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QUOTE OF THE DAY

Plea to consider AKTC's proposa...

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Sunday urged Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to consider the Agha Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) proposal to maintain the Qutb Shahi tombs. Addressing a gathering at the closing ceremony of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park restoration project, Owaisi said, "I thank the Agha Khan Trust, the State government and the US Consulate for their efforts in restoring the structure. I vividly remember coming over here as a child for school trips...

Khadi, handloom creating job...

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said Khadi Gramodyog's business has crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore for the first time and asserted that the rising sale of Khadi and handloom were creating new job opportunities in large numbers. In his monthly Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, Modi said many people who would not be using Khadi products earlier now wear them with great pride. "The Khadi Gramodyog's business has crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore for the first time. Do you know how much



Night flights, long duty hours among...

Consecutive night flights, more than 10 hours of flight duty period and roster instability are among the factors leading to pilot fatigue, according to a study. The study, based on a survey of mostly senior pilots done by NGO Safety Matters Foundation, explored the mutual influence of fatigue-influencing factors related to the work dimension in analysing the causes of pilot tiredness. As many as 84 per cent of the pilots are concerned with the speed and direction of shift rotation, while 83 per cent of...



Boxer Preeti beats Vietnam's Vo...

Indian boxer Preeti Pawar picked up an unanimous decision win against Vietnam's Vo Thi Kim Anh to enter the women's 54kg category pre-quarterfinals at the Paris Olympics. The Asian Games bronze medallist, competing in her maiden Olympic Games opened the proceedings for India in the boxing arena as she won her first round by a 5-0 margin on Saturday night. The 20-year-old from Haryana, who had been hospitalised for a a few days ahead of the Games due to illness, was unimpressive in.

Govt will focus on irrigation projects

O Minister Uttam says TG will invest Rs 10,820 cr and irrigate 30 lakh acres in five years

PNS HYDERABAD

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress Government in Telangana has outlined a comprehensive investment plan for fiscal 2024-25, focusing on irrigation projects across the Godavari and Krishna basins.

Uttam was addressing the press at the Jal Soudha on Sunday, where he reviewed the state of the Irrigation Department.

Uttam announced that the irrigation sector received a clear focus in the budget, with a capital allocation of Rs 10,820 crore. He announced that the

tional 30 lakh acres of ayacut across Telangana in the next five years.

Irrigation Scheme (LIS) is set to receive Rs 183.96 crore to create a new ayacut of 12,267 acres. The Modikunta Vagu project will receive Rs 163.08 crore, while the Lower Penganga, including the Chanka Korata LIS project has been allocated Rs 147.23 crore to irrigate 27,794 acres. The Sripada Yellampally LIS will receive Rs 545.95 crore to create 41,000 acres of new irrigation

The JCR DLIS project, with an allocated budget of Rs 512.18 crore, plans to irrigate 1,32,012 acres. The largest allocation in the Godavari Basin goes to the Sita Rama LIS of Rs 1,487.31 crore for creating 1,18,933 acres of new ayacut. This includes the stabilisation Government would create an addi- of 1,11,818 acres and the creation of a new ayacut of 7,115 acres.



Get ready for local polls

CM Revanth calls on Congress cadre to be prepared for the challenge Says agony of defeat is visible on BRS leaders' faces

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy commented that the agony of BRS leaders after losing power is visible.

He said the opposition can win at least the panchayat elections if it plays a constructive role. The people will reject the opposition in panchayat polls if it continues its destructive attitude, he said.

The CM appealed to all Congress activists to get ready for local body elections.

Attacking BRS leaders, Revanth said there was no coordination among opposition leaders as can be seen from KT Rama Rao saying one thing and KCR saying something

The CM threw a challenge regarding the waiver of farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh and said the government has already waived farm loans up to Rs 1 lakh. He said that farm loans up to Rs 1.50 lakh will be waived by July 31 and that the loan waiver scheme would be completed by

The CM addressed a public meeting in Kalwakurthy on Sunday and said, "I am the son of Nallamala and a brother of all of you. Senior Congress leader S. Jaipal Reddy continued public life till his last

Attacking BRS leaders, Revanth said there was no coordination among opposition leaders as can be seen from KT Rama Rao saying one thing and KCR saying something else.

breath whether in power or in the opposition. Jaipal strictly believed in his principles and pursued his political career accordingly. He brought laurels to every post he held. Jaipal gave priority to values in politics. The Congress would have come to power in the 2014 Assembly elections if Jaipal had been projected as the CM candidate in Telangana. It was Jaipal who suggested the closure of doors and stopping the live tele-cast at the time of adopting the Bill for a separate Telangana state in the Lok Sabha."

He said that the Congress did not get the expected results in the Assembly elections after Telangana



CM Revanth addressing a public meeting held at Kalwakurthy on Sunday

CM to kick off semi-residential school project in Kodangal

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will start the pilot project of establishing a semi-residential school in Kodangal soon after the completion of the construction of the centralized kitchen. The CM held a meeting with representatives of the Hare Rama Hare Krishna Foundation at the secretariat. The Chief Minister discussed the establishment of a semi-residential school on a pilot project in Kodangal. The centralized Kitchen will be established to provide

breakfast and lunch to 28,000 students in Kodangal. The construction of the kitchen has already started in Kodangal town. The kitchen will be maintained by Hare Rama-Hare Krishna Charitable Foundation with CSR Funds. The CM suggested that a detailed study should be carried out to implement the same across the state. The Chief Minister said that the aim of the government is to provide quality education and nutritious food to poor students.

'Will make Hyd a safe city'

Govt giving priority to law & order in Hyd, says Bhatti

The Congress government is giving utmost priority to maintaining law Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said and added that the government is trying to make Hyderabad a safe city for everyone.

He said that Congress rule is giving people confidence that they can live peacefully in the city of Hyderabad without fear.

Bhatti was taking part in the Lal Darwaja Bonalu festival and on behalf of the government he presented silk clothes to the goddess to bless Simhavahini Mahankali Thalli.

Later, Bhatti said that Bonalu is a festival celebrated by the sons of the soil and is of utmost importance. The Bonalu is a great festival held to worship Sri Mahankali Thalli to save us from evil spirits, he said.

We provided all facilities on behalf of the government for celebrating Bonalu in Hyderabad city. Bonalu Utsavam is organised by the government and adequate funds have been donated to all temples in the city. The government released Rs 20 crore for Bonalu this financial year," Bhatti said.

He said the Congress government has earmarked Rs 10,000 crore in the budget to lay a solid foundation for the development of Hyderabad and that Hyderabad's development was initiated by Congress governments.



Law & order derailed after Congress came to power: Harish

PNS HYDERABAD

Former Minister T. Harish Rao said that after the Congress govstate, law and order has completely collapsed.

He said that it is shocking that the day after he pointed out to the government in the Assembly that 500 murders had taken place in just eight months, two murders took place in Hyderabad.

He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is handling the Home Ministry but he did not conduct a single meeting to

review the crime wave in the state. Posting on his X handle on

Sunday, Harish said the police and the government are least ernment came to power in the bothered about murders and rapes. The responsibility to protect people's lives has been completely ignored. It is sad

that law and order is not among the priorities of the government. The increasing crimes prove that the CM and the police have completely failed in maintaining peace. The government should wake up and restore law and order, Harish said.

Pistol queen Manu ends Indian

shooting's 12-year Olympic drought

'Bhagyalaxmi Temple will be made Golden Temple'

☐ Sanjay blasts govt for funding Ramzan, ignoring Bonalu

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that the TG government had pro-

posed spending Rs 33 crore for Ramzan in the budget and gave Rs 2.4 crore to Tablighi Jamaat.

"The government gave just Rs 5 lakh to Hindu temples

Climate change

inequalities:CJI

amplifies existing

in the Old City during Bonalu. Do you think Hindus are beggars?" he asked.Criticising the policies of the government, Sanjay said that when the BJP comes to power, it would organise Bonalu on every street and that the Old City Bhagyalakshmi Ammavari Temple will be converted into a Golden Temple.Sanjay who was busy visiting temples in the Old City first visited the Bhagyalakshmi

'Mann Ki Baat' at 'Gowlipura'.

areas of the Old City like Yakutpura, Komatiwada, Chandulal, Baradari and Chavuni. The old man said that the people of these areas have to attend Bonalu celebrations in other parts of the city. "The BJP government is coming and not only in the Old City but on every street Bonalu would be celebrated every year.

Ammayari Temple and a special pooja was conducted along with BJP

leaders. Later, Sanjay watched the

Prime Minister's live telecast of

Earlier, he

spoke to the

media near the

Bhagyalakshmi

Temple. Sanjay

said that an old

man with him

said that it is dif-

ficult to celebrate

Bonalu in many

'TG asked to alert Maha about discharge from Medigadda dam'

The Maharashtra government has asked Telangana to inform it in advance about discharging water rainfall.

Chief Minister Deputy

Devendra Fadnavis, who holds the water resources portfolio, Telangana has been witnessing heavy rains,



which could necessitate the release of water from the Medigadda dam.

He said the water resources department has been communicating with the Telangana irrigation department.

Due to heavy rainfall in Telangana, there may be a need for discharge from Medigadda Dam. Principal secretary and executive engineer of the Telangana irrigation department have been asked to inform the Maharashtra government before any discharge, Fadnavis said in a statement.

Does Telangana need NTPC power, Kishan asks CM



Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on his way to Nimboliadda Mahankali Ammavaru temple to offer prayers on Sunday

PNS HYDERABAD

Asking Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to reveal whether the Telangana government needs National Corporation (NTPC) power or not, Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy said the Congress government is not cooperating with

the Centre's attempts to supply adequate electricity to Telangana by increasing the power generation capacity in the state. In a statement issued on Sunday, Kishan said the Thermal Power Centre is making all out efforts to increase the production of power to meet the increasing demand for electricity across the country.

Continued on Page 2

Claims historic bronze and opens country's account in Paris Games PNS CHATEAUROUX A resilient Manu Bhaker became the

first Indian woman shooter to claim an Olympic medal by snaring a bronze in the 10m air pistol event here on Sunday, a triumph that opened the country's account in the Paris Games and ended a 12-year wait for its much-hyped shooters. Rifle shooters Ramita Jindal and

Arjun Babuta further lifted the spirits of the contingent at the scenic range, located nearly 300km away from Paris, by securing final spots in the 10m air rifle women's and men's event respectively to keep India in the hunt for more medals. The scene here was in com-



plete contrast to the Tokyo Olympics three years back when only 10m air pistol shooter Saurabh Chaudhary, among the 15 who had gone from India, made it to the final, only to fade into oblivion in the ensuing

Modi dials Manu, **lavishes praise**

PNS NEW DELHI

Pleased with Manu Bhaker's remarkable tale of redemption, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached out to the pistol ace after her historic bronze medal-winning feat at the Paris Olympics on Sunday.Bhaker became the first Indian woman shooter to claim an Olympic medal by finishing third in the 10m air pistol event,

DELHI COACHING CENTRE FLOODED

TG IAS aspirant among 3 students found dead

Owner among 2 held

 Probe finds no drainage system in basement led to incident

PNS HYDERABAD/ NEW DELH

A Telangana IAS aspirant was among the three victims of a flood in the basement of Rau's Coaching Centre in Delhi. The police identified the victims as

Tania Soni, 25, from Telangana;

Shreya Yadav, 25, from UP; and

Navin Delvin, 28, from Kerala. Tania was killed along with the other two aspirants after being trapped for over four hours when heavy rains flooded the basement on Saturday. An FIR has been registered against the coaching centre, the building management, caretakers and

others involved. According to the family, Tania



ago to pursue her dream of becom-

ing an IAS officer. Her father, Vijay Kumar, works with the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and resides in Mancherial.At the time of the tragedy, Tania's parents were travelling to Lucknow. Upon hearing the news, they rushed to Delhi to bring Tania's body back to Mancheria

Monday Mirchi

IS RAMAKRISHNA RAO MOVING **TO SAFE ZONE?**

Is the Raj Bhavan relatively a safer zone than the top echelons of the state government? The answer perhaps is in the affirmative if one considers the choices that accomplished senior officials make following a regime change. A case in point is that of Special Chief Secretary -- Finance Ramakrishna Rao. For, after bettering his own record of presenting the highest number of budgets in Telangana, spanning the erstwhile Bharat Rashtra Smithi regime and the present Revanth Reddy government, Ramakrishna Rao is believed to be looking for a change. Citing health reasons, he seems to have elected to switch to a low-profile position. A little bird told us that Ramakrishna wants to head to the Raj Bhavan as Principal Secretary to Governor. With Telangana getting its new Governor, it would be interesting to watch if the new incumbent at the Raj Bhavan gets a new Principal Secretary.

TIME TO MAKE TG BUREAUCRATS **GET THEIR NUMBERS RIGHT**

At the end of the day, the performance (or lack of it) of any government is reflected in the numbers that represent macro and micro indicators of the economy's vitals. Naturally, eye-brows were raised when the Congress government in Telangana presented its first full budget. For, widely varying numbers relating to the same key indicators were given in the Budget copy, Comptroller and Auditor-General of India report and the Economic Survey. Even basic datum, such as the total number of government employees, varied in the documents that provide roadmaps for the government. Worse still, during the first session, when White Papers were presented, the numbers did not tally in different pages of the same booklet! All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen leader Akbaruddin Owaisi pointed to the glaring discrepancies and wanted action to be taken against the bureaucrats concerned. Punitive action against the babus may paint the government in bad light in terms of its data collection and handling systems. But for the lax babus at least it would work, going by the adage 'Once bitten, twice shy'. Three cheers for babus who are taken to task, but still don't make efforts to always get it right!

WHAT IS SMITA UP TO?
"What is she up to?" This is the larger question that is doing the rounds in curious

bureaucratic circles after Telangana IAS officer and former CMO secretary Smita Sabharwal stoked her own controversial statements on disability quota, prompting none other than Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to suggest: "Why not do a social boycott?" Given that she has stood her ground despite outrage among netizens as well as in differently abled and bureaucratic circles, the whispers in the corridors of power are: "Why is she doing this?"

Almost everyone wants an answer. Among babudom, some say it is an "attention-seeking" exercise, while others having their ears to the ground are not convinced with that presumption. Still others smell a 'hidden agenda' behind her statements and provocative reiterations. They are perhaps hinting at some kind of political instigation. Nonetheless, for someone who was seen as a top performer, just one statement has given every Tom, Dick and Harry a chance to question her capabilities and throw mud at her.

OFFICERS IN TOUCH WITH HARISH RAO

One crucial takeaway from the recent speech of former finance minister Harish Rao in the Assembly is that he has strong 'sources' in the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government in Telangana. Harish Rao cited as example how a Minister who wanted icecream for his daughter at midnight had faced police restrictions. This bit, obviously from the inside track, came up for discussion before the Chief Minister at a meeting in which key officials were present. Already the Revanth government has been insinuating that Harish Rao is behind the bogey of 'power cuts', considering that some employees at lower levels in the energy department are Bharat Rashtra Samithi sympathizers. Harish's latest revelation comes as icing on the cake, suggesting he has sources who have plugged into higher levels too. The Revanth government is yet to get on board all offi-cials, especially those who were tickled 'pink' in the previous regime. The trust deficit will now widen. Already, following findings of probe into the phone-tapping case, politicians belonging to the ruling party keep gunmen and security personnel at an arm's length and do not allow them to travel along with them. So, even MLAs and their gunmen go in separate cars. All told, it would be interesting to watch what other juicy bits of inside information will become public knowledge in the coming days, given Harish's hi-fi antennas.

-Yours truly

Damodar Raja Narasimha,

Malreddy Ranga Reddy,

TGIIT MD Vishnuvardhan

Reddy, Collector Shashanka,

Kandukuru RDO Suraj

Kumar, Tehsildars, officials

and others accompanied the

Continued from page 1

Godavari Basin projects will

see a new ayacut of 3,32,006

acres with a total fund require-

Koil Sagar LIS will receive Rs

121.56 crore to irrigate 3,078

acres. The RBLIS project has

been allocated Rs 127.34 crore

In the Krishna Basin the

ment of Rs 3,039.71 crores.

Ibrahimpatnam

KCR, KTR mortgaged **Telangana's future: Uttam**

Terms KTR's comments on Kaleshwaram 'irresponsible'

PNS HYDERABAD

Alleging that former CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao and former Minister KT Rama Rao mortgaged Telangana's future by placing a huge financial burden on the state in the name of irrigation projects, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy accused KTR of making irresponsible comments regarding the Kaleshwaram

Project to mislead farmers. Uttam dismissed KTR's demands to fill the project's reservoirs as dangerous.

He emphasised that following KTR's suggestions could lead to catastrophic consequences, including structural damage to key barrages like the Medigadda, Annaram and

He warned that overfilling these reservoirs could result in severe downstream flooding, threatening lives and properties in villages like Bhadrachalam and compromising projects such as Sammakka-Saralamma and Sitaram LIS.

"It would be better to name KTR as Joseph Goebbels Rama Rao. KTR has surpassed Goebbels. Hitler was completely misled by Goebbels' lies.



During KCR's tenure, the project planning, management construction were carried out defectively. People are laughing at KTR's statement regarding the Kaleshwaram Project," he said.

He criticised the BRS government for mismanagement and corruption in redesigning and implementing the Kaleshwaram Project. He accused the BRS of unnecessarily shifting the project from Tummidi Hatti to Medigadda, increasing cost from Rs 30,000 crore to Rs 85,000 crore without expanding the ayacut.

He claimed that this mismanagement led to the collapse of the Medigadda Barrage shortly after completion, a situation he attributed to poor planning and execution by the BRS government.

KTR must submit evidence to Justice Gosh panel: Uttam

PNS HYDERABAD

Criticising BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's statement that there might be a Congress hand in the sagging of the Medigadda Project, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy gave instructions to KTR regarding his suspicions.

Uttam said that if KTR is suspicious of the Congress and if KTR has evidence he can submit it to the Justice Gosh Commission of inquiry on Kaleshwaram Project.



Govt to preserve TG culture, heritage: CM

The Congress government will preserve the culture and heritage of Telangana and place them proudly on the world map, the CM said.

The CM attended the completion ceremony of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park at Qutub Shahi Tombs in Hyderabad on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, the CM said that it is an honour for him to participate in the completion ceremony of the restoration project which was undertaken jointly by Telangana Government and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

The CM said that Telangana has thousands of years of history, culture and traditions. This region was ruled by Satavahanas, Kakatiyas, Qutb Shahis and others. Every ruler left his own unique cultural imprint.He said that Telangana is the hub of architectural

marvels such as Charminar, Golconda Fort, Qutub Shahi Tombs, Thousand Pillar Temple, Ramappa Temple,

and Alampur Temple etc.

Revanth said that
Hyderabad is known for its 'Ganga-Jamuna-Tehjeeb' and has witnessed the coexistence of people with different cultures."The Qutb Shahi Heritage Park and seven tombs are a testament of the Nizam dynasty's architectural skill. My government will preserve the culture and heritage of Telangana and place them proudly on the world map. Telangana is proud of having the Ramappa Temple which was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site," he said.

The CM said that the conservation of the more than 100 monuments in 106 acres is one of the largest conservation programmes taken up by entering into MoUs in 2013.

It is better if we talk less about BRS: Venkat

PNS HYDERABAD

Roads and Buildings (R&B) Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that it is better if we talk less about the BRS as it could not save its deposits in half the seats during the Assembly election.

Speaking to the media after Charminar Bhagyalaxmi Ammavaru temple on Sunday along with his family, Venkat said the BRS was in power when the Medigadda Barrage's pillars sagged. "How can the barrage sag if we hatched conspiracies as KTR said," he asked.

He said that the Congress

acres. The Kalwakurthy LIS

project is set to receive Rs

489.16 crore to irrigate 134,994

Krishna Basin goes to the

Dindi LIS for which Rs 1881.1

crore has been allotted to irri-

gate 8,000 acres. The AMR

SLBC project will receive Rs

1,679.66 crore to irrigate

50,000 acres. Overall, Krishna

Basin projects will irrigate

252,764 acres with a total bud-

The largest allocation in the

government will construct the Osmania General Hospital's new building as per its old design as decided by the allparty meeting. He said the government will clean up the Musi River and extend Metro Rail to the Old City using the Rs 10,000 crore set apart for Hyderabad's development.

