next day as I excitedly raised my hand to blurt out the response, the teacher stumped me with yet another googly - my sub caste. Almost three and a half decades later, my daughter was also asked the same question in her class. She was also unprepared. This time I



armed her not only with the caste, but the sub caste as well. Though, I am not sure if my ignorance was a reflection on inadequate feelings of belonging, or it was the grand sentiment of patriotism.

I lived in a hostel in Japan for three months for a training. now done away with the There were hundreds of men practice - it is now a unified and women of different nationalities interacting with each other in the mess or known only in future. I during the entertainment programs over weekends. It across the world have departwas interesting to note people bonding with each other in a foreign land based on to the department, leading to common language. We from more efficient working. the Indian subcontinent gravitated towards Hindi or days. Each of us were divided into Houses, which were Urdu speaking persons, irrespective of the nationalities. usually named after different

Spanish speaking people colours or celebrity Indians. from Europe to South There was a healthy system America formed their own of each House scoring points during the academic year, also remember a train ride culminating into the grand in Switzerland in 2005, when finale - the annual sports. We an advertisement caught my would be cheering our House performers till our sore eye. An Indian movie star stared back at me, exhorting throats would permit. I never

witnessed animosity or professional envy on the better performance of rivals. We tend to overlook a reali-

Swiss train compensated ty, probably because it is During my professional life deeply ingrained in our psyin the railways, there was a che. Indian army has regiperennial debate about the ments based on communiutility of having different ties. I have yet to come across departments and officer level any community biased incirecruitment based on the dents in the services. It might same, which many thought have something to do with led to a departmental bias. the organization's resilience The Indian organization has and strength of its leaders. Schwartzberg, Louie American director, producmanagement service. er, and cinematographer, Efficacy of the change will be aptly remarked, "I think we need to do some deep soul believe railway organisations searching about what's important in our lives and renew our spirit and our spirment based cadres. It instils itual thinking, whether it's a sense of pride in belonging through faith-based religion or just through loving nature I also remember our school or helping your fellow man." (The writer is an author;

views are personal)

LETTERS

SC MUST INTERVENE

Madam — At last, the Supreme Court of India has stepped in to play a crucial role in involving the state governments of Punjab and Haryana to find a positive solution to the ongoing farmer protests at the Sambhu border. The Court has suggested forming a committee of independent individuals to negotiate with the farmers. It is indeed frustrating that the farmers, the "annadata" (food providers) of our country, are back on the streets fighting for a legal guarantee of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops and other demands to reach the NDA government.

Currently, the Centre, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seems to have turned a blind eye to the plight of farmers, particularly in Punjab and Haryana. The prolonged standoff between the Haryana government and protesting farmers, which began on February 13, has led to road blockades, disrupted public life, and traffic movement, compelling the Supreme Court to act.

The Centre has yet to address or resolve the farmers' issues, leading to renewed protests with uncertainty. The Congress has only offered hollow assurances and remained a passive observer. It is hoped that the recent meeting between farmer leaders and Rahul Gandhi in Parliament, along with the Apex Court's efforts, will lead to a resolution of the issue without further delay.

Janga Bahadur Sunuwar Jalpaiguri

BUDGET: THE GOOD BAD AND THE UGLY

Madam — The Union Budget for 2024positive aspect is its focus on boosting economic activity and generating employment opportunities across various sectors, with significant support for MSMEs. However, the budget fails to address the needs of the salaried class,



his refers to the news article, "SC Stays Nameplate Diktat on Kanwar Yatra Path" (July 23).

as the Finance Minister has not increased savings interest rates or provided health support through government schemes.

Despite Modi 3.0 winning with the support of young and senior citizens, the government seems to have prioritized coalition partners from Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, neglecting these crucial demographics. This budget highlights a troubling trend of prioritising political alliances over national interests. The government could have showed more concerned to the marginalised groups and given them more concessions in the budget rather than pleasing its allies. The budget is supposed to be for the 25 can be viewed in three layers. The entire nation not for the politcal allies, so it should take care of all

A P Thiruvadi |Chennai

CONCERNS OVER PM POSHAN SCHEME

Madam — Lakhs of underprivileged schoolchildren struggling with anemia leaving them with unmet expectations. and malnutrition have benefited from The most concerning aspect is the the "PM POSHAN scheme," which complete disregard for senior citizens, addresses both hunger and education

SC stays nameplate diktat

The Honorable Supreme Court has taken a constitutional, legal, and practical stance by issuing an interim stay on the Yogi government's order regarding name plates along the Kanwar route.

The order from the Yogi government appears to have been issued to protect the sentiments of Kanwar Yatris. However, there are differing opinions on this issue within society. Creating a false identity or concealing one's caste, religion, or creed can be considered condemnable, anti-social, and illegal. Currently, the matter is under review by the Honorable Supreme Court, and all related aspects will be examined, taking into account social, religious, and legal provisions.

Yugal Kishore Sharma Faridabad

challenges. India is among the few countries that provide schoolchildren with one nutritious meal a day. However, a scheme as extensive as POSHAN (formerly the midday meal scheme) is vulnerable to issues such as lethargy, corruption, and poor implementation. Reports of food adulteration and poisoning have surfaced, including a 2019 incident in Uttar Pradesh where a roti was served with just salt.

Recently, a dead snake was found in a "dal-khichdi" packet served at an anganwadi government school in Maharashtra's Sangli district. The godown storing the food packets has been sealed, but more actions are needed, including holding contractors accountable for these lapses. It is crucial to ensure such incidents are prevented to restore trust in the midday meal program and ensure children feel safe consuming these meals

Ganpat Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | JULY 27, 2024

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FIRSTCOLUMN THE GOD IS OMNIPRESENT

The intimate relation with God reflects in true peace; joy stem from a deep connection with the divine



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

od is omnipresent. Therefore, His company is available everywhere Gall the time. However, if someone is very keen on the company of God, He manifests in a 'murti' (idol). This is mostly true for temples, where God is worshipped routinely in a prescribed manner. But God even manifests in murtis kept in home or a photo of God, if He decides that someone deserves this favour. Many sadhus, genuine ones, carry their worshipable God in some form with them. I had the privilege of seeing a sadhu in a park take out His Lord's photo and he worshipped Him before eating his meal. Lord Krishna has stated, "For the conqueror of self, who is blissfully peaceful in cold and heat, in pleasure and pain as well as in honor and dishonor also, he is accompanied by God." (The Bhagavad-Geeta 6.7)

Before I go any further, let us understand our relationship with God. Lord Krishna states, "An eternal soul is my part only." (15.7) God is our Swami (Master) and we are His 'sevaks' (servants). God is prepared to give a lot to those who serve Him because He has so much to offer. But God is never attached to anyone. Lord Krishna says, "I am similarly inclined towards all beings, no one is hateful for Me; and no one is dear. However, those who worship Me with devotion, they are in Me, and I am also in them." (9.29)

God is not like a parent; we can only make a place in God's heart. Do you realize what this means? This is the only place where there is unmixed joy. What does a company of God feel like? God is watching us all the time. Obviously, His presence can be experienced subtly only, even though He may have manifested in a murti or a photo. Similarly, God communicates mainly in a subtle way except in a rarest or rare case like for a highly advanced devotee such as Sant Tulsidas. We get intuitions. How do we know that these are not our thoughts; the communication could only have come from God? For example, I pray for guidance and help in a medical matter. The answer comes, which could not have been known to me. My Lord has shown His 'kripa' (grace). Then, God uses mediums to communicate. These are people close to His devotees. They come forward and provide the needed information. In rare cases, God speaks



in dreams or when we are not in deep sleep, generally around 4 AM. The timing is a big indicator that it is God, who has spoken, not what we have imagined. Whatever God states will also be corroborated in a scripture like the Bhagavad-Geeta.All this happens because a devotee of God has taken the 'chintan' (meditation) option. What does God communicate or what benefits do we derive from such communications? First of all, we begin to become peaceful. Because without peace no enjoyment is possible. If our minds are disturbed, we cannot enjoy even in the most comfortable circumstances. As God is the only source of real peace, not freedom from noise, we become entitled to it. 'Sukha' or genuine happiness follows even in not-so-opulent surroundings. This feeling leads to unmixed joy as our connection with God is strengthened by sustained practice. Our prayers for guidance and help will be answered. Progressively, God becomes the guiding light of our lives. Help, as needed, will become available, God finds mediums, who can provide such assistance. For example, a competent doctor will become available to treat us. It all sounds so easy; it is.Not only will we be healthy but the necessary energies of all kinds will be ours too. One will feel secure, comfortable, relaxed, good, etc. The best emotions like hope, satisfaction, patience and tolerance will become parts of our psyche. Our consciousness will become better, i.e. spiritual over some time. In short, life will become highly enjoyable. Worrying, sadness, depression and anxiety will be gradually replaced by superior emotions. It is up to us to choose between chintan about God or 'chinta' (worry) about material objects, goals, etc.God is the owner of whatever there is.

