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## The Biggest celebration of the decade! Loan waiver festival for Farmers!







# up to RS.1,50,000 Farmer's Loan waived off

Directly credited into farmers' loan account

From Rs.1,50,000 to Rs.2,00,000 loan waiver by 15th August, 2024

## AP's CM will have to work in alignment with the Centre!

ister of a state fighting for the interests of his or her state not just with other state or states, but even the Centre are over. Today, amid talk of **POINT** replicating 'double-engine' sarkars in a tattered federal set-up, it has become essential for a chief minister to work in perfect alignment with the Centre. This is in line with a

Telugu proverb that means

'even a mother won't feed her

child unless asked'. If one studies the present position of Andhra Pradesh, it is not all that easy for the state to have its needs and rightful demands addressed through mere negotiations with the Union government. The growing demands of each and every state of the Indian Union compete with those of AP. Still, political needs of ruling parties ultimately influence everystates, regardless of the genuineness of those The recommenda-

tions made by the Sarkaria Commission on Centrestate relations 44 years ago to ensure a cordial political atmosphere in the country are yet to be implemented in letter and spirit. No concrete efforts have been made by successive governments at the Centre for implementation of the panel's recommendations. Had they been implemented,

the atmosphere in the country with regard to Centre-States relations would have been entirely different. With crass politics replacing just federal relations between the Centre and the States, the situation seems to be slowly getting out of hands with several states warring among them-

Chief ministers can no longer afford to adopt a combative spirit towards the Union government for getting their demands fulfilled. Should they adopt a fighting mode, there would be political backlash, straining further the relations between the state concerned and the Centre.

Today developmental projects in states are at the mercy of the Union government. The states per se do not have the bargaining power, unless they are ruled by parties that provide solid support to the central

Chief ministers can no longer afford to adopt a combative spirit towards the Union government for getting their demands fulfilled. Should they

selves and with the Centre. adopt a fighting mode, there would be political backlash, straining further the relations between the state concerned and the Centre.

The present political situation in Andhra Pradesh is such that no chief minister can afford to fight with the Union government for securing the state's legitimate demands and sustainable development. It is but natural that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu can-



Senior Journalist

not switch to a fighting mode as he is part of the ruling NDA both at the Centre and in the state. Making requests respectfully to the central government is the only option for him to do anything in the state ruled

Former chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy, who was

in power until recently, did not government. Due to this fightdare to question the central ing spirit, he was ultimately government on any important made leader of the opposition matter related to the state. It alliance at the national level. was his political compulsion to The National Front (NF) maintain amicable relations was formed at Chennai (then with the Centre as criminal Madras) on 18 August 1988 to cases have been filed against fight the then Congress regime him by the Central Bureau of headed by prime minister Rajiv Investigation (CBI) and the Gandhi. No other chief minis-

founder-president and four-

time chief minister of com-

bined AP NT Rama Rao can

be considered the last CM who

had adopted a fighting mode

against the Centre. He assert-

ed that the state of AP has a

right to demand funds /finan-

cial assistance from the central

Corruption Bureau (ACB)

visited the office of the

Association (HCA) on

Monday in connection

with a case dating back to

2022. According to an

official statement from

the HCA, an ACB official

arrived at their office at

Accompanied by a former

admin manager, the offi-

cial tried to recover old

emails related to the peri-

od between 2020 and

2022. The case, which has

been under scrutiny since

2022, involves allegations

of corruption and mis-

management in the

to the HCA office at

around 3 pm along with a

former admin manager

to recover some old emails

pertaining to the 2020-

2022 period regarding a

case," an official statement

of the HCA said.

"An ACB official came

Cricket

Hyderabad

around

ter of AP can be compared with Enforcement Directorate(ED). Jagan had to extend his party's NTR when it comes to waging support to crucial bills introa political war against the duced by the ruling NDA in Union government. It was a bit-ter pill for NTR to swallow Parliament despite non-cooperation on the part of the central government on key when he lost power in the 1989 elections at a time when the issues related to AP.
Telugu Desam Party National Front had come to power at the Centre.

Dr Marri Channa Reddy, who took the reins of AP for the second time when the Congress stormed to power in 1989, had a tough time in facing then NF government headed by VP Singh at the Centre. Channa Reddy strove to get the World Bank's Rs.700

Cyclone Reconstruction Project (CERP), despite obtaining the Centre's permission following the devastating cyclone that hit the state on 9 May, 1990. This project later reset the badly damaged Godavari and Krishna deltas to ensure proper irrigation, drainage and flood control systems.

The promises of conferring Special Category Status (SCS) on residual AP and implementation of certain assurances made to it in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act-2014 remain unfulfilled, obviously due to the state's continual weak negotiations with the Union government. Such genuine demands can be achieved only by adopting a fighting mode against the Union government. Sadly, those days are over, more so in

the case of Andhra Pradesh.

### Give funds or merge with Maharashtra: Sirpur MLA

PNS HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party legislator from Sirpur Dr Palvai Harish Babu has voiced his frustration over the lack of progress in Adilabad district and suggested that if there is no further develop-ment, the district should consider merging with Maharashtra.

During a discussion in the State Assembly on budget allocation on Tuesday, Harish Babu criticized successive governments for ignoring Adilabad and failing to provide essential services. He pointed out that while south Telangana districts were in focus, north Telangana districts, including Adilabad, were often neglected.

## **BRS** misused Rythu Bandhu scheme: Bhatti

PNS HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka responded to the comments of BRS MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy and accused Rajeshwar of misleading the Assembly and the state's citizens by attributing statements to him that he never made.

Bhatti Vikramarka said, "Did I ever say that farmers did not pay taxes? How can you speak in the Assembly as if I said something I didn't? How can you mislead the Assembly and the people?"

He clarified that funds col-



lected from citizens' taxes should not be misused for personal luxuries or real estate but must be used to support

should be distributed in a manner that encourages farmers who grow crops, not to those involved in real estate,"

He criticized the allocation of Rs 20,000 crore to Rs 25,000 crore under the Rythu Bandhu scheme, which he alleged was distributed to those who do not practice agriculture, including real estate businessmen, instead of genuinely helping farmers.

Bhatti emphasized that the government should spend every penny from the public and beating them up.

exchequer, which comes from the sweat and hard work of citizens in a meaningful way. 'Our government's aim is to spend public money effectively, not to misuse it as you sug-

He attacked the BRS government stating that despite being in power for 10 years, they had failed to issue pattas for podu lands and thus have no right to speak about farmers.

He accused them of sending the police to stop tribals from cultivating crops in forests and tying up women on trees

#### 23 chiefs of civic **ACB** sleuths visit HCA office bodies transferred **PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of the Anti-

The State government had transferred a total of 23 municipal commissioners on Tuesday.

Joint Secretary to Governor CN Raghu Prasad has been transferred and posted as Additional Commissioner, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). GHMC Commissioner Suvartha has been transferred and posted as Additional Commissioner, Karimnagar Municipal Corporation. Deputy Commissioner of GHMC Ch Rajender Reddy has been transferred and post-Additional Commissioner of Greater Warangal Municipal

Corporation (GWMC). Ñ Samrat Ashok has been transferred and posted in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. P Sridhar has been transferred to the GHMC. Sandhya has been posted as Municipal Commissioner of Siddipet

V Prashanthi has been posted as Joint Director of Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration. Aruna Kumari Charan has been posted in the GHMC.

A Swamy has been posted as Municipal Commissioner of Gundlapochampally Municipality. D Dhaku Naik has been posted as Palwancha Municipality Commissioner. A Nagamani has been posted as Municipal commissioner of Dammaiguda Municipality. T Dasharath has been posted as Municipal Commissioner of Gadwal Municipality.

B Rajesh Kumar has been posted as Municipal Commissioner of Bhainsa Municipality. K Prasanna Rani has been posted as Deputy Commissioner of the GWMC. K Srinivasa Rao has been posted as Municipal Commissioner of Bellampalli Municipality. M Shobha Shankar has been posted as Municipal Commissioner of Kothapally Municipality.

Reverse...

### **Kale Yadaiah denies** rumours of returning to BRS

PNS HYDERABAD

Denying rumours that he will rejoin the BRS, Chevella MLA Kale Yadaiah, who joined the Congress recently, said that he will not return to the BRS under any circumstance. He MLA Tellam Venkat Rao, who said that rumours about this met BRS Working President are entirely false and appealed KT Rama Rao on Tuesday, will ciates and activists not to believe the false

The rumours about Kale Yadaiah spread after Gadwal

MLA Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy, who recently joined the Congress quit the party and returned to the BRS.

Meanwhile, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that Bhadrachalam not re-join the BRS and Venkat will continue in the Congress. Ponguleti said that Venkat met KTR as they were

## Bandla Mohan re-joins BRS due to internal bickering

PNS HYDERABAD

Roads and Buildings (R&B) Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao indicates that he may merge the BJP with the BSP at any moment.

Venkat said that Gadwal Reddy re-joined the BRS after quitting the Congress due to internal politics in erstwhile Mahbubnagar district.

on Tuesday at Assembly lobbies, Minister Venkat Reddy recalled Telugu film dialogue Eppudochamannadi kaadu bullet diginda leda annadi mukyam' and whether the Congress came to power or not is important. Venkat said angress bullet hit KCR and KCR lost his CM

In a chit-chat with scribes

Venkat said the opposition leader is as important as the Chief Minister. Abstaining from the Assembly is nothing but dishonouring democracy, Venkat said.

He said that the 83-year-old Mallikarjuna Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, whose health is not good, were also attending the Rajya Sabha but what happened to KCR and why is not attending the House? Abstaining from the Assembly is nothing but quitting politics. Venkat said

### 17,625 posts vacant in Food...

Continued from page 3

In 2024, she said the number of permanent and temposts under the Ministry including institutions, agencies and autonomous bodies stood at 48,555 and 8, respec-

"No person has been reemployed after retirement from service in the last five years. The number of posts ving vacant under Ministry including instituagencies

Continued from page 3 The Congress doesn't want the BJP to gain ground the BRS.

the minister said.

tions, autonomous bodies is 17,625,

> Srihari and Tellam Venkat Rao who had defected to the Congress to August 1. The BRS had approached to order the Telangana

The Telangana High Court

postponed the hearing on the

BRS's disqualification peti-

tion against its MLAs Danama Nagender, Kadiam

the High Court requesting it Speaker to disqualify BRS MLAs who had defected to the Congress. There is a debate going on

among political observers that the BRS MLAs who had defected are exiting the Congress due to fear of disqualification as the BRS had filed disqualification petitions in the High Court.

### **BRS** boycotts Assembly over Rs 1,100 crore Civil Supplies scam

Krishna Paksha

Jul 30 04:45 PM

Jul 31 03:55 PM

Jul 30 10:23 AM

Jul 31 10:12 AM

to Jul 31 10:12 AM

to Aug 01 10:24 AM

12:22 PM to 1:58 PM

7:34 AM to 9:10 AM

03:51 PM to 05:28 PM

10:46 AM to 12:22 PM

07:02 AM to 08:37 AM,

01:32 AM to 03:08 AM

to Jul 31 03:55 PM

to Aug 01 03:29 PM

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The BRS boycotted the Assembly as the government did not allow a discussion on the Rs 1,100 crore Civil Supplies scam. They initially raised slogans and went into the well.

accused the Civil Supplies es for farmers.

TODAY

**ALMANAC** 

Tithi: Ekadashi:

Mrigashirsha:

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamaqandam:

Abhiiit Muhurtham:

Humidity: 72% Sunrise: 5:55 AM

Sunset: 6:50 PM

**Temp:** 31<sup>∞</sup>

HYDERABAD WEATHER

**Updated:** July 30, 2024 5:00 PM

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy

Month & Paksham:

Department of a Rs 1,100 crore scam while procuring

During the discussion on the Civil Supplies budget in the Assembly, Rama Rao lashed out at the government's approach. He critito the well.

KT Rama Rao, the bulldozing their questions on Working President of BRS, ration cards and crop bonus-

Continued from page 3

"This is one of the most

severe natural disasters our

state has ever seen," he said.

been identified, and 18 of

them have been handed over

to relatives of the deceased

persons. More than 3,000

people have been shifted to

45 relief camps set up in the

He said the first landslide

occurred at 2 am, followed

by another at 4.10 am,

adding that Meppadi,

Chooralmala areas have

been cut off and the

Chooralmala-Mundakkai

school has been completely

buried under the earth and

the Iruvazhinjipuzha river

has split into two, Vijayan

said, giving details of the

The Vellarimala GHSS

road has been destroyed.

and

district, Vijayan added.

Mundakkai

He said 34 bodies have

## Justice Madan Bhim...

Continued from page 3

Justice Narasimha Reddy had sent a letter to the Supreme Court announcing his resignation from the commission set up to investigate power agreements in Telangana.

Following his resignation, the Supreme Court granted time for the appointment of a replacement. According to the existing notification, the com-

destruction caused by the

trapped under the earth and

swept away by the floodwa-

ters. Efforts to find them will

continue. All possible

resources and methods will

be used to continue the res-

cue operations," Vijayan said.

ing the Army, Navy and

NDRF are collectively look-

ing for survivors amid the

rough weather, and multiple

agencies are working in tan-

dem to provide critical assis-

efforts, additional columns

comprising 200 soldiers,

medical teams and equip-

ment from the Defence

Security Corps (DSC)

Centre in Kannur and the

Territorial Army from

Kozhikode have also been

pressed into service.

To reinforce the rescue

tance to those affected.

Rescue teams compris-

"There are still people

landslides and rain.

Landslides wreak...

mission's inquiry can continue under a new Judge, leading to the government's appointment of Justice Lokur.

The government had originally appointed Justice Narasimha Reddy to head a judicial commission to investigate power purchase agreements made during the BRS government's tenure.KCR challenged this commission's inquiry by filing a petition in the Supreme Court.

Continued from page 3

interests of farmers.

Today, there are no elections

and no political interests

behind the waiver of farm

loans except safeguarding the

The CM launched the sec-

ond phase of the farm loan

waiver scheme by waiving

farm loans up to Rs 1.50 lakh

on the Assembly building's

premises on Tuesday. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti

Vikramarka, Assembly Speaker

Gaddam Prasad, Council

Chairman Gutta Sukhender

Reddy, Agriculture Minister

Tummala Nageswara Rao,

ministers and MLAs attended

the distribution of cheques to

announced that the loans of all

farmers up to Rs 1.50 lakh will

be waived by depositing Rs

6,198 crore in 6.40 lakh farm-

Chief Minister

farmers.

### No permission to increase... seats by nearly 300."

Continued from page 3

A seasoned MLA said, "It's common in politics. I was prepared for this. This is possibly the first time I am not increasing seats in my colleges. I am affected by this, but what else can I do, since I am in the opposition."Another new MLA said, "Forget increasing the number of seats in my area colleges. They have now reduced

ers bank accounts directly.

'My life's purpose has been ful-

filled seeing the happiness on

As part of the farm loan

waiver scheme, the govern-

ment waived loans amount

up to Rs 1 lakh on July 18. A

total of 11 lakh farmers got the

farm loan waiver benefit of Rs

6,098 crore. Another Rs 6198

crore was released as the sec-

ond instalment within 12 days.

attended the function along

with Congress MLAs. The

Chief Minister thanked every-

one who attended the function

irrespective of party affiliation.

Congress announced the

Farmers Declaration on May 6,

2022, at Warangal and

promised to make agriculture

a profitable profession. As

promised by the Congress,

the government brought

The CM reminded that the

CPI and BJP MLAs also

farmers' faces," he said.

Second freedom...

The MLAs explained that this will affect their colleges' image when companies come for campus placements.

"A company would examine why seats were reduced suddenly. Moreover, colleges have AICTE and NAAC accreditations. The ecosystem will be affected. I need to terminate some staff too as we plan teachers accordingly. This is

cheers to the lives of farmers by

waiving farm loans after just

eight months of coming to

The CM said that some big

companies took loans from

banks and cheated banks by

declaring themselves bank

rupt. In the last 10 years, com-

panies avoided paying back

loans of Rs 14 lakh crore to

banks while farmers who are

feeding the country have been

facing difficulties due to lack

of remunerative prices and

are unable to pay back debts.

many farmers committed sui-

cide due to their inability to

pay back loans. That is why the

Congress promised to waive

farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh, the

The Chief Minister also said

that the BRS government failed

to waive farm loans up to Rs

CM said.

The Chief Minister said that

power in the state.

future of students but may also leave many jobless. The state ecosystem shouldn't be affected for petty political gains," said an MLA.

The MLA said that instead of a skill university, incentivise colleges which give placements. "What's the point in punishing colleges and affecting recruitment for four years,"

## OUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED

TENDER NOTICE NO: 03/2024-25 Old-Ext-I- TspNo.28/24-25, Ext-II-T.spNo.02/24-25 New-T.spNa.03A/24-25, TspNo.29/24-25 to TspNo.36/24-25 Sealed tenders are invited from the experienced and GST Registered Vendors to 1) TispNo.02/24-25 -Construction wing, 2) TispNo. 28/24-25-Civil Wing, 3) TispNo.03A/24-25

Medichal Circle Office, 4) TspNo.29/24-25-Kukarpally Division, 5) TspNo.30 to 34, 36/24-25-Medchal Division, 6) TspNo.35(24-25-Jeedimella Division, Further Details Visit R.O. No.: 2283-PP/CL/ADVTH 0004-25, Dr. 30-07-2004 Operation, Medcha

hmda HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
th Floot, Swams Jayanth Commercial Complex, America, Hyderabad-300000,
Public Notification U/s. 15 (3) of HMDA Act, 2008.