The R&B Minister said that he had prayed to Ammavaru to ensure that the people of Telangana lived happily. On Sunday, Venkat offered

silk clothes to Bhagyalaxmi Ammavaru. He said that he had also prayed to Ammavaru to protect the people from pandemics like covid-19.

get of Rs 4,366.72 crore.

The total proposed new aya-

cut across both basins is

584,770 acres, with a combined

funding of Rs 7,406.43 crores

for fiscal 2024-25. An expen-

diture of Rs 7,406.43 crores is

planned for the creation of a

new ayacut covering 5.85 lakh

acres across 12 projects. The

Minister said that in the

Kaleshwaram Project,

Packages 9, 20, 21, 21A, and 22

have been prioritised.

Hold local elections after conducting caste census: VH

PNS HYDERABAD

Senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao appealed to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to conduct local body elections only after conducting the caste census. He said that BCs will suffer injustice if local body elec-

tions are held without conducting a caste census.

Speaking to the media after

having darshan at the Amberpet Mahankali Ammavaru Temple on Sunday, he said the Chief Minister must conduct a caste census as assured during elections.

He demanded the Chief Minister to change his decision to hold local body elections before conducting caste census. He said BCs stand to gain if elections are conducted on the basis of population and that he will exert pressure on the Centre to order a caste census.

Pistol queen...

Continued from page 1

Bhaker was part of that team and had gone home in tears after drawing a blank.

"After Tokyo I was very disappointed and it took me a very long time to overcome that. Frankly speaking, I really can't explain how good I am feeling today," Bhaker, whose pistol malfunctioned during the qualification of the same event three years ago, said with a wide smile on h

"In Bhagwat Gita, Krishna says to Arjuna that 'you focus on your karma and not on the outcome of the karma'. Only that was running in my head," she revealed when asked about her state of mind during the final.

The last time India won shooting medals at the Olympics was in 2012 London edition where rapid-fire pistol shooter Vijay Kumar and 10m air rifle marksman Gagan

Narang clinched silver and bronze respectively. Narang is the chef de mission of the Paris contingent right now.

The 22-year-old Bhaker, who hails from Jhajjar in Haryana, fought hard to get the bronze with a score of 221.7 here. Korea's Kim Yeji claimed the silver with a total of 241.3 while her compatriot Jin Ye Oh bagged the gold with a Games record of 243.2.

"I was fighting with all the that I could win the bronze. I read Bhagwat Gita and always tried to do what I am supposed to do, left everything else to god.

"We can't fight destiny," added the world champion in 25m pistol event.

Bhaker was in the second position till the second last shot but the Indian fell behind after Yeji shot 10.5 in response to her 10.3, ruling her out of gold medal shoot-off

Modi dials...

Continued from page 1

an achievement that opened the country's account in the ongoing Games and ended a 12-year wait for its shooters.

"Many, many congratulations to you, Manu. Since hearing the news of your win, the whole country is basking in the glory of your success," PM Modi said during his telephonic interaction with the 22-year-old shooter.

That Bhaker narrowly missed out on a silver did not escape the PM's attention.

'You missed out on a silver by the smallest of margins but still you have made the country proud. You deserve credit on two counts - one for winning a bronze medal and another for becoming the first Indian woman to win a medal in shooting," the PM added.

Bhaker thanked the PM for helping the athletes.

Revanth is synonym Govt will focus on... for lies, says Jagdish

Krishna Paksha

Jul 28 07:27 PM

to Jul 29 05:56 PM Jul 29 05:56 PM

to Jul 30 04:45 PM

Jul 28 11:47 AM

to Jul 29 10:55 AM

to Jul 30 10:23 AM

7:34 AM to 9:10 AM

10:46 AM to 12:22 PM

10:39 PM to 12:13 AM

06:17 AM to 07:50 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:56 AM to 12:48 PM

Updated: July 28, 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

Humidity: 72% Sunrise: 5:55 AM

Sunset: 6:50 PM

1:58 PM to 3:34 PM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

inspected the site identified

for setting up the Skill

University.
The Chief Minister inspect-

ed the 57 acres identified by

the revenue authorities for set-

Former Power Minister G. Jagdish Reddy said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's name has become a synonym for lies.He said the Congress came to power through deception and lies and after coming to power the Congress is ruling the state with lies.

He said the CM's actions indicate that the Congress government will hand over power companies to private entities. He said the Chief Minister is ready to hand over power bill collection to private companies and appealed to the

TODAY

ALMANAC

Tithi: Navami:

Nakshatram:

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Yamaqandam:

Amritakalam:

Temp: 31°

Bharani:

Month & Paksham:

to irrigate 21,692 acres, and the Rao did not install meters on farm pumps even though the JNLI project will receive Rs Centre had exerted pressure 67.88 crore to irrigate 35,000 on the BRS government.

He said that Jaipal expressed unhappiness over losing the opportunity to become the Chief Minister after getting elected from Kalwakurthi.Meanwhile, the

Law & order...

uation today there is a possibility Hyderabad's image as well as that of the state will be hit. I warn the government that this will affect investments

coming into the state. It is not right for the government which is expected to put down anti-social forces to go soft on them. I request the CM to focus on maintaining peace in

Chief Minister assured that a 100-bed hospital will be constructed in Kalwakurthy and sanctioned funds for the construction of roads and R&B guesthouses.He also sanctioned Rs 10 crore to improve facilities in government schools in Madgula mandal and added that a road network from all village ters would be constructed in

the constituency.

Continued from page 1 The BJP government would

Sanjay said that unfortu-

Sanjay said the Congress government proposed Rs 33 crore in the budget for with Bonalu and Ganesh fes-

"The Congress government gave Rs 2.4 crore to banned organizations like the Tablighi Iamaat. Is this your secularism? You must understand what happened to earlier rulers who behaved like this." Sanjay warned.

"Îf I point out facts, will I be called a communalist? It's okay. I will certainly talk. I am not talking against any

power plant on March 4, 2024. Of the 1,600 MW 85% is being supplied to Telangana. He said the Centre hopes to

start the remaining 2,400 MW project as soon as possible. For this, the State Power Distribution Corporation (TRANSCO) will have to enter into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the NTPC. After this, the NTPC will start working on setting

up the plants and supplying sufficient coal.

Meanwhile, in the context of increasing electricity demand across the country, the Centre wants to complete the STPP-II project as soon as possible and increase electricity gener-

"I wrote letters to the TG government four times asking for a quick response regarding the PPA but got no response. I sent letters on October 5, 2023, January 9, 2024, January 29, 2024 and on April 29, 2024. No reply was received from TRANSĆO," he said.

The NTPC said in the letter that if the state government does not respond, it will have to assume that the state government is not interested in purchasing power from the STPP-II project being executed by the Centre at Ramagundam. If the Telangana government is not interested, the NTPC will be allowed to sell its electricity to other states in the south, he

On May 30, 2024, the electricity demand across the country was recorded as 250

Get ready for... 'Bhagyalaxmi Temple will be...

Continued from page 1

CM inspects Skill University site in RR district

ting up the Skill University at

Mir Khan Pate in Ranga

Maheshwaram constituency

in Kandukuru Mandal. The

CM examined the map of the

place and inquired about

details from concerned offi-

people of Telangana to watch

out for the conspiracies of

Telangana Bhavan on Sunday,

Jagdish said that former Chief

Minister K. Chandrasekhar

Speaking to the media at the

Revanth Reddy.

Continued from page 1

He said that due to the peace and security in Telangana in the last 10 years, thousands of crores of investments came into the state.

"If we look at the sit-

the state," he said.

panchayats to mandal cen-

treat all communities equally," he said.

nately, even if governments change discriminatory policies do not change. When there is a committee consisting of 24 temple managements to conduct the Bonalu festival in the Old City, it is outrageous to give only Rs 5 lakh, he said.

Ramzan. Give another Rs 10 crore. But why not give like that for Hindu festivals too? We celebrate Navratri along tivals. Why not give funds for that? Why don't you fund the Bhagyalakshmi festival? If the BJP comes to power we will convert Bhagyalakshmi Temple into a golden temple,

TG IAS aspirant among 3 students...

Continued from page 1

Tania is a Delhi University graduate and is the eldest daughter and highly motivated to join the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

Tania's father shared that she kept in touch with her family daily to update them about her studies. He expressed devastation, saying, She was my eldest, had big dreams and was highly motivated. We are troubled thinking about the way she died. We are devastated and don't know

Reacting to the sudden death, Union Minister and Secunderabad MP G Kishan Reddy expressed grief over Tania's death. Absence of drainage system

and safety measures, and use of basement for commercial activities in violation of norms led to the death of three civil services aspirants at a coaching centre in central Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar area, officials and students said on Sunday. The Delhi Police on Sunday

arrested the owner and the

coordinator of the coaching centre -- Rau's IAS Study Circle -- and booked them for culpable homicide and other charges.

An FIR was registered at Rajinder Nagar police station under sections 105 (culpable homicide) and 290 (negligent conduct with respect to pulling down, repairing or constructing buildings), among others, of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). So far, two people -coaching centre owner Abhishek Gupta and coordinator Deshpal Singh -- have been

Shreya Yadav of Ambedkar Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, Tanya Soni from Telangana, and Navin Dalwin from Ernakulam in Kerala died after the base-

ment of a building housing the

coaching institute was flooded

following heavy rain on

Saturday evening. While there was no official word, some students alleged that the incident took place after several people got trapped in the basement due to malfunctioning of entry-exit biometric system.

Does Telangana need...

Continued from page 1

The NDA government led by Prime Minister Modi has approved a project to set up super thermal power plants at Ramagundam in the Peddapalli district of Telangana for generating 4,000

He said that as part of this

two power plants with a capacity of 800 MW have been com-

pleted by the NTPC and made

available to the public in the first phase. Of the two power projects executed at a cost of Rs 10,598.98 crore, Prime Minister Modi dedicated the first 800 MW power plant to the nation on October 3, 2023, and the second 800 MW

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HYDERABAD | MONDAY | JULY 29, 2024

'CIVIC AUTHORITIES' CLAIMS FALSE'

Residents air grievances over water-logging, drainage issues

As Hyderabad witnesses persistent rains, residents voiced their grievances over waterlogging and sewage blockage issues despite the claims made issues despite the claims made by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) authorities of tackling them. Also, the residents claimed that the recent $reports\ of\ HMWSSB\ regarding$ tackling the issues is false, as most of the issues are not resolved.

The customer care centre of HMWSSB has been flooded with complaints and grievances about various issues including sewage overflow and



contamination of water. In June, the board received 75,555 complaints out of which 75,496 were resolved. About 38,051 complaints were received on sewage issues out of which 38,040 were resolved and 17,206 complaints of choked pipelines were received out of which 17,196 were resolved.

A few locals stated that in localities including Nizampet, Manikonda, Miyapur,

Malkajgiri, Jeedimetla village, Neredmet, Shaikpet , Tolichowki, Asif Nagar and Gandhi Nagar, many issues such as broken manhole and sewage overflow was brought to the notice of officials concerned, but they have not been solved. Syed Khaled Shah Chishti Hussaini, Secretary of United Federation of Residence Welfare Associations, said,

"Despite having lodged com-

times, the authorities are not taking any action on sewage issues, especially at Nallakunta, Tarnaka and other areas. Most of them have drainage overflow and water in nalas choke."

"I have made several complaints to the Water Board about the broken manholes. However, out of five manholes only one was repaired and they claimed that due to lack of funds, they are unable to take up repair works," said Sai Teja, a social activist. "We have complained to the officer concerned on the longpending drainage problems of Third Cross Street, Devinagar and work was estimated in the year 2022. However, it is pending for financial approval since March 2022," said Ramesh, a resident of Devinagar.

Traffic curbs at Gachibowli for flyover construction

PNS HYDERABAD

Traffic advisory has been issued to facilitate a seamless flow of traffic, as the Hyderabd Greater Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is taking up Strategic Road Development Plan (SRDP) at Shilpa Layout Phase-II flyover work from ZPHS U-turn towards Gachibowli, for a towards Gachibowii, for a period of five days round-the-clock. "The road width between ZP High School towards Gachibowli junction will be reduced to an extent of 3 meters. We are extent of 3 meters. We are expecting traffic congestion in this stretch. On Sunday, the police advised commuters to avoid the Kothaguda and Rolling Hills to Gachibowli Junction route from July 29 to August 2.

Plea to consider AKTC's proposal to maintain seven Qutb Shahi tombs

PNS HYDERABAD

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Sunday urged Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to consider the Agha Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) proposal to maintain the Qutb Shahi tombs.

Addressing a gathering at the closing ceremony of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park restoration project, Owaisi said, "I thank the Agha Khan Trust, the State government and the US Consulate for their efforts in restoring the structure. I vividly remember coming over here as a child for school trips. I would like to remind Prince Rahim Aga Khan that Agha Khan III was instrumental in the construction of the Aligarh Muslim University. So, your connection with Hyderabad, India and its history continues. I thank the Chief Minister and request



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi at the closing ceremony of the Qutb Shahi heritage park restoration project

him to examine the proposal made by the Agha Khan Trust for maintaining the seven tombs so that these can be maintained and preserved."

The Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, which includes the seven tombs of the Qutb Shahi dynasty, stands as a testament to architectural excellence.

The Telangana government dedicated itself to preserving the State's culture and heritage and proudly showcasing it on the world map. Revanth Reddy also highlighted the pride Telangana takes in the Ramappa temple, which is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The restoration of the Qutb Shahi tombs was taken up based on an agreement in 2013 and was one of the largest restoration efforts in the world. It encompassed more than 100 monuments across 106 acres.

Scholars criticise move to transfer hereditary priests

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Adisaiva Brahmana Archaka Sangham organised a national seminar on Saivagama under the auspices of Telangana Endowments department at Cheruvugattu in Nalgonda. It is a three-day event which commenced on July 28 and will conclude on July 30.

The seminar was attended by scholars from all over the country who were critical of the move by the Telangana Endowments department to transfer hereditary archakas. The symposium recorded the various agamas which have clearly ordained that the archaka and the deity are inseparable. The scholars resolved that traditional archakas have a long relationship with their respective deities and cannot be separated. Quoting extensively from various Saiva Agamas which are 28 in number, the scholars from all over South India elaborated the

divine rituals from foundation stone-laying

Samprokshanam or consecration of the temple. Someshwara Shivagnana Peetham was the main host of this conference. Jadala Ramalingeshwara Swamy temple passed a resolution requesting the Telangana government to restore traditional priesthood in temples.

The generations of the archaka families have been in a spiritual bondage with the

Chilkur Balaji temple chief Archaka CS Rangarajan assured that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was like-minded in this and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka had promised to implement the amended endowments legislation.The participants conferred the title Archaka Shiromani' on CS Rangarajan for his contributions to archakas and temple

School safety zones demanded by cyclists

PNS HYDERABAD

Inspired by setting up a school safety zone by the Pune government, the members of Hyderabad cycling community demanded that the Telangana government implement it under the name of school zoning project. Under this project, the government has to create and facilitate all the roads in and around school zones in our city Hyderabad to be safe.

Speaking to the Pioneer correspondent, Santhana Selvan, Bicycle mayor of Hyderabad said, "Basically, the school safety zones in Hyderabad are not implemented properly and current conditions are not safe for students. School safety zoning is an important activity and it can be done in a phased manner.

In Hyderabad, Miyapur, Nacharam, Boduppal and other areas are considered school clusters, where two or more schools are present with-

in 1-2 km radius. If the government selects a particular school zone location, then it is easy to implement and scale it up across the city. This involves multi-departmental works such as GHMC, MAUD, traffic police, law and order etc. It also involves setting up speed-breakers near school locations, proper pedetrian crossing, zebra pedestrian crossing, zebra crossings, traffic signals have to work properly, CCTVs should be operated 24/7, traffic police should be available during peak hours and speed of vehicles should be controlled by traffic police. Most importantly, the government has to set a rule that the speed of vehicles should not exceed 25 km/hr/. This zoning has to be done across locations where schools are present irrespective of government, residential, private and censor schools.

He also said that the government needs to segregate the lanes such as cycle lanes and pedestrian lanes.

Minister Konda Surekha participates in Dasabdhi Bonalu

PNS HYDERABAD

Minister of Forests and Endowments Surekha wished people to prosper with abundant rains, dairy crops and healthy lives this year during the Simha Vahini Bonalu celebrations on Sunday. The Minister stated that Telangana government is happy to organise the Dasabdhi Bonala celebrations as a people's government.

She said that all the departments have coordinated to organise the Bonalu fair for a month. The Minister took part in special pujas at Chilkalguda Kattamaisamma temple, Lalaguda Pochamma temple, Lal Darwaja Simhavahini Ammavari temple and Charminar Bhagyalakshmi Ammavari temple in Hyderabad city. She said that people are participating in Bonalu festivals with joy and enthusiasm under the Congress rule.



Bonalu celebrated at Sri Mahankali temple

The 76th annual Bonalu began in a grand manner on Sunday morning in the city. A large number of devotees arrived at the Simhavahini Mahankali temple to participate in the puja. Maha abhishekam was performed by temple Committee organising secretary SP Kranthi Kumar in the early hours. The offering of silk clothes on behalf of the State government was done by IT Minister Duddila Sridhar Babu and his wife. Authorities made all arrangements to ensure

dents. The Police made elabo rate security arrangements at the Simhavahini Mahankali and Akkanna Madanna temples in Lal Darwaza. According to the Police, they are verifying CCTV footage from the 400 cameras installed in the area. Traffic restrictions were also imposed in the areas.

Devotees packed the temple since morning. The temple authorities presented a golden bonam to the deity. Telangana Director of Health Dr K Srinivasa Rao was also present with his family.

DCA seizes medicine over false claim on curing obesity

PNS HYDERABAD

Drug Control Administration (DCA) on July 27 raided pharmacies in Yadadri\Bhuvanagiri and seized medicines over false claim of curing obesity and treating mental health.

During the raids, a team led by Drugs Inspector, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri, J Ashwin Kumar, detected Triphala tablets, an Ayurvedic medicine, manufactured by Siddh-ayu Ayurvedic Research Foundation, Madhya Pradesh. The product label bore a misleading claim stating that it treats 'obesity' and stocks of the medicines were stocks of the medicines were seized during the raid at a medical shop in Choutuppal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.

Meanwhile, Drugs Inspector, Siricilla, LRD Bhavani, and her team detected Ashwagandhadi Lehya, an Ayurvedic medicine, with the product label having a mis-

leading claim that it relieves depression and associated anxiety'. Stocks of the medicines were seized during the raid conducted at a medical shop in Siricilla.

Advertising a medicine for the treatment of 'obesity' and 'depression and associated anxiety/ diseases and disorders of the brain' is prohibited under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, the DCA said on

Further investigation would be carried out and action taken as per the law against all the offenders. Persons who make misleading advertisements regarding drugs for treatment of certain diseases and disorders are punishable under Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both, the DCA cautioned.

Borabanda student selected for State

system as a whole.

PNS HYDERABAD

A student of Telangana Residential Educational Institutions Society (TREIS), Borabanda school, named Y Mallikarjuna has been selected for the State-level screening examination of Sakura Science Programme (SSP).

Under the direction of director of State Educational Research Training (SCERT) G Ramesh, Sakura Japan Science High School Programme-2024 district level examination was conducted by District Science Officer (DSO) Dharmender Rao for the students studying in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) schools, Telangana model schools and TREIS schools. From TREIS Boys Borabanda School, 18 boys and TREIS girls, Borabanda 25 students, a total 43 students appeared for the Sakura Japan district exam.

'Town planning officials habituated to take bribes'

PNS HYDERABAD

Terming Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) as a corrupt corporation, BJP MLA from Goshamahal T Raja Singh alleged that the Town Planning officials of the GHMC are habituated to take bribes for every work and giving permissions as they wished.