Israel and Palestine seek solutions amid global strife-



analys \$ 07

China's growing role as a mediator in international conflicts hints at a shifting power dynamic, challenging the traditional Western dominance in international diplomacy

• e flew to Washington; they went to Beijing. While lead-ers soar through the skies, ordinary civilians are engulfed in the flames of war. Their children scream not for the luxury of education, but for the sheer will to survive amid the relentless rains of bombs. Famine devastates their lives, and in Gaza and beyond, people are not just yearning for food but for the basic necessity of drinking water. This grim reality highlights the stark polarization in the global order, as non-Western nations struggle with age-old problems made worse by those wielding power. Harvard-educated former combat soldier of Sayeret Matkal in the IDF, Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu, commonly known by his nom-de-guerre Bibi, flew to the United States to address Congress, followed by a meeting with President Joe Biden, who, bat-tling COVID-19 for the third time, was expected to announce his inability to run for a second term officially. Amidst thou-sands of protesters and a boycott by dozens of Congress members, Netanyahu addressed Congress. Meanwhile, representatives from fourteen Palestinian organisations flew to Beijing to sign a peace agreement. The presence of fourteen organisations for a population of just over 5 million highlights the profound divisions within this land, once a nation-state ravaged by intricate schemes.Following the horrific October 7 attack, where thousands of Israelis were brutally killed and many more kidnapped by Hamas, the region's conflict landscape has been irrevocably altered.

This incident has significantly hampered Israel's efforts to normalise relationships with neighbouring countries. In response, China swiftly intervened, brokering an unprecedented rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran. This diplomatic achievement was monumental during Ebrahim Raisi's presidency, although tragically overshadowed by the helicopter crash that claimed the lives of Raisi and his dynamic Foreign Minister while returning from a joint irrigation project inauguration in Azerbaijan province.In his recordbreaking address to Congress, Prime Minister Netanyahu outlined his vision for peace affirming that he would not cease fire until victory was achieved-a notion that seems illusory given the ground realities. Ironically, before the speech, his entourage hinted that he would present "a vision" for the future of Gaza and the region. Ultimately, that vision consisted of "a demilitarized and deradicalized" Gaza. Netanyahu, who struggles to convince his ultra-Orthodox partners to teach their children basic math, now claims to plan on educating "a new generation that must be taught not to hate Jews." This plan remains unclear, but he quickly shifted to slogans about an "Abraham Alliance" between Israel and "moderate" Arab nations, conveniently ignoring his coalition's refusal to even utter the words "two-state solution," the very foundation for this alliance."Following our victory, with the help of regional partners, the demilitarisation and deradicalisation of Gaza can lead to a future of security, prosperity, and peace. That's my vision for Gaza," he proclaimed to Congress. He continued, "A new generation of Palestinians must no longer be taught to hate Jews but to live in peace with us. Those



twin concepts, demilitarisation and deradicalisation, were applied to Germany and Japan after World War II, leading to decades of peace, prosperity, and security." Despite his lofty words, Netanyahu's visit was not about peace but about expanding the war towards Iran, a country he mentioned twenty-seven times in his 52-minute, record-breaking fourth address. Tragically, there was not even the slightest hint of how he plans to extricate Israel from the tragic impasse it is trapped in under his watch.Israeli analysts expose these hyperboles, stating, "The goal of Benjamin Netanyahu's trip to Washington, including his appearance before the U.S. Congress, is not and never was to advance a diplomatic agreement to

bring home the Israeli hostages safely and to end the fighting and suffering. Rather, it is designed to enlist domestic American support to keep waging the war." Another analyst remarked, "Netanyahu may have won 52 standing ovations from the rapturous, majority-Republican audience, but his rhetoric, which so impressed Washington, offered nothing for Israelis watching back home.

PALESTINE'S

TO ENGAGE

WILLINGNESS

WITH CHINA'S

DIPLOMATIC

PATHWAY

TOWARDS

AND PEACE,

SUN TZU'S

RECONCILIATION

REMINISCENT OF

ASSERTION THAT

THE SUPREME

ART OF WAR

and independence. The significance of the Beijing Declaration is profound, echoing ancient and contemporary sentiments on diplomacy and conflict resolution. Chinese scholar Zhu Weilie aptly noted, "The Beijing Declaration represents the mainstream opinions of various Palestinian factions," marking a critical step toward Palestinian statehood. Historical divisions between fac-

tions like Fatah and Hamas, ongoing since the late Yasser Arafat's era, have long impeded progress. The success of this meeting, which saw all factions in attendance for the first time, symbolizes a breakthrough in Palestinian unity and reflects the global south's emerging solidarity and cooperation. The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home. The impact of the Beijing Declaration extends beyond Palestinian internal politics. It poses significant implications for the protracted Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While Palestine moves towards internal unity, Israel's political trajectory appears increasingly extreme and radical.

The continuous violence and rising death toll highlight the urgent need for a ceasefire and renewed peace efforts. Yet, Israel's alignment with U.S. interests and electoral politics hinders progress. In contrast, Palestine's willingness to engage with China's diplomatic initiatives offers a hopeful pathway towards reconciliation and peace, reminiscent of Sun Tzu's assertion that "the supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting."China's role as a mediator and leader in global conflicts is likely to expand. The successful reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran under China's mediation last year, followed by the current Palestinian unity efforts, signals a shift in West Asian diplomacy. China's "active actions," characterized by leadership and initiative, have garnered widespread acceptance and support from various countries in the region.Concurrently, Ukraine's

Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba,

during his visit to Beijing this week,

informed China's Foreign Minister

that "Ukraine is ready and willing to engage in dialogue and negotiations with Russia" aimed at a permanent settlement. Kuleba is in China to secure their assistance in future negotiations with Russia. He emphasised that the negotiations should be rational and lead to lasting peace. There is no mention of NATO, the US, or the UK being involved, but they cannot be pleased with the prospect of peace in Europe being facilitated by China.

This could drive President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to rethink his approach to destructive promises he was given by his "masters" behind the screen. These developments indicate that Beijing is emerging as a new pivotal key player in global conflicts, advocating its strategic ambitions. As regional powerhouses in Asia, both India and China have the potential to ele-vate the Global South to new heights. Not only Beijing but also Delhi, with Prime Minister Modi's first foreign visit to Russia after his third election, shares this strategic vision. In this context, it is important to consider the words of Sergey Lavrov, Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs: "It is also obvious that the United States is trying to drag India into its anti-China project. Both China and India are much more deeply involved in the Western system of globalisation in terms of the volume of financial, investment, and trade agreements and many other things. But the fact is that just like us (Russia), China and India are fully aware of the discriminatory nature of what the West is doing." Transcending political affiliations and beliefs, the most noble and imperative pursuit, as Albert Camus profoundly stated, is the fight for peace. Humanity prevails when, at such critical moments, we forge a united front against the relentless forces of conflict and injustice. Humanity triumphs when, at pivotal moments, we unite resolutely against manufactured conflicts and unvielding forces of injustice, setting aside political differences to stand together.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher and guide; views are personal)

INITIATIVES Meanwhile, in Beijing, 14 Palestinian groups, including Hamas and Fatah, signed the **OFFERS** A HOPEFUL Beijing Declaration.

This rare display of unity, facilitated by China, marks a significant shift towards reconciliation among Palestinian factions—a unity long deemed unattainable due to numerous internal and external challenges. The persistent disunity has exacerbated the Palestinians' suffering beyond Israeli oppression. Therefore, the recent declaration offers a glimmer of hope for a more cohesive and effective Palestinian political movement, provided the commitments are genuine and actionable.

The Beijing Declaration signifies a IS TO SUBDUE remarkable step towards THE ENEMY Palestinian unity and sovereignty. The declaration's commitment to WITHOUT post-war governance in Gaza and the establishment of a temporary FIGHTING' national reconciliation government underscores a unified vision for Palestinian self-governance

(The writer is a journalist and author. Views are personal)

Empowering India's youth: Skills as a compass for their future

Bridging the skills gap through targeted initiatives can not only enhance employability but also drive economic growth and social stability

Rew would believe that 26-year-old Kevin Dahima - a young, successful entrepreneur from coastal Gujarat - was once unemployed. Today he himself employs his thriving niche. Kickstarting his business in 2021 and providing a 24-hour service, Kelvin brings home over Rs. 55,000 per month. Having trained as a Hospital Assistant.

It all began at a hospital where he saw patients discharged, but still in need of various forms of care - elderly patients who require dressings; ex-ICU patients who need oxygen daily; and cancer and postsurgery patients – what if he could provide nursing care to he being productive in life, but the country faces today -



PEARL TIWARI

he is helping people in their hour of need, whilst building something for the future. And his journey to success all began when he signed up for skill training.

One doesn't have to look too far to see the social impact of high levels of youth unemployment. In South Africa, where youth unemployment has hit a high of 59.7%, unemploythem, from the comfort of ment is considered to be the their own homes? Not only is root cause of many problems

including crime, poverty and

suicide. Closer to home, the epidemic of drug use in Punjab has been fuelled by social and economic factors including high unemployment, and underemployment; and pressing national issues like youth suicide are compounded by youth unem-

ployment. Never has it been more important for our young people to have opportunities for bright and productive futures

Around the world, youth unemployment and underemployment are significant problems in many societies, hich can lead to feelings of hopelessness and frustration which can often fuel social unrest. Over the next decade, the World Bank estimates one billion young people will try to

enter the job market, but less than half of them will find formal jobs. This will leave the majority of young people, many in minority and marginalized groups, unemployed or experiencing working pover-

With the largest youth popu-lation in the world (with 66% of the total population under the age of $\overline{35}$), and the latest data from CMIE (a think tank) claiming youth unem-ployment could be as high as 45.5% - among the highest in the world - it is important that India takes note here.