(Lr. No. MED094037115966/CLU/TG-IPASS/PIg/HMDA/2023, dt: 25.07.2024 In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (3) of Section 15 of HMDAAct 2008, it is proposed to make the following changes to the land use in the Notified Metropolita Development Plan MDP-2031 approved by the Government vide G.O.Ms.No.33 The site in Sy.Nos. 273/A/1, 274/AA/4, 274/EE/4, 274/U1/1, 274/RU/1, 274/EE/5

274/AA/3/2, 274/AA/3/3, 274/EE/6 of Usirikapalle Village, Shivampet Mandal, Medak District to an extent of 19627.22 Sq.Mts in the MDP-2031 notified vide G.O.Ms.No. 33 MA & UD, dt: 24.01.2013 is now proposed to be designated as Manufacturing use zon for setting up unit with Line of Manufacture as "Fusidic Acid, MUPIROCIN AND SALTS SERRATIOPEPTIDASE & TEICOPLANIN' under 'Red' category.

The details of the above are available in Web sites http://gazette.telangana.gov.in// and http://hmda.gov.in//. Objections/Suggestions would be considered from any person of body to the said proposals. They can submit objections / suggestions in writing either to the M.C., HMDA or to Special Chief Secretary to Government, MA & UD Dept., Telangara Secretariat, Hyderabad within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this Notice.

R.O. No: 273-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVTH/8004-25

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Chief Planning Officer(RB), HMDA

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

the pioneer

- Dr Palvai Harish Babu, BJP MLA

supported the demand for Statehood by.

would not have

**Embracing simplicity &** sweetness with





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ne pioneer

Thiragabadara Saami is all about how man turns victim of **CIRCUMSTANCES** 

### DON'T MISS.

### Women expect more than...

Many Women who attended Prajavani complained that no welfare has been provided by the new administration except for the Free Bus Scheme. They cried out that many are suffering due to unapproved pensions and unresolved grievances. A total of 455 people submitted their grievances at the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan on Tuesday, with many women submitting applications for 2BHK housing and pension issues. When asked, Fathima from Quthbullapur, said she submitted a grievance about...

### Weaver weaves sari that...

A silk sari and shawl, woven by a weaver from Sircilla, Nalla Vijay Kumar, which fit into a matchbox, was presented to Sri Rajarajeshwara Swamy temple at Vemulawada temple on Tuesday .Besides the sari, a shawl that fits into a matchbox, was also presented to the presiding deities Vijay Kumar shot to limelight by weaving such items. Along with his family members, he had darshan of Lord Shiva and performed special pujas. Tempe priests blessed the weaver and



### Pulses import jumps 90% in...

India's import of pulses rose 90 per cent annually to 47.38 lakh tonnes during 2023-24 to meet domestic demand, the government informed Parliament on Tuesday. "All India production of pulses has from 163 23 lakh tonn during 2015-16 to 244.93 lakh tonnes during 2023-24 (as per 3rd Advance Estimates)," the Minister of State for Agriculture Ram Nath Thakur said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. In 2021-22, import of pulses stood at 26.99 lakh tonnes, while exports were at 3.87 lakh tonnes...

-PAGE: 8

### 17-year-old McIntosh...

Canadian phenom Summer McIntosh claimed the first gold medal of her just-burgeoning career Monday night with a dominating victory in the 400meter individual medley at the Paris Olympics. The 17-year-old McIntosh collected her first medal of any color on the opening night of swimming, taking a silver in the 400 freestyle behind Ariarne Titmus - and ahead of Katie Ledecky. Now. McIntosh has the most prized color of all."I try to take every event very individually and just do my...

-SPORTS

### **Justice Madan Bhim Rao Lokur to** head PPA probe

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The state government has issued orders appointing Justice Madan Bhim Rao Lokur as the new Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry into Power Agreements. Justice Lokur had earlier served as the Chief Justice of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh High Court and was also a judge of the Supreme Court. It is known that the BRS leader KCR knocked on the doors of the court which led to Justice L. Narasimha Reddy stepping down.





### .andslides wreak havoc

At least 123 dead, 128 injured in Kerala Rescuers race against time to find survivors

Reverse migration!

disqualification or any other reason?

Gadwal MLA Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy rejoins BRS Party at BRCLP chamber in the

NIRBHAYA-LIKE INCIDENT IN TG

Driver rapes woman

in moving bus in TG

HC postpones hearing on BRS'

disqualification petition

'Ghar wapsi' due to fear of

Assembly on Tuesday in presence of BRS working president KTR

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLAs who had defected to

the Congress have started coming

back from the Congress to the

BRS. This development started on

Tuesday with Gadwala MLA

Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy.

Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy,

who was elected on a BRS ticket,

joined the Congress and was the

However, Bandla Krishna

Mohan Reddy came back to the

BRSLP in the BRS chamber in the

Assembly building. He met BRS

Working President Sircilla MLA

seventh MLA to quit the BRS.

PNS WAYANAD

In one of the worst natural disasters in Kerala, at least 123 persons were killed and 128 injured in massive landslides triggered by torrential rains in Wayanad on Tuesday. With hundreds trapped under the debris, sparking fears of mounting fatalities, rescue agencies were racing against time to pull out any survivors.

Government sources said 123 people have been killed so far in the tragedy.Heart-wrenching scenes and phone conversations of several people crying and pleading to be rescued, as they were either trapped in their houses or had no way to move out of places where they were stranded, were witnessed after the landslides that left a trail of death and destruction in the picturesque hamlets of Mundakkai, Chooralmala, Attamala and

Earlier, speaking at a press conference in Thiruvananthapuram about the massive tragedy, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said: "Due to the intense rainfall, landslides occurred, and an entire region has been destroyed. Ninety-three bodies have been recovered so far." He said 128 people are undergo-

ing treatment at various hospitals.
"Children who went to sleep last night, including infants, are among those who lost their lives in this disaster and are now buried under the earth. The floodwaters swept away many people. Sixteen bodies were recovered from the Chaliyar River in Pothukallu in Malappuram district (neighbouring Wayanad), and body parts were also found," Vijayan



KT Rama Rao on Tuesday at the

BRSLP chamber. KTR gave the

green signal when Krishna Mohan

Reddy asked KTR about coming

back to the BRS and immediately

Meanwhile, Bhadrachalam

MLA Tellam Venkatrao also met

KT Rama Rao in the BRSLP cham-

ber in the Assembly building.

However, he did not say whether

he had come back to the BRS or

It is learnt that some more BRS

MLAs who had defected are also

ready to re-join the BRS. The

names doing the rounds are

he joined the BRS.

### Varma to take oath as TG **Governor today**

PNS HYDERABAD

Jishnu Dev Varma, who has been appointed as the Governor of Telangana, is set to take the oath of office on Wednesday.

The Raj Bhavan announced that the swearing-in ceremony will take

pm at the Raj Bhavan. Two days ago, the Central government appointed new gover-

nors for nine states. Jishnu Dev Varma served as the Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura from 2018 to 2023. He was born on August 15, 1957, coinciding with India's Independence Day. He has also previously served as the president of the Badminton Association of India.

A member of the Tripura royal family, he joined his party in 1990 during the challenging times of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. Since then, he has played a crucial role in the party. During his tenure in the Tripura government, he held ministerial positions in the departments of Power Purchase, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Finance, Planning, Science Technology

Defected BRS MLAs Danam Nagender, Kadiam Srihari,

Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, M. Sanjay Kumar, Kale Yadaiah,

Arikepudi Gandhi and Gudem

Defected BRS MLCs Dande

Vittal, Bhanu Prasad, B.

Dayanand, MS Prabhakar

Rao, Egge Mallesham and

Basavaraju Saraiah.

other reasons?

oin the BRS.

Reddy.

Reverse defections due to disqualification fear or

Chevella MLA Kale Yadaiah,

Jagtial MLA Sanjay Kumar and

Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal

Khairatabad MLA Danam

Nagender started defections from

the BRS to the Congress and it

stopped with the joining of Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal

Some political analysts think

that the Congress has decided not

to stop defections from the party

to the BRS as the BJP would

become strong if the BRS weakens.

ADB commits US\$ 200

mn loan for solid

waste management in

**100 Indian cities** 

Reddy who are in the queue to re-

Bandla Krishna Mohan

Reddy, T. Prakash Goud,

Tellam Venkatrao,

Mahipal Reddy.



## **Heavy inflow of flood waters**

### Seven gates opened at Srisailam Dam

The inflow of floodwaters into Srisailam reservoirs from upstream areas has increased significantly. Consequently, the authorities have raised seven crest gates by 10 feet to release water into the Nagarjuna

water were released from the Jurala gates. An additional 1,07,246 cusecs after power generation.

of water from Sukeshula reached the reservoir by evening, totalling an inflow of 3,88,460 cusecs. The reservoir subsequently released 4,13,178 cusecs downstream. The reservoir's full water level is 885 feet, and it currently stands at 883 feet.

While its full storage capacity is 215 TMC, the current storage is 207 On Tuesday, 19,653 cusecs of TMC. From the right bank power station, 25,684 cusecs, and from the project after power generation, and left bank power station, 35,315 2,61,543 cusecs through the crest cusecs were released downstream

With the gates of the Srisailam reservoir lifted, the roads leading to Srisailam have become bustling with tourists from Hyderabad and other regions. However, CI Prasad Rao warned people to avoid visiting the area as a precautionary measure to prevent any untoward incidents due to the rising floodwaters. Notices have been issued to tourism officials and fishermen on Tuesday morning, advising them not to operate boats until the water flow

## Second freedom for farmers

August brought Independence to India, TG makes ryots debt-free: CM

- Rs 6,198 crore released under phase 2 of farm loan waiver scheme
- 6.40 lakh farmers gain from waiver of farm loans up to Rs 1.50 lakh
- August brought freedom from loans to TG farmers: CM

PNS HYDERABAD

While India attained Independence in August, the farmers of Telangana got their freedom from debts in the same month after the Congress government waived farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said on Tuesday.

remembered as the most signifi- created a new record in the councant months in the country's history, the CM said. The government proved its com-

mitment to farmers by waiving debts of Rs 12,000 crore in just 12 days, the Chief Minister said.

He said the Telangana government's waiver of farm loans by allo-July and August are being cating a whopping Rs 31,000 crore

try's history. No state in the country has waived such a large amount of loans taken by farmers so far, the CM said. The CM said that political parties usually remember farmers only during elections and lure them with promises.



## TG witnesses marathon

The Telangana Assembly proceed-29 and is likely to run for the same duration on July 30

It is one of the lengthy sessions held in The Telangana. marathon session began at 10 am on Monday and was adjourned at

The Appropriation Bill has to be passed by July 31. So the government is making all out efforts to loan waiver scheme on Tuesday.

ury and opposition benches were ings lasted nearly 16 hours on July present when Speaker Gaddam

> Legislators had just over members.

Grants 2024-25 were discussed on Monday and Tuesday. Marathon debates past midnight 2 am are rare in an Assembly's history. There was only a short tea break on Monday and another break for launching the

17,625 posts vacant in

### Assembly Budget sessions complete the session by Wednesday.

around 3.15 am on Tuesday.

Again the session began at 10 am on Tuesday and is still in progress at the time of publishing. Ministers were seen estimating that it would take almost the same time.

Most members from both the treas-Prasad Kumar said this.

> six hours and returned to the Assembly. Some fell sick like Harish Rao while many ended up with a sore throat. Working lunch and dinner was provided to all

The debate on the Demands for

### Food & Consumer **Affairs Ministry: Govt** PNS NEW DELHI

As many as 17,625 posts are lying vacant under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution including institutions, agencies and autonomous bodies, the government informed Parliament on Tuesday.

In a written reply to Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya said the number of permanent and temporary posts under the Ministry including institutions, agencies and autonomous bodies in 2014 stood at 45,915 and 19, respectively.



## No permission to increase engineering seats

### BRS leaders owning colleges facing tough time

**NAVEENA GHANATE** 

BRS leaders owning engineering colleges are facing a tough time ever since the TG admin changed as they are not being allowed to increase

mission to increase seats, the seats were reduced in another MLA's college. Some MLAs like Ch. Malla Colleges owned by them had to reduce seats

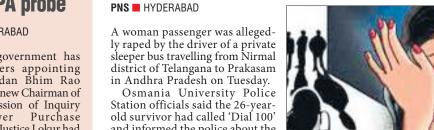
Some tried to meet CM and requested intervention

No Govt stopped permissions in last 2 decades, say MLAs

Marri Rajashekar Reddy own engi- for permission to State University and AICTE. We got both permissions and now the government should approve that. But they didn't. Due to this I may A BRS MLA said, "We wanted to have to reduce staff. I have been run-

decades. Many governments have changed, but no government did like this. Even past Congress governments didn't stifle growth." BRS MLAs said that Congress

MLAs who own colleges got approvals for increasing seats. A MLA said, "Nearly 80% got approvals and those that were stopped largely belong to other parties. Some BJP MLAs also got approvals."

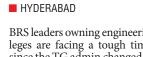


and informed the police about the incident after Monday midnight when the bus was on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

her mouth and had raped her on pital. the moving bus even though there were other passengers in the bus. Immediately, the police inter-

She said that one of the bus drivers had placed a blanket on the woman was admitted to a hos-

A case was registered at the Osmania University Police

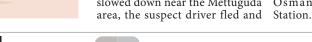


While one MLA was not given per-Reddy, Palla Rajeshwar Reddy and increase seats for which we applied

neering colleges. Some MLAs met the CM and requested his intervention too but with no luck.

ning colleges for more than two





cepted the bus. When the vehicle slowed down near the Mettuguda

Meanwhile, the person who was driving the bus was taken into custody and is being questioned.

### **Crime corner**

#### Three held for **cheating Indusind** Bank of Rs 40 cr

PNS HYDERABAD

The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of C y b e r a b a d Commissionerate have arrested an Indusind Bank manager, a bank employee and a film producer for cheating Rs 40 crore of bank money.

Two accused were arrested on July 24 in Hyderabad, while accused- 3 was arrested

on July 29 in Delhi.

Zonal Head Operations
of IndusInd Bank Manikandan Ramanathan had lodged a complaint against their bank employees K Ramasamy, S Rajesh and others. According to the com-

plaint, Ramasamy and Rajesh facilitated unauthorised debit transactions from the account of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited.

These transactions were carried out without proper authorisation or instructions from the account holder and the funds were subsequently transferred to various other accounts.

### **Techie raped** by two friends

PNS HYDERABAD

A tragic incident spread shock waves among the residents of Vanasthali puram where a software engineer was raped by two persons on Monday. According to Vanasthali puram ACP Palle Kasi Reddy, the 24-year-old victim had thrown a party at Bommarillu Bar and Restaurant in Omkar Nagar after she secured a

Following the party, her two friends raped her on the way home. The victim was intoxicated and did not realise what was happening. The next day, she found out that she was raped. She immediately filed a police complaint.

# City Pioneer

process."

the pioneer

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | JULY 31, 2024

## Women expect more than free bus scheme

### Flood Prajavani with their grievances

SAMUEL JOSHUA

Many Women who attended Prajavani complained that no welfare has been provided by the new administration except for the Free Bus Scheme. They cried out that many are suffering due to unapproved pensions and unresolved grievances. A total of 455 people submitted their grievances at the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan on Tuesday, with many women submitting applications for 2BHK housing

and pension issues.

When asked, Fathima from Quthbullapur, said she submitted a grievance about errors in her Aadhaar and ration cards. She said that while some benefit, thousands face disadvantages. Fathima mentioned that ward officials claimed there were no edit options to correct mistakes and suggested to apply afresh.

She expressed frustration that important applications online were being handled by unqualified individuals, resulting in mistakes, referring to applicants, but the mistakes are being done due to government negligence. After being directed to go to various ward and Meeseva officials for months, Fathima called for serious action against the injustice and for qualified professionals to handle applications to prevent

repeated errors. Meanwhile, Nageswaramma from Uppal, who is 68-year-old, cried out that her pension has not been sanctioned for six years

details, latest property tax receipt, water bill, electricity bill, owner's ID

details, trade licence number (for

ping would help in solving problems related to property tax and online pay-ments will become easier. In addition

to property mapping, a high-resolution map of Hyderabad would be cre-

This map will detail various assets

managed by the GHMC, including

The high-resolution map will also include maintenance-related infor-

mation for each asset, ensuring that

citizens are informed about the upkeep

and management of public resources.

roads, parks and public utilities.