Speaking to the media on Sunday, Raja Singh said that he will show several illegal constructions in his Assembly constituency. Raja Singh said that the GHMC got a dynamic lady Commissioner Amrapali Kata and it is better if she concentrates on the Town Planning department. He alleged that the Town Planning officials are collecting money while resorting to rowdvism.

Raja Singh appealed to the Chief Minister to order a probe into the Town Planning



department. He said that the government is suspending officials and doing the same after untoward incidents happen. Reacting on the Delhi incident in which Telugu student Tanya died, Raja Singh said that it is a painful incident. He appealed to the State government to extend support to her family. Raja Singh alleged that there are many illegal coaching centres in Hyderabad too. He alleged that the Town Planning officials are taking it light in regard to such illegal constructions while taking bribes.

More than 85 % storm water drains works completed

PNS HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has completed more than 85 per cent of storm water drain works in the city. To avoid inundation of lowlying areas in the city, the corporation completed 781 kilometers of storm water drain works, out of 919 km of estimated nala works.

The total storm water drains in GHMC is 1,302 kms out of which 390 kms are major drains. In this financial year, 201 works covering 919 km of storm water drains and 952.69 km of desilting works have been targeted at an estimated cost of Rs 56.38 crore.

On Sunday, the GHMC officials mentioned that a total of 3.3 lakh cubic meters of float-



GHMC officials removing the silt from a Nala at Lakshmiguda

ing material was removed in that work and 72.41 per cent of silt was transported to Jawahar Nagar dump yard.

The officials should note the works in the GHMC app on a

daily basis. In this context, at least five house owners, along with the corporator concerned should authorise it before it was marked on the official

Electricity dept conducts awareness drive for farmers

PNS HYDERABAD

An awareness programme was held for the farmers of Mudigonda Mandal, under Madhira constituency on Sunday. As per the directions of TGNPDCL CMD Karnati Varun Reddy, 30 farmers par-

ticipated in the programme. Explaining the main objective of "Power Sector - Farm Path," District Superintending Engineer Surender said that the department will correct bent poles, replace broken or dangerous poles and fix loose hanging lines. They aim to provide quality electricity to farmers, who should follow safety and electricity-saving principles.

He also emphasised the importance of using capacitors of appropriate capacity motors.



Farmers were shown an example of a capacitor near a motor and explained how it reduced current usage. Many farmers agreed to install capacitors.

Local Sarpanch, MPTC

members, public representatives and farmers expressed happiness with the electricity department's performance.

Farmers also shared their problems with the district administration.

District Superintending Engineer Surender, Divisional Engineer V Babu Rao, B Bimsing, local AEM Srinivas, and other electricity department staff, along with farmers, participated in the programme.

Two murders in city in a day

PNS HYDERABAD

In two separate incidents reported from Begum Bazar and SR Nagar on July 27, two persons were murdered.

In the first case, the victim identified as Mohammed Hakeem (72), a resident of Moghalpura, ran a battery repairs shop at Feelkhana Begum Bazaar. On Saturday night, he didn't return and his son Khaleel came to the shop on Sunday morning and found Hakeem lying dead in a pool of blood.

A case has been registered and the investigation is underway. In SR Nagar at Hanuman Hostel, a man died after being attacked by his roommate over an undisclosed issue. The victim was identified as Venkat Ramana, a native of Andhra Pradesh, who was employed at an educational institute in Hyderabad.

TG second in country in recovery of phones

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana State Police has recovered 21,193 mobile devices since January 1 to July 25, 2024, and is ranked second in the country. In Telangana State, the maximum recoveries have been made by Hyderabad Commissionerate with 3,808 mobile devices, followed by Rachakonda Commissionerate with 2,174 and Cyberabad Commissionerate with 2,030 mobile devices.

To enhance user friendliness and serve the citizens of Telangana more efficiently, the Telangana Police, in coordination with DoT, has successfully integrated CEIR portal with TG Police Citizen Portal. The citizens are requested to utilise this service on the TG Police Citizen Portal www.tspolice.gov.in or www.ceir.gov.in for reporting

lost/missing mobile devices. Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal was developed by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to curb the menace of mobile theft and counterfeit mobile devices. CEIR portal was offi-

May 17, 2023, and was started on a pilot basis in Telangana State on April 19, 2023. In Telangana State, Additional DGP (CID) Shikha Goel is designated as Nodal Officer for CEIR portal. CEIR portal is operated in all 780 police stations in the State. ADGP, CID monitors the progress of work under CEIR portal as a result of which 21,193 lost or stolen mobile

devices were recovered in a

span of 206 days in 2024, of

which the last 1,000 were

recovered in eight days and

handed over to complainants.

cially launched nation-wide on

FSC finds violations in two more restaurants

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Food Safety Commission (FSC) conducted inspections at two restaurants in the city on Sunday and found violations.

According to the Task Force, a complaint was received on the FoSCoS app regarding Mehraab Restaurant in Rajender Nagar, Upperpally. The Food Safety Officer concerned inspected the premises and identified violations according to the FSS Act, 2006, and the Rules and Regulations, 2011. Officials stated that a notice will be issued to the premises, and further action will be taken

accordingly In another inspection, a complaint was received on the FoSCoS app regarding Indian Darbar Restaurant in



Food Safety officials seen inspecting the restaurants in the city on Sunday

Narayanguda, Amberpet. The Food Safety Officer concerned inspected the premises and identified violations according to the FSS Act, 2006, and the Rules and Regulations, 2011. Officials stated that a notice will be issued to the premises, and further action will be taken accordingly.

Teacher suspended for cutting students' hair

The English teacher, however, justified her action and argued that what she did is no wrong

PNS KHAMMAM

A government school teacher Khammam district chopped off the hair of 15 male students as she felt it was long, following which the woman was suspended.

The incident occurred at Peruvancha village under Kalluru mandal in the district on Saturday and the English teacher has been placed under suspension pending enquiry, Education Department officials said on

The teacher trimmed the hair of nearly 15 students of class 8,9



and 10 on the school premises using scissors, they said.

The students who were upset over the haircut, complained to their parents who in turn staged a protest in front of the school against the

"It (resorting to hair cut) is

not the job of teachers. If the students are irregular and if they were indiscipline, she could have informed their parents and should not have acted like cutting the hair of students," the official said. The woman teacher on her part said the students were advised several times to get a haircut as they were found attending the

classes with long hair.
"As the students failed to do so she had to cut their hair", the teacher told the media adding that she didn't feel that it was wrong to do so, though she said some students had "objected" to cutting their hair.

Mentally ill youth kills mother before committing suicide

PNS KOTHAGUDEM

A mentally ill youth allegedly strangulated his mother to death before committing suicide by hanging on Saturday night, reports reaching here said on Sunday.

He was identi-fied as Vinay (27), resident of Budigagedda village of Bhadradri-Kothagudem dis-trict. He is the only son of 55-year-old Tulja Kumari.

Éver since the death of her husband 10 years ago, Tulja Kumari and Vinay had been living in their

For the past two years, the

heath of Tulja Kumari had been deteriorating. She had been falling sick frequently. Vinay borrowed money

from all his acquaintances to get his mother treated. The financial problems caused depression to him.

Recently, he also became indisposed. The disease heightened his depression. He was found speaking to himself worrying about mother's health. Worried over the safety of his mother in his absence, Pavan

strangulated her to death on Saturday night before he committed suicide by hanging.

Maoists to observe 'Martyrs week': Police step vigil in Agency areas

PNS MAHABUBABAD

In view of the Maoists observing martyrs week from July 28 to August 3, the police have stepped up security in the Agency villages of the state and conducting search operations extensively in villages.

In view of the Chhattisgarh

government mounting pressure on the Maoists and a large number of Maoists being killed in 'encounter,' the Maoists proceeded to safety zones in Telangana, according to sources.
To check the Maoists and

their activities in catchment areas of Godavari, the police have been conducting extensive searches in Mulugu, Mahabubabad and Bhadradri-Kothagudem districts.

The Mahabubabad district police remained alert following the death of Maoist action



team member Nallamuri Ashok alias Vijayender, 43, in an "exchange of fire" with the police that took place in Damaratogu forests.

The movement of the police has been giving anxious moments to tribal people in the Agency villages have been stepped up.
The police have stepped up

their vigil on villages to prevent any activity from taking place

observing Martyrs' week. Acting on directions from Superintendent of Police Sudhir Ramnath Keken, the police have been combing extensively in Agency areas and implementing programmes like running medical camps and distributing cricket kits among the youth. The police have been asking villagers to inform them in case strangers found moving in their villages.

Meters to pumpset: CM's statement contradicted

PNS HYDERABAD

Former Minister Koppula Eswar on Sunday contradicted the statement made by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on fixing meters to the

agricultural pump sets.
Former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao did not bow to the pressure from the Centre on fixing meters to the pumpsets as it caused harm to farmers.

He recalled how the BRS government vehemently opposed the anti-farmer proposal to fix smart meters to agricultural pump sets pro-

posed by the Centre. When K Chandrashekar Rao was chief minister, the Centre forced him to fix meters to agricultural pump sets. However, he did not bow to pressures and minced no words when he made it clear to the centre that the government of Telangana would not going to fix meters to the

pump sets. Revanth Reddy was trying to sling mud on KCR and BRS wantonly, he alleged.

Ponguleti directs officials to ensure completion of works on schedule

Minister for Revenue and Housing Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Sunday took part in a spree of laying foundation stones for developmental programmes in Khammam district and urged the contractors to execute the work as per the terms of the agreement within the stipulated time frame.

He laid the foundation stone for three drainage schemes in Palair to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 15 lakh, development of black top road from Turkagudem to Chintala Thanda at a cost of Rs 180 lakh and development of a bitumen road from Turkagudem to Kistapuram village at a cost of

Addressing the gathering, the Minister directed the officials of the executing agency to complete works with quality and wanted officials to monitor the progress on daily basis. He wanted the contractors

to complete the drainage works wherever the road development works are conceived. The Minister interacted with farmers and agricultur-

al workers enquiring about



Minister for Revenue Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy distributing Chief Minister Relief Fund cheques to beneficiaries at his camp office on Sunday

their welfare and sought information on the progress achieved and the availability of seeds and fertiliser to them. He also sought information from farmers whether the agriculture officials have been tendering advices to them and whether the officials undertake field visits.

The farmers are happy at the intensified agricultural opera-

Minister's Relief Fund cheques

tions under progress.

Later, the Minister at his camp office distributed Chief worth Rs 8, 16, 500 to 37 ben-

Additional Collector D Madhusudhan Naik, Roads and Buildign Superintending Engineer Khammam Rural ACP Tirupati Reddy, Panchayat Raj executive Engineer Venkat Reddy, agriculture assistant director Vijay Chander, Kusumanchi Tahsildar Suresh and officials of various government departments and elected people's representatives and others participated.

upgraded to 600-bed facility

PNS KHAMMAM

Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation and Textiles Tummala Nageswara Rao has announced that the district headquarters govern-ment hospital would be upgraded to a 600-bed hospital. At present it is 450-bed hos-

Accompanied by Collector Muzammeel Khan, Khammam Municipal Commission Abhishek Agastya, Nageswara Rao on Sunday inspected the government hospital. He went round the hospital and directed the hospital authorities to ensure sanitation both inside and on the premises of the hos-

He asked the medical officers to remain accessible to patients and provide better medical treatment to them. He



Headquarters hospitals to be

Minister for Agriculture Tummala Nageswara Rao inspecting the headquarters hospital in Khammam on Sunday

asked the hospital staff and authorities to behave courteously with the patients.

recruit medical officers and staff in the hospital and assured the hospital authorities that there would be no shortage of He enquired about the amenities being provided to inpatients and outpatients and the problems nestled in the

hospital. He asked the hospital authorities to improve the drainage system in front of mother and child welfare centre here. He insisted that the sanitation in the hospital

should improve within a week. He checked the attendance register of the hospital.

The State government has been paying special attention to the medical and health amenities and implementing measures to provide all kinds of amenities in the hospitals spending crores of rupees.

The medical officers should take measures to improve the reputation of the hospital

Govt to advance loans to SHGs

HYDERABAD

The Telangana government launched the Indira Mahila Shakti scheme a few months ago to create more women entrepreneurs.

The government is planning to advance loans worth Rs 5,000 crore to Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the next five years to establish micro enterprises under the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA).

As per this scheme women can start enterprises and money would be made available to establish stitching centres, street vendor development facilities and other works.

Telangana State Narcotics

Bureau (TG-NAB) officials

and Mailardevpally Police

arrested four persons on charge

of involving in illegal drug

trade. Acting on a tip-off, the

police conducted a raid at a

The arrested were identified

Mumbai,

as Salman Shah (27) from

Mohammed Ateeq (35), a res-

ident of Friends Colony in

Mailardevpally; Rizwan Ali

(37) from Paramount Hills,

Tolichowki, Hyderabad, and

Mohammed Yaseen (38) from

Charminar, Hyderabad.

house in Mailardevpally.

Jogeshwari,

PNS RANGAREDDY

ity a subsidy of 10 per cent to 35 per cent would be provided on loans. According to official data, there are 1.74 lakh Self Help Groups with 17.65 lakh members in the state. While giving assistance to women, the government is segregating them into two types, that is, the group as a unit and the individ-

A total of 17,500 micro enterprises are planned to be set up with a capital outlay of Rs 1,025 crore during the financial year. A total of 2,500 group enterprises would be set up with an outlay of Rs 525 crore. Each group would get Rs 20 lakh.

Under the scheme for

90 grams of MDMA (com-

monly known as ecstasy

drug) and four mobile

phones. According

to the police, the

accused were found

consuming

MDMA mixed

with pan masala at

the time of the raid.

Salman Shah, hail-

ing from Mumbai,

allegedly came to Hyderabad to

deliver 50 grams of MDMA to

Mohammed Ateeq. Rizwan

Ali reportedly facilitated

Salman Shah's transportation

to Ateeq's house, where Ateeq

TG-NAB officials in coordination with police bust drug racket

The raid, which took place and Mohammed Yaseen were at 2.40 pm led to the seizure of waiting. The joint team of TG-

ernment would provide assistance to establish canteens, catering services, food processing units, construction equipment, cold storages, Mee Seva centres and event management units.

A total of 1,500 enterprises would be set up with a financial outlay of Rs 525 crore per annum. Under this scheme an individual would get Rs 3.50 lakh each. The enterprises planned are bakeries, food trucks, provision stores, dairy product outlets, mic sets, beauty centres, tent houses, saree rolling, fancy stores and SHG product out-

An official said that Rs 595

waiting. The joint team of TG-NAB and Mailardevpally Police

apprehended the sus-

the officials.

pects and recorded

their confessions,

Further inves-

tigation revealed

that Ateeq, Ali,

and Yaseen fre-

quently purchased

drugs from Salman

Pawan hails renaming of govt schemes after great personalities

Shah and other ped-

dlers, identified as Shahid from

Santa Cruz, Mumbai, Wajid

from Mumbai, Neetha from

Goregaon, Mumbai, Abrar

from Hafeez Baba Nagar,

Hyderabad, Naser from

SHGs with bank linkage during this financial year. Out of this, Rs 152 crore was used to set up 2,464 micro enterprises. With bank linkage Rs 122 crore was used to establish 358 stitching centres and a Indira Mahila Shakti Canteen was established in Hanamkonda.

The government had proposed some locations for establishing Indira Mahila Shakthi Canteens in the state. The locations are the secretariat, Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC), temples, tourism hubs, industrial parks, minority welfare hostels, SC/ST hostels, district courts, municipal offices, government offices and other areas.

Shalibanda, Hyderabad, and

Mohd Sameer alias Baba from

Attapur, Hyderabad. These

individuals are currently

A case has been registered

under Section 8(c), 22(c),

27(a), 29 of the Narcotic Drugs

and Psychotropic Substances

(NDPS) Act. The arrested sus-

pects have been remanded in

judicial custody and will be

produced before the Hon'ble

The Mailardevpally Police,

in coordination with TS-NAB,

continue their efforts to track

down the absconding accused

and curb the illegal drug trade

absconding.

Excise police arrest drug peddler, seize 10 kg of marijuana

PNS HYDERABAD

The State task force team of Excise police, along with Dhoolpet Excise Police, seized 10 kgs of Ganja on Sunday. The drug peddler hailed form Andhra Pradesh.

On Sunday, the Excise Department released a press note, where it mentioned that on credible information they conducted raids at Rahimpura and arrested an accused Yesu, who is a native of Kakinada district. He brought the ganja to supply the same to a ganja seller at Dhoolpet to Raj Singh, he is absconding. Along with the drugs, police seized a motorbike and a mobile phone from the possession of the accused. A case has been



registered in the Dhoolpet excise police station.

As per the instructions of the Director of Enforcement Prohibition and Excise Kamalasan Reddy and under the guidance of Joint Commissioner Enforcement SY Qureshi, and Assistant Commissioner P Pranavi, the STF team led by Excise Superintendent N. Anjireddy assisted by CIs Madhubabu, and G Gopal of Excise Dhoolpet and staff members detected this case.

Bonalu festival celebrated with pomp and grandeur in RR dist



Minister for Panchayat Raj Seethakka participating in Bonalu festival in Rangareddy district on Sunday

PNS RANGAREDDY

The Bonala Utsav of Sri Kila Maisamma Temple in Arkepuram Division in Maheswaram Constituency was celebrated with pomp and grandeur.

Panchayati Raj Minister Seethakka and local leaders participated in the event, offering silk clothes to the Goddess and extending festive greetings to the people of Maheswaram.

Minister Seethakka expressed her joy in visiting the Goddess Keela Maisamma and conveyed her heartfelt wishes to people.

She emphasised the importance of the traditional festival, celebrated annually in the month of Ashadam, in fostering unity and preserving cultural heritage.

"By celebrating Bonalu with joy and enthusiasm, we aim to uphold our cultural values

and strengthen societal bonds. We believe that the grace of the Gods will bring happiness and prosperity to everyone," said

Minister Seethakka. The Minister highlighted the government's commitment to ensuring smooth and efficient administration during the festival. Special arrangements and new facilities were provided to ensure that the public participate comfortably in the celebrations.

Cong govt committed to protect environment: MLA

PNS RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar highlighted the government's commitment to environmental protection. He was participating

Vanamahotsavam Kammadan village imder Shadnagar constituency. The event saw the participation of local leaders, forest officials, and students from the Kammadan Gurukula School.

MLA Shankar highlighted the historical significance of the Vanamahotsava programme, which was initiated in 1950 by the Congress government under the leadership of the then Union Minister KM Munshi. He reiterated that the Congress government aimed at planting 20 crore saplings across the state, encouraging each individual to grow five to ten plants to con-

tribute to this effort. "The primary aim of the



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar participating in Vanamahotsam programme

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan has praised the government's decision to name welfare schemes after influential people, stating it will inspire future generations. He suggested that naming schemes after renowned scientists, academicians, and social workers would be particularly beneficial.

He extended his congratulations to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Minister of Education Nara Lokesh for their decision to name educational initiatives after Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Dokka Seethamma, and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. The Deputy Chief Minister recalled that the previous government named all welfare schemes after the then Chief

Minister.

Under the Vidyakanuka scheme, which is named after Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, school students receive uniforms, books, school bags, shoes, and socks. Dr. Radhakrishnan, who brought great honor to the teaching profession, served as the Vice Chancellor of Andhra University, the first Vice President, and the second President

in the region.

of India. His life serves as an inspi-

ration to future generations.