There is a lot we can do to ensure we take a preventive approach to these issues to secure productive futures for our many young people.In a country with a gaping skills gap, this presents a major



opportunity – to invest in skills collaboratively to meet the needs of both youth and industry. According to recent studies, India's employable population is far too low to meet the demands of the skilled labour market.

labour that's lacking. The qual-ity of available talent is also wanting. Recent research shows that only 33% of workers in India possess the skills employers seek most. The need of the hour to tackle issues at both ends of the spectrum lies in skill training. Whilst the India Skills Mission abandoned its goal of training 500 million youth by 2022, there is still a clear need for corporates, skill training providers and civil society to step into the breach. Rural youth, in particular,

Two-thirds of the country's need greater access to quality skill training providers who also support placement, whilst workforce aren't qualified for current job openings. With such a shortage of qualified also requiring help to convince families that skills are indeed workers, businesses are strugthe way to go – a route often gling to fill positions creating a significant challenge. It's not in conflict with the white-coljust the quantity of skilled lar aspirations of both youth

and their families. Sadly, half of all graduates in India are unemployable due to a lack of industry-relevant skills. The world faces a multitude of challenges today, many of which affect our youth. Conflicts that disrupt education and stability, a polarized online environment that fosters negativity, and economic inequality that limits opportunities. These issues threaten not only individual futures but the overall stability of communities. It is therefore crucial to equip youth with the necessary skills to become productive citizens and create a more sustainable future for

(The writer is CEO, of Ambuja Foundation; views *are personal)*

all.





Money 08

Digital payments rise 12.6% at March-end 2024: RBI data

igital payments across the country registered a 12.6 per cent on-year rise as on March 31, 2024, according to RBI's index that measures the adoption of online transactions. RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) stood at 445.5 at the end of March 2024 compared to 418.77 in September 2023 and 395.57 in March 2023. "The RBI-DPI index has increased across all parameters driven by significant growth in payment performance and

payment infrastructure across the country over the period, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement on Friday. The central bank had announced the construction of a composite RBI-DPI in March 2018 as a base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country. The index comprises five broad parameters that enable the measurement of the deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different periods. These parameters are Payment Enablers (weightage 25 per cent).



Cipla net profit rises 17.77% at Rs 1,175.46 cr in Q1

Pharma major Cipla Ltd on Friday reported a 17.77 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,175.46 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2024. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Pa 000.07 ensures the second secon posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 998.07 crore in the first quarter of the last fiscal, Cipla Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated total revenue from operations during the quarter under review stood at Rs 6,693.94 crore as against Rs 6,328.89 crore in the yearago period, it added. Total expenses in the first quarter were higher at Rs 5,242.77 crore as

compared to Rs 5,090.58 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal. "Our 'One-India' business continued on its growth trajectory during the quarter, led by branded prescription which grew at 10 per cent. Our concentrated focus and execution in the differentiated portfolio have further strengthened the US business which yet again posted all-time high quarterly revenue at US\$ 250 million," Cipla Ltd MD and Global CEO, Umang Vohra said.



KFin Technologies Q1 profit jumps 57% to Rs 68 cr

LTCG CALCULATIONS

I-T dept clarifies acquisition cost

of real estate bought before 2001

inancial services firm KFin Technologies on Friday reported 57 per cent jump in profit after tax (PAT) at Rs 68.07 crore for June quarter 2024-25 driven by strong performance across business segments. The company had posted a PAT of Rs 43.38 crore for the same quarter a year ago, KFin Technologies said in a statement. Revenue from operations rose 31 per cent to Rs 237.56 crore in June quarter 2024-25 from Rs 181.5 crore in the year-ago period. "Throughout the quarter, we achieved significant milestones across our diverse business segments, marked by substantial new client

wins, growth, and enhanced profitability. "Notably, we gained significant traction in new contract sign ups in the fast-growing business lines of global fund services (international), alternatives and wealth solutions, fund administration solutions, and technology solutions," said Sreekanth Nadella, Managing Director and CEO, KFin Technologie



DPIIT recognises 1.40 lakh entities as startups as on June 30

PNS NEW DELHI

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has recognised 1.40 lakh entities as startups as on June 30 this year, the parliament was informed on Friday. These startups are eligible

for a host of incentives, including income tax benefits under the startup Indian action plan, which was announced in 2016. The government, with the

objective of building a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation, startups and encouraging investments in the startup ecosystem of the country, launched the Startup India initiative on 16th January 2016.

"DPIIT has recognised 1,40,803 entities as startups as on 30th June 2024," Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasdada said in

"DPIIT has recognised 1,40,803 entities as

<u>startups as on 30th June 2024," Minister of State</u> for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasdada said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha

a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. Out of this, over 25,000 are recognised in Maharashtra. It is

a different question that under the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme, Rs 90.52 crore was approved to startups by incubators as on June 30 as against Rs 186.19 crore in 2023. The total number of startups selected by the incubators under this scheme was 592 as against 1025 in 2023.

Similarly, under Fund of Funds for Startups, Rs 805.86 crore was invested in the startups by supported AIFs (Alternate Investment Funds) as on June 30 as against Rs 3,366.48 crore in 2023. The total number of startups supported by the AIFs was 96 as on June 30 as against 148 last year. The minister added that

under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups, Rs 154.60 followed by Karnataka (15,019), crore loan was guaranteed by Delhi (14,734), Uttar Pradesh the member institutions as on June 30 this year as against Rs 271.49 crore in 2023.

PNS MUMBAI

The rupee recovered from its

all-time low level and appre-

(provisional) against

the US dollar on

the domestic markets

and expectations of

Forex traders said

fresh foreign inflows.

the rupee traded with-

Contraction in the IndiGo profit drops 12% to Rs 2,728 cr

PNS NEW DELHI

InterGlobe Aviation on Friday reported a nearly 12 per cent fall in profit after tax at Rs 2,728.8 crore for the three months ended June.

largest airline had a profit after tax of Rs 3.090.6 crore in the year-ago period. According to a release, the total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose 18.09 per cent to Rs 20,248.9 crore.

In the same period a year ago, it stood at Rs 17,160.9 cr. IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said there was a continued growth in total income of 18 per cent as compared to the same period last year.

before 2001 will be the fair market value (FMV, not exceeding the stamp duty value) as of April 1, 2001, or the actual cost of the land or building for the purpose of calculation of long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax, the I-T department has said.

PNS NEW DELHI

The cost of acquisition of real

estate properties purchased

The FY25 Budget has reduced LTCG tax on real estate to 12.5 per cent, from 20 per cent previously. However, the benefit of indexation was done away with for properties purchased after April 2001. The indexation benefit



allowed taxpayers to compute gains arising out of sale of capital assets after adjusting inflation. For properties purchased before 2001, fair market valuation (not exceeding the stamp duty value) can be used as a base to determine the indexed price. The indexed price will

then be reduced from the sale price for calculating LTCG that will be taxed at 20 per cent. In a post on X, the I-T department said an issue has been raised as to what would be the cost of acquisition as on April 1, 2001, for properties purchased prior to 2001

Crisis-hit Paytm's proposal to invest in payments arm under govt's consideration

PNS MUMBAI

The inter-ministerial panel that oversees investments linked to China is yet to give its approval to Paytm's proposal to invest in its payment aggregator arm, a top government official said on Friday.

The proposal is still under consideration by the interministerial panel and expected to take a call soon, Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi said.

Crisis-hit Paytm has proposed making a Rs 50 crore investment in its 100 per cent subsidiary Paytm Payment Services Ltd (PPSL).

cials from foreign, home, finance and industries ministries, is looking into whether the investment proposal of One 97 Communications Ltd (OCL) into PPSL is according to FDI guidelines or not. Once the Inter-ministerial

panel approves it, Joshi said, Paytm can approach the RBI for a grant of payment aggregator licence. Thereafter, The Reserve Bank of India will examine their proposal and take a call on providing a licence or not, he added.

Paytm shares surge 10%; hit upper circuit limit

PNS NEW DELHI

Shares of One 97 Communications Ltd, cent to settle at Rs 508.85 -ent Friday soared 10 per cent on hopes of receiving approval for its proposal of making a Rs 50 crore investment in its

subsidiary Paytm Payment Services Ltd (PPSL). The stock jumped 10 per

Sensex rebounds 1,293 pts, Nifty ends at record high on value buying

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex rebounded high of 24,834.85. by 1,293 points while broader Nifty shot up nearly 2 per cent to a record high on Friday, cutting short the

five-day losing streak on heavy value-buying at lower levels and a rally in blue-chips like Reliance Industries.

The 30-share BSE Sensex imped



cent. Adani Ports, Sun Pharma, 428.75 points or 1.76 per cent to settle at an all-time closing Tata Steel, HCL Technologies, Infosys, JSW Steel and Mahindra & Mahindra were All the Sensex shares except

(13,299) and Gujarat (11,436).

The minister also informed in

ciated 6 paise to 83.72 the other big gainers. Nestle was the only loser, closing lower by 0.07 per Friday, on strength in

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled higher while Tokyo ended lower. European markets were also trading in

low of 83.73 against the dollar during the session. It finally settled at 83.72 (provisional) against the American currency,

up 6 paisa from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee dropped 7 paise to close at an all-time low of 83.78 against the US dollar.