GHMC officials said that the map-

commercial properties).

despite applying seven times. She expressed hope that the new administration would address her issue. Although officials promised resolution within two months, no progress has been made. Nageswaramma stated that, with limited time left in her life due to old age, she and other elderly deserve the promised Rs 2,000 pension. In another issue, Jamulamma and Vimalamma from a village in Gadwal district said that their 8 acres of agricultural land had been occupied by two brothers of the village, who promised to return it after harvest but continued to occupy it. Jamulamma said, after submitting the grievance, officials advised them to wait for 15 days. She also said that the local sarpanch and police are negligent and called for government to solve their prob-

Subbamma from Janagaon also submitted a grievance, stating that apart from the bus scheme, the new administration has done nothing useful. She claimed that 1BHK, 2BHK, and Indiramma houses remain locked while the poor suffer. She mentioned that Prajavani officials only respond when "the application is in

According to the officials, 94 applications from the Revenue department were received along with 77 from Consumer Affairs, Food, and Civil Supplies, 45 from Energy, 44 from Housing, 40 from Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, and 155 from other

**Quote:** Prajavani officials' only response is "the application is in

455 people submit grievances at Prajavani on Tuesday, 94 applications from the Revenue **Department were received along** with 77 from Consumer Affairs, Food, and Civil Supplies, 45 from Energy, 44 from Housing, 40 from Panchayat Raj & Rural **Development and 155 from other** departments



### **TIGRESS TARA GIVES BIRTH TO TWO YOUNG CUBS**

## Tiger population increases, estimated to be 3,682

As part of World Nature Conservation Day and International Tiger Day celebrations, Dr Elusing Meru, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden(FAC) and I/c PCCF (HoFF), Telangana, stated that as per the tiger census, the population of tigers in India has increased and esti-

mated to be 3,682 as on 2022. Elusing attended the awards presentation ceremony organised by the Nehru Zoological Park on Tuesday and presented certificates and trophies to the winners of drawing, painting, quiz and elocution competitions that were conducted

on July 23.

Elusing congratulated all the winners in the competitions. He said, "Our State is blessed with rich flora and fauna, conserving wildlife, especially in conservation of tigers in their natural habitat. Our State is hosting two tiger reserves namely Amrabad Tiger Reserve and Kawal Tiger Reserve.



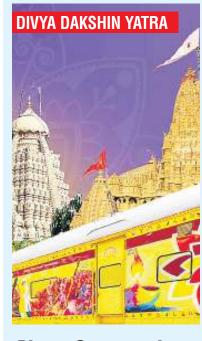
announce that a female white one female) on June 9, 2024 tigress namely Tara gave birth and I request you to suggest He said, "I am very glad to to two young cubs (one male, names for our cubs on this

nzphyderabadzoo@gmail.com. The park is playing an important role in creating more awareness via educational programmes on all the eco days," he added.

Dr Sunil S. Hiremath, Director (FAC) and Curator, Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, said that International Tiger Day is celebrated across the world to create awareness and educate the citizens about the importance of tigers.

He congratulated all the winners for actively participating in the competitions though it was raining the entire day. Even then 682 students from 38 government and private schools participated in the

Later, the zoo management provided an opportunity to all winners to visit the zoo along with their parents and teachers in the battery operated vehicle wherein they were shown maintenance of and night houses, breeding programme, prophylactic measures taken up by the zoo behind the scenes.



### **Bharat Gauray train to** start from city on Aug 4

PNS HYDERABAD

Following the success of previous tours across South Central Railway, Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has planned another journey of the Divya Dakshin Yatra with Jyotirlinga Bharat Gaurav Tourist Trains. The train will commence its journey from Secunderabad on August 4 and will cover important tourist places in the southern States of Tamil Ñadu and Kerala.

According to SCR officials, the nineday tour of Divya Dakshin Yatra with Jyotirlinga provides a great opportunity for rail passengers/pilgrims from the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to visit important sites such as Tiruvannamalai [Arunachalam], Rameswaram, Madurai, Kanyakumari, Trivandrum, Trichy and Thanjavur. Significantly, the train provides boarding /de-boarding facilities for the passengers at Secunderabad, Kazipet, Warangal and Khammam stations in Telangana as well as Vijayawada, Tenali, Ongole, Nellore, Gudur and Renigunta stations in Andhra Pradesh.

"The train includes all travel facilities (both rail as well as road transport) and accommodation facility. The whole trip will be covered throughout 8 nights / 9 days from August 4 to 12. The bookings have been opened and interested passengers can either visit IRCTC website:

http://www.irctctourism.com or approach counter bookings by contacting 040-27702407\ 9701360701.

### Al and robotics units drive new office space in city

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

AI and Robotics companies accounted for 57% of new office space absorption in Hyderabad in Q2 2024, according to Vestian's report, The Connect Q2 2024. The global rise of AI and a supportive ecosystem have boosted office space demand in the city. Overall, the IT-ITeS sector led the absorption.

Bengaluru had the highest pan-India absorption at 25% in Q2 2024, followed by Hyderabad and Mumbai at 20% each. Hyderabad's absorption was 3.40 million sq ft in Q2 2024, up from 2.27

Hyderabad

in Q1 2024, and 2.30 in Q2 2023, marking a 50% Qo-Q change and a 48% Y-o-Y change. Hyderabad's

new completions were 2.90 million sq ft in Q2 2024, up from 2.50 in Q1 2024, and down from 4.10 in Q2 2023, marking a 16% Q-o-Q change and a -29% Y-o-Y change.

sq ft in H1

Hyderabad

saw a 35%

warehouse

transactions,

million sq ft

in H1 2023

to 1.5 million

drop in

from 2.4

Shrinivas Rao, CEO of Vestian, said, "Despite global geopolitical challenges, India's office markets saw robust real estate activities in Q2 2024, setting the tone for strong leasing and construction activities for the year."

According to Knight Frank India's 'India Warehousing Market Report - H1 2024,' Hyderabad saw a 35% drop in transactions, from 2.4 million sq ft in H1 2023 to 1.5 million sq ft in H1 2024.

Hyderabad's average rent rose 2.5% year-on-year, from Rs. 20 in H1 2023 to Rs. 20.5 in H1 2024.

## Raja Singh appeals to hand over GST case to CBI

GHMC starts GIS

mapping survey in city

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

**PNS** HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal

Corporation (GHMC) has started a

Geographic Information System (GIS)

mapping survey in the city on Tuesday.

This survey will facilitate accurate

mapping of all properties for geo-graphical identification and tax collec-

This field survey was conducted in

Uppal, Hayat Nagar, Hyder Nagar, Kukatpally, KPHB Colony, Miyapur

and Chandanagar areas. The survey will continue in all other parts of the

The drone data will be supplement-

ed by a ground survey for collection

of field data and surveyors are

deployed to capture the data of build-

BJP MLA from Goshamahal T Raja Singh addressed a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah appealing the latter to shift the GST ccam case that came out in Telangana State to the CBI. It may be recalled that Rs 1,400 crore scam took place in the Commercial Taxes department and the police filed the case making former chief secretary Somesh Kumar as

> ernment issued orders transferring the case to the CID. The officials identified in their auditing that the higher officials of Commercial Tax department,

A-5. On the other hand, the State gov-

IIT Hyderabad Professor and former chief secretary Somesh Kumar extended their support to the GST tax evaders. In this context, Raja Singh

appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to hand over the case from the CID to the CBI

### **'Domestic** violence is not just physical

PNS HYDERABAD

In a coordination meeting at Cyberabad Commissionerate on Tuesday, representatives from Bharosa centres said domestic violence includes any form of violence suffered by a person from a relative, but typically is the violence suffered by a woman on account of a male member of her family or relatives.

The abuse is not necessarily physical. It also extends to verbal, emotional, sexual and economic spheres leaving her shattered and unable to stand up for her rights. Many laws were enacted to curb domestic

## ASHA workers demand fixed income

Insurance cover, jobs to kin of deceased sought

PNS HYDERABAD

Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) on Tuesday held a protest demanding a fixed monthly income of Rs 18,000 along with benefits including Provident Fund.

Over 1,000 ASHA workers from across Telangana gathered for the protest demanding life insurance and jobs for the kin of the deceased.

Speaking of their issues,

Parvathamma, an ASHA worker said, "We have been working as contracted employees since 2006. Today we have gathered here to demand a fixed monthly income of Rs 18,000 and regularisation of ASHA workers. About 1,000 workers died during COVID-19 pandemic and those positions remain

vacant; The jobs should be offered to the kin of the deceased. However, these issues have not been addressed

The government should also provide an insurance cover of Rs 50 lakh."

Padma, an ASHA worker from Jagtial said, "Before coming to power, the Congress promised to regularise us and increase our income; At that time Seethakka joined us in one of the protests and promised to resolve the issue upon being elected. We need an ESI card for covering expenses in case

of a health emergency. There must be some post-retirement benefits; the salaries are being credited almost at month end. There is no fixed timing we have to rush to government hospitals as and when required.





HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | JULY 31, 2024

### Man gets 20-yr jail under POCSO Act

PNS KHAMMAM

First Additional Judge K Umadevi on Tuesday sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a Rs 50,000 fine for sexual assault on a 10-year-old

girl on November 26, 2022. According to the prosecution, a man, identified as Gangisetti Rakesh, who hailed from Budidapadu village, sexually assaulted the girl while she was playing outside her house. He took advantage of the absence of the girl's parents, who are daily wave earners, and threatened the girl with consequences if she reported to her parents. The girl narrated the grisly incident to her parents after they returned from work.

Based on the complaint by the girl's parents, Raghunathapalem police arrested Rakesh and filed a chargesheet. The police charged him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The case was investigated by Assistant Commissioner of Police Anjaneyulu.

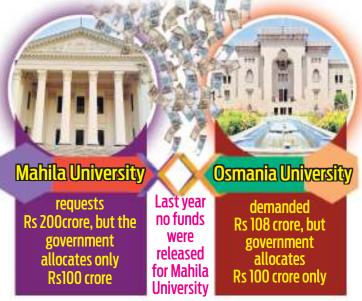
## Funds sanctioned to OU, Mahila universities short of expectations

**RASHMI BHUMIREDDY** HYDERABAD

Despite Telangana government allocated Rs 100 crores to Osmania University and Telangana Mahila University each under Telangana Budget 2024-2025, university officials expressed the opinion that funds are still inadequate. The authorities have expressed the hope that the Congress government would release more funds to pro-

mote education sector. According to the officials of both the universities, generally, the funds allocated by the State government are used for infrastructure purposes and other developmental works. Apart from that both the Universities have their own significance in terms of heritage structures. To preserve them, they need more money. They also pointed out that the government allocates a particular amount but it may or may not release it fully. Sometimes the institutions do not receive funds, especially in the case of Women's University.

Speaking to *The Pioneer*, officials of Telangana Mahila Vishwavidayalam or Women University said, "Despite the govTelangana government in budget proposed an allocation of Rs 100 crore to Osmania University and Mahila University



ernment allocating funds, they are not released. We have been demanding Rs 200 crore from the demanding Rs 200 crore from the

government will release funds this year. Also, Koti Women's college which is not officially a university, the bill for changing its name to women university has not passed yet."

Officials of Osmania University said, "We have requested the Telangana government to allocate Rs 108 crore for the varsity but it has set apart Rs 100 crore. But we are hoping that the current government will release funds this year. Though we have been getting funds for the past three years, they are not sufficient. We are using an internal budget or money to suffix these infrastructure related works. When we rely on an internal budget, it affects other aspects like faculty and workers salaries etc.These funds are mostly used for infrastructure related purposes like renovation of old buildings, launch of

new buildings, repairs etc. However, the currently allocated funds are not sufficient for a big varsity like us."

Weaver Vijay Kumar presenting sari to Vemulawada temple on Tuesday

## Weaver weaves sari that fits into match box

He presents sari and shawl to Sri Rajarajeshwara Swamy temple at Vemulawada

PNS RAJANNA SIRCILLA

A silk sari and shawl, woven by a weaver from Sircilla, Nalla Vijay Kumar, which fit into a matchbox, presented to Sri Rajarajeshwara Swamy temple at Vemulawada temple on Tuesday. Besides the sari, a shawl that fits

into a matchbox, was also present-

ed to the presiding deities. Vijay Kumar shot to limelight by weaving such items.

Along with his family members. he had darshan of Lord Shiva and performed special pujas. Tempe priests blessed the weaver and his family members. Temple executive officer Edla Shiva Srinivas Reddy and others were present.

## Neglect pushes Ramagundam B thermal unit to brink of closure

PNS PEDDAPALLI

Ramagundam B Thermal power station seems to be facing a threat of closure forever as the power station faced decades of neglect. The power station because of technical snag is often get-ting tripped since January this year. The power generation in the unit came to standstill since the

first week of June this year. The officials in Hyderabad are not giving green signal to undertake repairs to the unit. In all, 48 engineers working in the unit have been transferred to Yadadri, KTPS and other TS Genco thermal power stations on deputation. For the past two

months, no repairs have been taken up. The foundation stone for the power station was laid on July 19, 1965, but went on stream on June 16, 1972. In all, 350 were employed in the power station. The power station, ever since it went on stream, earned several records to its credit. It achieved 100 per cent plant load factor. However, during the past decade, no repairs were apparently taken up to the project on the grounds of non-availability of

Governments have come and gone in undivided AP, but no efforts were made to expand the capacity of the Ramagundam thermal power station.

The coal belt area has no dearth of coal or water because the perennial river of Godavari flows through the region. Once can say that the thermal power station faced 100 per cent neglect in successive regimes that had ruled united AP.

The TS Genco employees and people of the region pinned hopes on new regime in Telangana will take steps to expand the thermal power station in view of the acute shortage of power in the State at pre-

Ramagundam MLA Thakur Makkan Singh said that the new Congress regime in Telangana is keen to take steps to expand the plant to a

## Officials told to focus on Mahila Sakti scheme

PNS KHAMMAM

District Collector Muzammeel Khan has explained that the objective of Mahila Sakti scheme is to empower women economically and exhorted the district officials to implement the scheme successfully. He directed them to take steps to set up industries through the promotion of women self-help groups.

He was taking part in an awareness programme on Mahila Sakti Scheme held at Tekulapalli on Tuesday.

He explained the salient features of the schemes. He advised the woman entrepreneurs to develop understanding about the industry they intend to set up and gain confidence to achieve success.



Khammam Collector Muzammeel Khan speaking at a meeting at Tekulapalli in Khammam district on Tuesday

with the public demand would lead to success, he said.

He wanted the units to be set up by women's groups and manufacture quality goods. Creating an attractive logo is tured by small units in tune appealed to the SHG women to business. He asked the were present.

work with coordination and

achieve growth. Turning his attention to officials, he asked them to encourage women of SHGs to set up units after assessing their understanding in the

Anganwadi workers to provide nutritious food like eggs, iron tablets to children and expectant mothers. He asked the village-level health teams to remain alert on seasonal diseases. He told people to drink water after boiling and cooling it and laid emphasis on maintaining sanitation in villages.

He asked the authorities to complete Amma Adarsha Pathasala scheme works on a war-footing. There is no shortage of funds with the government and hence the contractors will get paid as and when

they completed the works. District Rural Development Officer Sanyasaiah, DMHO Dr Malati, DEO Somasekhara Sarma, LDM Srinivasa Reddy, district welfare officer

### Jangaon girl washed away in Sarayu river at Ayodhya

PNS JANAGOAN

A teenaged girl belonging to Jangaon was washed away in Sarayu River at Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh on Monday when she along with four others ventured into the river for bathing. She, along with her family members, was on a tour of pilgrimage.

According to reports, she ventured into Sarayu river at 8 am on Monday at Lakshman Ghat along with others. On account of heavy rains in the upper reaches, the flood water is discharged into the river. The family members of the girl have been weeping inconsolably for their dear one.

## Rs 503 cr allocated for second phase of loan waiver scheme in Nalgonda dist

PNS NALGONDA

District Collector C Narayana Reddy said that loans to the tune of Rs 503.89 crore would be waived benefiting 43,130 farmer families in Nalgonda district. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy launched the second phase of farm loan waiver through video conference from Hyderabad.

Speaking at a meeting held at Udayaditya Bhawan, the Collector said that in the first phase, a total of Rs 481.63 crore had been deposited in 8,3121 bank accounts of 7.8757 farmer families having loans up to Rs.1 lakh in the district. He said that in the second phase of loan waiver of less than Rs 1.5 lakh



Nalgonda Collector C Narayana Reddy releasing funds for second phase of loan waiver scheme in Nalgonda on Tuesday

across the state, Rs 6,198 crore has been released and Nalgonda district alone has received Rs 503.89 crore. On this occasion, he congratulat-

ed all the farmers whose loans up to Rs 1.5 lakh are being waived in the districts. Loans

up to Rs 2 lakh will also be

waived by August. He said

that out of the first installment of Rs 481 crore, Rs 465 crore has been deposited in the accounts of farmers and only 456 bank accounts have not been waived off due to technical reasons.

DCMS Chairman Bolla Venkat Reddy and District Agriculture Officer Sravan spoke. District Development Commissioner, Ravinder Kumar, Chief Planning Officer, Ashok Khajuria, Assistant Commissioner Development, Angrez Singh, PO IWMP, Sushil Kesar, District Panchayat Officer, Rachna Sharma, besides BDOs, JEEs, Panchayat Inspectors, Gram Sewaks, GRS were present on the occasion.

#### ond phase of loan waiver by Congress government benefited 24,816 farmers to the tune of Rs

PNS KAMAREDDY

The implementation of the sec-211 crore in Kamareddy district. Living up to the promise,

Revanth Reddy-led Congress government on Tuesday waived second phase of the crop loans, below Rs 1.5 lakh, of farmers from secretariat.

At the integrated district offices' complex (collectorate) conference hall, Collector Ashish Sangwan, farmers, agri-



Second phase of loan waiver benefits 24,816 farmers in Kamareddy dist

Kamareddy Collector Ashish Sangwan releasing funds for second phase of farm loan waiver at Kamareddy on Tuesday

elected people's representatives witnessed the programme live. culture and cooperative department officials, bankers, local

programme at all 25 RytuVedikas in the district were jubilant. They were seen pouring milk over the portrait of the CM to celebrate their happiness. They said that they are deeply indebted to the government. The Collector distributed the

Farmers who witnessed the

loan waiver cheques to farmers as a matter of routine. Addressing the farmers, he said that the state government has been crediting Rs 31,000 crore in the bank accounts of farmers to implement the loan waiver.