The Deputy Chief Minister also highlighted the commendable renaming of the mid-day meals scheme after Dokka Seethamma, a generous individual known for providing food to the hungry at any time. He believes that embodying her virtues through this scheme will instil similar values in students.

in Shadnagar constituency on Sunday government is to balance the Reddy, ZPTC Venkatram environment, and programmes Reddy, Block Congress

crucial role in achieving this goal," said MLA Shankar during his address. Forest Section Officer Rayinder Goud, Forest Beat Officer Aziz, Kammadan Ex-MPTC Arunamma Anjaiah,

Ex-Sarpanch Narsimlu, Ex-

Deputy Sarpanch Amarnath

like Vanamahotsava play a

President Balaraju, and Mandal Congress President Srikanth Reddy were among the key participants. Additionally, local Congress workers, leaders, and students from Kammadan Gurukula School actively took part in the plantation

US anticipates over 18 lakh visitors from India in 2024

S Consul General in Kolkata Melinda Pavek on Sunday said over 18 lakh people from India are expected to visit the United States this year. She emphasised the importance of the US-India ties and the role of people-to-people connections in strengthening it. "This year, we anticipate more than 18 lakh people from India will travel to the United States, further growing the ties between our nations," Pavek said after inaugurating the

here. The facility at Pataka House on Mirza Ghalib Street has nearly twice the number of intake windows to speed up processing times for customers, compared to the previous one at Jasmine Tower, the US consulate here said in a statement. Pavek said both the countries recognise the immense potential in collaborating across critical and emerging sectors such as technology, healthcare, renewable energy

new Visa Application Center (VAC)



No entry for devotees clad in 'western and skimpy' dress

evotees clad in "skimpy western dress" and shorts will not be allowed to enter Goddess Kalika temple in Ratlam city of Madhya Pradesh, its priest said. "Devotees dressed in western and skimpy attire and shorts (half pants) won't be allowed to enter the temple to protect its sanctity," priest Rajendra Sharma said. Several plaques mentioning the type of banned clothes are put up around this four-century-old temple. "Any devotee clad in indecent

dress won't be allowed to enter the temple or the sanctum sanatorium ' Sharma said, adding that such devotees can have a darshan from outside. The temple is looked after by the Ratlam district administration under the Court of Wards Act. "I have learnt the temple management committee's decision to ban the western outfits. tehsildar Rishabh Thakur said. Sharma claimed King Ratan Singh, who carved Ratlam, had built this temple 400 years ago and consecrated the clan goddess.



Pregnant horse brutally attacked; six persons booked in Kerala

ix persons have been booked for brutally beating up a pregnant horse tethered on the premises of a local temple in this South Kerala district, police said on Sunday. The shocking incident happened on Thursday and the assault against the animal caught widespread public attention after its CCTV visuals went viral on social media platforms. In the visuals, a man can be seen restraining the horse, which is five-months

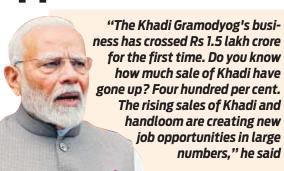
pregnant and five others attacking it with their hands, feet and sticks. During a medical examination of the animal, it was found to have injuries and swelling all over its body. As the visuals went viral, several persons, including state Minister for Animal Husbandry J Chinchu Rani, vehemently criticised the attackers. "The incident has brought disgrace to the cultural society and to the entire state.

Jaipal: a politician who never

compromised on public interest



Khadi, handloom creating job opportunities in large numbers: PM



PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said Khadi Gramodyog's business has crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore for the first time and asserted that the rising sale of Khadi and handloom were creating new job opportunities in large num-

In his monthly Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, Modi said many people who would not be using Khadi products earlier now wear them with

"The Khadi Gramodyog's business has crossed Rs 1.5

lakh crore for the first time. Do you know how much sale of Khadi have gone up? Four hundred per cent. The rising sales of Khadi and handloom are creating new job opportunities in large numbers," he

Mostly women are associated with this industry, so they are benefitting the most, Modi

"You must be having different types of clothes and till now if you have not bought Khadi clothes then start buying them," the prime minister said.

With the start of the Paris Olympics, the prime minister said the games give athletes a chance to hoist the national flag at the international level. He urged people to encourage

them and "cheer for Bharat". During the broadcast, Modi interacted with Indian students who performed very well in the recently held Mathematical Olympiad.

"A few days ago, an Olympics took place in the world of mathematics also: the International Mathematics Olympiad. Indian students have performed very well in this Olympiad. Our team won four gold medals and one silver medal," Modi said. Touching on a host of issues,

The prime minister hailed the inclusion of the 'Moidams' in Assam in the UNESCO World Heritage list and said it is a matter of immense joy for every Indian. He also recalled unveiling

the tallest statue of the great warrior Lachit Borphukan, a symbol of indomitable courage and brav-

Noting that he has often spoken about the menace of substance abuse, Modi said every family is worried that their child may get caught in the tentacles of drugs.

To help such people, the government has opened a special centre, named Manas', the prime minister said and described it as a big step in the fight against drug abuse. "The government has issued a toll-free number '1933'. Anyone can call on this number to get necessary advice or information related to rehabilitation.

"If anyone has any other information related to drugs, they can also share it with the Narcotics Control Bureau by calling this number. All information shared with 'Manas' is kept confidential," Modi said. Highlighting that 70 per cent of the tiger population in the world is in India, he said this will make people proud.In this context, Modi praised the "tiger mitras" who are trained to ensure that there is no human-tiger conflict in the territories inhabited by the

A carved a niche for himself in the national political arena as an impeccable leader who never compromised on public interest. During his tenure as a Member of Parliament, Jaipal Reddy raised issues of public importance. Right from his days as a student leader, Jaipal Reddy never encouraged corruption and remained steadfast in his fight for the common man, particularly in the early 1960s. A parliamentarian for several decades, Jaipal Reddy held key portfolios in various governments. He was bestowed the 'Best Parliamentarian RADHAKRISHNA NANDIRAJU Award' in 1998. Jaipal Reddy played

Telangana. Jaipal Reddy was born on January 16, 1942 in Madgul, Mahbubnagar District, Telangana to Sudini Durgareddy and Yashodamma. He pursued his primary education in Devarakonda, Nalgonda District, and obtained his MA (English) degree

a key role in the formation of

mong India's political stal-

warts, Sudini Jaipal Reddy has

from Osmania University. Jaipal Reddy's political career had its origins during his days as a student leader. Former editor of Visalandhra late Chakravartula Raghavachari was a close friend of Jaipal Reddy.

Jaipal Reddy towered in Telangana politics. A rare politician who had a deep understanding of Indian politics, Jaipal can be considered the last representative of the ilk of politicians who combined Gandhian tradition and socialist ideology. He formulated the erstwhile United Front's Common Minimum Programme. That document suffices to gauge his understanding of India's priorities.

Known for his eloquence and straightforwardness, Congress leader Jaipal Reddy never compromised on values during his political journey. He did not hesitate to oppose the then nrime minister Indire declaration of Emergency. Reddy's limited physical mobility due to polio did not prevent him from scaling great political heights. He was elect-

ed as Lok Sabha member for five terms, Rajya Sabha member for two terms and as legislator for four terms. His personality, perspective on public issues, and manner of speaking

were always appreciated by his peers.

After the imposition of Emergency, he quit the Congress and joined the Janata Party. He contested against Indira Gandhi from the Medak Lok Sabha constituency in 1980. Later, he joined the Janata Party's splinter group Janata Dal. His proficiency in Telugu and English languages is amazing. His exceptional oratorical skills made him the representative of the United Front, the National Front governments and of the Congress Party. He worked hard for the achievement of a separate Telangana state. In the early days of 2010, he was the leader of the Telangana Congress during the struggle for a separate Telangana state and a guiding power. He played a key role in convincing the UPA-2 government and All India Congress Committee president Sonia Gandhi for granting statehood to

Telangana. view to a news channel that he had been offered the post of chief minister of Andhra Pradesh during the separate Telangana movement. As a student leader, MLA, MP and Union Minister, Jaipal Reddy's every step was oriented towards people.

He was a member of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1969 to 1984. He was elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time in 1984. He became the Leader of Opposition in the Upper House in 1991-1992. He rejoined the Congress in 1999 and was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Miryalaguda constituency in 2004 and from the Chevella constituency in 2009. Jaipal Reddy lost in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections from the Mahabubnagar seat and did not contest in the 2019 General Election. Jaipal Reddy passed away on July 28, 2019, at the age of

Jaipal Reddy was Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting in the IK Gujral government; while under Manmohan Singh, he managed various departments in the Union government. In UPA-2, he served as the Urban Development Minister. Later, he took over the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Subsequently, he was transferred to the Ministries of Science and Technology and Earth

Jaipal Reddy also wrote a few books, including 'Ten Ideologies: The Great Asymmetry between Agrarianism and Industrialism'. He never encouraged family politics. He was very disciplined and committed. Instead of encouraging family members to enter politics, he kept his brothers and sons out of politics, limiting their role to campaigning during elections.

If you look at his speeches in Parliament, he does not focus on any topic or accusation. It is his nature to understand the philosophical underpinnings of every issue and een understanding He is the ultimate proof of a leader with secular credentials. Such leaders give more importance to the democratic system than to an individual.

Oppn's allegations of bias baseless, stems from frustration, says Union minister

PNS NEW DELHI

Minister Virendra Kumar on Sunday said the oppo-Union budget for 2024-25 being discriminatory towards some states were completely baseless and stemmed from the frustration of defeat in the recent Lok Sabha polls.

The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment said the Narendra Modi government treats everyone equally working on the concept of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'.

"There is no discrimination against any state in the budget. These parties are going through a phase of frustration, disappointment and sadness as the voters have made them sit in the opposition for the third consecutive term. They are making baseless statements out of frustration," he told reporters at the Bharatiya Janata Party office here.

NCP leader Ajit Pawar to launch 'Jansanvad Yatra'

Smarting under the embarrassing defeat in the recent Lok Sabha elections, NCP leader Ajit Pawar is set to launch a mass outreach programme to prepare the ground for the upcoming Maharashtra assembly polls.

'Jansanvad Yatra to be led by Ajit Pawar will be rolled out from Nashik," Nationalist Congress Party's Maharashtra unit president Sunil Tatkare,



who is leading 'Jan Samman Yatra', said on Sunday.

Addressing NCP workers in Nashik, Tatkare credited Ajit Pawar for introducing welfare projects of Rs 1 lakh crore covering women, youths,

and farmers in the state. Interestingly, Tatkare said senior NCP leaders Chhagan Bhujbal, a state cabinet minister, and Praful Patel will get ing assembly elections. 'Ajitdada (as Ajit Pawar is

known in opularly Maharashtra) has been doing effective political work for the last 35 years. His opponents are trying to defame him and other leaders of the NCP. We should work to defeat these

Kejriwal jailed in false case, avenge insult by voting for AAP

□ DELHI CM'S WIFE IN HARYANA

PNS ■ ROHTAK

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal on Sunday urged the people of Haryana to avenge the "insult" of jailing her husband in a "false" case by ensuring the party's win in the upcoming Assembly elec-tion. She claimed that Prime

Minister Narendra Modi is 'jealous" of Arvind Kejriwal for the work he has done for AAP-ruled Delhi and Punjab. Arvind Kejriwal, who is also the AAP national convener, was arrested by ED on March 21 in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam. The Supreme Court



has granted him interim bail but he is still in jail as the CBI had arrested him in a relat-

Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj to become political party on October 2

PNS PATNA

Former election strategist Prashant Kishor on Sunday said his Jan Suraaj campaign will become a political party on October 2, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti, and contest the Bihar assembly polls next year.

Kishor was addressing a "state-level workshop" of Jan Suraaj here, which was attended by several persons, including two former legislators and a granddaughter of late socialist icon Karpoori Thakur, joining the campaign.

'As stated earlier, Jan Suraaj will become a political party on October 2 and contest next year's assembly polls. Other details, such as who would lead the party, will be decided in due course," said Kishor, who had launched the campaign



two years ago. He welcomed the entry of Jagriti Thakur, whose father Virendra Nath Thakur is the younger son of Karpoori Thakur, a former chief minister of Bihar and a Bharat Ratna awardee. Notably, late Thakur is seen as a mentor to many top leaders of the

state, including Chief Minister

Nitish Kumar and RJD president Lalu Prasad. Thakur's elder son Ram

Nath Thakur is a JD(U) MP and a Union Minister of state. Other notables who joined Jan Suraaj include Monazir Hasan, a former Bihar minister who had been associated with RJD as well as JD(U) and

has served multiple terms in Parliament as well as the state legislature.

Other prominent inductees were former RJD MLC Rambali Singh Chandravanshi, who was recently disqualified from the legislative council on grounds of indiscipline, and Anand Mishra, a former IPS officer who resigned from service hoping for a BJP ticket but contested the Lok Sabha polls from Buxar as an Independent after being denied the ticket. Another entrant was Priyanka, a daughter of JD(U) leader Mangani Lal Mandal, a former MP and an ex-MLA. Founder of IPAC, a political consultancy firm, Kishor first shot to fame in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls campaign of Prime Minister Narendra, which was a spectacular success.

NTA announces **CUET-UG** results

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Sunday announced the results for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG, paving the way to begin the undergraduate admission process which has

been delayed this year.

The NTA had on July 7 released the provisional answer keys of the CUET-UG 2024. A retest for more than 1.000 candidates whose grievances were found genuine by the agency was conducted on July 19.

The delay in the CUET-UG results came amid a row over alleged irregularities in competitive exams, including in the NEET-UG and the UGC-NET.



HIGH INFLATION, POOR LAW AND ORDER

PNS BENGALURU

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said that high inflation and poor law and order in Karnataka are the contributions of the Congress government.

Responding to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's statement that injustice was meted out to the state by the Centre, Sitharaman said the state's economy worsened mainly due to the hike in prices of fuel, milk and stamp duty as well as poor capital expenditure.

The contribution of the state government is high inflation, much higher than the national average. And how I am saying that? Inflation

between June 2023 and June 2024 the national average was 5.4 per cent. Karnataka is at 6.1 per cent," Sitharaman, who is a Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka, told reporters here.

Drawing a contrast between the BJP's rule in the state and present Congress dispensation, the Minister said between June 2022 and May 2023,

Karnataka's inflation was lower than the national average.

While, national average from June 2022 to May 2023 was six per cent, Karnataka kept its inflation rate at 5.39 per cent, Sitharaman pointed

Citing the reasons, the FM said petrol and diesel prices were hiked by Rs 3 and Rs 3.5 respectively.

Milk prices have gone up by Rs 5, property guidance value has been increased from 25 per cent to 30 per cent, stamp duty charges have been increased by 200 per cent to 500 per cent, vehicle registration fee has been hiked by three per cent and additional lifetime tax on electrical vehicles have been imposed.

Climate change amplifies existing inequalities:CJI

SAYS WOMEN, DISABLED AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE FACE HEIGHTENED RISKS

PNS BENGALURU

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Sunday said climate change amplifies the inequities faced by marginalised and disadvantaged groups. Women, children, disabled individuals and indigenous people face heightened risks from climate change, including displacement, health inequities, and food scarcity, he said. "Climate change amplifies existing inequalities, turning it into a human rights issue that particularly affects those whose rights are already compro-



mised. Women, children, disabled individuals and indigenous people face heightened risks from climate change, including displacement, health inequities and food scarcity. Inequality thus becomes both

a cause and consequence of climate change,3 Justice Chandrachud said. He was delivering the keynote address at the 11th Annual Conference of the Berkeley Centre on 'Comparative Équality and Anti-Discrimination'.

He pointed out that the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) high-lighted that the impacts of warming fall disproportionately on the poor and vulnerable.

The CJI said wealthier individuals often have the means to invest in protective infrastructure and cooling systems durdisasters Justice Chandrachud said ensuring climate justice requires recognising these differential impacts and actively involving affected communities in decision-making processes. Such a participato-

ing extreme heat whereas

poorer communities lack such

resources, making them more

vulnerable to climate-related

ry approach can foster more effective and equitable climate policies that truly reflect the needs and experiences of those most impacted, he pointed out.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Enough is enough

The tragic deaths of three students in basement flooding is a repeat story of administrative apathy and negligence

The incident is both tragic and surreal. It is difficult to comprehend that three students could lose their lives in a coaching centre operated in a basement that gets flooded. In a heartbreaking incident that has once again spotlighted the glaring deficiencies in urban infrastructure and governance, three civil service aspirants tragically lost their lives due to flooding in a basement. This avoidable disaster raises serious questions about official apathy, the flouting of safety norms, and the recurring nature of such incidents. On a fateful evening, heavy rains lashed the city, overwhelming the already inadequate drainage systems. The basement, where the students were studying, was rapidly filled with water. Despite desperate attempts to escape, the rising water levels led to the tragic drowning of the three young lives. The basement, meant for commercial storage, was illegally converted into a coaching centre. With no proper ventilation, emergency exits, or drainage systems, it became a death trap during the downpour. This



incident underscores a stark reality faced by many urban dwellers who are forced to live in substandard and unsafe accommodations due to high real estate costs and inadequate housing policies.

The deaths of these students could have been prevented had there been stricter enforcement of building codes and timely maintenance of drainage systems. However, the incident has laid bare the apathy of the authorities responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of citizens. Residents in the area had repeatedly complained about the poor drainage and the illegal conversion of basements into living spaces. Despite these warnings, no significant action was taken. The inac-

tion of municipal authorities and the lack of accountability have resulted in yet another tragedy. After the death of three students, it is time for the crocodile tears to flood on the social media. A big section of political class would rather do nothing but just be concerned about such incidents. Indeed it is the nexus between the local politicians, bureaucrats and business owners of dubious credentials to indulge in flouting the norms and make a fast buck. They do not mind playing with the lives of innocent people. The incident is not an isolated one, similar incidents have happened in the past. This is part of a disturbing pattern where safety norms are routinely flouted by the powerful. Illegal constructions, unauthorized conversions, and poor maintenance of infrastructure are rampant in many urban areas including the capital city. Builders and landlords often bypass regulations, compromising the safety of residents for profit. Such incidents are alarmingly frequent, each time highlighting the same issues of poor infrastructure, negligence, and lack of accountability. Despite the public outcry and media attention that follows each tragedy, there seems to be little systemic change. Again, a customary enquiry would be instituted which would give its report when the incident is all but forgotten from the public memory and we as a nation wait for another one to happen.



'Kanwariyas' carry Ganga water during their pilgrimage in the holy month of 'Shravan', in Haridwar

Honour the unsung heroes of operation Pawan



The lack of public commemoration for the 1,171 soldiers killed in action during Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka highlights a troubling apathy

ndia's future path to greatness shall be marked with supreme sacrifices by its warriors who if confined to the dustbin of state apathy, as reflected by the Government disinclination towards public commemoration of supreme sacrifice by 1171 Indian soldiers KIA during Operation 'Pawan' in Sri Lanka, may adversely impact the national will during inevitable future military confrontations. To recall Operation 'Pawan,' the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) operation in Sri Lanka, was the largest joint services military operation conducted by India, in the 1971 War. It led to establishment

Headquarters IPKF, a Corps-size tri-service organisation with nearly 100,000 troops from the three services under its command. Had the proposed Maritime Theatre Command been in existence, Operation 'Pawan' would have come under its ambit.

The intensity of this 32-monthlong 'politico-military peace keeping' operation, undertaken from 29th of July 1987 to 24th of March 1990, is best gauged from the gallantry awards won and casualties suffered by this force. 1172 Indian soldiers were Killed In Action (KIA), and more than 3500 soldiers suffered grievous injuries. The IPKF was awarded 1 Param Vir Chakra, 6 Maha Vir Chakras, 98 Vir Chakras and scores of other gallantry awards. The ghost of the political failure to see through to the end of its first geopolitical foray in near abroad continues to impact Indian policy establishment even in the present times.

As of now, against the backdrop of a sustained Chinese presence in Sri Lanka, India is struggling to adopt a coherent strategy to deal with the continued intransigence by the Sri Lanka Government to implement the political solution of devolution to the Tamils enshrined in the Indian Sri Lanka Agreement into the picture because it (ISLA) of 29th of July 1987 India is bound to invite hostility from the dominant geopolitical forces in its neighbourhood.