'Market participants are focused on the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE)Index, with significant attention on the upcoming US FED policy meeting on July said Jateen Trivedi, VP 31.

in a narrow range, taking cues intra-day high of 83.69 and a LKP Securities.

Rupee recovers from all-time

The parent of the country's

1.62 per cent to settle at 81,332.72. During the day, it

per cent to 81,427.18. The NSE Nifty surged

soared 1,387.38 points or 1.73 for Nestle closed in green. Bharti Airtel was the biggest

gainer, rising by over 4.51 per

The US markets ended mostly lower on Thursday. crude declined 0.40 per cent to

Global oil benchmark Brent US\$ 82.04 a barrel.

from the dolla remained flat.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.72 and touched an

low, closes at 83.72 against US \$

Paytm's parent entity One 97

Communications Ltd (OCL) has investment from China. Therefore, the inter-ministerial panel comprising of offithe BSE. On the NSE, it surged 9.99 per cent to Rs 509.05 -- its upper circuit.

circuit limit -- or

SAEL Group issues bonds worth US\$ 305 mn in international markets

PNS NEW DELHI

Domestic renewable player SAEL Group on Friday said it has issued green bonds worth US\$ 305 million in the international markets.

The bonds have been issued for investors from the US, Europe and several Asian countries, the company said in a statement. "The US\$ 305 million (approximately worth Rs 2,500 crore) green bond was jointly issued by SAEL along with 5 wholly-owned subsidiaries together referred to as 'The Restricted Group',' the statement said. The proceeds will be used to expand the company's renewable energy portfolio, which currently

stands around 4 GW, it added. SAEL Group aims to increase the portfolio of solar and waste-to-energy assets to 5 GW by the next two years, its Chief Investment Officer Varun Gupta said.

In response to the bonds issues, he said, "The record order book oversubscription for SAEL's debut issuance by more than 6x reaffirms the faith of investors in SAEL's business model and the opportunities presented by renewable industry"

SAEL Group is an independent green power-producing entity. The company is also into solar module manufacturing.

ServiceNow to make strategic growth investments

PNS CHENNAI

US-based software company ServiceNow has announced plans to make strategic growth investments in information technology service provider Prodapt Solutions to help clients adopt AI-enabled solutions.

Following the investment by ServiceNow, Prodapt will promote the 'Now Platform' offered by ServiceNow to Corporation), 73 per cent of expand business transformation services through global telecom service enhanced industry and providers identified AI investdomain specific go-to-market ments as their top transformacapabilities and increased tion priority as they move skilling of ServiceNow profesaway from legacy systems to automated platforms.

According to global market As per the agreement,

intelligence firm IDC Prodapt's deep industry and (International Data functional domain expertise Data functional domain expertise



along with ServiceNow's single architecture, single data model would help accelerate the development and adoption of AI solutions for clients, beginning with the United States and European markets.

"Prodapt's stellar reputation

in the telco space and their proficiency with ServiceNow are a winning combination for customers seeking to accelerate

their business transformation journeys," ServiceNow Senior Vice President of Ecosystem Ventures David Parsons said in a company statement on Friday.

"Our partnership with Prodapt...brings the transfor-mative power of AI to companies seeking competitive differ-entiation and advantage in today's evolving market," Parsons said.

Prodapt aims to increase its number of certified ServiceNow professionals by 400 per cent in the next four years, to more than 1,500 fulltime employees, globally.

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance reports Q1 PAT up 29.7%

PNS CHENNAI

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company has reported a 29.7 per cent growth in its profit after tax for the April-June 2024 quarter at Rs 942 crore. The company, which is the financial services arm of diversified conglomerate Murugappa Group, had registered a profit after tax of Rs 726 crore in the corresponding quarter of last year. Total income during the quarter under review grew by

the quarter ending June 30, 2024, grew by 22 per cent to Rs 24,332 crore, as compared to Rs 20,015 crore registered in the same period of last year. Assets under management during the quarter under review rose to Rs 1,68,832 crore, from Rs 1,22,755 crore registered in the same period of last year.

In a statement issued on Friday, the company said it continues to hold a strong liquidity position of Rs 14,767 crore as a cash balance as of the end of June 2024. The Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of the company as of June 30, 2024, was at 18.03 per cent as against the regulatory requirement of 15 per cent.

Disbursements made during

40.9 per cent to Rs 5,828

crore, from Rs 4,134 crore reg-

istered in the corresponding quarter of last year.

SEBI STUDY ON PROFIT-MAKERS Married traders have edge over single traders

PNS NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has delved into the patterns of intraday trading, revealing a surprising new factor influencing trading performance: relationship status.

The regulator's analysis sug-gests stark differences between the trading behaviours and outcomes of married and single traders, as well as between male and female traders.

The Sebi's study, on intraday trading in equity cash segment, found that married traders tend to outperform their single counterparts in several key areas.

During the years -- FY19, FY22 and FY23-- examined by



sionals

portion of profit-makers than the regulator, the proportion of loss-makers was lower among single traders group across all the three years," the study married traders compared to single traders. revealed.

On comparing single vs married traders group, married traders had lower proportion traders group had a higher proof loss-makers than single



traders across years. During FY23, 75 per cent of single traders were loss-makers, while the number of married Besides, group of married loss-making traders was 67 per cent. Additionally, married traders executed a significantly higher number of trades on average than single traders, indicating a higher level of engagement and activity in the market.

Another important aspect of Sebi's analysis is the comparison between male and female traders. The study revealed that female traders consistently had a higher proportion of profit-makers compared to their male counterparts across all the years examined. This finding highlights the trading

skill of female investors. "Proportion of profit-makers among the group of female traders was higher as compared to the group of male traders, across all the three years," it added.

Govt committed to promoting coal gasification projects

PNS NEW DELHI

The government on Friday said it is committed to promoting coal gasification projects which hold huge potential for converting coal into various valuable products.

Coal gasification is a thermo-chemical process that converts coal into synthesis gas or 'syngas', primarily consisting of carbon monoxide and hydrogen. With India importing

its oil, over 90 per cent of and conserve foreign methanol, and 13-15 per cent exchange, especially in the of ammonia, coal gasification oil, gas, fertilizer, and petrooffers an opportunity to chemical sectors.

approximately 83 per cent of reduce reliance on imports



Further details can be seen (§ e-processment market place i.e., www.tendert.telengena.gov.te and for any further danificatione required, please contact office office any further danificatione required, PUTUFICO, UNIT-M, Wasnings Trajever Supervised to the second secon

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> Saturday July 27, 2024

'WAKING UP SEEING WOMEN MAKING RANGOLIS FEELS SO BEAUTIFUL

here."

AARTI SREENATH

or 24 years, Monita has inspired students as a fine art teacher at a government school in Bihar, specialising in Tikuli, Madhubani and Manjusha painting. Despite marrying at a young age, her supportive in-laws encouraged her artistic talents, connecting her with a pivotal painting teacher.

Her work has taken her to numerous art exhibitions, the most recent being in Dubai, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Bihar on an international platform. Despite her

roots in Bihar, her journey took a significant turn when she moved to Hyderabad, a city that has warmly embraced her and her art.

Comparing Hyderabad to her hometown, Monita observes, "Hyderabad is a good place; everybody is so friendly. The city has been very welcoming for "It's very different! We belong to a place where people are not so open-minded about almost me," shares the artist. Initially, the thought of leav-

everything. However, they are supportive and helpful. There's a huge cultural difference ing everything behind in Bihar between both places, as I belong to move to a new city was daunting. "I was nervous in the from the North, Bihar to be prebeginning because it wasn't easy cise." to leave everything behind in One of the aspects of Hyderabad that she cherishes Bihar and move here to Hyderabad, an absolutely new

the most is its vibrant culture city. The circumstances were and traditions and how people wake up early in the morning and make rangoli in front of very different," she admits. "I always wished to live in a city their houses. "The one thing that amazes me is how they are where I could explore more of connected with their roots and

follow their culture." She further goes on to recall her fondest memories in Hyderabad and beyond a doubt, she says, "It would be my first workshop that I conducted here. It was so perfectly done. I wasn't expecting it to be a success. It felt really warm to see all the women coming forward in sup-port. It felt proud."

expectations, but it's all so nice

Although the Madhubani artist does not see herself as forging a career, she is deeply committed to educating people about the traditional artwork of Bihar and giving them the experience of peace that art gives. Hyderabad, with its clean streets, greenery and public art, has been a pleasant surprise for

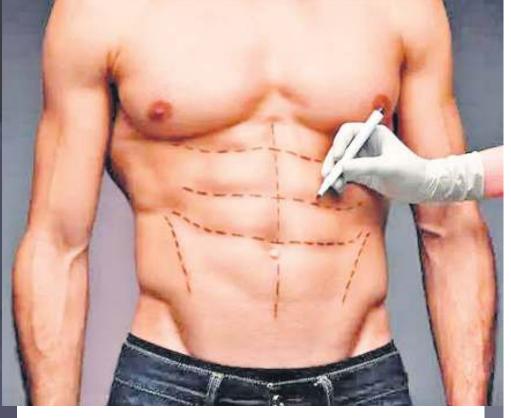
my artwork. I didn't have any been to many places here, but as far as I saw, it's a clean city with so much greenery. I like the paintings that have been done on the pillars or walls. It looks decent.