## Cong leaders say govt committed to farmers' welfare

PNS RANGAREDDY

At an event held at Rythu Vedika at Velijerla village under Farooqnagar mandal, the Congress government reaffirmed its commitment to the farming community. The second installment of the farm loan relief ceremony was marked by the participation of key leaders and officials, highlighting the party's dedication to supporting farmers.

Venkat Ramreddy, a former ZPTC member Farooqnagar mandal, addressed the gathering. He emphasised that the Congress government has remained a pro-farmer. He expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar for implementing a comprehensive crop loan waiver, benefiting farmers across the region.

During the event, participants had the opportunity to listen to Chief Minister



Congress leaders at Rythu Vedika on the occasion of second phase of farm Ioan waiver at Velijerla village in Ranga Reddy district on Tuesday

Revanth Reddy's speech via video conference, focusing on the second installment of farm loan waiver. The Chief Minister urged farmers to cultivate oil palm clusters, citing their potential for high yield and economic benefit.

The program saw the participation of notable figures, including former MPTC members Wadyala Narsimha Reddy, Congress party leaders Ganesh Goud, Jangari Ravi, Iramoni

Raju, Madhusudan Reddy, and Manda Raju. Leaders from Kondanna Guda village, such as former Sarpanchs Srinivas Yadav and Venkat Reddy, as well as Village Committee President Yadaya Goud and SC Cell President Nagi Sailu, were also present. Other notable attendees included Sakru Naik, Hanmanthu Yadav, Vishnu, Narsimhulu, Bhupal Reddy, and agriculture officers Teja and Priyanka.

### Excise Police seize 1.3 kg of marijuana at Dhoolpet

PNS HYDERABAD

As part of the Operation Dhoolpet, the Excise officials on Tuesday seized 1.3 kg of marijuana and arrested three people on at Dhoolpet area here.

Special Task Force (STF) and Dhoolpet Excise Police. Excise Police said that the arrested are Chinna, Ravinder Singh, and Mani Signh during the raids. accused named

The raids were conducted by Manmohan Singh, Dilip Singh and Abhishek are absconding. Excise and Enforcement director Kamalasan Reddy congratulated Excise Superintendent Anji Babu, Dhoolpet Excise CI Madhu Babu, and other police officials.

## CPM stresses need to fight BJP's ideology of 'hate'

PNS RANGAREDDY

On the second day of the CPI-M Rangareddy district unit political training classes, held at Kaka Resort in Shadnagar constituency', party leader John Wesley emphasised the need to organise struggles on public issues and fight against BJP's ideology of hate.

Addressing party members, Wesley called for increased efforts to organize united movements, highlighting the importance of public issues as the ultimate concern. He criticised the BJP, stating

that the party's real goal is establishment of a Hindu

Rashtra. He expressed concern over the spread of fanaticism and superstitions, associating these developments with BJP policies. He said that BJP's actions, including their emphasis on Manusmriti laws and Hindutva ideology, were endangering the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution. He stressed that the protection of sanatana dharma, as interpreted by BJP, is a form of casteism.

Wesley warned against the BJP's attempts to remove Constitutional safeguards like reservations, citing the party's campaign for 370 seats in the previous election as a potential

framework. He emphasised the need to challenge BJP's ideology, not just their political and economic policies. According to Wesley, defeating the BJP's ideology requires efforts in cultural, social, and educational fields, advocating for an alternative ideology and culture as a path to societal development. The event was attended by

key figures, including CPM Party Ranga Reddy District Secretary N Raju, members of the Secretariat, and other district leaders such as N Chandramohan, Jagadish, Yadaiya of corals, Samel Shobhan, and several others.

### DEECET-2024 certificate verification from Aug 1

PNS HYDERABAD

Director of School Education on Tuesday notified that that candidates who have secured rank in DEECET-2024 for admission into two year Del Ed (Diploma in Elementary Education) and DPSE (Diploma in Pre-School Education) for the academic batch-2024-26 that hat the verification of certificates is scheduled to be held from August 1 to 6 on the officials website. According to officials, the candidates who have secured

rank in DEECET-2024 are informed that, the verification of their certificates will be taken up as per the schedule available in the website, https://deecet.cdse, telangana. gov.in. The eligible candidates intended to get admission shall attend the certificate verification at concerned Govt Colleges, August 1 to 6.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

4th Floor, Swarnajayanthi Commercial Comme 4th Floor, Swarnajayanthi Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION U/s. 15 (3) OF HMDA ACT. 2008 (Government Memo No.14709/Plg.I(1)/2023 Dt: 07.10.2023)
In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008
(Act No.8 of 2008), it is proposed to make the following draft variation to the land use

envisaged in the notified Master Plan MDP-2031 approved by the Government vide G.O.Ms.No.33, MA&UD dt: 24.01.2013. The site in Sy,No.64, 67, 70, 71/P, 73, 74/P & 75 situated at Rameswaram Banda (V) Patancheru (M), Sanga Reddy District, to an extent of AC.82-14gts., which is present earmarked as Peri Urban use zone as per the notified Master Plan MDP-2031, approve by the Government vide G.O.Ms. No.33, MA & UD, Dt: 24.01.2023, is now proposed to

oe designated as Residential use. The details of the above are available in Web sites http://gazette.telangana.gov.in// and http://hmda.gov.in//. Objections/ Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections/ suggestions in writing either to the M.C, HMDA or to the Principal Secretary, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat Hyderabad within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice.

R.O. No.: 261-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 Sd/- for Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA www.dailypioneer.com

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## Taking on the dragon

### S Jaishankar admits strained relations with China but rules out third-party mediation

n what can be construed as a candid admission by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, he has categorically stated that relations between India and China are not on an even keel. His recent statement underscores the ongoing diplomatic tension between India and China. Even earlier he had said that China is a bigger economy, implying that we should think twice before acting against China. The Minister's assessment of the current state of the India-China relationship highlights the challenges that persist despite various diplomatic efforts and high-level engagements. One of the key aspects of Jaishankar's statement was his firm rejection of third-party mediation in resolving the disputes with China. The Foreign Minister emphasised that India prefers to handle its issues with China bilaterally, without external intervention. This stance aligns with India's long-standing policy of managing its international relations directly. Jaishankar's comments reflect India's approach to maintaining sovereignty and autonomy in its foreign



policy. By ruling out third-party mediation, India is signalling its intention to address its differences with China through direct dialogue and negotiation. This position underscores India's commitment to resolving disputes through established diplomatic channels while rejecting external influence that might complicate or hinder

Prime Minister Modi had personally taken a keen interest in resolving the issue but to no avail. Chinese Premier Xi was invited and given a grand welcome but that did not break ice and the tension on borders continued. In the complex web of geopolitics, India has drifted closer to the US which wants to use India to

contain Chinese influence, naturally much to the consternation of China. The Chinese unease is reflected in its actions on the border which had remained peaceful from 1962 to 2017 when the Doklam incident happened. India-China relations are complex and multifaceted, influenced by historical, political, economic, and strategic factors. The two countries share a long border. The most notable conflict occurred in 1962 when the Sino-Indian War broke out over border disputes in the Aksai Chin region. Ironically trade relations between the two countries have grown despite border disputes. China is one of India's largest trading partners. However, recent years have seen border skirmishes and strategic rivalries. In recent years, the relationship has been marked by both cooperation and contention. The Doklam skirmish in 2017 was a prominent example of border tensions. The confrontation occurred in the Doklam plateau, an area disputed between China and Bhutan. Additionally, the 2020 clashes in the Galwan Valley further highlighted ongoing tensions. Despite these challenges, India and China have continued to engage diplomatically and economically. Both nations must recognise the importance of managing their differences while pursuing mutual benefits, given their significant roles in the global economy and regional geopolitics.



Clouds hover over the hill town of Shimla

## Honouring the legacy of Bal Gangadhar Tilak

As the nation commemorates Tilak's 168th birth anniversary, we reflect on his profound influence on the independence movement and his contributions as a reformer

∎n 1921, Mahatma Gandhi's visit to the Nellore district marked a significant moment in India's freedom movement. He inaugurated the Satyagraha Ashram in Pallepadu and delivered significant speeches at the Town Hall and V.R. College. At the Rebala Lakshmi Narasa Reddy Town Hall, he unveiled a portrait of his political mentor, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, emphasizing Tilak's profound patriotism and leadership, which galvanized the freedom movement. Gandhi extolled Tilak's legacy, invoking the ideals of "Swaraj" (self-rule) and characterizing the Non-Cooperation Movement as an act of 'selfpurification.' He urged contributions to the 'Tilak Swaraj Fund', established in 1920, to support educational institutions, Khadi promotion, and Swadeshi efforts. was a successful mobilized mission.July 23, 2024, marked the 168th birth anniversary of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, also revered as 'Lokmanya" and "The Lion of Maharashtra".

This is for his dual role, as a freedom fighter and social reformer. His impact has also been underscored by notable figures, such as British journalist Valentine Chirol who termed him "the father of Indian unrest," while, Jawaharlal Nehru hailed him as "the father of the Indian revolution" and Mahatma Gandhi recognized him as "the Maker of Modern India." A distinguished Sanskrit scholar and thinker, Tilak was also a visionary leader. Sri Aurobindo, in his collection of Tilak's writings and speeches, emphasized Tilak's transformative influence on the Indian National Congress, reshaping it from its occidental characteristics to embrace mass participation in the

freedom struggle. In "The Intellectual Biography of Bal Gangadhar Tilak" published in the Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Science, Raj Hans Ojha, contends that e story of Tilak is the story o India's Swaraj, of the Indian National Congress, coming to its adulthood, and of the rise of Indian masses for the first time in quest of 'Home Rule' and 'Îndependence." Lokmanya Tilak believed that "Swaraj is the foun-



activism. Despite his devotion FIRST MAINSTREAM to independence, he expressed a preference for academia, a POLITICAL LEADERS path cut short by his untime-IN INDIA TO ly death on August 1, 1920, at age 64. His educational contri-ACKNOWLEDGE THAT butions are equally notewor-"THE NATION THINKS He co-founded institutions NOT WITH THE like the 'New English School', the 'Deccan Society for BRAIN BUT WITH AN Education, and 'Fergusson College, and presented a com-OVERHEATED HEART. prehensive educational blue-IT IS ONLY IN THE print to the Hunter Commission (1882 & 1919). THROES OF TUMULT Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a

THAT NATIONS ARE

HE WAS AMONG THE

approach to journalism, asserting that 'Kesari' would boldly address all issues, resisting the prevailing trend of appeasing the British and embodying its namesake's courage. Bal Gangadhar Tilak also lever-aged his paper 'Mahratha'to Advocate for the People, drawing upon Hindu scriptures and the Bhagavad Gita to support his arguments.

His profound contributions as a patriot, scholar, and politician had a significant impact on Mahatma Gandhi, who, in a March 4, 1905, article, lauded Lokmanya's scholarship, particularly his astronomical findings that traced Indian scriptures to over 10,000 years old, recognizing him as a luminary whose intellectual influence extended beyond national borders.Bal Gangadhar Tilak was imprisoned in 1908. He strongly believed that "There are higher powers that rule the destiny of things and it may be the will of providence that the cause I represent may prosper more by my suffering than by my remaining free." Gandhi and Tilak had great mutual respect

In his reflections in The Indian Opinion, Gandhi praised Tilak for his readiness to endure suffering for the cause of India's freedom. While they were ideologically different in their thoughts and actions, both

**Grand spectacle of Paris Olympics** 

Lokmanya Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi fought for one cause, which was 'freedom'. Mahatma Gandhi maintained a profound respect for Tilak's contributions and acknowledged his unparalleled influence and the reverence he commanded among the masses. In his tributes and public statements, Gandhi consistently lauded Tilak's selfless service, burning patriotism, and magnetic leadership. Tilak's mantra, "Swaraj is our birthright, and I shall have it", resonated deeply with Mahatma Gandhi, who adapted it to his philosophy of truth and non-violence, and thus, Tilak's assertive nationalism blended with Gandhi's principles of peaceful resistance. Mahadev Desai, recalls Mahatma Gandhi's views on Lokmanya Tilak, which he expressed on 24 July 1934 at Cawnpore (Kanpur today), in one of the meetings. Mahatma Gandhi said: "If Tilak Maharaj taught us that 'swaraj is our birthright, he also taught us that 'selfless service' is the key to win it. Selfless service may have been in existence before Tilak came, but he was who systematized it." Tilak's life was a demonstration of this

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are

great ideal of Karma Yoga.

## Kolkata's healthcare transformation into world-class medical facilities



Over the past two decades, Kolkata's medical facilities have transformed significantly, reducing the exodus of patients to Chennai and Vellore

he hordes of medical pilgrims filling up berths in Coromandel Express and Madras Mail have thinned substantially over the years, as Kolkata's private healthcare sector scrambles to make up for lost time. Kolkata was not always best served in matters of healthcare, and for patients with serious ailments and often with not-so-serious conditions, Chennai, Vellore outstation hospitals only. However, the healthcare land-

or Mumbai were the default destinations. It was also a matter of perception as most Kolkatans believed they would receive superior care in scape in Kolkata has been undergoing a paradigm shift over the past two decades, riding the tailwinds of private sector initiatives, as the bed count continues to soar. The availability of able doctors was never a problem in the city and now that the pool of healthcare experts has increased significantly with a steady reverse traffic of medical practitioners coming back from the NHS in the UK and other advanced countries' health systems to cater to the growing demand

back in their hometown. Over time, the city has gradually regained its confidence in its private hospitals seeing that they aren't short of modern facilities and latest equipment anymore. The faith is beginning to trickle back, ounce by ounce, and the Coromandel isn't as packed with south-bound patients as before. Of course, it hasn't happened overnight, and there is still a long way to go. Kolkata's progress in terms of private sector participation is in sync with the national scenario as analysts say between 2016 and now, the country's healthcare industry has grown at a CAGR of 22% and the Centre's allocation of Rs 90,658.63 crore for the sector in the interim Budget for 2024-25 reflects this

tion of faith in any service, not the least healthcare deliv-like inadequate infrastrucning. After all, like any other health insurance access. allegiance if expectations are not met.

It is well known that a big and significant milestone in this medical makeover of Kolkata was the unveiling of the Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences in 2000 by Narayana Health Group's Founder, Dr. Devi Shetty. This set the ball rolling and many other world class hospitals started their services in Kolkata. It was the flagship venture of the founder which he started in his favourite city,

The journey began over two decades ago with a single speciality hospital and has grown into a network of four superspeciality hospitals in Kolkata. Now Kolkata can boast of super-speciality tertiary care, these facilities offer over 35 specialities such as Cancer Care, Mother & Child Care, and Orthopaedics. The healthcare sector in India, uptrend. However, restora- serving a vast population of

ery, takes a lot of commit- ture, doctor shortages, poor ment and meticulous plan- rural facilities, and limited customer, a patient has a retail choice and can switch Group plans a 1,000-bed Group plans a 1,000-bed hospital in New Town and a 100-bed facility in Mukundapur. The New Town hospital will treat 5,000 to 7,000 OPD patients daily. Kolkata's hospitals also serve patients from neighbouring

> ble diseases. The adoption of cutting-edge technology and modern treatment protocols has reduced the average hospital stay from six to four days, optimizing resources. future-ready approach aims to increase smiles by saving lives. Healthcare evolution,

countries, managing a grow-

ing load of non-communica-

on desirable lines, is crucial in the region. This would lead to a higher stage of advancement, guided by the principles of compassion, innovation, and deep dedication that were envisioned over two decades ago.

(The Author is the Group Chief Operating Officer of Narayana Health. Views *expressed are personal*)

### **UNATHORISED PG MUSHROOMING**

strategist, transcending the

roles of an idealist and philoso-

pher, and his multifaceted

contributions continue to res-

onate in India's historical and

educational landscape. As a

formidable journalist, Tilak

was renowned for his fearless

and impartial stance in his

weekly publication, 'Kesari'.