This will mandate it to be prepared for Out-of-area military operations to secure its economic and geopolitical interests. India's



Last week's defence budget was a green signal for China to race even further ahead under the illusion there will be no war. Still, policy pronouncements are not enough unless backed by a revitalised and reorganised military competent to safeguard its economic interests, all aspirational talk is mere rhetoric. Building National War Memorials is one thing; honouring the fallen braves appropriately is quite another matter regardless of the outcome because victory or defeat on the battlefield is never complete unless it is surrendered as in 1971

This is where the IPKF comes was not permitted to complete its military mission. Its contribution to the preservation of Sri Lanka's territorial integrity is fully acknowledged; in Colombo especially. New Delhi must honour its sacrifices on 29 July as a tribute to



AGAINST THE INJUSTICE OF THE **GOVERNMENT** AND THE ARMED **FORCES** NOT OFFICIALLY COMMEMORATING THE IPKF **OPERATIONS** AT THE NWM AS IS DONE FOR

KARGIL WARS

the valour of the fallen brave. The political parameters of the ISLA had been achieved by the IPKF by December 1988. The ethnic Sri Lanka Tamil predominant Northern and Eastern Provinces were amalgamated into a unitary Northeastern Province, general elections to the North East Provincial Council were successfully conducted, with a duly elected EPRLF-led government sworn in. Had the IPKF stay been extended to tame the LTTE, the military mission could have created conditions for implementing a political solution short of

Elam. This would have secured national interest, but the new Indian government should not have endorsed the new Sri Lankan government's demand to withdraw IPKF from the island in August 1989. Ascribing the failure of ISLA to IPKF, which was just a corollary to ISLA, is unfair. The failures lay in the diplomatic and government policy, which the establishment wishes to cover up by laying the blame at the doorstep of its

military.
The ISLA had weak foundations. The contingency of Sri the ISLA was not thought IPKF left India without decisive influence to oversee the 'Operation Pawan'. implementation of the (The writer won Sena Medal is

against its ethnic Tamil minority, impacting Indian policy towards Sri Lanka even in the present.

The provision of weapons and

allied support by R&AW to the LTTE even when militarily engaged against IPKF, and the availability of physical infrastructure support to LTTE in Tamil Nadu, was against national interests. Similar primacy to political interests can be sensed by the refusal of the Indian state to commemorate KIA of Operation 'Pawan.' There is angst against the injustice of the government and the armed forces not officially commemorating the IPKF operations at the NWM as is done for the 1971 and Kargil wars. Graves of some of the Indian soldiers killed during Operation 'Pawan' are still in Sri Lanka. It is hard to understand the dichotomy of the Indian leadership, both political and military, paying public tributes at the IPKF war memorial in Colombo, in the heart of Sri Lanka, but failing to honour those KIA during Operation 'Pawan,' at the NWM at New Delhi. The IPKF war veterans are ever hopeful that the Govt will realise the injustice and con-Lanka and LTTE reneging on sent to a befitting annual national homage to 1171 of its through. The withdrawal of Bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice during

promised political package by an Operation 'Pawan' veteran; Sri Lanka to remove the dis- he is strategic thinker, and criminatory state practices author; views are personal)

How generative AI is transforming the workplace-



The rapid advancements in generative AI are revolutionising the workplace, reshaping job roles, and redefining the future of work

utomation has been at the core of human evolution since the beginning of time. Humans have always sought out ways to make their jobs faster and easier. From physical labour to mechanized tools and now artificial intelligence, the unprecedented rate at which this sector has evolved has been transformative. With every upgrade, the next set of expectations is demanded immediately. This leads us to the conclusion that the future of work is NOT in the future;

It is NOW! This continuous evolution is significantly impacting the workplace, redefining the nature of work, the role of workers, and the environment in which they operate. As we navigate this transformation, HR and business leaders must understand the implications of AI on the future of work. As I reflect on the developments in the field of AI and its impact on the future of work, I see the following 6 implications that every HR and Business leader must know: Job Transformation Over **Displacement:** There is a widespread concern that AI will lead to massive job loss-



dents show that technological advancements tend to transform rather than displace jobs. AI is no different. It will change how we work, introducing new methods and enhancing collaboration between humans and machines. According to a report by SHRM and The Burning Glass Institute on Artificial Generative Intelligence and the Workforce, the impact of Gen AI will be less about automation and more about augmenting workers' productivity and effectiveness. According to a Global Report by Thomson Reuters, 77% of professionals believe AI will significantly impact their work within the next five

The 'War for Talent' Will Be **Fought on Newer Terrains:** The traditional paradigms of skills and talent acquisition tool. The case for Reverse

are evolving rapidly. AugmentationAI's potential is Organizations must look best realized when combined beyond conventional talent pools to find the right candi-

Competitive Edge through Generative AI: A growing number of organizations are already incorporating generative AI into their HR processes, and many are exploring its potential in other

organizations have already introduced the use of Generative AI in their HR oping leadership talent will processes, and many organizations are exploring possible

Human Creativity: The Ultimate DifferentiatorAs equipped to navigate the generative AI becomes more accessible, human creativity and ingenuity will become even more valuable. While AI can process data and provide insights, it is human attributes such as creativity, empathy, and strategic thinking that will set organizations apart. The ability to connect disparate ideas and develop innovative solutions beyond AI's capabilities will be crucial. Human ingenuity will be the key differentiator in a world where AI is a common

with human intelligence (HI). This synergy enables more effective and differentiated applications of AI, resulting in higher return on investments. By leveraging the strengths of both AI and HI, organizations can achieve superior outcomes and drive innovation. Investing in Leadership Development: As generative AI enhances operational efficiencies, the focus on develbecome increasingly important. Leadership development will require targeted investments to ensure they are complexities of a rapidly changing environment. Organizations must prioritize investments in both technology and human capability development to remain com-

Organizations must stay agile, continuously adapting to the changes brought about by AI. The foresight to navigate these changes will be the key to sustaining growth and achieving long-term success.

(The writer is CEO SHRM India, APAPC and MENA; views are personal)

PM MODI'S WARNING TO PAKISTAN Madam — This refers to the report "Modi

warns Pak on terrorism," The Pioneer, Jul 27. PM Narendra Modi, while addressing the 25th Kargil Diwas celebrations, has warned Pakistan against continuing its futile policy breeding and sponsoring cross-border terror. Both the message and the timing were perfect. PM Modi has given voice to the frustrations of most Indians, and was echoing the viewpoint of the entire Indian polity and the Parliament by expressing the national consensus that Kashmir belongs to India. No policy of terror or initiation of war-like action will ever deter India was his clear pronouncement. He also reflected our national resolve strongly that India would not think twice about doing all it takes to protect its territory and people. Nevertheless, as Mr Modi rightly said, Pakistan has not learnt its lessons. It continues to wage war in the garb of terrorism and proxy wars. And it still continues to be a sanctuary for anti-India terrorists, if the recent surge in attacks in Jammu is any indication.

Indian leaders have time and again sought to mend relations with Pakistan and have made genuine overtures for peace. But each time we have received only deceit and backstabbing in return. In the last 25 years, the differential between India and Pakistan in terms of economic prosperity and global reputation has sharply widened. But Pakistan has still not grown out of its desire to be hyphenated with India and is, in the process, only harming its own people.

EMPOWERING MINERAL RICH STATES

N Sadhasiva Reddy Bengaluru

Madam — Due to historic verdict on mining royalty and taxes now the state government is empowered to levy taxes on mining companies and due to this reason concerning States will be hugely benefited and the financial state of these States will be improved. and it is due to a landmark judgment on July 25, a nine-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court which upheld the right of States to levy taxes on mining activities, recognizing that 'royalty ' and

The historic rise of women leaders



f Kamala Harris wins, she will become the first woman President of the USA. ▲ If Donald Trump wins, he will become the second president to serve non-consecutive terms (45th and 47th), following Grover Cleveland, who was the 22nd and 24th president. Franklin D. Roosevelt is the only U.S. president to have served three terms. Whether anyone will surpass that record remains a long-term puzzle. All eyes will be on

'taxation' are different recognizing both as separate. In the case of Mineral Area Development Authority vs Steel Authority of India, the nine-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court gave this decision in an 8:1 split. Eight judges including Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud voted in favor of this decision while Justice B V Nagarathana disagreed. The decision, pending for more than 25 years, finally clarifies that States can levy additional taxes on mining activities and land used for such

The decision is a significant development in empowering States to generate more revenue, which can be used to meet local needs and mitigate the adverse effects of mining. The distinction between royalties and taxes was at the centre of the court's decision. Royalties are payments made by mining leaseholders to the lessee on the basis of a specific agreement as stipulated under Section 9 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDRA). These payments are made in exchange for the right to extract minerals and are thus seen as compensation for the

November 5th, 2024, ballot day in the USA. As of July 27, 2024, 29 nations around the world have women as heads of state or government (Presidents or

The history of women heads of state and government is fascinating. The world's first woman president was María Estela 'Isabel' Perón of Argentina (1974 to 1976). The first elected woman Prime Minister was Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka in 1960, who served three terms. In the 1970s, three women Prime Ministers—Bandaranaike (Sri Lanka), Indira Gandhi (India), and Golda Meir (Israel)—were known as the "Iron Ladies Trio." Later, Margaret Thatcher, the "Iron Lady No. 4," became the Prime Minister

P V Madhu Nivriti | Secundarabad

use of land and resources. Taxes, on the other hand, are more commonly imposed by governments and used to fund public services and infrastructure.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

MODI'S OLIVE BRANCH TO RSS

Madam — In the lead-up to its 100th year, Narendra Modi just gave a birthday gift to the RSS. Amidst speculations of a deepening rift between the RSS and the Modi-Shah-controlled BJP, the NDA government withdrew the order dated 1966 that prohibits government employees from participating in RSS activities.

Is this an olive branch, considering the inexplicable statement made by J P Nadda, almost declaring independence from the RSS in the middle of the Lok Sabha elections? This comes on top of several grants and appointments going to people and organisations belonging to or close to the

C K Ramanathan | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN A PATH TO **PERSONAL LIBERATION**

With unwavering determination and faith, one can conquer even the most persistent habits



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Te are what we repeatedly do, said Aristotle... If we have a look at the dictionary meaning of habit, then it says 'something that you do often and regularly, sometimes without knowing that you are doing it:' To define it simply, habits can be described as involuntary actions. They are a kind of 'automatic behaviour' as it were, for one does not do them after much thought. There is no doubt in it that almost everyone in this world has one or other bad habit. Don't we all have? Like, many people have the bad habit of smoking. But, if you tell them that it is a bad habit, some of them will bring in a little bit of philosophy and some would try to support it with medical opinion also.

They will say, "Smoking is very exhilarating. It is good for my brain because it brings me concentration." Others will say, "Smoking keeps my bowels free." Others still will confess that it is a bad habit that they find hard to give up. Little do most people realise that it is a bad habit that pollutes their physical system and the atmosphere and causes diseases like cancer. Similarly, some people have the habit of talking too much. They just can't keep quiet even for a couple of minutes.

Little do these people realise that much breath and energy is wasted on useless talk.

This could usefully be spent in silent meditation. But the problem is that he who talks and talks is, today, considered as a smart, clever and wise person, and a person who talks less is thought to be lacking in general knowledge or to be deficient in the art of conversation! Such examples of bad habits can be multiplied, but, what we need to understand from these examples is that, in most cases, people do not realise that it is a bad or a harmful habit and where this truth is realised, there isn't the strong desire to get freed from its grip and that is why some people philosophically say; This habit of mine will die only when I die.

So what is the solution to get over one's bad habits? Is it practically possible? Yes! With a little effort and attention, it is indeed possible. To start with one needs great enthusiasm which is very essential for leaving bad habits. There is a well-known proverb in English: "Well-begun is half done'. So, after realising that the habit which you have decided to give up is



really bad, you should put up a brave and enthusiastic fight against this evil. From the very outset, call forth all your latent energies not only to cut its root and branch but also to destroy its seed, for it the seed remains, the tree is likely to grow up again. When a house is on fire, how promptly and energetically the inmates react? At that time, they are fully concentrated and they use all the means to extinguish the fire.

Put your resolve into action immediately. Secondly, remove the words 'impossible', 'difficult, 'I cannot' etc. from your mind. These are the expressions of a weakling or a timid person. Cheer yourself up. Realize the truth that the evil habit is your own creation, you have given birth to it and nourished it to bring its growth and now you should not say with a weak will that it is difficult to control it.

Always remember! habits are not your original nature; they are your second nature. You have acquired them and you say that you cannot give them up? You are their Master and you believe yourself to be their slave? 'Faith, it has been rightly said, "can move mountains and this your habit is only a molehill. Therefore, rise and take up the bow of endeavour and become an instrument to the Divine to shoot this devil—your bad habit for, God is with you as He always is on the side of the virtuous. But, remember! A mere wish or desire to eradicate evil is not enough. You must have pure and strong will besides a definite aim and purpose. Wish or desire is a small, temporary ripple in the lake of mind but Will is the power that executes the desire to fulfilment. There is nothing impossible for a man of strong willpower to achieve. So let's make a resolve that we will liberate ourselves in the true sense.

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

Budget is pro-growth but stability concern remains -



Major expenditure items may go out of control, raising concerns about the budget's feasibility; moreover, the Government's gross tax revenue target of Rs 38.40 lakh crore is overly ambitious



n top of a GDP (gross domestic product) growth of 8 per cent plus for three consecutive years, the Union Budget for FY 2024-25 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 23, 2024, has all the ingredients to sustain the momentum during the current year as well. For the current year, she has proposed capital expenditure at Rs 1111,111 crore, which is 17 per cent higher than the revised estimate (RE) for FY 2023-24.In her Budget for 2019-20, she had laid a roadmap for catapulting the Indian economy to US\$5 trillion by 2024-25. In sync with this target, she had projected an investment requirement of over Rs 100 lakh crore to build the infrastructure over five

Out of this, 39 per cent or Rs 39,00,000 crore was to come from the Centre and states each and the balance was Rs 22,00,000 crore from the private sector. The Centre's capital spend during the previous four years was 2020-21: Rs 439,000 crore; 2021-22: Rs 554 000 crore: 2022-23: Rs 750,000 crore; 2023-24: Rs 1000,961 crore. This adds up to Rs 2700,000 crore. Add to this Rs 1111,111 crore for 2024-25, the total over five years comes to Rs 3800,000 crore which is more or less close to the amount the Centre intended to contribute. The Central government has also been helping the states to boost their capital spend. During 2022-23, it provided them with 50year Rs 100,000 crore interest-free loans. During 2023-24, such transfers were Rs 130,000 crore. For the current year, the transfers are kept at Rs 150,000 crore. To promote investment in the private sector, the Centre has reduced the corporate tax rate to 15 per cent for new manufacturing enterprises and 22 per cent for existing enterprises. In this year's budget, the

corporate tax rate on foreign firms has been reduced from extant 40 per cent to 35 per cent. With this and assuming that private consumption/demand remains strong (a relief of around Rs 17,500/- in personal income tax or PIT resulting from the change in tax slabs under the New IT regime and increase in a standard deduction by Rs 25,000/- will give some boost) besides exports getting a leg up, courtesy

THE GROSS TAX

REVENUE TARGET OF RS 3840,000 **CRORE IS** OVER-AMBITIOUS AND THE BUDGET OF GOVERNMENT SHARES IN PSUS,

ASSUMES RECEIPTS OF RS rogresses. 50,000 CRORE DISINVESTMENT A PROGRAM IT HAS DECIDED NOT TO PURSUE. **EVEN MAJOR EXPENDITURE** ITEMS COULD GET OUT OF CONTROL

rebound in the US economy, India could achieve growth even higher than 6.5 – 7 per cent projected in the Economic Survey for 2023-24. But, there is a flip side to it. This has to do with the fiscal deficit or FD (excess of total expenditure over total receipts). Sitharaman has set it at 4.9 per cent of the GDP which is 0.2 per cent less than a target of 5.1 per cent fixed in the interim budget. This has been made possible due to a mammoth dividend transfer of Rs 210,000 crore by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the Central Government from its operations during the FY 2023-24 which is Rs 130,000 crore higher than the provision of Rs 80,000 crore made in the interim budget. It won't be easy to achieve the 4.9 per cent target during the current year. This is because the gross tax revenue (GTR) target of Rs 3840,000 crore is over-ambitious and the hudget assumes receipts of Rs 50,000 crore from disinvestment of government shares in PSUs, a program it has decided not to pursue. Even major expenditure items could get out of control as the year

For instance, the 'fertilizer subsidy' is budgeted at Rs 164,000 crore during 2024-25. This is based on the assumption that the declining trend in the international price of fertilizers and raw materials used in their production seen during 2023-24 continues during the current year as well. It takes a small disruption in the global supply chain (given the current highly uncertain geo-political situation, this is quite likely), for this assumption to go haywire. That apart, to go down from 4.9 per cent to 4.5 per cent next year set by the FM ner 2021-22 budget (this by itself is far more generous than FD of 3 per cent that was to be achieved in 2020-21 as per the amendment to the FRBM Act, 2018) can be daunting, all the more when the

RBI is unlikely to repeat its bonan- cerning EPFO in the first 4 years za/gift to the Center. During an interactive with the press, Sitharaman alluded to the Centre's plan to design fiscal trajectory in a manner such that from FY 2026-27 onward, its debt to GDP ratio starts declining. Sans target setting, this may not instil confidence.

Yet, she won't set the target as these are often missed. The Center's debt-to-GDP ratio is currently around 57 per cent against the 40 per cent mandated for 2024-25 under the FRBM Amendment Act (2018).

Meanwhile, to address the concerns on employment, MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) and agriculture, the budget has proposed several initiatives. For MSMEs, it proposes a new credit guarantee scheme to facilitate term loans to enable them to purchase requiring collateral or third-party guarantees (a self-financing guarantee fund is mooted that could provide each applicant with guarantee coverage of up to Rs 100 crore); increase in the limit of Mudra (Micro Units Development Refinance Agency, a subsidiary of SIDBI) loans to Rs 2000,000 for those who have repaid previous loans; expanding SIDBI branches to provide the much-needed access to credit and additional support for further growth.

The initiatives on employment all aligned to the EPFO (Employees Provident Fund Organization) enrollments include Scheme A: a one-month wage payout of up to Rs. 15,000 per month (payable in three instalments) to first-timers in the workforce, with all formal sectors with an eligibility limit of a salary of Rs 100,000 per month. Scheme B: meant for creating 'additional' jobs in the manufacturing sector linked to first-time employees; it includes an incentive to employees and employers con-

of employment.

These schemes are expected to benefit 240 lakh youth. Scheme C meant support to employers to enable them to give additional employment in all sectors for those earning up to Rs 100,000 per month. The government will reimburse employers up to Rs. 3000 per month for two years towards EPFO contribution for each additional employee. This Scheme will benefit 50 lakh persons. To make the youth employable, Sitharaman has announced a new centrally spon-sored scheme for skilling in collaboration with States and industry. 2000,000 youth will be skilled over five years under this scheme. One thousand industrial training institutes (ITIs) will be upgraded in the hub and spoke arrangement, with course content aligned to the machinery and equipment without skill needs of the industry. In agriculture, the measures include initiating 10 million farmers into natural farming in the next two years; releasing 109 climate-resilient new seed varieties across 32 field and horticulture crops in the next 100 days; Jan Samarth-based Kisan Credit Card in five States to give a boost to shrimp farming and export; launch a national cooperation policy; digital public infrastructure (DPI) to create a registry of 60 million farmers with the details of their land over the next three years; developing large-scale vegetable clusters closer to major consumption centres; promoting FPOs, cooperatives and start-ups for vegetable supply chains; pursuing the mission for pulses and oilseeds production etc. All the above announcements sound like the proverbial 'Many a slip between the cup and the lip. For instance, on employment, Sitharaman clarified 'the' government can only nudge private firms.