0 Her recent discovery of the city's culinary delights left a lasting impression and it was none 1 other than the concept of Mandi.

When asked about her likes and dislikes about the city, she gleefully mentions, "I like the weather here and the greenery, and of course, the traditional dresses (half sarees). There's nothing in particular that I don't like about Hyderabad. The city has been extremely welcoming to me."

Having never visited Hyderabad before moving, the artist's initial apprehensions quickly gave way to admiration for the city's charm and opportunities. "This is my first time here. We read in the books about Charminar, so that was the first place my friends and relatives visited. They might wish to take back some chicken pickles that they ate here for the first time." For Monita, Hyderabad is more than just a city; it is a canvas of dreams and new opportunities. "Hyderabad is a city that might fulfill my dreams, so for me, it's a city of dreams and new opportunities that may." Through her art and her journey, she continues to inspire and educate, bridging cultures and enriching lives, her. "I haven't really one painting at a time.

Hailing from the land of monasteries, Bihar, artist Monita has found a new home in the 'City of Nizams'. For our Hyderabond segment, she



Rise of liposuction amongst men

iposuction, a cosmetic surgical procedure aimed at removing excess fat from the body, has been popular among women for decades. However, in recent years, there has been a noticeable surge in the number of men seeking liposuction. Plastic surgeon specialising in body contouring and liposuction, have wit-nessed this trend first hand

Traditionally, liposuction has been associated with women, particularly those seeking to achieve the "perfect" hourglass figure. However, societal norms and perceptions of masculini-ty have evolved and men are no longer afraid to openly express their desire for a leaner, more sculpted physique. With the rise of social media and the pressure to maintain a fit and attractive appearance, more and more men are turn-ing to cosmetic procedures to enhance their appearance.

One of the main reasons driving the rise of liposuction among men is the advancement of technology and techniques in the field of plas-tic surgery. In the past, liposuction was a risky and invasive procedure that came with a long and painful recovery process. Today, thanks to innovations such as laser-assisted liposuction and ultrasound-assisted liposuction, the procedure has become less invasive and offers minimal downtime and scarring. Men, who are often busy with careers and families, now see liposuction as a viable option to achieve their desired results without disrupting their daily lives Another factor contributing to the increase in male liposuction is the growing awareness and acceptance of cosmetic procedures in society. Gone are the days when only women were expected to care about their appearance. Men

are now also seeking to look their best and are willing to invest time and money to achieve their desired look. The idea of "self-care" has become mainstream, and more men are viewing cosmetic procedures as a means of improving their self-confidence and self-image.

Furthermore, men have a different fat distribution pattern compared to women, and they tend to store excess fat in specific areas such as the abdomen, flanks and chest. These areas are also more resistant to diet and exercise, making them ideal for liposuction. Additionally, men tend to have thicker skin, which makes them better candidates for liposuction as it can result in smoother and more defined body contours

While it is true that liposuction is generally seen as a way to remove excess fat for aesthetic purposes, for men, it can also have functional benefits. As men age, they may experience an increase in fat deposits in their abdomen and chest, often leading to health issues such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Liposuction can help reduce these risk factors by removing stubborn fat deposits and promoting a healthier lifestyle.

The rise of liposuction among men is a reflection of the changing societal perceptions of masculinity and the increasing acceptance and accessibility of cosmetic proce With the advancements in technology and techniques, liposuction will continue to be a popular choice among men seeking to enhance their physique and improve their overall wellbeing.

discusses the warmth she has received from the city

(Dr. Anmol Chugh, is the lead Consultant, Plastics and Aesthetics Centre, at CK Birla Hospital.)

'TUNE'ING INTO MUSICAL RHYTHM

TEJAL SINHA

et the good vibes flow' has been the main motto behind Hyderabad's very own Rudhra ⊿band. The name 'Rudhra' can be traced back to the Indian god of destruction, evoking images of death and devastation. Similar to Rudhra, the band's name was chosen to represent the intense nature of its music.

Band Rudhra is the brainchild of Raghavendra and Jayanth. The band that began with these two musicians has now grown to a band of five mem-bers: vocalist Raghavendra Saraswathula, drummer Jayanth Sri Sai Krishna Challa, violinist Chiranjeevi Bankupalli, keyboardist Saimanoj Mutchupalli and guitarist Venkata Karthikeya Challa.

"The origin of the name Rudhra is based on the belief that music, which includes both melody and beat, is derived from Lord Shiva's Rudhra Thandavam," shares the lead singer Raghavendra on an exclusive chat with The **Pioneer.** "Both Javanth and I happen to symbolise different aspects: I embody 'Tune' while drum-mer Jayanth embodies 'Rhythm'. Therefore, the band is appropriately named Rudhra." The troupe of these talented men finds their

biggest influences in the musical maestros Ilaiyaraaja, AR Rahman, Shankar Mahadevan and Mani Sharma. Meanwhile, they also derive influences from Indian-based popular bands like Indian ocean and Thaikhudam Bridge, which have gone global with Indian fusion. He further shares, Our ideas are starting to form and with the influence of the aforementioned inspirations, we are already creating our independent music, the

lyderabad-based Rudhra band has been on their own niche in the with the *Pioneer* connects in detail more am



future for Indian music bands."

As a team, the team participates in their creative process by sitting together and jotting down various ideas, including social stigmas and issues faced by young people, current social patterns and pressures, and suggestions

for coping and playful alternatives. Jayanth further shares, "We will showcase this in a

combination of Western a n d Carnatic aesthetics. We could refer to it as a workin-progress. We are now writing our own lyrics using our band's collective thoughts instead of having an external person do it for us. Currently, the band exclusively performs cov-

ers from the worlds of Tollywood and Bollywood." Staying true to the core of the song, the band adds their own twists to the instrumentation while allowing each musician to showcase their solo talents.

Asked what's something that the team enjoys the most about performing live, he further goes on to share, "Live performances are thrilling for us, and occasionally we try and improvise spontaneously. Secondly, as we take song requests from

our audience, we also include those songs in our playlist. The main source of great satisfaction is when our fans tell us that our songs are refreshing and that our band presents them in a unique way compared to other bands in the city. Additionally, it is rewarding when the audience continues to attend our shows. When our audience mentions they will never forget this evening performance and that it relieved their stress, it brings us great joy and satisfaction."

However, things do not come out effortlessly. They confront their challenges, and, speaking of them, he mentions that their biggest challenge is to demonstrate their worth as a band in the music industry. "Later, the struggle was to build a fan base, so we performed many shows for a smaller payment at first. To achieve the correct sound output, we hired a sound engineer named Sunny John. We talked and played music together, finding the perfect balance for each instrument and determining the optimal mixing technique for the best sound quality. Currently, we are entertaining prominent event organisers and high-end music venues and clubs in Hyderabad," explains Raghavendra.

Since starting out, the band has entertained various Tollywood celebrities, such as music direc-tors, actors, and directors. In *Satyabhama* starring Kajal Aggarwal, Raghavendra sang a song, with drummer Jayanth providing extra beats. Both artists recently collaborated on this project .

Besides their music, the group has also been actively participating in sports. During the time that Raghavendra is engaged in playing cricket, Jayanth participates in both chess and cricket, while Manoj prefers volleyball, and Chiranjeevi excels at long-distance driving.











Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) announced the launch of the latest edition of the highly anticipated Aakash National Talent Hunt Exam (ANTHE) 2024. The popular and most-sought after exam offers students from Classes VII-XII the chance to earn up to 100% scholarships along with significant cash awards, helping them achieve their dreams of a successful career in medicine or engineering. This year, an exciting addition includes a 5-day all-expenses-paid trip to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA, for five outstanding students.



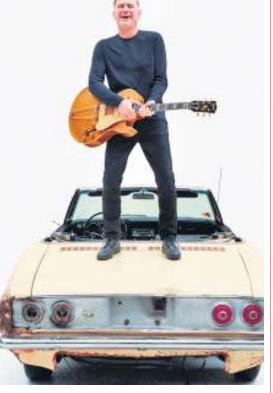


Anvita Group has achieved another rare record in the construction sector. The group has bagged the Master of Development Excellence Award 2024 at the Outlook Business Spotlight Realty Awards programme. Achyuta Rao Boppana, MD, received the award at the hands of popular film actress Shruti Haasan at a special event held at Hotel Taj Krishna in Hyderabad.



Marvel Studios' Deadpool & Wolverine celebration of life took place in Hall H of San Diego Comic-Con and it was packed with surprises for attendees. The audience greeted Kevin Feige, Shawn Levy, Ryan Reynolds, Hugh Jackman and Emma Corrin with a loud ovation before being blown away by an unexpected full-length showing of Deadpool & Wolverine. The shocked audience erupted in applause as special guest stars Dafne Keen, Chris Evans, Jennifer Garner, Channing Tatum and Wesley Snipes entered the stage after the movie.





Music lovers from India, get ready! The renowned Bryan Adams is about to rock Indian venues once more and this time, his *So Happy It Hurts* World Tour will be a full-fledged, exhilarating musical trip across his unmatched career.