He championed a rigorous

Arctic Home of Vedas" (1901),

complemented his political

Madam — Paying guest accommodations (PG) for women have made headlines following the brutal murder of a woman in one such facility located in a posh Bengaluru locality. It is crucial to take strict action against unauthorized PGs. The police argue that without a formal complaint, securing PGs is not inherently their responsibility, and this claim is understandable. Nonetheless, increased patrolling in sensitive areas where these accommodations are situated should not be overlooked. Thus, the responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of female residents falls on the PG owners. It is alarming to note that many PGs in India lack security guards. Security personnel should thoroughly frisk strangers seeking entry into PGs. The importance of a biometric fingerprint system for all entrants cannot be overstated. Additionally, providing kitchens that

prepare hygienic food is essential to prevent women from frequently venturing out for meals, enhancing their safety. Troublemakers such as hawkers and beggars should be kept at bay. Regular presence and unwavering supervision by the owners at the PGs can significantly boost residents' morale. Overall, a collective commitment is vital.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

**USE OF TRIBALS IN THE SCHOOL NAMES** Madam — The Madras High Court has strongly criticised the Tamil Nadu government for using the term "Tribal" in the names of government schools. This issue arose with schools in the Kalvarayan Hills being named "Government Tribal Residential School." The court rightly observed that this terminology is inappro-

The use of caste or community names in school titles is astonishing and deemed unacceptable by the court. The court emphasised that labeling a school as a "Tribal School" could stigmatise the children attending it, making them feel

their school is inferior to others. This could

priate, especially for a secular government.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Paris Olympics 2024 have begun, filling the city with excitement and drawing visitors from around the world to witness this grand sporting event. While the Olympic games promise thrilling spectacles, Paris offers many other activities to enrich your visit.If you're a food enthusiast with a penchant for history, indulge in iconic Parisian bites

students. Caste and community play a significant role in the political arena as vote

The caste system is deeply entrenched in government policies and programs, leading to reverse discrimination. The principle of "all are equal in law" is often neglected, with reservation in education and employment based on caste. Some states have defied the Supreme Court's directive to limit reservations to 50 percent, extending them to over 75 percent, which adversely affects merit. If some communities feel deprived of fair representation in education and employment, the government may consider pro-rata reservations for all communities as a solution.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

### THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS

Madam — Since independence, our country has undergone significant changes. While we have adopted many new governance systems, we still retain some from our colonial past. One such legacy is the role of governors acting as representatives lead to an inferiority complex among the of the President in all states, a practice that

that offer a delightful journey through time and taste. Wander through charming streets and savor culinary delights that are integral to Parisian culture. For those seeking unique experiences, venture beyond the usual tourist spots and discover offbeat attractions that provide a different perspective on the city.

Additionally, Paris offers various free activities that allow you to enjoy the city's charm without breaking the bank. From serene parks to historical landmarks, there's no shortage of cost-free ways to immerse yourself in the Parisian ambience. Lastly, don't miss out on the mustsee attractions that define Paris. Iconic sites such as the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and Notre-Dame Cathedral are timeless treasures that captivate visitors.

Jayanthy Subramaniam | Mumbai

continues unchanged. Recently, the Supreme Court agreed to consider sepa rate petitions from opposition-ruled Kerala and West Bengal. These petitions allege that the respective governors refused to assent to bills passed by their assemblies. This is not an isolated incident; similar cases have been brought before the Hon'ble Supreme Court numerous times. West Bengal, for example, claimed in its petition that the Governor had withheld assent to eight bills. believe the position of governors has

never been impartial in this country. The office has become increasingly politicized; a study found that between 1950 and 2015, only a quarter of governors completed a five-year term, with 37 percent serving less than a year. Defying traditions, governors are typically appointed by the ruling party without consulting the elected state government, leading to strained relations between federal and state govern-

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

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## **FIRST COLUMN**

### **CURIOUS MINDS ENGINEER CHANGE**

Mental re-engineering can infuse life with renewed vigor and purpose



RAVI VALLURI

ften, conventional and commonplace way of thinking only results in clambering the ladder. A person leading a ho-hum existence cannot re-engineer his/her personality. Tale of an old manAeons ago, lived an elderly gentleman who in the winter of his life decided to embark on a spiritual journey to transfigure his personality. The pater now embarked on the spiritual sojourn and enrolled in a monastery. Upon completing his tutelage, armed with various nuances of Zen teachings, he left for his small town. He stepped out of the portals of the temple of knowledge and involuntarily slipped into a rivulet. "Oh, the old monk falls in the river!" chortled some young tutees.

He was to dramatically declare that the re-engineering processes and techniques he acquired had enabled him to accommodate water into himself and not the other way around. "We are shaped by our thoughts, we become what we think. When the mind is pure, joy follows like a shadow that never leaves," said Gautama Buddha. The thought process, thinking patterns, building blocks of thought, organised thinking and goal direction are five keys to re-engineer the mind to metamorphose and refashion our lives. An ingenious individual to re-engineer his life has to change the existing pattern. He should begin by identifying the problem. In the swathes of his mind, such a process represents and delineates the problem; as he /she is mindful and discerning, solutions and a set of sub-goals are outlined. The quick-witted individual then selects the balm for the misadventure and executes it with precision.

The human mind is now brim-full of ideas and it is time to evaluate the outcome and once again rethink and redefine problems and arrive at new solutions. It was the time of Sakhya Muni Gautama Buddha when an animated group of denizens were involved in a rambunctious argument about Divinity and various religions. In sheer exasperation, they arrived at the feet of Lord Buddha. The Compassionate and Enlightened One smiled and ruminated for a while. Lord Buddha then asked his disciples to arrange for an elephant and for four persons to be blindfolded. And so, it happened that the first of the blindfolded persons felt the elephant's leg and exclaimed that God appeared as a pillar. The second person



touched the elephant's tummy and opined that Almighty God was a wall. The third gentleman stroked the elephant's ear and observed that God was a piece of cloth. The fourth man grazed the tail and described that God was a piece of rope. Once again, the group of four was engaged in a raging debate on the form of Almighty God. After the exercise was completed, Buddha asked the assembled disciples and citizens.

The four blindfolded individuals felt the same elephant, but provided varying answers, so what could be the correct answer? The episode just proved that no one individual or thought process is complete. One should always be prepared to accept that one might be correct in parts and that other streams of thought could be complementary. Techniques for trainingThe spiritually inclined can re-engineer their lives by undertaking the bouquet of courses imparted by the Art of Living, or pursue Vipassana; attempting to mutate their minds through the practice of yoga, pranayama and meditation. Others have a logical bent of mind and char-

They need to develop a passion, take up a sport, and read inspirational literature among other things. But it is elemental and foundational to reengineer the mind and thought processes at regular intervals to live life

> (The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd.and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

## Balanced budget reflects Modi's vision of 'Vikasit Bharat'



PM Modi's "self-reliant India" vision is central to the 2024-25 Union Budget. It boosts domestic production, supports SMEs, and fosters innovation to reduce import dependency

rime Minister Modi's vision of a "self-reliant India" (Atmanirbhar Bharat) is a recurring theme in the budget. This vision emphasizes self-sufficiency in critical sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and technology. The budget outlines measures to boost domestic production, support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and encourage innovation. These initiatives are designed to reduce import dependency and create a robust, self-sustaining economy. At the same time, the budget reflects Modi's understanding of India's interconnectedness with the global economy. The focus on enhancing India's export competitiveness, attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), and participating in global value chains underscores the dual approach of strengthening domestic capabilities while engaging with the global market.

This balanced approach is crucial for India to navigate the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly complex global economic landscape. The Union Budget, a cornerstone of the country's economic planning, may serve as a reflection of the government's strategic priorities and vision for the future. It is being billed as a path-break-ing foundation of Reforms for the next 5 years. According to some experts, under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the budget has been targeted to foster economic growth, address social inequalities, and position India as a key player on the global stage. The latest budget unveiled amidst a backdrop of global economic uncertainty, showcases a balanced approach, combining domestic development with an international out-

## look. CHALLENGES BEFORE FM In light of the 2024-25 Union Budget, the

BJP-led central government faces scrutiny over its dealings with opposition-ruled states, which allege discrimination in fund allocation and policy implementation. Experts say that Central Schemes and Fund Allocation; The Budget reveals a 15% increase in allocations for flagship schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Ayushman Bharat. However, opposition states argue that their share of these funds does not reflect their proportionate needs. For instance, Tamil Nadu has claimed that despite a significant allocation under AS THE PRADHAN PMAY, delays in fund release and implementation hinder effective utilization.

The central government's response involves reiterating the equitable distribution based on various factors, but opposition states view these explanations sceptically. Implementation Issues; Critics point to inefficiencies in scheme implementation as evidence of discrimination. The opposition-ruled states have raised concerns about delays and insufficient execution of these schemes.

The central government needs to ensure that these funds are utilized efficiently and that implementation is monitored closely to address these grievances. Political Dynamics; Allegations of political bias also come into play. Opposition leaders argue that central agencies are used to target political rivals, exacerbating feelings of discrimination. With the BJP's political rivals accusing it of manipulating central resources, the government must navigate these complex political dynamics careful-

STEPS TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS

grievances and ensure that their concerns are heard and addressed. A Balanced Approach for Sustainable Growth; The Indian Union Budget, under the leadership of Modi, presents a balanced blueprint for growth, combining a focus on domestic development with a strategic international outlook. The emphasis on infrastructure, healthcare, education, and financial inclusion reflects the government's commitment to inclusive growth.

At the same time, the focus on global partnerships, defence manufacturing, and renewable energy highlights India's aspirations to be a key player on the world stage. Domestic Positives: A Focus on Inclusive Development; The budget's primary focus is on inclusive growth, ensuring that the benefits of economic development reach all sections of society. A significant allocation has been made towards infrastructure development, including roads, railways, and digital infrastructure. This not only promises to create jobs but also lays the groundwork for long-term economic resilience. The emphasis on renewable energy and green technology is another forward-looking aspect, aligning with global trends towards sus-

reach of banking and financial services to rural areas. This effort is crucial for integrating rural populations into the formal economy, enhancing their economic opportunities, and reducing regional disparities. Moreover, targeted welfare schemes for farmers, women, and marginalized communities underscore the government's intent to address social inequalities and ensure a more equitable distribution of resources.Extreme evidence of a discriminatory approach exhibited in the union budget estimates for 2024-24 pertains to the allocation of Rs 11,500 crore for flood mitigation to Bihar whereas Himachal as well as Uttrakhand faced unprecedented catastrophe in July/August 2023 which suffered extensive damages to the tune of over Rs 12,000 crore and Rs 4,000 crore respectively but figures have not been mentioned in the budget.

Himachal government is in a quandary as 550 lives were lost and rehabilitation of lakhs of hapless people had been undertaken

the announcement of a "Special Package" had affected relief and rehabilitation works though the state demanded immediate help of Rs 9,042 crore from the centre in Aug 2023 Chief Minister, Sukhvinder Sigh Sukhu regretted the apathy of the centre which gave nothing for one year. The finance minister skipped Punjab also which witnessed devastation owing to heavy rains and floods in 21 out of 23 districts and damages were more than RS 1,680 crore. About 70 lives were lost and the state government has been demanding financial assistance which has been ignored in this budget. Contrary to it, Bihar has been chosen for special treatment and the finance minister allocated Rs 11,500 crore for flood mitigation which is being interpreted as a Reward for helping BHP to form a government reduced strength in Lok Sabha. Experts say that Bihar has been India's most flood-prone state with 76% of the population of north Bihar living under recurring threat of divesting floods for decades hence it deserves a special package but not by ignoring other states that suffer an identical natural disaster every year. As India navigates the challenges of a postpandemic world, the budget's provisions for economic resilience, social equity, and environmental sustainability provide a solid foundation for future growth. Modi's vision of a self-reliant India resonates throughout the budget, offering a roadmap for the country's economic and strategic aspirations. This holistic approach, balancing domestic priorities with international engagement, positions India well for a sustainable and prosperous future.

(The writer is a political analyst and senior journalist based in



## THE BUDGET

REVEALS A 15% INCREASE IN ALLOCATIONS FOR FLAGSHIP SCHEMES SUCH MANTRI AWAS YOJANA (PMAY) AND AYUSHMAN BHARAT. HOWEVER, **OPPOSITION** STATES ARGUE THAT THEIR SHARE OF THESE FUNDS DOES NOT REFLECT THEIR **PROPORTIONATE NEEDS** 

#### by the state government by making provision of Rs 650 crore hence expected a liberal Special Package from the union finance minister who preferred to just give an assurance about financial assistainability. Healthcare and educatance to the state but no allocation

### Shimla; views are personal)

## How persistence and empathy can cure tuberculosis

Tuberculosis is a 'curable infectious disease linked to inequities, it is therefore crucial to invest in partnerships that address these disparities with empathy

year ago 20-year-old Tahira was convinced she was going to die. A fever that refused to go accompanied by a persistent cough, a loss in appetite and extreme weakness had confined her to the bed for months. Her husband, a rickshaw puller, had neither the means nor the time to take her to a doctor. It was only when her brother came to visit her in Kolkata and saw her failing health that he decided to take matters into his own hands. He brought Tahira back with him to her natal house in

Seemapuri, Delhi. This decision was to save her life.Around this time, Humana People to People India (HPPI), a not-for-profit, was reaching out with information and four cities, Delhi, Mumbai, guidance on tuberculosis (TB) Howrah and Hyderabad.



as a part of their Project LEAD (Leveraging Educating, Advocating to Disrupt TB transmission). Working in close coordination with the government's National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP), LEAD focussed on the oft-ignored and overlooked marginalized communities living in low-grade urban slums, the homeless and migratory population in

Persistence PaysWhen LEAD field officer Shanti met Tahira, she immediately knew what had to be done. First, she was taken for a chest X-ray.

When it showed Tahira presumptive for TB, sputum microscopy was conducted which confirmed TB. Once this became clear, the diagnosis was reconfirmed through the WHO-recommended molecular test via the Cartridge-Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (CBNAAT) and drug susceptibility test via Line Probe Assay (LPA) provided free at the government GTB Hospital. The drug susceptibility test is done to ensure that the TB bacteria (Bacillus Mycobacterium Tuberculosis), that infects a person is not resistant to the medicines they

are treated with.

Realising there was no time to waste, Shanti quickly enabled her registration on Ni-Akshay, the government's NTEP realtime patient management web system, so that her card could be made and her treatment started the same day. As a trained worker, Shanti knew time was of the essence and treatment adherence critical. So, for the next six months, Shanti would become Tahira's shadow. She kept a watchful eye and followed up doggedly with 40 visits to ensure Tahira didn't miss out or falter in sticking to the drug reg-

Her persistence paid off when Tahira tested negative a couple of months ago and is now completely cured. The Techno CATTB being an infectious disease, early detection and



treatment is vital especially as it spreads when persons with the illness expel the bacteria into the air, mostly by coughing. Here is where technology can play a role. Cough Against TB (CAT) an innovative application AI-powered coughsound-based screening tool to assess the likelihood of pulmonary TB developed by Wadhwani AI, resulted in a 10.8% presumptive rate and a positivity yield of 15.6%.

One of the important out- case. Shanti's support to Tahira comes of using CAT was its detection of asymptomatic cases, which otherwise would have been missed. While technology has been an enabling tool, the real success of screening over 600,000 individuals, identifying 3,182 people with TB (PwTB), and supporting 98% of them in Delhi with treatment adherence has been due to the commitment and compassion shown by the women field workers. The project findings at the end of the one-year project indicate that the female field officers proved to be more effective than their male counterparts in TB awareness and screening because of their empathy. A Human TouchHow a human touch can make all the

difference was seen in Tahira's

Rs 500 per month for PwTB to buy food. Deploying women now cured of TB as activists and field workers have also worked wonders to reach out to those who fall through the cracks. They know what it means to live with TB and the societal stigma that have to face. Their determination to help others in similar situations has boosted early detection and treatment. It is a known fact that those most at risk are people residing in poorly ven-

during her challenging treat-

ment journey was not just by counselling but also through

food ration supplements every

month through her contacts

with an NGO. Additionally,

she also linked her to NTEP's

Ni-Akshay Poshan Yojana, the

government scheme to provide

tilated and overcrowded conditions, suffering from malnutrition and diseases and with limited access to healthcare. Project LEAD has shown that women field officers are more successful in persuading TB screening and treatment adherence among the vulnerable and marginalized because of their understanding and sensitivity. TB researchers Dr Anurag Bhargava, Dr Madhukar Pai and Dr Madhvi Bhargava reiterate that TB is a "curable" infectious disease linked to inequities, it is even more imperative to invest in more partnerships that bridge these inequalities with empa-

(The author is a journalist writing on development and gender. The views are expressed are personal)

#### HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | JULY 31, 2024

### MONEY MATTERS



### 6 cr ITRs filed for FY24; 70% under new tax regime

bout 6 crore income tax returns have been filed for income earned in 2023-24, of which 70 per cent were Afiled under the new simplified tax regime which offers lower rate of tax, Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said on Tuesday. Addressing the post-budget session of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Malhotra said there were apprehensions as to whether people would shift to the simplified tax regime. "About 6 crore filed for last year and 70 per cent is under the new income tax regime. The whole move has been towards simplicity with the ultimate purpose being to reduce the compliance burden," Malhotra said. For the 2022-23 fiscal, 8.61 crore ITRs were filed. The idea behind comprehensive income tax review as announced in the Budget is to make the tax law simpler. "We will come up with a draft and then we will seek suggestions," Malhotra said. Currently, India has two personal income tax regimes. In the old income tax regime, the tax rates are relatively high but taxpayers can claim several exemptions and deductions.