(The writer is a policya nanalyst;

Flying towards sustainability: The aviation industry's tryst with carbon neutrality

Through technological innovation and green solutions like adoption of sustainable aviation fuel, the aviation sector is becoming environment friendly

he global aviation industry is undeniably a significant contributor to carbon emissions, accounting for about 2.5 -3.0% of the world's carbon output. Recognising this impact, initiatives like IATA's "Fly Net Zero" are crucial steps towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Airlines are actively pursuing various strategies to reduce their environmental footprint, with fleet modernization being a cornerstone. One key pillar of the industry's sustainability strategy is investment in a modern, fuelefficient fleet. Jazeera Airways, for instance, has invested in the Airbus A320 neo aircraft, known for its sustainability efforts. These 20% reduction in fuel conprograms allow passengers to



airline was also the first to order over 2000 of the world's lightest aircraft seats from Expliseat. These seats will contribute to a weight saving of 1.2 metric tons per aircraft resulting in enhanced fuel efficiency and reduced emissions per flight.Beyond fleet upgrades, airlines are implementing carbon offsetting programs as part of their sumption and emissions. The mitigate the environmental

impact of their air travel by investing in projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere. Jazeera Airways' carbon offsetting initiatives specifically support projects in renewable energy and reforestation, allowing passengers to contribute to environmental conservation efforts directly

linked to their flights. Technological innovation also plays a pivotal role in enhancing operational efficiency and passenger experience. Airlines are increasingly adopting digital solutions such as paperless ticketing, digital baggage tracking, and personalized sustainable travel options. These technologies not only streamline operations but also minimize waste and carbon emissions associated with traditional paperbased processes. Addressing plastic waste is another important aspect of the industry's sustainability efforts. Airlines are replacing single-use plastics with biodegradable alternatives and exploring sustainable options like Palmade products made from palm leaves. Energy efficiency is another critical focus area for airlines, extending to both aircraft operations and airport infrastructure. State-of-the-art airport terminals are designed with sustainability in mind, incorporating energy-efficient lighting, climate control systems, and renewable energy sources. The airline industry is active-

ly leading the way towards a more sustainable future for air



travel, setting a precedent for ing climate change. CORSIA environmentally responsible practices that extend beyond its operations. The adoption of CORSIA (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation) marks a substantial advancement in its commitment to mitigating environ-mental impact and combat-

ensures that international aviation contributes to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while continuing to support global connectivity and economic growth. Additionally, the development and adoption of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and the utilization of

advanced software solutions like those offered by NAVBLUE are critical milestones in the airline industry's efforts to achieve net-zero emissions and address climate change.

Achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 requires collaboration among airlines, governments, and passengers. Through ongoing innovation, investment in sustainable technologies like SAF, reduction of plastic waste, and improvements in operational efficiency, the aviation industry is actively leading the way towards a more environmentally friendly future for air travel. These efforts not only aim to reduce the industry's carbon footprint but also set a precedent for sustainable practices

that can inspire broader global initiatives beyond

aviation. Aviation industry today is dedicated to collaborating closely with partners, passengers, and communities to foster a greener and more sustainable future for air travel. This commitment drives us to innovate and implement initiatives that reduce our environmental footprint, promote sustainable practices, and contribute positively to the global effort against climate

Together with our stakeholders, we aim to lead by example and inspire lasting change in the aviation industry and beyond.

(The writer is regional manager South Asia - Jazeera Airways; views are personal)

Ola Electric Mobility to launch IPO on Aug 2 to raise Rs 5,500 cr

lectric two-wheeler company Ola Electric Mobility will float its initial public offering (IPO) on August 2, and a significant part of the proceeds will be used for capacity expansion of its cell manufacturing plant and revving up R&D. The initial share sale will conclude on August 6, and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on August 1, according to the red herring prospectus (RHP). The company's proposed IPO is a combination of a fresh

issue of equity shares up to Rs 5,500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 8.49 crore equity shares by promoters and investors, the prospectus showed. Under the OFS, Ola Electric founder Bhavish Aggarwal will offload almost 3.8 crore shares. The price band of the company's maiden public issue will be announced on Monday. For Ola Electric, the IPO will provide the much-needed impetus to invest in enhancing cell manufacturing capacity and research and development on future technologies and products.



Adani to commission petchem project by Dec 2026

he Adani Group will commission the first phase of a US\$ 4 billion PVC project by December 2026, making its foray into the petrochemicals sector that is marked by a I mismatch between domestic demand and supply, sources said. Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) - the third-most common synthetic plastic polymer made worldwide - is used to make products such as raincoats, shower curtains, window frames, pipes for indoor plumbing, medical equipment, wire & cable insulation, bottles, credit cards, and flooring.

India's annual PVC demand is roughly 4 million tonne but domestic production capacity is only about 1.5 million tonne, resulting in a supplydemand mismatch. With this disparity between domestic output and consumption expected to widen with an increase in consumption, Adani Group is looking to tap into the sector. Adani Enterprises, the group's flagship firm, is setting up a petrochemical cluster in Mundra in Guiarat.



Commerce Secy meets Russian, UAE ministers on trade issues

ommerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal held bilateral meetings with Russian and UAE ministers to discuss bilateral trade issues for their early resolution, an official said on Sunday. Barthwal held these meetings on the sidelines of the 14th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Trade Ministers' meeting in Moscow on July 26. The secretary held bilateral meetings with the Russian Minister for Economic Development

Maxim Reshetnikov; Member of the Board (Minister) of Trade, Eurasian Economic Commission Andrey Slepney; Russia's Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Alexey Gruzdev; Head of FSVPS (Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision) Sergei Dankvert of the Russian Federation. He also met South Africa's Deputy Minister for the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition Zuko Godlimpi, and UAE's Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi.



Need to take nuanced approach for FDI from China: Official

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There is a need to take a nuanced approach towards foreign direct investments from China, and the government can consider FDI applications from Beijing in sectors involving high-end technologies like electric vehicles and batteries, which are not available in other nations, an official said.

China has some modern capital equipment of different types, which can be important for India.

Advocating for a nuanced view on the issue, the govern-ment official said that though there is no plan to ease rules under the press note 3, Chinese applications can be expedited in areas where India needs to step up its manufacturing

Under that press note, FDI from countries sharing land borders with India needs mandatory government approval in any sector.

Under that press note, FDI from countries sharing land borders with India needs mandatory government approval in any sector. Countries which share land borders with India are China. Bangladesh, Pakistan. Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Afghanistan



Countries which share land borders with India are China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, and

Afghanistan. Our view is that we have to take a nuanced view of where we need them (Chinese FDI) and where they are going to help us. We are not interested in them coming up and doing more mobiles for example, but there could be some areas like batteries, really good technologies or e-vehicles or any

other manufacturing sector

ly good technology," the official, who did not wish to be named, said.

Chinese investments can be attracted in the sectors where India does not have a choice or where there is special expertise and skills available with Chinese firms, the official

"In areas, where they have a real USP in terms of technology and skills which we cannot get from other countries. It cannot be general, that is not possible.'

Under the press note 3, applications will be considered on a case-to-case basis only.

"But when it comes to FDI in sectors where we need them to build up our own manufacturing capacity, we need to speed up the process to clear their applications. We do have some suggestions on speeding it up, which is again being discussed in the committee of secretaries," the offi-

India needs to strive to be US\$ 30 tn economy: NITI document

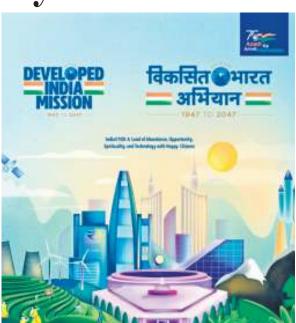
India needs to strive to be a US\$ 30 trillion economy with a per capita income of US\$ 18,000 per annum by 2047, the approach paper for vision for Vikshit Bharat in 2047 has

NITI Aayog in a paper titled 'Vision for Viksit Bharat @ 2047: An Approach Paper' said India needs to avoid the Middle-Income trap and carefully work towards breaking out of it.

"As for the economy, to become a developed nation, we need to strive to be a US\$ 30 trillion economy by 2047 with a per capita income of US\$ 18,000 per annum.
"The GDP would have to

grow nine times from today's US\$ 3.36 trillion and the per capita income would need to rise 8 times from today's US\$ 2,392 per annum," it said.

The paper also noted that progressing from a middleincome to a high-income level requires sustained growth in



the range of 7-10 per cent for 20-30 years and very few countries have managed to do this.

Vikshit Bharat, the paper said it is a Bharat which will have Defining the concept of country with a per capita

income that is comparable to the high-income countries of

the world today. It is a Bharat whose social, cultural, technological, and institutional features will mark it out as a developed nation with a rich heritage and one that is capable of functioning at the frontiers of

knowledge.
The World Bank defines high-income countries as those whose annual per capita income is more than US\$ 14,005 (in 2023). India has the potential and aims to be a highincome country by the centenary of its independence in 2047.

The paper said upgrading capabilities in manufacturing and logistics and bridging the gap between rural and urban incomes are some of the structural challenges that India needs to address.

This document was discussed during NITI Aayog's ninth Governing Council meeting chaired by Prime

UltraTech to acquire India Cement

Buy 32.72% promoters' stake for Rs 3,954 cr

PNS NEW DELHI

Aditya Birla Group flagship will acquire a 32.72 per cent stake in India Cements from promoters and their associates for Rs 3,954 crore to expand its

footprint in the highly competitive and fastgrowing Southern cement market, particu-Tamil 📺

Nadu. Besides. Ultratech has also announced a Rs 3,142.35 crore open offer to acquire another 26 per cent share of India Cements Ltd (ICL) from its shareholders.

This announcement comes

a month after Adani Group, the second largest cement maker announced the acqui-Penna Cement for Rs 10,422 crore, which will add 14 MTPA, taking its capacity to 93 MTPA



installed capacity of 154.86 million tonnes (MTPA) of grey cement, UltraTech Cement leads

the Indian cement industry. It has an ambition to become one of the largest cement companies in the world and and has set a target for 200

Removal of angel tax for startups to help attract investors

PNS MUMBAI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday said that removal of angel tax, which was introduced in 2012 by the UPA government, for all classes of investors will help startups

He also said that the customs duty reduction for gold and silver from 15 per cent to 6 per cent will not only help small artisans but also promote



the country's gems and jew-"The Budget 2024-25 has

removed the angel tax and through it, we will be able to attract investors into the country," he said here at a post-budget interaction with the indus-

Further Goyal informed that the budget has announced the setting up of 12 industrial

He said that one of these will be in Maharashtra and it will help create jobs and a strong ecosystem for the industry and trade.

PSU banks may get another 2-year extension to comply with MPS norms

PNS NEW DELHI

Public sector banks are expected to get another two-year extension to comply with Sebi's minimum public shareholding (MPS) norms, a top government official has said.

Out of 12 public sector banks (PSBs), five are yet to comply with MPS norms and the government's holding is beyond 75 per cent.

As per the Securities and Exchange Board of India

(Sebi), all listed companies must maintain an MPS of 25 per cent.

special forbearance to stateowned banks till August 2024 to meet the requirement of 25 per cent MPS.

"We have written to the Department Affairs for the extension," Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi said in an inter-

Generally, he said, a two-

year extension is given and hopefully it should come sooner than later. However, the regulator gave

Five banks have minimum public shareholding of less than 25 per cent. Currently, government holding in Delhi-based Punjab & Sind Bank is 98.25 per cent. It is followed by (Indian Overseas Bank at 96.38%, UCO Bank 95.39% Central Bank of India 93.08%, Bank of Maharashtra

at 86.46 per cent.

Govt scraps auction of 3 critical mineral blocks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has scrapped the auction of three critical mineral blocks, including a lithium mine in Jammu and Kashmir, under the third tranche of sale of mines due to a lower-than-required number

The auction is a part of the government's push towards cleaner alternatives and selfreliance in critical mineral supplies. The three blocks are Salal-Haimna Lithium, Titanium and Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite) Block in

Jammu and Kashmir, Muskaniya-Gareriatola-Barwari Potash block in Jharkhand and Kurunjakulam

Graphite block in Tamil Nadu. The auction was annulled as the "required number of bids as per the mineral auction rules have not been received",

according to a notice by the Mines Ministry.

The ministry, on March 14, put on sale seven critical mineral blocks in the third round of auction. The blocks that received less than three bids in the first tranche were notified under this round.



FPIs invest Rs 33,600 cr in equities amid continued policy reforms

PNS NEW DELHI

Foreign investors injected over Rs 33,600 crore into Indian equities so far this month on the expectation of continued policy reforms, sustained economic growth and a betterthan-expected earnings sea-

However, they pulled out over Rs 7,200 crore from equities in the last three trading



sessions (July 24-26) after the government hiked taxes on Futures and Options trades (F&O) and capital gains from equity investments in the

Budget.
Market experts believe that Indian equity is well-positioned for the year to attract foreign investments. However, there may be some monthly volatility due to short-term

Indian equity market and bond market are favourably placed for the year. This should attract foreign flows into the

PILOT FATIGUE

Mcap of 6 of top-10 valued firms jumps Rs 1.85 lakh crore

PNS NEW DELHI

The combined market valuation of six of the top 10 valued firms jumped Rs 1,85,186.51 crore last week, with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Infosys emerging as the biggest gain-

Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 728.07 points or 0.90 per cent. The valuation of LIC surged

Rs 44,907.49 crore to Rs

7,46,602.73 crore. Infosys added Rs 35,665.92 crore to its market valuation at Rs 7,80,062,35 crore.

ITC's valuation soared by Rs 35,363.32 crore to Rs 6,28,042.62 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) jumped Rs 30,826.1 crore to Rs 15,87,598.71 crore and that of Bharti Airtel climbed Rs 30,282.99 crore to Rs 8,62,211.38 crore.

ence on the increase in fatigue.

The online survey that cov-

ered 530 respondents, most of

them captains with significant

Coal India to boost output

Advancing 119 projects with sanctioned capital of Rs 1,33,576 cr

PNS KOLKATA

Coal India Ltd is advancing 119 projects with a capacity of 896 million tonne per year and a sanctioned capital of Rs 1,33,576 crore, the world's largest miner said.

These projects, which are at various stages of implementation, are part of CIL's "proactive strategy" to increase production capacity and meet future coal demands, the company said in its latest annual report. Though the mining major did not specify a timeline for the capex, it said the development of these projects involves substantial investments in advanced mining technologies and infrastruc-ture, aimed at enhancing productivity and ensuring sustain-

able mining practices.
The Kolkata-headquartered company has set an ambitious target of achieving 1 billion tonne of production by 2025-26 to fulfill the nation's coal demand and support the goal of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

In the 2023-24 fiscal, its production stood at 773.6 million

CIL said in 2023-24, one coal mining project with a sanctioned capacity of 20 million tonne and a sanctioned capital of Rs 1,783.09 crore was completed, which demonstrates "our ability to execute large-scale projects within the

stipulated time frames". During the financial year cient mine planning and development, and optimised extraction processes, the report said.

The company plans to procure high-capacity equipment worth more than Rs 3,700 crore in the next financial year, aiming to bolster coal production capabilities for increased efficiency.

ended March 31, 16 coal mining projects with a total capacity of 170.46 million tonne per annum (incremental capacity of 85.66 MT) and a total sanctioned capital of Rs 27,087.69

crore were approved, it said. As part of its comprehensive modernisation strategy, CIL is embracing latest equipment, advanced exploration and assessment techniques, effi-

The mining major has set a capital expenditure target of Rs 15,500 crore for the 2024-25 fiscal. In line with its investment plans, CIL intends to allocate a significant portion of funds to diversification projects, including solar power, thermal power plants, revival of fertilizer plants, surface coal gasification (SCG) and coal bed methane (CBM) during the year.

Night flights, long duty hours among factors PNS NEW DELHI

Consecutive night flights, more than 10 hours of flight duty period and roster instability are among the factors leading to pilot fatigue, according to a

 $\dot{\text{The}}$ study, based on a survey of mostly senior pilots done by Safety Matters Foundation, explored the mutual influence of fatigueinfluencing factors related to

tiredness

As many as 84 per cent of the pilots are concerned with the speed and direction of shift rotation, while 83 per cent of respondents are worried about the onset of fatigue due to consecutive night flights, it said.

Further, the study found that 81 per cent of pilots are concerned that

the work dimension in flights with minimum rest survey considered that more analysing the causes of pilot and rosters without buffers



deeply impact fatigue.
"70 per cent of pilots in the

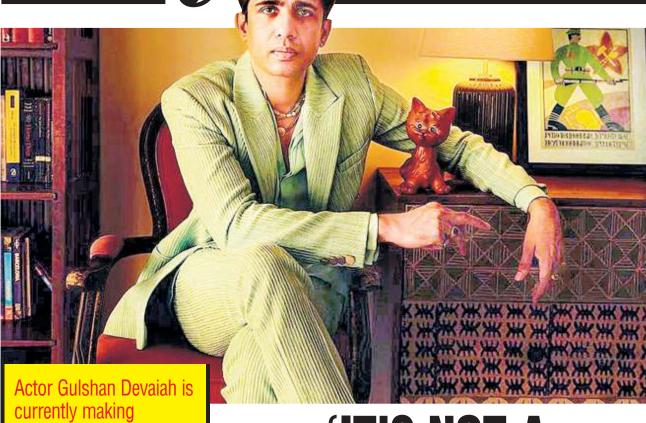
than 10 hours of flight duty period profoundly influenced the onset of fatigue. NASA and EASA scientific studies have recommended a maximum of 10 hours of flight duty period," it noted. Also, nearly 76 per cent

of pilots considered the increasing flight duty period and landings as the week progressed to have a deep influ-

hours in operating medium short-haul flights, was done from July 16-22. Amid concerns over pilot fatigue, earlier this year, aviation regulator DGCA proposed changes to the Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms, but the amended regulations are yet to be implemented.

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> Monday July 29, 2024



headlines for *Ulaih*. his next film. In an exclusive interview with *The* Pioneer, he talks about his friendship with Janhvi Kapoor on the set, *Ulajh*'s character traits, preparations and a host of other topics.

AARTI SREENATH

n his latest film, *Ulajh*, actor Gulshan Devaiah delves into a world of complex political themes and international intrigue. *Ulajh* marks a bold new direction for the *Hunterrr* fame, stepping away from the familiar projects that have earned him stardom. This fresh venture promises to reveal a different side of the actor, highlighting his versatility and talent.
When asked what drew him to his role in

this project, Devaiah said, "I liked the part that was offered to me in the film. I felt it was a great idea and good for my career, so I agreed. The perspective that Sudhanshu had for the

film was also compelling."

Working alongside Janhvi Kapoor, he described the on-set dynamic as strictly professional. "The dynamic was to the point. We would come, do the scene, do multiple takes and that was it. It was a professional setup and there is a tendency for people to misunderstand this We got along fine we just didn't vibe in the manner that we didn't chit-chat or spend time with each other. It's not necessary to vibe personally as long as the job is done professionally and Janhvi is very good at that," ĥe explained.

The Shaitan actor went ahead to praise the on-screen chemistry, evident in their scenes together, as he said, "The song is out and you can see there is a lot of chemistry that we have. For two people who don't really vibe, we are doing a pretty good job. It's nice if we get along with somebody, but it's not necessary. It's only necessary for two people to do their job pro-fessionally, which I think she is good at. Janhvi

'IT'S NOT A **CHALLENGE FOR ME** TO SEPARATE 'REEL' AND 'REAL' LIFE'

is professional and hardworking as an actor."
On choosing his roles, he said, "I like to do different films, both consciously and unconsciously. I like to have diversity and versatility in my roles. *Ulajh* fulfills those factors and

I thought the film was good for my career too." Known for his intense and layered performances, he finds it easy to unwind and detach from his roles once a project is completed. "In life, I'm not that intense. I'm very laid-back and casual and I'm also lazy. It's not really a challenge for me to separate reel life from real life," he admitted.

Preparing for the physical demands of *Ulajh* involved some unique challenges, like, "I had to do pull-ups for a scene, so I installed a pull-up bar at home and practiced for two to three months. I still struggle with it, but the director wanted at least four or five pull-ups for the

Working with various directors has also influenced Devaiah's acting process. He emphasised the importance of understanding each director's vision and sensibility. "Every director has a different style and approach. It's crucial for me to grasp that to serve the film or series better," he noted, adding that Sudhanshu Saria, the director of Ulajh, brought a unique vision to the project.

As Indian cinema evolves with the rise of OTT platforms, he envisions his career adapting to this new era. "One foot here, one foot there," he said about balancing between traditional cinema and digital content. When it comes to future roles, he remains open to surprises. "I want roles that are good for my career and interesting. Those are my main criteria."

Looking ahead, the Blurr actor has a diverse slate of upcoming projects, including Little Thomas and Therapy Sherapy, where he stars alongside Rasika Dugal and Neha



Dhupia. *Little Thomas* is a children's film about a boy named Thomas Miranda and I play his father. Therapy Sherapy is about a dysfunctional family running a sweet shop, with an incredible ensemble cast including Manoj Pahwa and Seema Pahwa."