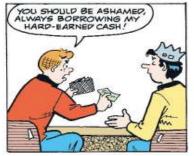


FUN

Photos by- SV Chai

PreethiSunder

ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES



THEY GROW UP SO SLOW.

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GARFIELD



VANCY





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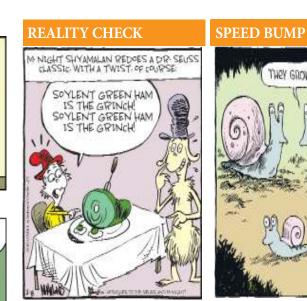




I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME GO BACK OUT THERE IN EIGHT HOURS.

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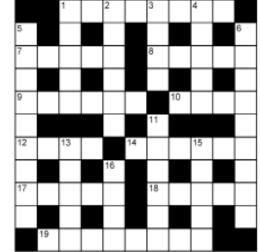
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CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 5 Yelling loudly and shrilly 1 Very good indeed 7 A leader of a tribe 6 A moving staircase 8 Chefs 11 A rider's seat on a horse 9 A religious holiday 13 Part of a stage play every year 10 A large continent 15 Opposite of uncles 16 A pointed top of a 12 A ship's tall pole 14 The country just north mountain of the USA SOLUTION 17 A female relation SEASE
- 18 A wild dog from Australia
- 19 Opposite of strength

DOWN

- 1 Journeys 2 A roof beam
- 3 An ancient South American

4 Worshipped statues







Kantara 2 nears completion, set for summer 2025 release

n 2022, Hombale Films' *Kantara* emerged as a massive hit in Karnataka, quickly capturing the interest of audiences across India The film's success led to its dubbing in Hindi, where it achieved blockbuster status with lifetime collections of Rs 80 crore. Following this triumph, the makers announced *Kantara 2* and production commenced in 20<u>23.</u> It has been learned that the shoot for Kantara 2 is nearing its end. Sources close to the project reveal that the team has completed filming the outdoor sequences and is now focusing on the indoor portions, which are expected to take an additional 15 to 20 days. The postproduction phase has already begun, with significant emphasis on creating a larger-thanlife cinemation experience.

"Kantara 2 is set to be a grand spectacle, incorporating prequel and mythological elements into the to come. 2025 release for budget visual extravaganza, with VFX to deliver an

storyline," the source shared. "The film aims to surpass the original in scale and impact. The post-production and visual effects are being handled with the utmost care to ensure the film is a major step up from its predecessor. The initial promo provided just a glimpse of what's Hombale Films and Rishab Shetty, who also directs the sequel, are targeting a summer Kantara 2. The film is envisioned as a high-

significant investment in elevated viewing experience. The promotional campaign is expected to begin in October 2024, with further details to be

revealed in the coming

OUR BUSINESS WAS UNAFFECTED BY RAID: SUNDEEP KISHAN ON VIVAHA BHOJANAMBU

undeep Kishan responds to food safe-ty raid claims on his restaurant Vivaha Bhojanambu. In the wake of a recent raid by the wake of a recent faid by the Food Safety Department of Telangana, actor Sundeep Kishan has defended his restaurant, Vivaha Given this, it's improbable we would skimp on something as restaurant, vivana Bhojanambu, against allega-tions of rule violations during a promotional event for his Tamil film *Raayan* in minor as an expired rice packet." Sundeep acknowledged that minor issues were identified during the raid but insisted that these did not pertain to food safety or cooking stan-Hyderabad.

Sundeep Kishan addressed the criticisms, emphasising his restaurant's commitment to dards. charity rather than profit. He explained, "Vivaha maintaining cleanliness. The

Bhojanambu was established issues raised were minor and ered dustbins, missing not related to cooking safety. ered ical certificates for to the community, not just for financial gain. Each of our seven outlets donates around 50 food packets daily, totaling The so-called 'stagnant water' was actually a drain," he clarified. about 350 packets daily, totaling 4 lakh in monthly donations.

Further defending his restaurant, Sundeep noted that business was unaffected by the raid, citing increased customer patronage and high sales figures the day following

the inspection. The Food Safety Commissioner of Telangana had previously detailed the violations on X (formerly Twitter), which included expired rice, synthetic colours in coconut grates, improperly labeled food items, uncov-

food handlers, and unverified water quality reports.

tollywood

On the professional front, Sundeep Kishan's latest project, *Raayan*, a collaboration with Dhanush, was released recent-

ly. Additionally, he is set to star in the Telugu film Vibe, directed by Swaroop RSJ, and an untitled project by

Trinadha Ŕao Nakkina.

SPB's final message revealed on Telugu Indian Idol Season 3

"We are fully committed to

The upcoming episode of *Telugu Indian Idol Season* 3 is set to be an emotional rollercoaster as leg-endary drummer Anandan Sivamani reveals the last message from his mentor and godfather, the late S. P. Balasubrahmanyam. The touching tribute will air exclusively on the Aha OTT platform every Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.

Anandan Sivamani, affectionately known as 'Drums Sivamani, will be a guest judge on the show and will share poignant memories of SP Balasubrahmanyam, whose influence has been instrumental in his career. Sivamani, who began his musical journey under SPB's guidance, expressed his profound grief over the maeguidance, expressed his profound grief over the mae-stro's passing on September 25, 2020, due to compli-cations related to COVID-19. In this special episode, Sivamani will present and play the last voice note sent by SP Balasubrahmanyam, offering viewers an intimate look into their enduring bond and the final words of wisdom from the celebrated singer.

Additionally, Sivamani shared his emotional tribute to SP Balasubrahmanyam on Guru Purnima, observed on July 21, 2024. He will recounted how the occasion brought back memories and how deeply SPB's legacy continues to impact him.

Judge S. Thaman will also reflect on his personal con-nection with SP Balasubrahmanyam, sharing a cher-ished memory of his first flight at age 12 with the legendary singer. Thaman will discuss the support he received from Sivamani during challenging times, including his father's passing, highlighting the profound

friendship and empathy between them. Thaman remarked, "After my father's death, my focus

Ihaman remarked, After my fathers death, my focus has been on caring for my family, and I rarely expressed my grief. Sivamani garu's gesture of paus-ing his pilgrimage to support us was deeply moving and brought tears to my eyes." Sivamani was notably impressed by contestant Keshav Ram's performance on *Telugu Indian Idol Season* 2, ha anounced his intention to recommend Keshav

3. He announced his intention to recommend Keshav to the renowned A. R. Rahman, saying, "Whenever I encounter exceptional talent, I make it a point to introduce them to AR Rahman. I've already taken pictures of Keshav and will be sending them to him shortly."



Sai Durga Tej donates Rs 5 lakh to film journalists

Sai Durga Tej, often called as the Supreme hero, apart from his projects, have also been admired for his heartwarming ges-there is a support of the support tures towards the audiences and the fraternity. In a commendable gesture yet again, the Virupaksha actor has donated an amount of Rs 5¹lakhs to film journalists.

As a part of this donation, Rs 1 lakh was given to senior character artist Pavala Shyamala. For this act, he has been gaining much love pouring in. The Telugu Film Journalists Association

thanked the actor.

The moment was deeply emotional for Pavala Shyamala, who expressed her grati-tude through tears, overwhelmed by the sup-port she has received. In a video call with Sai Durga Tej, she shared how his ges-ture here interest to be plot and how the superture has impacted her life and how it symbolises the compassion that exists within the industry. Sai Durga Tej, touched by her words, assured her of continued support, promising that he and the entire industry will be there

she received from Chiranjeevi. This mention highlighted the communal support system that

exists within the film community, where stars come together to uplift and assist their colleagues in times of need.

Jr NTR set to outshine *Naatu Naatu* with new dance

Committee Kurrollu trailer highlights many societal, political aspects

The highly anticipated trailer for *Committee Kurrollu* has officially been released, captivating



audiences with its portray-al of rural life, youthful experiences and sociopolitical dynamics. Produced by the talented Niharika Konidela under Pink Elephant Pictures in partnership with Shree Radha Damodar Studios, the film is slated for a grand release on August 9, 2024.

Čommittee Kurrollu explores the coming-of-age journey of a group of boys in a rural town, depicting their passage through puberty, love and heartbreak. The trailer effectively highlights how societal and political changes shape their development, focusing on the impact of these external forces on their lives as they navigate adolescence. Siddu Jonnalagadda marked his presence at the trailer launch, cheering Niharika and the team.

"Thank you Niharika for calling me and making me a part of this

film's promotions. It is understood that this is not a short film. There is no such thing as a small movie or a big movie. We spend less on a movie. It will cost more. It looks like a big movie made with a huge budget. The visuals are good. It's not a common thing to shoot such a good picture with a newcomer like this. It doesn't feel like a first movie for Yadu Gari," Sidhu expressed hope. Directed by Yadhu Vamsi, renowned for his

Newcomers Sandeep Saroi, Yashwanth and Eshwar Trinath Varma bring fresh energy to the screen, supported by veteran actors Sai Kumar, Goparaju Ramana, Balagam Jayaram, Sri Lakhsmi, Kancherapalem Kishore, Kittayya, Ramana Bhargav and Jabardasth Sathipandu. Their performances add depth and authenticity to the film's rich narrative. The dialogue for Committee Kurrollu is crafted by the dynamic writing duo Venkata Subhash

skillful storytelling, the film Cheerla and Kondal Rao Addagalla, ensuring a script boasts а promising that authentically reflects the rural setting. Anwar Ali, ensemble c a s t . an experienced editor, is

responsible for the post-production, ensuring a polished and engaging final product. As Committee Kurrollu gears up for its release, it stands as a testament to powerful storytelling, blending elements of youth, culture and politics to deliver an impactful film that captures t h e

essence of rural life and the characters shaped by it.