### **BE gets WHO pre-qualification** status for oral polio vaccine

iological E. Limited (BE) on Tuesday announced that the By World Health Organisation (WHO) has granted pre-gualification status to its Novel Oral Polio Vaccine t qualification status to its Novel Oral Polio Vaccine type 2 (nOPV2). nOPV2 which is the 10th pre-qualified vaccine of BE is a next-generation live, attenuated oral vaccine significantly reduces the risk of circulating vaccine-derived Poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreaks, a press release from BE said. It is aimed at immunisation in countries that are affected by cVDPV2 outbreaks, which is a crucial moment in the fight against polio. With its improved genetic stability, nOPV2 has a significantly decreased chance of seeding new outbreaks in low-immunity environments as against its predecessor, the Sabin poliovirus type 2 (mOPV2) vaccine, the release said. Mahima Datla, managing director, Biological E. Limited, said: "We are pleased to be a part of the global effort to eradicate polio. Our collective quest to eradicate polio marks a significant milestone with the WHO prequalification of nOPV2." The vaccine has been specifically designed to address concerns about Vaccine-Associated Paralytic Polio (VAPP), which has occurred in approximately 2 to 4 cases per million births with the traditional OPV due to the vaccine virus reverting to a virulent form, she said



### Sebi bans Omaxe, its head, MD from mkt for 2-yrs

ebi on Tuesday barred real estate firm Omaxe, its chairman Rohtas Goel, managing director Mohit Goel and three others from the securities market for two years for irregularities in the company's financial statements. The others restrained from the securities markets are -- Sudhangshu S. Biswal, Arun Kumar Pandey and Vimal Gupta. Additionally, these five persons have been "prohibited from holding any position as Director or Key Managerial Person of any other listed company for a period of two years". Apart from these, the regulator has levied a fine totalling Rs 47 lakh on 16 entries, including these six entities. The penalties range from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 7 lakh need to be paid within 45 days. In its 126-page final order, Sebi said these entities have "acted in concert in order to execute a fraudulent scheme which they tried to portray as normal transactions for the benefit of the company although it was experiencing loss, while also trying to portray that these as merely lending activities, thereby trying to maintain the price of the scrip of Omaxe

### Qualcomm unveils India-specific chip to democratise 5G

PNS NEW DELHI

In a bid to make 5G more affordable and accessible in India, American chipmaker Qualcomm on Tuesday launched the Snapdragon 4S Gen 2 chipset and said it will bring down 5G smartphone price to Rs 8,000 and less.

Designed for entry-level



600 million smartphone users in India. The chipset will bring gigabit 5G smartphone prices below US\$ 99 (about Rs 8,290), Qualcomm officials said during the "Snapdragon for India" event here.



## Global investors eyeing India

### Don't miss this 'golden chance': PM to India Inc

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India is firmly on the path to becoming the world's third-biggest economy within next five years and that global investors are eyeing it as an investment destination, as he exhorted the domestic industry to seize the golden opportunity to be part of the journey of 'Viksit Bharat'.

Addressing a CII post-Budget conference on 'Journey Towards Viksit Bharat', he said, wealth creators are the main driving force of the country's growth story at a time when India's policies, commitment, determination, decisions and investments are becoming the basis of global progress.

"Today,



### ED declares 9 defaulters as fugitive economic offenders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Directorate Enforcement (ED) has declared nine defaulters as Economic Offenders, Minister of State Finance Pankaj dhary informed Chaudhary Parliament on Tuesday.

The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA) has been enacted for attachment and confiscation of property of a fugitive economic offender, he said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. Further, he said, in the case of accused who fled abroad, the ED has declared nine of them as Fugitive Economic Offenders (FEO) under the provisions of FEOA.

"Also, 25 extradition requests have also been sent, in respect of 16 accused who fled abroad. In addition to this, assets amounting to Rs 725.90 crore have been confiscated under the provisions of FEOA," he said.

With regard to bad loans, said, Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) have made an aggregate recovery of Rs 6,82,328 crore in NPA accounts, including written-off loans, during the last five financial years.

PNS NEW DELHI

whole world is looking at India and you (industry). Policies of the government and commitment and investment are becoming foundation of global development. Investors across the world are keen to

policies and creating a con-Today, the whole world is looking at India and you (industry). Policies of the government and commitment and investment are becoming foundation of

global development. Investors across the

world are keen to come to India

come to India. World leaders are filled with positivity for India. This is the golden chance for the Indian industry and we should not lose this opportunity," Modi said.

Pointing towards the growing interest in India among global ducive atmosphere for invest-ment. With high growth and low inflation, he said, India is a beacon of growth and stability in a world which is facing high inflation and low growth and other geopolitical challenges.

recent NITI Aayog meeting to

state chief ministers for creating

investor-friendly charters,

bringing clarity in investment

India is growing at 8 per cent and the day is not far when the country will become the thirdlargest economy globally from

the current fifth posi-

the prime minister informed the industry about his call in the

The prime minister exuded confidence that this feat of becoming the third- largest economy will be achieved in his ongoing third term.

The Modi government does not lack political will and will take all decisions keeping in mind 'nation first approach', he

"The Commitment of 'Nation First' is reflected in the 5 trillion dollar economy goal, saturation approach, emphasis on Zero Effect-Zero Defect and pledge of Aatmnirbhar Bharat or Viksit Bharat," he said.

The domestic industry, he

said, should compete with the government to make India a developed nation by 2047 and also make it a global player in sunrise sectors. He also recalled various measures announced in the Budget, especially for promoting the MSME sector which creates crores of jobs.

The prime minister said the government is highly focused on skill development and tion, he employment keeping in mind

## FTA moving slow, but India pursuing: Goyal

The negotiations to review the free trade agreements (FTAs) implemented with Japan, Korea, and Asean are

moving slow but India is pursuing those t a l k s , Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday. He said these

agreements were signed and implemented during the UPA

These pacts are hurting the domestic industry and almost all firms stated that they are "unfair" agreements, Goyal

"I am helpless as those agreements (came into effect) close the negotiations.

"We are under re-negotia tions but obviously when they (Japan, Korea, Asean) realise that the Congress's agreement

was better for them (Japan, Korea, Asean). they are happier to keep that rather than change the agreements... they are going

very slow, (but) we are also pursuing," he said while speaking at a CII programme on Viksit Bharat.

The minister also did some tough talking with the indus-

He said the domestic players seek duty concessions in FTAs but they are not ready to give market access to other

## Sensex, Nifty rise for 3rd day

### Gains in Tata Motors, HDFC Bank

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty eked out gains in volatile trade to settle at record high levels on Tuesday, extending their gaining streak to the

third day on the back of buying in Tata Motors and HDFC Bank. The 30-share

BSE Sensex closed higher by 99.56 points or 0.12 per cent at 81,455.40 -

with 16 of its components advancing and 14 ending lower. The index opened higher and jumped 459.43 points or 0.56 per cent to hit an

day high of 81,815.27. The NSE Nifty edged up

21.20 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 24,857.30. During the day, it surged 135.65 points or 0.54 per cent to 24,971.75. The index hit a low of

24,798.65. "The domestic

market ended flat, due to by profit-booking at higher levels.

- its all-time closing high --

### Gold jumps Rs 550 to Rs 71,600 per 10 g

PNS NEW DELHI

Gold prices jumped by Rs 550 to Rs 71,600 per 10 grams in Tuesday following strong demand from jewellers and firm global trends.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 71,050 per 10 grams. Silver prices, on the other hand,

70,700 per 10 grams.

## Check for 'wilful default' in NPA accounts exceeding Rs 25 lakh: RBI to banks

PNS MUMBAI

The RBI on Tuesday issued a Treatment of Wilful Defaulters and Large Defaulters under which banks and NBFCs will have to examine the 'wilful default' aspect in all non-performing asset accounts with outstanding amounts of Rs 25 lakh and above.

A lender will identify and classify a person as a 'wilful defaulter' by following a specified procedure. The evidence of wilful default will be examined by an identification committee, according to the direction.



Master Direction on Treatment of Wilful Defaulters and Large Defaulters This Moster Direction on withit defaulters serves as a comprehensive guidelin delibeating the regulatory framework and procedures for classification of borrowers as will defaulters. This directive plays a crucial role in maintaining the inlegitly of the and the outstanding amount is The lender shall examine

borrower or a guarantor who

has committed wilful default,

the 'wilful default' aspect in all NPA accounts with an outstanding amount of Rs 25 lakh and above...from time to time," If a wilful default is observed

in the internal preliminary screening, the lenders will complete the process of classification/declaring the borrower as a wilful defaulter within six months of the account being classified as

remained flat at Rs 84,500 per kg on Tuesday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also bounced by Rs 550 to Rs 71,250 per 10 grams from the previous close of Rs

## Pulses import jumps 90% in to 47.38 lakh tonnes: Govt

PNS NEW DELHI

India's import of pulses rose 90 per cent annually to 47.38 lakh tonnes during 2023-24 to meet domestic demand, the government informed Parliament on Tuesday. "All India production of

pulses has increased from 163.23 lakh tonnes during 2015-16 to 244.93 lakh tonnes during 2023-24 (as per 3rd Advance Estimates)," the Minister of State for Agriculture Ram Nath Thakur said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. In 2021-22, import of pulses stood at 26.99 lakh tonnes, while exports were at



3.87 lakh tonnes.

During 2022-23, imports of pulses stood at 24.96 lakh tonnes, while exports were 7.62 lakh tonnes. Īn 2023-24, the imports of pulses were 47.38 lakh tonnes and exports stood at 5.94 lakh tonnes.

"During the last ten years i.e. 2014-15 to 2023-24 (as per 3rd Advance Estimates), total pulses and oilseeds production has increased by 43 per cent and 44 per cent, respectively," Thakur said. In reply to a separate question, the minister said the government has substantially enhanced the budget allocation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare from Rs 27,662.67 crore in BE (budget estimate) during 2013-14, to Rs 1,25,035.79 crore BE during 2023-24.

Answering another query,

Thakur said the National Commission on Farmers (NCF), constituted under the Chairmanship of MS Swami nathan in 2004, inter alia, recommended that Minimum Support Price (MSPs) should be at least 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of production.

#### NIZAMABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION **TENDER NOTICE**

EOI Notice No. ME/NMC/05/2024, Dated: 30.07.2024 EOI is invited from the Reputed agencies for Installation Commissioning and Maintenance of GPS System to All Municipal Vehicles in NMC for the period of 2 Years. Bid starting Dt: 01.08.2024 to Bid Submission last Dt. 08.08.2024 @ 4.00 PM.

For details see on https://nizamabadcorporation.telangana.gov.in and for further details Contact: 9705710924.

Commissioner, NMC R.O. No.: 2303-PPICL/ADVT/1/2024-25, Dt. 30-07-2024

Public Notification U/s. 15 (3) of HMDA Act. 2008

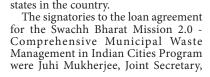
[Government Memo, No. 7404(Plg.)(1)/2024, dt:34.07.2024) In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of HMDAAct 2008 (Act No.8 of 2009), it is proposed to make the following dealt variation to the road network envisaged in the notified HADA Master Planapproved by the Government vide G.O.Ms.No.287, dt.03.04.2008. The proposed 24mtrs HADA Master Plan Road passing through in Sy. Nos.1,2, Ine proposed 24th HALA Master Plan Road passing through in 57, Ros.1, 2, 8,9,11,31,23,33,43,65,88,112,321,336,524,323 at Manidipality(f), Balapur(M), Balapur(M), Balapur(M), Balapur(M), Balapur(M), Balapur(M), Balapur(M), Balapur(M), Sp. Ros. 35,44,33,31,329,330,115,113,112,112,112,112,115,118,46547 and village settlement of Manidipality(f), Balapur(M), Balapur(M)

applicants site without offseting the approved layout plots.
The details of the above are available in Web sites http://gszetis.telangana.gov.in/ and http://hmda.gov.in/l.

Objections/Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections/suggestions in writing either to the M.C., HMDA or to the Principal Secretary, MA & UD Dept., Telangene Secretariat, Hyderabed within Fifteen (15) days from the date of

fetropolitan Commissione

#### handsets, the Snapdragon 4S Gen 2 mobile platform claims to make 5G accessible to over



Asian Development Bank and the

Government of India recently signed a US\$ 200 million (about Rs 1,700 crore)

loan to improve solid waste management

and sanitation in 100 cities across eight



ADB commits US\$ 200 mn loan for solid

waste management in 100 Indian cities

Finance Ministry, and Mio Oka,

multilateral funding agency said in a statement on Tuesday. After signing the loan agreement, Mukherjee said that the programme supports the objectives of the government's Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission -

Country Director for Asian Development Bank (ADB) - India

Resident Mission, the Manila-based

Urban 2.0 by enhancing sanitation and solid waste management infrastructure, including waste segregation, collection and disposal.

## the pioneer eranac

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Wednesday July 31, 2024



ans are incredibly excited about Roshan Mathew's next film, *Ulajh*, as seen by the quick sell-out of its special preview showing in several cities. The film's team quickly scheduled fan screenings in Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and other cities after releasing its gripping trailer. As previously indicated, we have the prominent actor with us today who shares the secrets and is wellknown in Malayalam cinema.

"I am happy knowing that I have been called an unconventional actor; however, to break the bubble, I don't specifically go out looking for one," Roshan, who is wellknown for his unique choices, said as we started this exclusive conversation. "For me, it's always a combination of what naturally interests me, whether or not I find the character appealing and whether or not I want to collaborate with the actors! For me, that has always been the deciding factor. I'm Roshan, the actor and those who know me that I don't travel with any preconceptions. For instance, it would take something really unique to convince me to work on a Malayalam film. Give me a good enough excuse to go outside and shoot!"

And with *Ulajh*, he says, "The first and

most evident reason to support a film is to recognise a strong script! You won't believe me when I say that I read the entire script in one sitting out of intense curiosity about what would happen next. I think the decision by the filmmakers to cast Janhvi Kapoor in the lead role was an intriguing one. I can admit, though, that I was most thrilled to be placed opposite Gulshan because I have always respected his work.'

Hollywood action filmmaker Nick Powell has planned stunt sequences for this spy thriller, *Ulajh*. He is well-known for his stints in Hollywood productions ike The Last Samurai. Gladiator and Born Identity. Aside from this, Roshan informs us, "I contacted my director very early on to learn more about the subjects of espionage and diplomacy. He sent me a prepared list of interviews and books-oh my goodness! Accounts from former diplomats and embedded agents at an embassy were also available. I had no idea this was the world. I'm not connected to any embassy! Though I wish I had, I'll never

**Well-known for his stint** in Malayalam cinema, actor **Roshan Mathew will soon be** seen in *Ulajh*, starring Janhvi and Gulshan. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, the actor discusses his unique choices, getting on board for **Ulajh** and his camaraderie with co-stars.

mind (he laughed) and ring them up to find out more information. I also turned to a few literary allusions."

Continuing on a lighter note, he says, "I truly enjoy the research aspect of my work. Every film I see reveals a different side of me! I have to suddenly become someone I didn't know anything about before. That's really awesome! I am strolling past my bookshelf while I speak with you right now. To be honest, *Bridge of Spies* was also a big help. This piques our interest, since acting can be incredibly draining otherwise. These movies provide us with a secret goal

The actor also declares, "I have very few scenes with Gulshan that I am particularly disappointed about," in reference to his fellow actors in *Ulajh*. "What a talented actor he is! I've been a huge fan of this guy for a long time, even before I did my first movie. I had never met any of the co-actors previously, so my first encounters with them all occurred during the workshop sessions. Janhvi's maturity really impressed me,

I must admit! She didn't have any temper tantrums and I observed her being quite available for all the tasks she was requested to complete. Ulajh was only elevated by Janhvi Kapoor. I had one of the trickiest scenes with her; we had to film for nearly the entire night and we were having a lot of trouble. Dear God!'

More exclusive details were revealed by Roshan to The Pioneer, who reported, "It was my first time in London and I had a great time. My sister spent some time there. She was a student in Edinburgh! I began my career in theatre and as we all know, London theatre has a global following.
During my free time, I would investigate everything and attend as many performances as I could. I walked a lot, had the renowned London coffee-what more could one need in life? (He laughed aloud.) The *Ulaih* schedule in London was fantastic. Yes, we had a full schedule in Bhopal as well! However, we were astute and didn't portray it as Bhopal." Well, that was quite enlightening.

## Mastering creative canvas through finger painting art



RASHMI BHUMIREDDY

emember of the first time you painted with your tiny fingers to create an adorable picture? Yet at that time, we were unaware of our skill in finger painting. Are you amazed, just like we are?

Well, we had come across how this art that we did back then has been gaining immense popularity and

is indeed such a meditative therapy!

Neha Jain, a finger painting artist, has perfected this skill and has created numerous intricate paintings using only her fingers, without using any brushes. Her artistic pieces resonated with the members of the Hyderabad Arts Society and her works were chosen and exhibited at the Salarjung Museum and State Gallery of Arts.

After experimenting with numerous fine art forms such as Tanjore, Oil and acrylic, Folk and tribal arts, Neha discovered her true passion for developing intricacy in a contemporary setting. She amalgamates abstract, textured backgrounds against tribal elements—a unique style for which she is being recognised. Without any fur-

> Finger painting art has been a fun form of art that has created a stir. *The Pioneer* presents Neha Jain, an artist from Hyderabad, who has dedicated herself to promoting and creating awareness about this art form.

ther ado, The Pioneer connects with the artist to learn more about her art.

Inspired by Mother Nature, she has always loved to explore art since childhood. "Life becomes much simpler by enjoying the simple pleasures of nature," shares the self-taught artist, who finds this thought to be her driving force. "I began my journey by experimenting with numerous fine art forms. Doing art is like meditation for me and I practice it almost every day to excel in my craft."

Nature, she says, has undeniably been her biggest guru. Basically, when she started taking workshops with T-Works, she got to explore the art of finger painting.

Discovering her true passion for developing intricacy in a contemporary setting, she enjoys amalgamating abstract, textured backgrounds against tribal elements. In regards to finger painting, "I have learned how colours work and how we can mix different colours. This art aids in sensory integration, improving fine motor development by strengthening finger and hand muscles." This art not only helps the kids but also people of different age groups, strengthening their senses and motor skills.