Gulshan Devaiah's versatility and dedication continue to shape his dynamic career, making him a compelling figure in the ever-changing landscape of Indian cinema.

MR INDIA WORLD 2024:

Chennai's 'Siruvan' gazes upon international glory

Chennai native Gokul

Ganesan is all set to

2024 pageant. In an

The Pioneer through

getting into this

tidbits.

MR INDIA WORLD

industry and more

his pageantry journey,

his motivation towards

represent the nation at

the upcoming Mr World

exclusive chat, he takes

TEJAL SINHA

fter a glamorous event in Mumbai, Gokul Ganesan from Chennai was crowned the winner of the Mr India World 2024 competition. The high-ranking Mr India pageant is a prominent national competition for men that provides contestants with a life-changing chance to dis-play their skills and potentially become India's global representative. Following a thorough online selection process and subsequent rounds, he was declared the well-deserving champion of Mr India World

This Chennai native is not only a fashion model but also a dynamic entrepreneur known for

his innovative mindset and charming demeanour. Gokul Ganesan is set to proudly showcase India at the Mr World 2024 grand climax on September 28, 2024, in Phan Thiet, Vietnam. His journey and 28, 2024, in Phan Thiet, Vietnam. His journey and accomplishments exemplify the essence of Mr. India, highlighting his strength, business skills and dedication to social issues. Rohit Khandelwal made history in 2016 by becoming the first and only Indian and Asian to be crowned Mr. World. Rahul Rajasekharan, a former Mr India chambion and actor, will serve as the mentor for the Mr India World 2024 winner, assisting Gokul in his training for his upcoming international opportunity.

In an exclusive interview, INDIA

The Pioneer interacts with him and he gleefully begins, "I feel ecstatic, honoured, humbled, grateful and hungry all at the same time. Because it's a surreal feeling. This has been in the making for the past four years. I envisioned myself representing India on an international stage and it has finally happened. This is my golden ticket to go to the world and show them what we're made of." Growing up in a city of ancient temples,

vibrant arts, natural wonders and a bustling culinary scene has played a major role in shaping his career choices. As we asked him more about it, he quickly asserted, "This transports me back to my early years spent in Chennai. My childhood was quite fun, frivolous and carefree. But one thing that really, really stuck with me—my learning, if I should say—would be to stay simple and humble. No matter what, your achievements are not hats. You don't wear them around like accessories. You just focus on what you have to do and keep moving forward."

moving forward."

Looking back at his journey into the pageantry world, he says it has been nothing short of amazing, with fantastic experiences and a lot of learning. To date, he has been part of three pageants and has managed to be victorious in all three. All of it, he has looked at it as more of a responsibile. looked at it as more of a responsibility than an achievement. "It all started with the love that I have

for my country," shares the fashionista, who initially wanted to join the Indian Army. "I thought serving the nation was the noblest thing a person could do, but due to unavoidable familial reasons, I couldn't get through it. That's when I sat down and thought about three things that I'm most passionate about, which are fitness, fashion and my country. When I put all of that together, Mr. India justly aspired to be, and that's exactly how I got into

pageantry." Things hadn't really come towards him without any challenges and beyond any doubt, he had his own share of challenges too. To start with, "People couldn't understand the choices I was making or the risk factors they had. A lot of people from where I come from never even knew that there is an industry as such and the things that can be achieved and perceived in life."

Over time, he has managed his time well across different fields by getting his priorities right. "I am not a very structured person when it comes to handling work all at the same time because I am more of a 'take it as it comes' guy. But I do know how to manage and split work across different

things and as for motivation, I believe in discipline because motivation is fluctuating and discipline is consistent," he shares. "Fitness is like breakfast to me; I don't see it as an option. It's a part of my lifestyle, something I need to do every day. It teaches me discipline, hard work, and patience. And, as the famous quote goes, 'no pain, no

As we head towards the end of this chat, also an entrepreneur, Gokul concludes by sharing, "In my opinion, men's mental health awareness could be much better because, I think, a lot of people don't know how men feel because they are only celebrated or respected when they provide and otherwise considered losers in society. To break the stigma, I would first suggest people accept their emotional, vulnerable side because that's where it all begins."

Well, with all the pressure that has been coming his way, Gokul is keen and mentally prepared to cre-ate a niche for the Mr World 2024 pageant.

Planet Earth III: Jaw-dropping views and heartfelt narratives

TANISHA SAXENA

n the grand tradition of its predecessors, Planet Earth III arrives with a fresh and compelling narrative that sets it apart. While the first two installments celebrated the sheer beauty and diversity of life on Earth, this third chapter takes a poignant turn, focusing on the profound changes wrought by human influence and the remarkable ways in which the natural world is adapting to survive.

Plot: Planet Earth III is a testament to resilience, showcasing a global mosaic of life forms that have ingeniously navigated the shifting landscapes of a planet increasingly dominated by human activity.

The first episode, *Coast*, transports viewers to Shipstern Bluff in Tasmania, renowned for its powerful, large waves and challenging reef breaks. The waves, driven by distant Southern Ocean swells, create dramatic, hollow barrels and steep faces. This spot is favored by advanced surfers seeking extreme and exhilarating conditions. We see a human first, and it's clear that this series will explore how humans have impacted diversity. Then it takes us to South Africa, Mexico, and Australia. The second episode dives into vibrant marine worlds, aptly titled "Ocean," starting with the tropics, where a clown frogfish preys on lionfish and dragonets. A tense scene showcases an angel shark's stealthy attack, revealing the horn shark's defensive spine. The deep ocean segment unveils the colossal siphonophore and the elusive purple Muusoctopus robustus, thriving in extreme environments.

The third episode highlights the impact of drought on bowerbirds, the intensified effects of sandstorms and the biodiversity threats in the Cerrado grasslands. It concludes with a hopeful note on elephant population recovery in central Africa, featuring insights from a local ranger.



The plus: One of the standout features of *Planet* Earth III is its unparalleled cinematography. The series employs advanced filming techniques, including ultra-high-definition 4K cameras, drone technology and time-lapse photography, to capture stunning visuals that are both awe-inspiring and emotionally evocative. The imagery is

to the storytelling. Attenborough's

ability to convey complex scientific concepts in an accessible and engaging manner ensures that the series is not only informative but also deeply

Planet Earth III also excels in its educational value. Each episode is rich with scientific insights presenting up-to-date research findings and expert

The minus: While Planet Earth III is an impressive series that effectively highlights human impact on the planet, it has some flaws. The intention to shift gears and address human influence is commendable, but the series could benefit from a

either overly detailed or insufficiently explored. Some seaments delve too deeply into specific

topics, potentially overwhelming the viewer, while other important issues are only superficially addressed, leaving gaps in the narrative. A more balanced and cohesive structure would enhance the overall impact and provide a clearer, more comprehensive understanding of humanity's effect on the natural world.

Technical aspects: The technical execution of Planet Earth III is exemplary. The documentary's visual fidelity is unmatched, thanks to the use of state-of-the-art 4K cameras and innovative filming techniques. Drone footage offers breathtaking aerial views, while underwater cameras reveal the hidden wonders of the deep. Time-lapse photography captures the dynamic changes in natural environments, providing viewers with a unique perspective on ecological processes. The score, composed by Hans Zimmer and Jacob Shea, complements the visual splendor with a hauntingly beautiful soundtrack that underscores the emotional weight of the narrative. The music swells and recedes with the rhythm of the natural world, enhancing the viewer's connection to the unfolding drama on screen.

Verdict: Planet Earth III not only meets the high expectations set by its predecessors but also elevates the genre to new heights. Sir David Attenborough's timeless narration, combined with groundbreaking cinematography and a powerful environmental message, ensures that Planet Earth /// will be remembered as a landmark achievement in nature documentaries.

Presented by: David Attenborough

Composers: Hans Zimmer, Jacob Shea, &

Produced by: Nick Easton, Will Ridgeon, Kiri Cashell, Charlotte Bostock, Sarah Whalley, Theo Webb, Fredi Devas, & Steve Greenwood

Executive Producer: Michael Gunton

Streaming on: Sony BBC Earth

Total episodes: 8

Review based on: 3 episodes

Rating: 3



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Jagdishwar







Ladia opened its second store in Punjagutta. The store located at Tejaswi Plaza, Punjagutta was inaugurated by Madhu Goud Yaskhi, former Member of Parliament (14th & 15th Lok Shaba) and actress Samyuktha Menon at a glittering inauguration ceremony.













Meridian School Madhapur, saw a grand celebration of creativity and intellect, drawing participation rom over 61 schools and more than 4000 students across Hyderabad. The event was a roaring success, showcasing the ncredible talent and enthusiasm of he city's young artists and literary





Hall H was buzzing for Marvel Studios' Hall H showcase, bringing excited fans at San Diego Comic-Con a first look at what's next for the Marvel Cinematic Universe—including huge news about Marvel Studios' next two Avengers films.



In an energetic fusion of fitness and health education, CARE Hospitals HITEC City conducted a Zumba dance fitness session, aimed at raising awareness about Hepatitis at Divyasree NSL Orion. Several doctors' consultants, corporate employees from Deloitte, Accenture, GenPact and Wells Fargo, children from orphanages and communities like My Home Bhooja, Lanco Hills and Jains Carlton had participated in this session.



Telangana Handloom and Endowment Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramaiyar inaugurated a silk exhibition organised by the Indian Silk Gallery at Sathya Sai Corporation in Srinagar Colony on Sunday. Rotary Club representative Indira Gummila and representatives of Telangana Tourism participated in the program. This exhibition will be available till August 5.



ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES







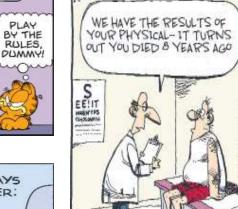


GARFIELD





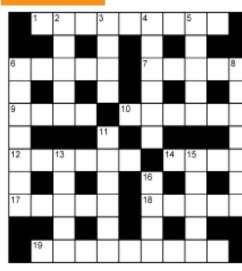




REALITY CHECK



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ACROSS

- Large printed words on a newspaper's front page
- 6 One of the five senses
- 7 Brush hard to clean 9 Catch fish with these
- 10 Opposite of youngest
- 12 A cricket referee
- 14 Clean with water

2 The fourth even number 3 A fruit on a palm tree

4 A very rude remark

5 Weird or uncanny

DOWN

- 18 A smell 19 These are carried in rain
- 16 This covers a sheep 17 The sound a horse makes SOLUTION



6 What you get if you stay

out in the sun too long

8 Someone who sells

11 A shooter of arrows

13 A piece of glass that

15 A greeting in Hawaii

can make a rainbow

meat

I JUST FOUND THE

GINGER MEGGS







DIFFICULTY RATING: **

Hyderabad | Monday July 29, 2024

tollywood

DIRECTOR VIJAYA BHASKAR SAYS, 'LOVE IS BEAUT

K. RAMYA SREE

In a candid and insightful conversation, director Vijaya Bhaskar shared the inspiration and vision behind his latest film, *Usha Parinayam*. Scheduled for release on August 2, the film is a family-centric entertainer that explores the true essence of love. Bhaskar, who is also the producer under Vijaya **Bhaskar Kraft, is excited to introduce** his son, Sree Kamal, in a new light and also launch Telugu actress Tanvi Akaanksha in her debut role.

HERE'S WHAT BHASKAR HAD TO SAY **ABOUT THE FILM:**

O: People describe Usha Parinavam as a feelgood family entertainer. What makes this film

Vijaya Bhaskar: "Usha Parinayam is a film that embodies my definition of love. In today's world, love is often misconstrued or twisted into something violent. What's portrayed as love in some stories is really just infatuation or even insanity. In my film, I want to make the clear distinction that love should never be violent. It's a vouthful entertainer, but it carries a simple yet profound message: love is pure and

Q: Your son, Sree Kamal, is playing a significant role in this movie. How does this film differ from his previous works?

Vijaya Bhaskar: "Kamal has been known for his entertaining roles, but this film is a departure from that. Usha Parinavam presents him in a more intense, emotional role. This is an opportunity for him to explore a different facet of his acting abilities. It's an intense love story, and I'm excited to see how he has embraced this new challenge."

Q: You've also introduced Tanvi Akaanksha in this film. What stood out about her for this

Vijaya Bhaskar: 'Tanvi Akaanksha is a remarkable talent. She's making her debut as the heroine and I was drawn to her natural charm and dedication. Her role as Usha is central to the film and I believe her performance will capture the hearts of the audience.

She's a well-behaved and professional actress and I'm thrilled to have her in this project."

Q: Comedy plays a role in Usha Parinayam. How did you balance humour with the film's more serious themes?

> Vijaya Bhaskar: "Comedy is a genre with limitless boundaries, and it can be incorporated into various types of stories. In *Usha* Parinayam, the humour flows naturally from the script. It's not forced but rather an integral part of the coming-

of-age narrative. The comedy complements the story without overshadowing the film's core message about love and family."

Q: What are your thoughts on the evolving tastes of the audience and their impact on filmmaking?

Vijaya Bhaskar: "I don't believe audience tastes have drastically changed. People still seek good stories and engaging content.
The platforms might evolve, but the essence of storytelling remains

the same. If a film is crafted well and resonates with the audience, they will come to the theaters. It's about delivering a story that people can connect with, no matter the medium."

O: The film's title and tagline, "Love is Beautiful," are quite evocative. What's the significance behind them?

Vijaya Bhaskar: "The title Usha Parinavam has been a dream project of mine for many years. It centers around Usha's iourney through love and marriage. The tagline, 'Love

is Beautiful,

captures the essence of what I wanted to convey. In an age where the true beauty of love is often lost, this film aims to remind people of its purity and nobility. Love is an emotion that should be celebrated, not controlled or corrupted."

As Usha Parinayam approaches its release, director Vijaya Bhaskar's heartfelt intentions and dedication to portraying love in its truest form are evident. The film promises to be a delightful experience for families, offering a refreshing take on romance and the values that bind us together.



 $T^{ ext{he highly anticipated pan-India}}$ film *Kubera*, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Sekhar Kammula and featuring the star power of Dhanush and Nagarjuna, is making impressive strides in production. The creative team has been unveiling the main cast through a series of intriguing posters and sneak peeks. In honour of Dhanush's birthday today, the Kubera team has released a striking new poster. This latest reveal showcases Dhanush in a unique light, highlighting his vulnerability and humility through a sincere and understated portrayal. This character represents a departure for Dhanush, marking a deeply authentic performance that stands out. Kubera is generating considerable excitement, bolstered by its impressive ensemble cast and crew, including several National Award winners. The film is a highbudget social drama featuring Rashmika Mandanna as the leading lady and Jim Sarbh in a pivotal role. Produced by Suniel Narang and

Puskur Ram Mohan Rao under the

Cinemas LLP and Amigos Creations

Pvt Ltd, Kubera is being crafted as a

banners of Sri Venkateswara

multilingual venture in Tamil,

Telugu and Hindi.



First Gear from Mechanic Rocky reveals all key characters

ctor Vishwak Sen is A ctor Vishwak sein is gearing up to dazzle audiences in his upcoming film, Mechanic Rocky. This action-packed comedy entertainer, written and directed by debutant Ravi Teja Mullapudi and produced by the renowned Ram Talluri of SRT Entertainments, has just revealed its first

teaser, titled First Gear. The First Gear teaser introduces key characters and hints at the central love triangle involving Vishwak Sen, Meenakshi Chaudhary and Shraddha Srinath. It promises a mix of captivating entertainment and dynamic action sequences. In the titular role, Vishwak Sen as Mechanic Rocky sports a bold and intense look. The teaser features him delivering a single impactful dialogue: "Chote Chote Bachcho Ko Pooron Ki Mai Jawaab Dethoo..." The background dialogue, "Danger Ke License Eedu," further emphasises Vishwak's compelling character. Meenakshi Chaudhary is seen looking stylish in ethnic wear, while Shraddha Srinath takes on a sophisticated urban

role. The teaser also features a humorous

L Board sequence and brief but memorable appearances by Sunil, Naresh and Roadies Raghu Ram. Ravi Teja Mullapudi has crafted a story filled with engaging elements, showcasing Vishwak Sen's character in a striking manner. Manojh Katasani's cinematography is impressive and Jakes Bejoy's lively background score adds to the fun. The production design is topnotch, generating significant curiosity for the film. The team includes Anwar Ali as the editor. Kranthi Privam as the production designer and Satyam Rajesh and Vidya Sagar J as executive producers. Mechanic Rocky is set to hit cinemas on October 31st, joining the Diwali festivities with a promise of high-energy

entertainment.

Action King Arjun's dynamic look from Vidamuyarchi is here

Southern cinema enthusiasts are in for a treat as the first look of Action King Arjun from the much-anticipated film Vidamuyarchi is unveiled. Directed by the talented Magizh Thirumeni and produced by Lyca Productions under the visionary guidance of Subaskaran. this film starring Thala Ajith

Kumar promises to be a grand cinematic affair. Arjun, known for his versatility and impactful roles in the Southern film industry, is set to captivate audiences once again with his performance in Vidamuyarchi. The powerful poster showcases Arjun in a stylish stance on a road, with Ajith's

silhouette in the background, creating an air of mystery and anticipation. The intriguing tagline, "Efforts never fail," adds to the excitement surrounding the film.

Lyca Productions, renowned for its megabudget films and innovative content, is steering this project, raising the bar for expectations. Magizh Thirumeni, celebrated for his unique blend of entertainment and

originality, is directing this grand production that features Ajith Kumar. The film, which has wrapped up its shooting phase, promises to be a star-studded spectacle. It reunites Ajith, Trisha and Arjun, who previously enchanted audiences with their

performances in the blockbuster Mankatha. The cast also includes Aarav, Regina Cassandra and other prominent actors in pivotal

Anirudh Ravichander, Kollywood's musical rockstar, has crafted a chart-topping album that is expected to set the stage for the film's success. The technical team includes Om Prakash as the cinematographer, NB

Srikanth as the editor, Milan as the art director and Sundar as the stunt composer. Anu Vardhan is in charge of costumes, while Suhramanian Narayanan is the executive producer and J. Girinathan and K. Jayaseelan serve as production executives. G. Anand Kumar (still photography), Gopi Prasanna (publicity design) and Hariharasuthan (VFX) complete the team.

DULQUER SALMAAN'S BIRTHDAY GIFT

Title track of Lucky Baskhar released

n the eve of Dulquer Salmaan's fresh and standout quality that is birthday, the talented actor's sure to appeal to music lovers across upcoming film *Lucky Baskhar* has unveiled its title track, celebrating various languages. Directed and written by blockbuster filmmaker Venky Atluri, Lucky Baskhar aims to add another the occasion with a vibrant musical release. Known for his remarkable versatility in multiple languages, gem to Dulquer Salmaan's impres-Dulquer Salmaan stars in this comsive portfolio of cult classics. The pelling story of an ordinary man, film features Meenakshi Chaudhary as the leading lady, opposite Salmaan. Produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under Lucky Baskhar. The title track, launched on July 28th, takes listeners on a nostalgic journey to the late 1980s and early 1990s. Its infectious Sithara Entertainments and Fortune beats, nostalgic instrumentation and the legendary Usha Uthup's powerful vocals create a Four Cinemas and presented by Srikara Studios, the film promises high production values. The film's period setting, recreating 1980s Mumbai (then Bombay), is memorable experience. The lyrics, penned by Ramajogayya Sastry, align seamlessly brought to life by ace production designer Banglan, whose work is expected to garner with Dulquer accolades. Cinematographer Nimish Ravi beautifully captures Salmaan's character and offer a dose of the director's vision, while inspiration to the National Award-winning audience. editor Navin Nooli Composer GV Prakash ensures the film's editing is top-Kumar has masterfulnotch. ly blend-Having recently ed 1980s completed its shoot, Lucky Indi-Baskhar is set to rock release worldwith wide in Telugu, modern Malayalam, sensi-Hindi and bilities. Tamil on giving September track a

ulquer Salmaan, a distinguished and acclaimed multilingual ctor celebrated for his impressive work in Indian cinema, is set to star in an exciting new Telugu project. Known for his versatility, Dulquer has achieved notable success in Telugu cinema with standout roles in films like Mahanati and Sita



Ramam. He also recently made a significant cameo in the highly anticipated film *Kalki 2898AD*. With a strong fan base in Telugu cinema, Dulquer continues to engage and captivate audiences through his diverse and compelling film choices. His latest venture is a collaboration with director Pavan Sadineni. renowned for his innovative storytelling and unique cinematic vision. To celebrate Dulquer Salmaan's birthday, the

film's makers have unveiled its title and a captivating first-look poster. Titled Aakasam Lo Oka Tara, the film's poster features Dulquer Salmaan in a simple, understated look, with a schoolgirl set against a picturesque farming field, adding an air of mystery and intrigue. This visual not only highlights the film's thematic essence but also sparks the audience's curiosity, promising a

heartwarming and engaging story.
Produced by Sandeep Gunnam and Ramya Gunnam, *Aakasam* Lo Oka Tara is a collaboration among some of the most prominent production banners in the industry. Geetha Arts, Swapna Cinema and Lightbox Media are jointly presenting the film, enhancing the anticipation and excitement surrounding the project. The film is slated to begin production soon, with detailed information about the cast and crew being kept under wraps. Fans and industry insiders eagerly await further announcements that will shed more light on this highly anticipated project. With a strong team and a compelling first look, Aakasam Lo Oka Tara is set to make a significant impact across Telugu, Tamil, Hindi and Malayalam languages.