NANI TURNS WRITER FOR HIT 3?

Tatural Star Nani has wrapped Nup shooting for his upcom-ing film Saripodhaa Sanivaaram, which is set to hit theaters on August 29. Directed by Sujeeth and produced by DVV Danayya, the film marks the end of a significant chapter in Nani's filmography. With this project completed, Nani

is now preparing to dive into his next venture. He is set to begin shooting for HIT 3, an action thriller directed by Sailesh Kolanu and produced by Nani's own banner, Wall Poster Cinema. In this film, Nani will portray Arjun Sarkar, a formidable cop, with the storyline penned by Nani himself. He initially shared his concept with Sailesh Kolanu, who then crafted the final script. The production for HIT 3 is slated to kick

off in September, with the film to be shot across various stunning locations in India, including a major segment in Kashmir. Śanu Varghese, who previously collaborated with Nani on Iersey, Shyam Singha Roy and Hi Nanna, will handle the cine-

matography for this film. The heroine for HIT 3 has yet to be finalised. The film is expected to release next year, promising an intense and gripping addi-tion to Nani's impressive repertoire.

number in *Devara*

Choreographed by the acclaimed Sekhar lobal sensa-Jis poised to Master, the energetic dance number in Devara mesmerise audiis slated to begin filming ences once more with a thrilling in just two days. Sekhar Master shared his enthunew dance sequence in his siasm for the project, emphasising that the song is crafted for highupcoming film *Devara*. Early energy dance and promises to be spectacbuzz suggests this performance could ular. Known for his suceclipse his cessful collaborations legendary with NTR on hits like Bantipula Janaki and Naatu Naatu Apple Beauty, Sekhar is from SS Rajamouli's said to have choreographed some of his blockbuster RRR. most dynamic

upcoming number. Devara, directed by Koratala Siva, features Jr. NTR alongside Janhvi Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, and other prominent stars. The film, which is being produced in two parts, is set for its first installment release on September 27.

With anticipation building, all eyes are on whether this new dance number can indeed rival or surpass the impact of Naatu Naatu. Only time will tell if Devara will set new standards in dance choreography.

moves yet for this

ABHIRAMI INTRODUCED AS CHAYA DEVI

> ers of Nani's upcoming Telugu action drama Saripodhaa Sanivaaram on Friday unveiled a new poster of actress Abhirami's character. Introducing her as "Chayadevi", the makers shared her poster and wrote, "Happy birthday to our lovable Chayadevi aka @abhiramiact garu!" His comforting presence will be truly appreciated by you. In the new poster,

Marking the actress birth-day, the makher character, the actress is expected to play the role of Nani's mother in the film. Previously, the makers had released a glimpse also known as "Not A Teaser"

on the occasion of SJ Suryah's birthday. The verse hints at a huge storm happening. In the teaser, Nani shows that he compares the history of the film with Lord Sri Krishna, who united with Satyabhama to defeat the naracasur. Then, the teaser demonstrates Nani and Pri Arul Mohan, preparing for the blows of the antagonist, SJ Suryah. SJ Suryah looks menacing as a cop in the film. The teaser received overwhelming responses, with fans praising composer Jakes Bejoy for his banger of a back-ground score. the

sports 12



World champions India look to maintain dominance in new era of SKY, Gambhir

PTI PALLEKELE

ndia's newly-forged coachcaptain combination of Gautam Gambhir and Suryakumar Yadav will look to make instant impact against a Sri Lankan team in disarray when the familiar South Asian rivals face off in a limitedovers series, starting with three T20Is, here on Saturday. Two-time World Cup winner Gambhir is now at the helm of the ship as India's head coach while the T20I reigns have been handed over to one of the best batters in the format, Suryakumar.

Gambhir, who has built his coaching reputation in the corridors of IPL with three title wins for Kolkata Knight Riders - twice as captain and once as mentor - succeeds the immensely popular Rahul Dravid.

The new coach has his task cut out given that the team under his predecessor reached the final in each of the ICC events in their respective last editions.

Gambhir's tenacity as well as Gambhir's tenacity as well as his intense approach will make him a different coach to work along for the players, who will also have to learn the ways of the new T20I skipper Survakumar.

Suryakumar's elevation came as a slight surprise given he tour which gives the pair of leapfrogged Hardik Pandya Arshdeep Singh and

for the job. The selectors also ignored his comparative lack

of experience as captain. Ajit Ågarkar and Co. Made it clear that they wanted a clear that they wanted a captain who was on the park "more often than not" and went by "dressing room feedback" while hitting the reset button on the T20I side. The next T20 World Cup, to be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka in 2026, gives the selectors plenty of time to rebuild the side which has also suffered a severe talent drain. The overhaul follows the World Cup triumph last month and T20I retirements of seasoned campaigners Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and

Ravindra Jadeja. With the side in transition, young batting gun and vice-captain in the white-ball formats, Shubman Gill sees this as an opportunity to cement his place and others like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh and even Riyan Parag will look to do the same.

While the like-for-like replacement Axar Patel fits in perfectly for Jadeja in the eleven, India also have riches in the all-round department given Pandya, Shivam Dube and an in-form Washington Sundar are also available.

bounce.

Jasprit Bumrah has been deservingly rested from this Arshdeep



Mohammed Sirai to make the Dushmantha (bronchitis and respiratory most of favourable conditions at the Pallekele International infection) and slingy Nuwan Thushara (broken finger) have Stadium, where the surface tends to assist pace and been ruled out.

The hosts have added Asitha Fernando and Dilshan On the same metric, Sri Lanka will feel depleted since two of their experienced bowlers Madushanka, who took a fivefor the last time India and Sri

Lanka played in the ODI World Cup, as replacements. The 2014 T20 World Cup winners, Sri Lanka are wading through turbulent times following their first-round exit from the last edition.

Skipper Wanindu Hasaranga, coach Chris Silverwood and

of experienced stars, but consultant coach Mahela Jayawardene tendered their resignations after the debacle in the Americas.

Sri Lanka have appointed 'Matara Marauder' Sanath Jayasuriya as interim coach and he has urged his side to make the most of India's lack

knows well that his team is desperately short on solid performances. The Sri Lankan team of the

current does not inspire confidence given their frailties across departments despite Jayasuriya's assessment that

this group will turn around the fortunes in the next two vears.

Enterprising batter Charith Asalanka has been handed over the captaincy as Sri Lanka, like India, foray in uncharted waters looking to brighten their fortunes.

Playing at home, Sri Lanka should feel confident about turning the tide given the richness of talent in the ranks, which includes a combative former skipper Dasun Shanaka, Kusal Perera, Kusal Mendis and the experienced Dinesh Chandimal.

TEAMS (FROM): India: Suryakumar Yadav (c), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh, Riyan Parag, Rishabh Pant (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Khaleel Ahmed, Mohammed Sirai.

Lanka: Dinesh Sri Chandimal, Avishka Fernando, Kusal Mendis (wk), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Perera, Charith Asalanka (c), Hasaranga, Wanindu Kamindu Mendis, Dasun Shanaka. Chamindu Wickramasinghe, Binura Fernando, Asitha Fernando, Madushanka. Dilshan Matheesha Pathirana. Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Welalage.

Gambhir's key task will be man-management with Indian team, reckons Patil

PTI NEW DELHI

Gautam Gambhir's key task as India head coach will be man-management and not coaching a bunch of talented month, to continue featuring skills, said former player and ex-chief selector Sandeep Patil on Friday. Gambhir is set to start his tenure with a limitedovers tour of Sri Lanka comprising three T20Is and as many ODIs, with the first game in the shortest format set to be played on Saturday. "I don't think his job is to coach the Indian team. His job is to help the Indian team," Patil told PTI Videos in an exclusive interview here. 'That's how it works at the top level. You need player management. That will be the challenge for Gambhir." "He has done it and I am sure he will continue to do the same with the Indian cricket team," said Patil on the sidelines of an event organised by Shrachi Rajasthan Tigers. Patil, a member of India's World Cup winning team in 1983, hoped Gambhir will continue to have success at international level after excelling in the IPL.

Patil backed senior India players Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who retired from the T20 internationals after winning the World Cup last players in their respective in the other formats for a long run. Kohli and Rohit Sharma "Vira

AP SANTIAGO (CHILE) Table tennis player Zeng Zhiying left China in 1989, the same year of the Tiananmen Square massacre, to teach the sport in northern Chile. Fast-forward 35 vears, she will debut in the Olympic Games at age 58 under the name she adopted in the South American nation: Tania. Tania Zeng, who became famous in Chile after winning a bronze medal at the Pan American Games in Santiago last year,

retired from table tennis long ago. Though the sport brought her to Chile, she stopped playing to have more time to dedicate to a business she opened and eventually start a family. Her dream of becoming a professional athlete returned during the pandemic. Her pinnacle will be reached in Paris."I never imagined (making it to the Olympic Games) because I took it up for

centre.