It was certainly a challenge for her to create a niche here, coming from a different background. She recalls, "It was very difficult for me to connect with galleries to conduct workshops. But with my dedication, hard work, and courage, I am now able to pursue my art career. Throughout my journey, my family has been my biggest support and has always pushed me forward so I could achieve my goals. Doing art is like meditation for me, and I practice almost every day to excel in my craft."

With this skill, she has taken part in various competitions and group shows at the national level and received several accolades for her work. It was in 2019 that she conducted her first solo exhibition at the Alliance Française of Hyderabad, followed by IconArt Gallery in 2022.

But what sets finger art apart? "I love finger painting because it allows me to express myself in unique and creative ways," she gleefully shares, adding that it helps her create unimaginable art using this technique.

As we head towards the end of this chat, she goes on to enunciate, "I want people to know the value of art in our daily lives and how art is important for mental well-being. In the future,I will be conducting more such creative workshops and keep working on developing my art and style so that anyone can paint with me irrespective of their age."

## **EMBRACING** SIMPLICITY & **SWEETNESS** WITH SAVERA

TEJAL SINHA

aatein ye saari main tumse hi karna chaahoon has certainly been that feeling we have for that special person. We always look forward to sharing the good and bad of our day. Making this feeling of ours much easier to express and appreciate, Iglipse Nova and Anubha Bajaj have made it simpler with their latest track, Savera.

Iglipse and Anubha, known for their previous works *Khwab* and Lamhey, respectively, collaborate on this debut single. This lovely romantic song beautifully conveys the enchantment of everyday love, giving listeners a musical comfort akin to a warm cup of *chai* on a rainy evening. The gentle guitar strums and comforting vocals in Savera create a musical experience that brings about feelings of warmth and nostalgia. The song skillfully mixes current indie pop with traditional Indian musical components, crafting a sound that is both ageless and up-to-date.

**The Pioneer** connects with the duo for an exclusive chat and brings you more interesting insights on the song and the making of it.

### **EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW:**

Take us through your inclination toward

Iqlipse: I was in class 7 when I was watching this concert by Julio Iglesias on TV. I was like, There's this guy who is singing this one song and people are going crazy about it. At that point in time, I was like, Mujhe yehi karna hai.

**Anubha Bajaj:** I've been interested in music ever since I was a little kid. I always wanted to learn guitar. For me, it was like one thing that led to another. I started off by learning the guitar and I fell in love with it. Then I learned piano and I fell in love with that too. Eventually, I got into songwriting. Now I'm at a stage when I'm releasing my songs, so it's pretty much been that journey of me knowing what I want and just going after it.

First single together, how excited were you both for the same?

**Iqlipse:** I was very excited because I've always admired what she does and I was the one texting her on Instagram about making a song together. So somewhere, I knew whatever we do together was going to be amazing.

Anubha: It's pretty much the same for me as well. I was very excited when he texted me on Instagram. Both of us coming together was like two powerhouses coming together and making a project. I had an inkling at the very beginning that this would be an amazing song.

Tell us about Savera.

that's how it just

became a full roman

Anubha: When we were writing this song, we were talking about someone who was iust about one call away. That one person we call when something new happens in our lives, He (Iqlipse), was the one who came up with the sentence, Baatein yeh saari main tumse hi karna chaahoon. I was very skeptical in the beginning—is it a good beginning to the chorus and he was like, 'no, trust me and stick with it'. I had full faith and

How did you get the idea of Baatein yeh saari....?

**Iqlipse:** We were trying to make the song at Anubha's home studio and we jammed for like 3 hours and nothing came out. There are days when the music doesn't come out of you. And we were like, Chalo, it's fine and we would write something new. I was just leaving and I had booked my cab and just then, she came up with the melody, the chorus melody. The moment she sang it, I was like. It is so cool and just instantly I wrote the line, Baatein Yeh saari mai tumse hi karna chahun. It was so random. We tried to stick to it and wrote the entire song around it. My idea was that the entire song has to be around that special person and be an expression of appreciation for that per-

Savera is a song that symbolises love in its purest form. What would you like to say

**Anubha:** In this song, I was more involved in the production aspect of it. I was less involved in the lyrics. I would give more credit to him for the lyrics. Ultimately, I was happy that I was going to do a romantic song and I just wanted to be part of the song where I was involved in writing romantically. I am happy that I got the opportunity to work with the guy himself, who had sand songs like *Udta Parindaa* and *Dil Besabar*. I knew he had been making so many songs about love, dating and being single. I knew if, from the writing point of view, he took the front foot, it would be better for the song.

Take us through the musical journey of

Iqlipse: The musical journey was like a hell of a ride. The problem with the song was that my comfortable scale was different than that of Anubha. She sings on a lower scale and that's why we had to come to a conclusion—a common point where both of us sound



Hyderabad | Wednesday July 31, 2024

## what's brewing?



At the 6th Investiture Ceremony of the Telangana Chamber of Events Industry (TCEI), which took place on Tuesday at the Dr. MCR HRD Institute of Telangana amid a spectacular ceremony attended by TCEI members, a new Executive Committee was inaugurated. Surat Singh Malhotra, Founder President of TCEI, Counsel General Lesotho, Vishala Reddy Vuyyala, startup entrepreneur, chief election officer-TCEI, Ashok Ramkumar, designated senior counsel, High Court of Telangana and Rosi Reddy, Retd IRŠ, election officer-TCEI, elevated the occasion as guests of honour.











taying in a hostel is perfect for young travellers looking for a communal environment to interact and socialise with others whilst at the same time being easy on the pocket. With 66% of global travellers and 72% of Indian travellers stating that accommodations with access to nature add value to their trip, why not combine the great outdoors with more affordable accommodation? With that in mind, Booking.com has delved into its inventory of more than 29 million listings in over 175,000 destinations worldwide to present some cool hostels immersed in nature, ideal for young travellers looking for a memorable and unique expe-

Pipe House Playa Grande located in Playa Grande, Costa Rica offers a quirky stay to young travellers - here they can stay in repurposed concrete pipes transformed into cylindrical rooms. Offering a more affordable option without sacrificing comfort, the hostel is within walking distance of the beach, making it a convenient base for watersport activities nearby such as surfing and fishing.

Paradise Cave Hostel & Guesthouse, Hvolsvöllur, Iceland, is located just a few from minutes awav Seljalandfoss waterfall, one of

Iceland's most iconic and picturesque waterfalls. The hostel is situated in a lush, green landscape during the summer months and a winter wonderland during the winter. The photogenic waterfall has a footpath, allowing visitors to walk behind it and take unique shots, perfect for the ultimate sunset shot. Guests staying at this hostel will enjoy a calming and peaceful environment, ideal to relax and unwind from daily life.

Trippers Hostel, located in Darjeeling, India, a offers budget-friendly accommodation for solo travellers, groups and backpacking enthusiasts alike. The hostel is approx. 7.3 km away from Tiger Hill, where travelers can enjoy beautiful views over the Himalayas. Travellers can visit the nearby tea estates to learn about tea production or meet and connect with fellow guests in the hostel's serene environment Darjeeling is also home to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

YHA Grampians Eco, Halls Gap, Halls Gap, Australia, is a beautiful hostel within the Grampians National Park, in Halls Gap, Victoria. The property supports a variety of ecofriendly accommodation practices, including low-energy lighting, a solar hot water system, recycling stations, and

rainwater tanks to flush. Visitors can relax in one of the several seating areas in the garden or take leisurely strolls and connect with nature without leaving the hostel grounds. A complimentary herb garden is offered, as well as free-range

chicken eggs.

The Batukaru Coffee Estate, Tabanan, Bali, Indonesia hostel is located on a working coffee plantation surrounded by a protected jungle and guests can learn about the coffee production process from bean to cup in one of the hostel's coffee tasting sessions. Overlooking the lush tropical landscape, the rooms at Batukaru Coffee Estate feature traditional Balinese architecture with wooden structures and thatched roofs.

United States is combining eco-friendly design with a community-oriented atmosphere and modern amenities. The Pad is a beautiful hostel located in Silverthorne, in the heart Colorado's Mountains. This modern hostel is surrounded by a variety of natural attractions and activities, making it perfect for outdoor enthusiasts. Travellers can discover the popular Blue River Trail, a paved trail along the nearby Blue River, or have a

relaxing picnic in one of

Silverthorne's parks.

The PAD, Silverthorne,

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in their quest to

secrets of

wellbeing is

art, healing and

conventional

methods with

contemporary

elegance.









### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**









### GARFIELD











### REALITY CHECK





### **CROSSWORD**









### **SUDOKU**

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

### ACROSS

- 6 A large naval ship
- 8 Feeling very annoyed
- 10 A South American dance 13 A very wealthy person
- 14 Gets closer to
- 17 A soft type of hat 19 A grower of fruit trees

### DOWN

Gun sound

4 Skinny

2 Don't go 3 A strap for trousers

5 The people you play against in a game 7 A court game played with rackets and a shuttlecock

9 A measuring stick

- 18 Go quickly

11 Astonish

12 Female deer

a bridge

material

15 Curved part under

17 Hospital patients lie in these

16 A sewed joint in



### GINGER MEGGS







### DIFFICULTY RATING: \*\* \*\* \*\*\*



Hyderabad | Wednesday July 31, 2024

## Prabhas has an exciting lineup ahead!

Prabhas, the reigning pan-India superstar, continues to push the which showcases a fresh look for Prabhas and promises to elevate the boundaries of cinema with anticipation even further. his groundbreaking block-Scheduled for release in busters. His latest release, April 2025, this film is Kalki 2898 AD, has not only expected to be a major highlight. Following that, Prabhas will appear in captivated audiences nationwide but also set a Salaar: Part 2—Shouryaanga Parvam, one of the most new benchmark as the highest-grossing Indian film of 2024 and the sixth highawaited sequels. He will also star in Sandeep Reddy est-grossing Indian film of Vanga's highly anticipated all time, among numerous records for Telugu and film, Spirit. Indian cinema.

With such a stellar lineup of grand films, Prabhas is poised to make a massive impact at the box office. His dedicated fans can look forward to a series of spectacular blockbusters that promise to deliver on the high expectations they have come to cherish.

The excitement has already started building with the release of the teaser poster for The Raja Saab,

But Prabhas isn't stopping

there. He's gearing up for an even more impressive line-

up with major projects on the horizon, including *The* 

Raja Saab, Salaar: Part 2-

Shouryaanga Parvam and Sandeep Reddy Vanga's

Spirit.



K. RAMYA SREE

A s the release date for Thiragabadara Saami approaches, producer Malkapuram Shiva Kumar shared his insights on the film and his career in an exclusive interview. The film, featuring actor Raj Tarun and directed by A.S. Ravikumar Chowdary, has been generating substantial buzz. With Malvi Malhotra in the lead role, the movie promises a blend of romance, sentiment, high-voltage action and emotional depth.

Malkapurm Shiva Kumar revealed that the project began in 2023, and he was immediately drawn to the story presented by Director A.S. Ravikumar Chowdary. "When I heard the story, I was captivated instantly. I decided to move forward with it in one sitting," he said. From the outset, the team believed Raj Tarun was the ideal choice for the role.

Discussing the film's content, Shiva Kumar explained that the story involves elements of violence that are integral to the narrative. "In this film, a person's behaviour is shaped by their circumstances. The situations they encounter can transform someone who is normally quiet into someone who acts violently. Raj Tarun has delivered an exceptional performance in this context."

Reflecting on his journey in the film industry, Shiva Kumar recounted his



audiences can expect from *Thiragabadara Saami*, Shiva Kumar described it as a reflection on the bonds between husbands and wives. "The film is a testament to how couples

a testament to how couples should remain connected in their relationship. The content is engaging and will resonate with a wide audience," he said.

Mannara Chopra's role in the film, playing the negative female lead, has been praised by Shiva Kumar. "Mannara's role is crucial throughout the role is crucial throughout the movie. She has portrayed the character exceptionally well,"

he noted. The production experience was notably enjoyable

shooting

for Shiva Kumar, with the majority of

taking place in Zaheerabad. "We had nearly 400 people involved in the daily shoot and it was a very homely and enjoyable experience," he added. On the financial side, Shiva Kumar expressed satisfaction with the film's progress. "The film has worked out

very well from a business perspective, which is why we're releasing it with great happiness," he said. Reflecting on his career as a producer, Shiva Kumar admitted that, while the financial rewards have been modest, the industry offers a unique opportunity to create employment and support others. "Even if a film breaks even, it provides opportunities for new talents and helps sustain the industry," he shared.

Looking ahead, Shiva Kumar is excited about his Bollywood projects, including a film directed by his friend Raj, currently in post-pro-duction. "We are also working on a web series titled Rahu Ketu and another series based on Tirupati Balaji," he revealed. Additionally, new projects on the horizon include

Varnikha Visuals

Babu's Shivam

Bhaje overseas

to release Ashwin

anga Entertainments is gearing up for the theatrical release of

their prestigious debut ven-ture, *Shivam Bhaje*, hitting

screens worldwide on

August 1. The Ashwin

Babu-starring film is

a film featuring J. D. Chakravarthy, Naresh Agastya and Seerat Kapoor, which will introduce a new director named Shravan.



**Musical family entertainer** 

Santhana Prapthirasthu

first look show up!

nized for his work on films like

In celebration of Vikranth's

birthday, a special poster from

Santhana Prapthirasthu has been unveiled. The poster, fea-

increasing sperm count, high-

lighting approaches such as a

healthy diet, medication, exer-

cise, yoga, stress management,

Director Sanjeev Reddy

and educational resources.

turing the actor, creatively incorporates themes around

Venkatadri Express, Express Raja and Ek Mini Katha. The

movie is set to be a musical

family entertainer.

rikranth and Chandini

Chowdary star in the forthcoming film

Santhana Prapthirasthu, pro-

duced by Madhura Sreedhar

Reddy and Nirvi Hariprasad

Reddy under the banners of

Mathura Entertainment and

Nirvi Arts. The film is directed

by Sanjeev Reddy, who is also a producer on the project. Reddy

is known for his work on ABCD

series Aha Naa Pellanta with Raj

with Allu Sirish and the web

Tarun, and recently earned

acclaim for creating an anti-

drug advertisement featuring

## Toofan impresses with high-

backing previous Vijay Antony hits like Raghavan and Hathya. Directed by Vijay Milton, Toofan promises to deliver a poetic

The newly released sneak peek features a highoctane action sequence that is expected to be one of the film's standout moments. In the clip, a police

## voltage action sequences

officer interrogates a young hotel owner and his mother about a mysterious individual named Dolly and a troubling incident at a mall. Tensions rise as the police, accompanied by several villains, storm the hotel to confront their target. A thrilling fight scene between the hero and the antagonists adds to the growing excitement surrounding the film.

## ero Vijay Antony's highly anticipated film, *Toofan*, is gearing up for a spectacular release on August 2. The movie is produced by Kamal Bora, D. Lalitha, B. Pradeep and Pankaj Bora under the Infinity Film Ventures banner, known for the Infinity



## Kalyan Ram's intense climax shoot on 1000 artists completed

The climax of #NKR21, starring Nandamuri Kalyan Ram and directed by Pradeep Chilukuri, has been successfully wrapped up. This crucial segment was filmed over thirty days on an elaborate set built on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The filmmakers spared no expense on this pivotal scene, investing a remarkable Rs 8 crore, making it the most expensive single episode in Kalyan Ram's career and underscoring the grandeur and scale of the sequence.

Brahma Kadali, renowned for his exceptional set designs, crafted the elaborate and visually stunning environment for the climax. Action choreography was managed by Ramakrishna, ensuring that the fight sequences and stunts were both exhilarating and meticulously executed.

The climax sequence features nearly 1,000 artists, highlighting the significant financial and creative investment in this

segment, which plays a crucial role in the film's narrative.

The film, known for its high-octane action, stars Vijayashanthi in a powerful role as an IPS officer, adding a dynamic presence to the cast. The ensemble also includes Sohail Khan, Saiee Manjrekar and Srikanth, con-

tributing depth to the storyline.

Produced by Ashok Vardhan Muppa and Sunil Balusu under Ashoka Creations and NTR Arts, and presented by Muppa Venkaiah Chowdary, #NKR21 boasts a top-notch team of technicians. Ram Prasad handles cinematography, capturing intense moments with precision, while Ajaneesh Loknath provides a compelling musical score. Tammiraju is the film's editor, and Srikanth Vissa has crafted the screenplay, ensuring a gripping and cohesive narrative.

## **'EVERY SEQUENCE OF THANGALAAN** HAS **MYSTIC ELEMENTS MAKING IT MAJESTIC'**

a. Ranjith's upcoming film, *Thangalaan*, has Adding to its intrigue, Thangalaan is set against the real-life backdrop of the Kolar been creating a buzz nationwide, with anticipation Gold Fields (KGF), distinguishing it from fictional reaching new heights. Known for his visionary approach, narratives and highlighting a unique historical context. This Ranjith is celebrated for film exemplifies the innovative infusing each project with unique elements, and spirit of South Indian cinema. Thangalaan is no exception. showcasing fresh narratives His innovative style ensures and groundbreaking that every frame of the film is approaches. meticulously crafted, making it essential for audiences to pay close attention to catch all the intricate details and

A source close to the director

revealed, "Pa. Ranjith has

Thangalaan by integrating

mystical elements into every

action sequence. The film is

filled with majestic, larger-

than-life moments, like the

mesmerizing day-to-night

trailer, which will keep

viewers on the edge of

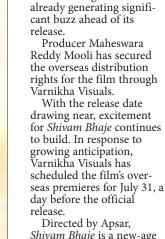
their seats.'

transition scene shown in the

truly excelled with

Produced by Studio Green, Thangalaan stars Chiyaan Vikram, Malavika Mohanan, Parvathy Thiruvothu and others. Directed by Pa. Ranjith, the film is produced by Pa. Ranjith, K. E. Gnanavel Raja, Jyoti

Deshpande and G. Dhananjayan, with music composed by G. V. Prakash Kumar.Mark your calendars: Thangalaan is set to hit theaters on August 15, 2024.