Allari Naresh's film with Sithara **Entertainments**

kicks off llari Naresh, renowned for his successful comedy films, is branching out into diverse genres with his latest project. Partnering with the esteemed Sithara

Entertainments, Naresh is set to star in a unique concept film that promises to break new ground. The film, tentatively titled Production No. 29, has already piqued the interest of movie

enthusiasts with its intriguing con-

cept poster featuring sign language symbols. This innovative teaser has generated considerable buzz on social media. The project officially began with a Pooja Ceremony on July 27th. Meher Tej, known for the well-received Family Drama, is both writing and directing the film. The regular shooting

is slated to commence within the coming week.

The producers are confident that this film will offer a distinctive cinematic experience. Suryadevara Naga Vamsi of Sithara Entertainments and Sai Soujanya of Fortune Four Cinemas are leading the production, with Venkat

Upputuri co-producing the film. Ruhani Sharma will star opposite Allari Naresh in a pivotal role, while the music will be composed by the acclaimed Ghibran. Jiju Sunny will handle the cinematography, Ramakrishna Arram will edit the film and Vishal Abani will be the art

Rao Ramesh takes you on a rib-tickling ride with Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam

Produced by Bujji Rayadu Pentyala and Mohan Karya, Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam is being created under the production companies PBR Cinemas and Lokamaatre Cinematics. With the anticipation towards the film's release increasing, on Sunday the Global star Ram Charan released the hilarious trailer of the film through X (formerly known as Twitter). As the actor has currently been held up with his projects, he shared the trailer sharing

> that the film is packed with entertainment and energy. He went on to extend his best wishes to the makers and the entire team of Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam. Coming to the trailer starts on a funny note with Rao Ramesh being introduced as a family man who has funky issues to deal with his wife.

played by Indraja and his son, played by

Ankith Koyya.

The humorous one-liners and Rao Ramesh's funky comedy timing are highlighted in the trailer. It keeps us laughing out loud from start to end.

On the occasion, the director of the film, Lakshman Karya said "I'd like to thank Ram Charan garu for unveiling the trailer of the film today. I hope the trailer struck a chord with you all. We've shown Rao Ramesh garu in his comedic best avatar and this is going to be a fun ride." Touted to be a thoroughly entertaining comedy-drama, this film is being presented by creative filmmaker Sukumar's wife Thabitha Sukumar and this is her maiden presentation. Mythri Movie Makers are grandly releasing the film on August 23.

Suryakumar is a bowlers' captain, says Axar Patel

ndia all-rounder Axar Patel says new T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav is a bowlers' captain who allows them the freedom to execute their plans.

The spin all-rounder also said that the team will look to batting maximise its combinations in the ongoing series against Sri Lanka.

Suryakumar and India made a winning start to the threematch series here on Saturday when they crushed hosts Sri Lanka by 43 runs in a high scoring opening T20I.
"I played in the last Australia

series with Surya bhai (as captain). I know that he is a bowlers' captain. He gives you free hand (in a way) that you decide first," Axar said at the post-match press conference on Saturday.

"Whenever you get hit, he comes and says that it was a good ball. He keeps giving you inputs. As a player, there is a good bond with him."

Axar recalled the experience of playing under Survakumar in the five-match T20I series against Australia in India late last year which the hosts won

"As a captain, I have also played with him in the last (against matches Australia) and when I was playing today, I didn't feel



much change," he said. "In the first three overs when we were going for runs, he was telling me that we can do this or do that and how we can take a wicket. There is no problem if a four or six goes in it. As a bowler, you get confidence from that if the captain is backing you and telling you that you can do

Axar said India's batting lineup in the opening T20I which did not feature Rishabh Pant at the top was formulated with the idea that the team maximises its left and righthand options.

In the last assignment, the T20 World Cup which India won, Pant batted at No 3

whereas on Saturday skipper Suryakumar came out at the coveted spot and the wicketkeeper-batter dropped down to No 4.

"Our team has four lefties and four righties. If there is a leftright combination (in the middle), it becomes very hard for the bowlers to maintain line and lengths consistently especially with rotations with singles."

"Now if there are four lefties, how can you use them? If you have that chance (to ensure) that there are no two lefties or two righties (in the middle) at the same time."

"If you have that chance, if

changing the batting order as per the bowling options that the opposition has got," he added. The spinner said the message from India's new staff under head coach Gautam Gambhir has been that the team will not experience a major overhaul

in the way it operated.
While fielding coach T Dilip
has continued in his role,
Abhishek Nayar, Sairaj
Bahutule and Dutchman Ryan ten Doeschate are now a part of Gambhir's support staff for this tour of Sri Lanka as positions will be finalised after the tour ends.

"I have been playing for 10 years. I have played with different coaches and captains. I don't think a lot will change in the team," he said.

"When we were talking in the team meeting, they also said the same thing that the coach and captain keep changing but the team remains the same and the 11 or 15 players who stay, they have to do it," he said.

"They have told us that we will play the way we have been playing. Obviously, the coach and his input can be different. The thinking can be different, they keep telling you here and there. But there you have those players in is not much change in the batting, then why not use team's atmosphere," he added. "USA Cricket has announced the appointment of Johnathan



USA Cricket fulfils critical requirement, appoints **Jonathan as CEO**

PTI NEW YORK

USA Cricket has fulfilled one of the two critical requirements to avoid being disqualified as an ICČ Associate nations appointing Jonathan Atkieson as its chief executive officer effective August 1.

The USAC was 'put on notice' by the ICC earlier this month for breaching two norms.

While not having a CEO was one, the other was USAC not fulfilling the governance norms which are set by the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC).

As per the norm, it is necessary for every sport governing body to earn the National Governing Body (NGB) status which is needed for all sports added in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

The International Olympic Committee during its 141st Session and Executive Board meeting in Mumbai last year had given its nod for the inclusion of cricket in the Los Angeles Games.

Atkeison as its new CEO, effective August 1st, 2024," the USAC said on its website. Atkeison most recently served as the Chief Operating Officer of USA Rugby. He joins USA Cricket with over 15 years of national governing body experience.

"I'm honoured to join the team at USA Cricket. It's an incredible time for the sport here in the United States with the historic performance of the men's national team in the recent T20 World Cup, the completion of the second season of Major League Cricket, and the first opportunity to showcase cricket in the Olympics here on home soil during the LA28 games," Atkinson said.

Our goal is to build a worldclass organisation to capitalise on that momentum, and firmly establish cricket's position in the American sporting landscape," he added.

Atkieson is credited for leading USA Rugby through a financial restructuring in 2020 followed by 'a four-year period of rapid growth and development'.



US stays alive with 4-1 win over New Zealand in men's soccer

AP MARSEILLE (FRANCE)

Diordie Mihailovic converted a penalty as Mihailovic the United States pounced early in a 4-1 victory over New Zealand to stave off possible elimination at the Olympics.

Mihailovic calmly hit the penalty in the eighth minute after Nathan Harriel was brought down in the box by Matthew Garbett.

Four minutes later, senior player Walker Zimmerman, a defender, made it 2-0 when he poked in a goal in a scramble in front of the net following a free kick.

Gianluca Busio scored on a rebound at the half-hour mark and celebrated by dancing with teammate Kevin Paredes. Busio later left the game with what appeared to be a hamstring injury, but he said it was just a precaution.

fourth goal for the United States in the 58th and New Zealand avoided the shutout with Jesse Randall's late goal.

Paxton Aaronson added a

New Zealand's 2-1 opening victory over Guinea had put the team in a strong position to advance. The OlvWhites, as they are known, started the day second in the group to

France. The United States is set to play Guinea in its final group match Tuesday in Saint-Etienne. New Zealand plays France in

Mitrovic said he's not scoreboard watching. New Zealand advanced to the quarterfinals of the Tokyo Games three years

Marseille.

Ukraine 2, Morocco 1There was no reprieve for Morocco this time.

After the chaos and After the cnaos and violence that marred the the 62nd restored end of its 2-1 win over Argentina's lead after Argentina in the Olympic Hussein's goal and men's soccer tournament, Fernandez curled in a long-Morocco conceded late range shot from the edge of again against Ukraine on the box in the 85th.

Saturday - and this time the

On Wednesday, Morocco fans rushed the field and threw bottles in protest when Cristian Medina appeared to score an equalizer in the 16th minute of stoppage time for Argentina - causing the game to be suspended for around two hours. That goal was later disallowed by VAR for offside.

But there was no sign of a repeat of those scenes when Ihor Krasnopir scored in the eighth minute of stoppage time to seal a 2-1 win for 10-man Ukraine at Stade Geoffroy-Guichard. Morocco looked like it was edging closer to the quarterfinals after Soufiane Rahimi's 64th-minute penalty leveled the game at 1-1. The forward, who took

his total to three goals for the Paris Games, won the spot kick when he was fouled by Volodymyr Saliuk. Saliuk was sent off for the offense.

Ukraine had taken the lead in the 22nd through Dmytro Kryskiv. Ukraine's late win left all four teams in Group B tied on three points after Argentina shook off defeat

to Morocco by beating Iraq

3-1. Argentina 3, Iraq 1While Iraq threatened to pull off another surprise when Aymen Hussein leveled the game 1-1 in first-half stoppage time, goals from Luciano Gondou and Ignacio Fernandez sealed victory for Argentina.

Thiago Almada, who Argentina coach Javier Mascherano said had a watch stolen when the team's training base was robbed earlier this week, opened the scoring with a volley in the 14th at Stade de Lvon.

Gondou's far-post header in and

Swiatek, Alcaraz and Djokovic start Olympics with win at French Open's site what's going to happen," Nadal said Saturday. "I don't

Iga Swiatek and Carlos Alcaraz got the Paris Olympics tennis competition started with first-round victories under closed roofs at Roland Garros, the site of their French Open titles less

than two months ago. Novak Djokovic also won in straight sets as he, like Swiatek and Alcaraz, opened a bid for a first Olympic gold medal. Djokovic's secondround opponent could be longtime rival Rafael Nadal, who was scheduled to play his opening singles match Sunday - but said he isn't sure whether he will remain in that

know if I'm going to play or

In Saturday's last match, Angelique Kerber defeated Naomi Osaka 7-5, 6-3 in a contest between two women who have been ranked No. 1 and own multiple Grand Slam titles. Kerber has said she will retire after representing Germany at these Games; Osaka was hoping for a deeper run than her thirdround exit at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago after lighting the cauldron during the opening ceremony in her native Japan. Nadal, the Spaniard

and owns two Summer Games golds, was a surprise torch carrier during the rainsoaked opening ceremony along the Seine River on Friday night. He won his doubles opener alongside Alcaraz on Saturday night. Nadal has not made entirely clear whether or not these Summer Games will be the final event of his career. He is 38 and has been dealing with injuries for much of the past two seasons. Nadal and Alcaraz never had played doubles together, but they got past the sixth-seeded Argentine duo of Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni



major championships in Paris and grabbed the last four to beat Romania's

and Wimbledon champ Alcaraz defeated Lebanon's Hady Habib 6-3, 6-1.

Serbia's Djokovic, who is seeded No. 1 in the men's field after Jannik Sinner pulled out with tonsillitis, needed less than an hour for a 6-0, 6-1 win against Australia's Matthew Ebden - a doubles player participating in a tourlevel singles match for the first time in two years. Ebden got into the singles bracket because he was in Paris to play doubles and thus available when 16th-ranked Holger Rune of Denmark withdrew with an injured wrist.

a record 14 of his 22 Grand The No. 1-ranked Swiatek Irina-Camelia Begu 6-2, 7-5, he was already down 6-0, 4-0 Tomorrow, I don't know Slam titles at the French Open claimed four of her five career while reigning French Open - and he celebrated by pulling

the front of his yellow shirt over his head and baring his chest to roars from the flagdotted crowd.

The last time Djokovic was in Paris, early last month, he needed surgery for a torn meniscus in his right knee after getting injured during the French Open. He managed to not only play at Wimbledon but also reach the final before losing to Alcaraz. "I do feel more ready now than I was before Wimbledon and I really do feel better prepared," Djokovic said Saturday. "Olympics, from the beginning of the year, was one of the highest goals and objectives and priorities for this year. So let's see how it

Australia takes early lead against US On Day 1 of swimming

AP ■ PARIS

ustralia took the lead in Aits swimming showdown against the United States at the Paris Olympics by claiming two of three gold medals on the first full day of competition.

Ariarne Titmus turned one of the most anticipated races of the Games into a blowout when she left Katie Ledecky in her wake at La Defense Arena. Titmus led from start to finish in the 400-meter freestyle Saturday night.

The Australian star known as "The Terminator" handed Ledecky a second straight Olympic defeat in an event the American won at Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Titmus faced her stiffest challenge from 17-year-old Canadian phenom Summer McIntosh, but she won comfortably as McIntosh claimed the silver. Ledecky settled for bronze.

Titmus swept the 200 and 400 free in Tokyo, and she is going for the same double in Paris. Ledecky is going for a double in the 800 and 1,500. Australia then made it 2 for 2 against the Americans in the women's 4x100 freestyle relay, claiming its fourth straight Olympic title in that event.

The quartet of Mollie O'Callaghan, Shayna Jack, Emma McKeon and Meg Harris set an Olympic record with a winning time of 3 minutes, 28.92 seconds. The Americans - Kate

Douglass, Gretchen Walsh, Torri Huske and Simone Manuel - rallied to take silver. China took bronze. The U.S. Finally got its first gold in the men's 4x100 relay. freestyle The Americans were anchored by Caeleb Dressel, who won the eighth gold medal of his player from Australia who

Australia took the silver.
CHINA TAKES FIRST
GOLD OF GAMES

The first gold medal of the Paris Olympics went to China when Huang Yuting and Sheng Lihao beat South Korea's Keum Jihveon and Park Haiun in the final of the 10-meter air rifle mixed team event Saturday morning. Shortly before that, Kazakhstan's Alexandra Le and Islam Satpayev became the first medalists of the games when they beat Germany's Anna Janssen and Maximilian Ulbrich 17-5 for the bronze.

FRANCE'S

MEDALS Luka Mkheidze and Shirine Boukli won France's first two medals of the Olympics when Mkheidze claimed silver and Boukli earned bronze in judo.

Mkheidze lost 1-0 to Yeldos Smetov of Kazakhstan in the final of the men's 60-kilogram division - a disappointing result for the raucous crowd at Champ-de-Mars Arena. About 30 minutes before Mkheidze's loss, Boukli claimed France's first medal of its home Olympics with a victory over Spain's Laura Martinez in a bronze-medal match.

Paris will have plenty of chances to cheer on its vaunted judo team, which has a competitor in all 14 weight classes in these Olympics. France is one of the world's top judo nations.

TENNIS CONTROVERSY Novak Djokovic was perplexed by the Olympics rules after his 6-0, 6-1 rout in

overmatched

hadn't competed in a tourlevel, main-draw singles match since June 2022. Djokovic felt other singles players deserved a spot at the

Olympics instead of Ebden. Ebden was in Paris to compete in men's doubles, where he's been as high as No. 1 and currently is No. 3 and has won two major championships. That made him available for the singles competition when 16thranked Holger Rune of Denmark pulled out because

of a wrist injury. Ebden was not the first doubles player asked to fill in, but he was the first to say yes. He hadn't even practiced singles in about two years until playing a tiebreaker in training on Friday.
In other tennis action, Rafael

Nadal is not sure whether he will compete in singles, saying after he paired with Carlos Alcaraz to win their first-round doubles match Saturday night that he wants to "make the smartest decision possible to have the best chances to bring (a) medal back home."

less than an hour against an Nadal's first match in singles, Matthew

Sunday. Also, Angelique Kerber eliminated Naomi Osaka 7-5, 6-3 in the first round in a matchup between former No. 1-ranked players with

multiple Grand Slam titles.

RAIN DISRUPTIONS Rain continued from the opening ceremony through the first full day of competition and caused several postponements and delays at the Paris Olympics. Men's street skateboarding was supposed to start Saturday but was pushed to Monday because of the showers. The start of play in the scheduled tennis matches on the 10 smaller courts at Roland Garros was delayed because of rain, but action started as scheduled in the two main stadiums that have retractable roofs. The rain could threaten the water quality for swimming in the Seine when the triathlon begins Tuesday with the men's event at the Alexander III bridge next to Grand Palais.

10-TIME OLYMPIAN against Hungary's Marton Georgian shooter Nino Fucsovics, is scheduled for Salukvadze made history as

the first woman to compete at 10 Olympic Games in a career which began representing the Soviet Union. She has competed at every Summer Olympics since 1988, when she won gold as a 19-year-old Soviet prodigy. She set her latest record

when she stepped into the

shooting range for qualification in the women's 10-meter air pistol. Salukvadze placed 38th and didn't advance to Sunday's eight-shooter final. She gets another shot at a medal Friday in qualification for the 25-meter pistol event. In a career spanning five decades, the 55-year-old has competed on three different Olympic teams: the Soviet Union in 1988, then the Unified Team which was organized for ex-Soviet athletes in Barcelona in 1992 after the Soviet Union

collapsed. She has represented her home country of Georgia following its independence for the last eight Olympics.

HUNGARIAN FENCER LOSES

An era-defining streak in Olympic fencing was snapped by an upset when Hungarian fencer Aron Szilagyi lost his opening bout while chasing a fourth

consecutive gold medal. Szilagyi won gold medals in men's individual saber in 2012, 2016 and 2021 and was trying to become the only fencer in history to win a

fourth. Instead, the streak ended in Szilagyi's first bout of the Paris Games as he was beaten 15-8 by the 27th-seeded Canadian Fares Arfa in one of the biggest upsets so far at the 2024 Ompics.



Boxer Preeti beats Vietnam's Vo Thi Kim Anh to enter pre-quarterfinals

▼ndian boxer Preeti Pawar Ipicked up an unanimous decision win against Vietnam's Vo Thi Kim Anh to enter the women's 54kg category pre-quarterfinals at the Paris Olympics.

The Asian Games bronze medallist, competing in her maiden Olympic Games, opened the proceedings for India in the boxing arena as she won her first round by a 5-0 margin on Saturday night. The 20-year-old

Haryana, who had been hospitalised for a a few days ahead of the Games due to illness, was unimpressive in the first round as her Vietnamese opponent dictated proceedings.

But the Indian made amends in the next two rounds, attacking and landing clear blows on her opponent.

"Happy that we started on a winning note! Despite falling ill before the Games, Preeti not only recovered but fought brilliantly and showed exceptional courage," Boxing Federation of India President Ajay Singh said.

Preeti will face second seed and world championships silver-medallist Marcela Yeni Arias of Colombia in the round of 16 clash on Tuesday.