Chinese-Chilean table tennis player makes

Olympics debut at age 58 in Paris Games

Chameera

"Qualifying for an Olympics is a big, gigantic dream, and being able to fulfill it at that age is a huge happiness, said Zeng, the oldest athlete in her country's delegation.

Born in Foshan, in southern China, Zeng entertainment, to do some sport," Ženg is the daughter of a local table tennis here." said in an interview with The Associated coach. As a child, she used to follow her Press at the country's Olympic training mother to professional table tennis training sessions. For a decade, the "I gained confidence by playing a lot Chinese-Chilean athlete was a highare still doing extremely well | I always won, I liked playing more and Olympics, which is a concern for any older performance player. But her life took a turn in 1989, when she athlete. Canada women's soccer coach removed by Canadian Olympic Committee over drone controversy

accepted an invitation to teach the sport to young athletes in Arica, in the far north of Chile. She married soon afterward and moved to Iquique, also in northern Chile, another city where Chinese presence was

unlikely at the time. Zeng is currently the 151st-ranked table tennis player. She is part of Chile's national team, beating Dominican Eva Peña Brito in her debut in the women's singles table tennis tournament at the Pan American Games. She lost to American Lily Ann Zhang in the following round but still managed to win the bronze in the team competition.

Zeng's life is now split between Iquique and Santiago, fuelled by the appetite for the game and the affection of the fans. "Everyone knows me, greets me, wants a photo and for me it's just joy," she said. "I am already Chilean in heart and soul, everything. They are going to bury me

Zeng will play in Paris with more experience and the same determination to fulfill a lifelong dream. She hopes no injuries affect her performance at the



Olympic tennis schedule has Djokovic, Nadal and Alcaraz in action today

AP PARIS

losing to Alcaraz. "Expectations for the Tovak Djokovic, Rafael Olympics are high, and I can't Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz and don't want to change that. It creates a persona motivation for me to approach it in the best possible way for the best possible result," said Djokovic, who took home a bronze in 2008. The first match in Chatrier will involve top-ranked Iga Swiatek of Poland, who has won four of the past five championships in that stadium at the French Open, against Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania. That will be followed by Djokovic vs Ebden. After Nadal and Alcaraz start the night session, the day's program concludes with a pair of former No. 1 players who own multiple major titles: Naomi Osaka of Japan vs Angelique Kerber of Germany. Jasmine Paolini of Italy, the runner-up to Swiatek at the French Open in June and to Barbora Krejcikova at Wimbledon this month, opens play at Court Suzanne Lenglen against Ana Bogdan on Romania. That will be followed by Alcaraz, who is coming off trophies at the French Open and Wimbledon, against Hady Habib of Lebanon.

"Gambhir had done an exceptional job as a coach for Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL. I hope that he continues to help the Indian team in the same way," he added.

and there is no question of an Indian team without them. I wish the Indian team all the best wherever they are playing and whatever tournament they are playing, they are bound to do exceedingly well," he said. "Surya comes from Mumbai and is a very dear friend of mine. He has been given the

captaincy and he deserved it. I wish him all the best," he said about India's newest T20I captain.

Patil said cricket has made significant progress in India since the country's maiden title triumph in 1983.

"Like every Indian, I wish the Indian cricket team good luck. I am happy that I am part of 1983 and the progress the Indian team has made over the years has been commendable," he said. Patil said it is important for India to be a contender in all sports.

"Cricket has changed over time, so has coaching and the approach to sports. We need to ensure India can become a contender in all sports and all avenues of sports," he added.

more

The Canadian Olympic Committee removed women's national soccer head coach Bev Priestman for the remainder of the Paris Games following an alleged drone

spying scandal. The COC said in a statement released early on Friday that assistant coach Andy Spence would lead the defending gold medalists for the remainder of the tournament.

Canada's camp was thrown into disarray this week after two team staffers were sent home for allegedly using a drone to spy on a New Zealand practice. anv

denied Priestman involvement, but did not



attend Thursday's 2-1 victory over New Zealand as FIFA soccer's world governing body and the International Olympic Committee investigate.

Canada Soccer CEO and

general secretary Kevin Blue said in the COC release "additional information has come to our attention regarding previous drone use against opponents, predating the Paris 2024 Olympic

Games." He added Priestman was suspended from her duties until the end of the and tournament the completion of the organization's independent external review.

The COC said on Wednesday that assistant coach Jasmine Mander and analyst Joseph Lombardi were "sent home immediately," and that it had accepted Priestman's decision to remove herself from coaching the opening match. Priestman held a brief media availability on Wednesday after guiding her team through a

one-hour practice. "My reaction was you feel like this program has let the country down," the 38-year-old Priestman said. he made it to the final before

are on the Paris Olympics' tennis schedule on Saturday, the first day of action at Roland Garros.

Serbia's Djokovic will compete in singles only, Nadal in doubles only and Alcaraz in both. Nadal and Alcaraz are teammates in doubles for Spain and will face Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni of Argentina at Court Philippe Chatrier during the night session.

Nadal's singles debut will come on Sunday against Marton Fucsovics of Hungary. If he wins, and Djokovic wins his first-round match against Matthew Ebden on Saturday, the two rivals will face each other in the second round of what could be the final event of the 38-year-old Nadal's career. Djokovic owns 24 Grand Slam titles. Nadal has 22, plus two Olympic golds - one in singles in 2008 and in doubles in 2016. When Djokovic played in the French Open, he tore the meniscus in his right knee and needed surgery in Paris on June 5. He recovered in time to compete at Wimbledon, where

Unbeaten Fiji on track for third successive Olympic rugby sevens gold by reaching semis

AP PARIS

 $F^{iji}_{successive}$ on track for a third medal in rugby sevens by reaching the semifinals at the Stade de France.

The Tokyo Games silver and bronze medallists - New Zealand and Argentina - were knocked out, however.

Host side France and Australia reached the semifinals for the first time, while South Africa, the 12th and last team to qualify only a month ago, was back in the semis for the first time since the inaugural Olympic sevens in 2016 in Rio de Ianeiro.

In the quarterfinals on Thursday, Fiji came from behind against Ireland to win 19-15.

New Zealand was stunned by South Africa 14-7, Argentina lost to France 26-14, and Australia shut out the United States 18-0.

In the semifinals on Saturday, Fiji

plays Australia, and France meets South Africa.

South Africa lost to New Zealand 17-5 in pool play on Wednesday, but shot to a 14-0 lead in their quarterfinal.

Captain Selvyn Davids scored the opening try and, late in the half, countered from a dropped New Zealand pass in front of the South Africa tryline. Davids hacked and dribbled and popped up for Tristan Leyds to score. Leyds converted both.

But deep in added time, New Zealand kept the ball alive and Moses Leo slipped Rosko Specman to cross for a converted try.

New Zealand continued to attack in waves in the second half but the South Africa defense was incredible. Davids and Ryan Oosthuizen stood firm on their tryline, Shilton van Wyk made another try-saving tackle on a tearaway Akuila Rokolisoa, and

Ronald Brown's last-ditch tackle ended a gripping match. France enjoyed an almost perfect first half, much to the delight of the 69,000-strong crowd.

Andy Timo cut inside his marker and scored, then Aaron Grandidier Nkanang scored twice in three minutes; the first from a ruck turnover, and the second from Jefferson-Lee Joseph's offload. Rayan Rebbadj converted all three for 21-0.

Unlike the world series grand final, which France controlled in Madrid, Argentina made a comeback through its two best players, Rodrigo Isgro and Marcos Moneta, to close to 21-14.

But with more than two minutes to go, and one of them with a man advantage while Jordan Sepho was in the sin-bin, Argentina couldn't get the ball back.

Instead, France ground out the meters, and in the last seconds



replacement Antoine Dupont Terio Tamani Veilawa. quick-tapped to himself and Ireland had two scooted 25 meters untouched to put the result to bed.

Fiji crushed its pool and looked to be doing the same in the quarters when Iosefo Baleiwairiki bullrushed from inside his half and scored after just 30 seconds. But Ireland played a patient game, and Chay Mullins barged over for two tries to give them a 10-7 halftime lead.

In the new half, Zac Ward reached out to the left corner flag for Ireland's third try and 15-7 but, crucially, they could not add any extras. Fiji's rally started from its own tryline.

from his 22, and was at the other end to offload for Joji Nasova to score and for Fiji to trail by three. At the restart, Ireland missed the catch, Baleiwairiki slapped the ball back and Waisea Nacuqu put Fiji back in front with a try converted by

Ireland had two minutes of regulation time, and more than three minutes of added time, but its last attack died on a grounded pass on halfway that Fiji claimed.

Nathan Lawson's break and offload gave James Turner the opening try in the fifth minute as Australia comfortably handled the misfiring Americans. From a ruck turnover on its 22, Australia countered and Henry Hutchison's break led to a walk-in try by Corey Toole and a 10-0 lead at halftime.

In the second half, Toole was denied a second try when Malacchi Esdale tackled him into touch but the US Selesitino Ravutaumada broke out couldn't get into synch to sustain an attack.

In the last minute of regulation, Australia replacement Maurice Longbottom kicked a penalty. The Americans tried to finish on a high, but Australia's defense pinned them and Longbottom stole a try.