Directed by Apsar, Shivam Bhaje is a new-age divine suspense thriller featuring Digangana Suryavanshi as the lead heroine, opposite Ashwin Babu. Notably, Bollywood actor Arbaaz Khan will appear in a surprising and pivotal role.



## Kaalam Rasina Kathalu release date announced

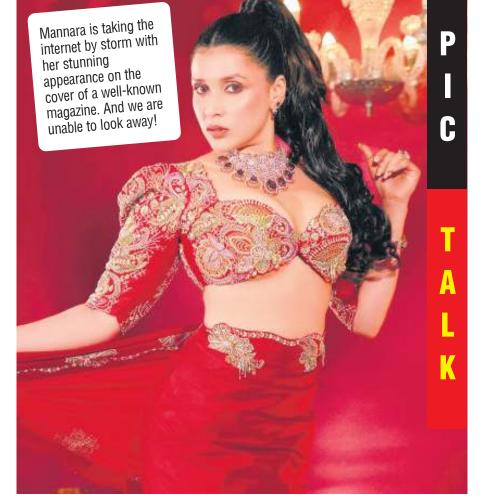
Passionate filmmaker MMV Sagar is gearing up to release his latest project, Kaalam Rasina Kathalu. Not only is Sagar the producer, but he is also directing the film. On Tuesday, actor Sivaji unveiled the film's release date poster and extended his best wishes to the team.

At the event, Sivaji expressed his excitement, stating, "The film's title and concept are intriguing. I wish

the entire team great success.' Director-Producer MMV Sagar shared insights about the film, saying, "The majori-



ty of the shoot was done around Pedana in Machilipatnam. Kaalam Rasina Kathalu is a youthful love and family entertainer featuring a host of emerging talents. The story focuses on the conflicts between five couples and includes enough twists to keep audiences engaged. Particularly, the scenes involving Lord Shiva in the second half are set to be a highlight. We've already received a positive response to the teaser and songs. We are excited to announce that the film will be released on August 29."



## US men's soccer team close to reaching knockouts of Olympics for first time since 2000

**AP** ■ SAINT-ETIENNE (FRANCE)

→he United States men's soccer team is closing in on qualification to the knockout phase of the Olympics for the first time since Sydney 2000.

Argentina is back in control of its destiny after its first game was marred by violence and chaos and a shock defeat to Morocco.

The group stage of the men's soccer tournament at the Paris Games concludes on Tuesday and with only Spain and Japan guaranteed their place in the quarterfinals tensions are likely to be high as a host of nations battle for a place in the final eight.

The U.S. Is competing in its first Olympics since Beijing 2008 and the 4-1 win against New Zealand last week has put it in a strong

position to advance.
"I said, even before coming here, when people ask me what they can expect from us, I said one thing: I promise that this group is going to give everything on the field and where that's going to take us, I don't know. But I know that they're going to give everything," U.S. Coach Marko Mitrovic said.

The Americans face Guinea at Stade Geoffroy-Guichard in Saint-Etienne after the win against New Zealand saw Mitrovic's team bounce back from an opening 3-0

bounce back from an opening 3-0 loss to France in Group A. The U.S. Is in second place, level with New Zealand on three points, but ahead on goal difference. France, which is top on six points, plays New Zealand in its final match and is expected to the property of the match and is expected to secure the win or draw needed to be certain to advance.

There is the potential that three teams could be tied on either six or three points, depending on results in the final round of games. That would mean goal difference or other tiebreaker criteria is required to determine which teams advance. teams advance.

**GROUP B:** Argentina plays Ukraine and is on top of Group B on goal difference, with all four teams tied on three points.

Argentina beat Iraq 3-1 in its second game after its opening loss, which was marred by violent scenes when Moroccan fans rushed the field and forced a delay of around two hours.

Ukraine's late 2-1 win against



Morocco means all four teams won and lost their opening two games and a tiebreaker could be required if there are two draws in the final round of fixtures.

"We're not thinking about the next round. First we have to beat Ukraine," said Argentina coach Javier Mascherano.

**GROUP C:** Spain (6 points) has qualified after back-to-back wins in Group C but could still have a big say over who joins it in the next round.

Spain plays second-placed Egypt (4 points), which needs a draw to guarantee it advances. Thirdplaced Dominican Republic (1 point) plays already eliminated

Uzbekistan (0 points).

GROUP D: Any one of three teams could join Japan and advance from Group D.

Japan (6 points) is into quarterfinals after back-to-back wins and plays last-placed Israel (1 point), which needs a victory to stand any hope of qualifying. Second-placed Paraguay (3 points)

plays Mali (1 point).

A win for Paraguay would guarantee its place in the

## Carlos says he has been dealing with groin muscle problem since Wimbledon

Carlos Alcaraz took a Cmedical timeout for what he said is a lingering groin muscle issue in the second set of his 6-1, 7-6 (3) singles victory over Tallon Griekspoor

victory over Tallon Griekspoor at the Paris Olympics. Alcaraz is scheduled to play doubles for Spain with Rafael Nadal on Tuesday - and the opponents happen to be the Dutch pair of Griekspoor and Wesley Koolhof.

"It's a pain that I've been dealing with. I know what I have to do ... To deal with this pain," said Alcaraz, a 21-yearold who won the French Open at Roland Garros, the same site being used for Olympics last month, and Wimbledon this month.

"I will try to recover as soon and as (best) as I can tonight," he said, "to be ready ... 100 percent tomorrow in my doubles."

Alcaraz said he watched part of Nadal's 6-1, 6-4 loss to Novak Djokovic in singles earlier Monday, before preparing to face Griekspoor.

difficult to play against him. Really aggressive, no mistakes, moving very, very well," Alcaraz said. "I saw Rafa playing decent, let's say. Not his best tennis, for sure. But when Djokovic is like this, he's almost unbeatable."

That last word is one often used to describe Alcaraz, who was the first teenager to reach No. 1 in the ATP rankings, was the youngest man to win major titles on hard, grass and clay courts, and defeated Djokovic in each of the past two Wimbledon finals.

"One of the best players there is," Griekspoor said about Alcaraz. "Someone who likes to play on this court. He made it very difficult for me in the first set."

That was clear. But in the second, Griekspoor began to serve better and hit more aggressively, and suddenly it was a much tighter match. After Alcaraz left the court with a trainer while trailing 5-4 in that set, he



conditions, while conditions

rapidly tapered around midday

due to a storm, postponing the women's afternoon

competition.
"Today is probably gonna be

one of the most exciting days ...

There's some serious waves out

there," said Jordy Smith from South Africa, who lost to Peru's

Alonso Correa in the day's first

heat. "I got pounded a couple

riding across a wall of nearly

10-foot cerulean blue water,

French Polynesian surfer Kauli

Vaast raised his arms to the air,

an enormous smile on his face

as he cruised to victory in his

heat, knocking out Griffin Colapinto from the United

Coming out

States.

returned and was a single point from being pushed to a third. Griekspoor couldn't convert that chance, which Alcaraz erased with a volley winner that he celebrated with a right uppercut and a yell of "Vamos!" Soon, in the tiebreaker, he was back in full

'I didn't see any problems with "When Djokovic is playing at this level, it's really, really asked how Alcaraz seemed in asked how Alcaraz seemed in of times." the second set. "I don't know what the problem was, but it's not like he fell down or twisted his ankle and couldn't walk anymore. He was still all over the place."

Griekspoor said he would prepare for the rematch of sorts by going back and taking a look at the first-round doubles victory for Nadal and Alcaraz to help figure out a game plan.

Giant barrels and steady swells for men's third day of surfing competition

Teahupo'o (France), Jul 30 (AP) With the ceremonial blow of a conch shell and blare of a judge's horn, the third day of the Paris Olympics surfing competition in Tahiti began on Monday with the men's surfers going head-to-head, some reaching the end of the road in their quest for gold.

Stunning waves and steady swells in the morning heats brought a fresh surge of energy to competitors and spectators, after Sunday's lackluster after

score in Olympic surfing history - a 9.9, just shy of a perfect 10. After the ride he launched himself into the air, raising his right arm and pointing towards the sky in a gravity-defying moment.
At times water safety patrol staff on jet skis pulled surfers from the water after their rides,

towing them to calmer waters before jetting them back out to the wave. "It's really dangerous out there.

Gabriel Medina from Brazil

made Olympic history on the waves, receiving the highest

It's super shallow ... You can see the corals," Medina said after his win against Kanoa Igarashi from Japan. On land, emotions ran high.

Expletives were commonly heard from losing surfers coming back to shore. Broken boards, snapped from the power of the waves, were laid on the ground and inspected by teams shaking their heads. Staff of opposing teams going head-to-head whistled in awe and clapped at their opponents rides, marveling as surfers reappeared from being inside heavy barrels of water.

Blustery winds swept in midday, turning the around surf conditions sour, marring the mens' final heats and causing the women's competition being postponed. women's Monday was the last men's competition day before the quarterfinals, semifinals and gold medal heats take place on the fourth and final day of

"I just came out, after a great ride, great takeoff and great wave," Vaast said. "That one competition. Correa from Peru, Inaba from Japan, Joan Duru and Vaast felt good, and I was just too happy and and enjoying the from France, Joao Chianca and Medina from Brazil, Ethan Ewing and Jack Robinson from moment." Australia all qualified to compete in the final day of the Colapinto's loss was the first for the U.S. Team during the Paris

men's competition. Olympics surfing competition, after the entire team won their The rest of the competition heats the first day of competition thus directly functions as a single-elimination, head-to-head bracket. Each heat will feature qualifying for Monday's round. John John Florence from the two surfers, with the winner U.S. Was also eliminated from advancing to the final stage of competition: the quarterfinals, semifinals and final gold medal the competition. Brazil also suffered its first

surfer being knocked out of the competition, after Filipe Toledo lost to Japan's Reo The next competition day will be determined after officials assess wave conditions.

## **Ex-NBA player Chase wins** beach volleyball debut in Paris

hase Budinger has never forgotten how badly he played in his first NBA game. He'll have only good memories from his Olympic debut.

The former Arizona and professional basketball player and his partner, Miles Evans, beat host France in straight sets on Monday to coast through their opening match of the Paris beach volleyball tournament.

"I really tried to use my basketball experience of playing in front of big crowds to be composed the whole time," Budinger said after a 21-14, 21-11 victory. "But it definitely was not like that

Budinger spent seven years in the NBA, mostly as a bench player for the Rockets and Timberwolves, before turning to beach volleyball to fulfill an Olympic dream. His first game, he still remembers, "I



"On the bus ride over here, I was telling Miles about my first basketball game, of how nervous I was and how the nerves really got to me," Budinger said. "I was 0-for-2 (from 3-point range), had two turnovers and one of my shots I had was an airball. So the nerves affected my game play." At the Eiffel Tower Stadium on Monday the jitters didn't get to him - even against a French team that had won the last three matchups on the

international tour. "It took me six years. It took

me a long time to finally achieve this goal and I am here competing at the Olympics," Budinger said. "And there is no better feeling."
Budinger and Evans scored

the first three points and never trailed in the first set. In the second, France did eke out a 3-1 lead before the Americans won the next three points and finished the match in just 32

"It's one of the best starts we could imagine," Evans said. "I had all these bad scenarios in my head going into this match. I am super thankful we were able to overcome that."

Unlike the NBA debut against the Portland Trail Blazers back in 2009, Budinger said, "I felt like out here, I was able to get a couple of points early. That helped relieve some of that stress, those nerves and allowed me to play my game more without it affecting me as much." In other notable beach action

on Monday, Americans Kristen Nuss and Taryn Kloth beat Tokyo silver medalist Taliqua Clancy of Australia and her new partner, Mariafe Artacho del Solar, in straight sets to improve to 2-0 in Paris. France swept Rio gold medalist Laura Ludwig of Germany and her new partner, Louisa Lippmann. Qatar, the bronze medalist in Tokyo on the men's side, beat top-ranked Sweden 2-1 to improve to 2-0 in pool play.

## Chennaiyin FC announces 22-member squad for Durand Cup

hennaiyin FC on Tuesday announced a 22-member squad for the 133rd edition of the Durand Cup being played from July 27 to August 31. Chennaiyin FC are placed in Group D along with ISL side Jamshedpur FC, Indian Army and Assam Rifles with all six games of the stage to be played at the JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur.

The Marina Machans will face Indian Army in their opening game on Wednesday as the group winners and possibly the second-placed team will advance to the knockouts.

'The squad features a blend of senior team members and promising reserves, including notable players such as Vincy Barretto, Bikash Yumnam, Irfan Yadwad, Samik Mitra,



Alexander Romario Jesuraj, and Sachu Siby," the club said in a statement.

"This mix of experience and youth is reflected in the roster, which comprises three goalkeepers, eight defenders, nine midfielders, and two forwards, ensuring a wellbalanced team across all

positions. Chennaiyin FC, who reached the quarterfinal stage in the 2022 and 2023 iterations of the Durand Cup, will take on Jamshedpur FC on August 4 followed by their last group stage game against Assam

Rifles on August 11.

"We are going there to win games. We are not going there to take part. As a team, we are going to be together, on the field, off the field. There's going to be unity. We are going to go on the field and fight and give our 100 per cent," said CFC assistant coach Noel Wilson, who joined the club ahead of this season.

**CHENNAIYIN FC SQUAD:** Goalkeepers: Mohanraj K, Samik Mitra, Malhar Umesh Mohol

Defenders: Niketh N, Bikash Yumnam, Alexander Romario Jesuraj, Rojjak Ali SK, YV Praful Kumar, Aby S, Shanu Stellus, Sachu Siby

Midfielders: Ngangom Raman Singh, Ganeshpandi S, Solaimalai R, Jayasurya, Vivek S, Karthik T, Vincy Barretto, Komal Thatal, Lalpekhlua

### **AP** ■ NANTERRE (FRANCE)

Canadian phenom Summer McIntosh claimed the first gold medal of her just-burgeoning career Monday night with a dominating victory in the 400-meter individual medley at the Paris Olympics.

The 17-year-old McIntosh collected her first medal of any color on the opening night of swimming, taking a silver in the 400 freestyle behind Ariarne Titmus - and ahead of

Katie Ledecky. Now, McIntosh has the most prized color of all.

"I try to take every event very individually and just do my work, but starting off for me - getting on the podium - is definitely a great way to start," McIntosh said. "You try to continue to get better and

She pushed the pace hard through the first half of the grueling race the butterfly and backstroke legs to leave everyone in her wake except American Katie Grimes.

McIntosh was under her own world-record pace, but couldn't keep it going. She touched in 4 minutes, 27.71 seconds, more than three seconds off the mark of

### 17-year-old McIntosh wins gold in 400-metre IM 4:24.38 she set at the Canadian trials in May.

But it was more than enough to blow away the field in the Olympic

McIntosh seemed to take it all in stride. Maybe it's because she competed at the Tokyo Olympics at age 14, so she sort of feels like a veteran now.

Every single time I get to race on the world stage, I learn more and more about handling mentally and physically and emotionally and trying not to get too high or too low," McIntosh said.

She's got a grueling schedule in Paris which includes two more individual races - the 200 butterfly and 200 IM.

There are no plans to celebrate just

"I mean, obviously I'm super happy with this gold," McIntosh said. "But now I'm all about the 200 fly on day

Grimes, who is also swimming the open water event in Paris, held on to claim the silver in 4:33.40. The Americans also grabbed the bronze



when Emma Weyant touched in 4:34.93.

**ANOTHER TEEN RULES:** David Popovici made the teenagers 2-for-2 on the night when he pulled off a thrilling victory in the men's 200 freestyle.

The 19-year-old Romanian was among three swimmers who swapped the lead back and forth on the final lap. First, it was American Luke Hobson edging in front. Then Britain's Matthew Richards, out in Lane 1, pushed to the lead.

Finally, it was Popovici mustering everything he had to get to the wall in 1:44.72 -- a mere two-hundredths ahead of Richards, with Hobson just 0.07 back to earn the bronze.

Britain's Duncan Scott, the silver medalist in Tokyo three years ago, finished in 1:44.87 to miss out on the podium this time. The top four were separated by a mere 0.15

GOLD FOR ITALY, AGAIN: Thomas Ceccon gave Italy its second gold in as many nights at La
Defense Arena, rallying to win the away with time of 57.

men's 100 backstroke.

China's Xu Jiayu led at the turn, just ahead of American Ryan Murphy the 2016 gold medalist. Ceccon was third, but he switched to another gear on the return lap.
The Italian, who has held the world

record since the 2022 world championships in Budapest, now has a gold medal to go with it after finishing in 52.00.

Xu claimed the silver (52.32), while the 29-year-old Murphy settled for the bronze for the second Olympics

in a row at 52.39. Ceccon followed Martinenghi, who grabbed Italy's first gold at the pool with a victory in the 100 breaststroke Sunday

LOOKING AHEAD: In the only semifinals of the night, Australia's Kaylee McKeown and Regan Smith of the U.S. Set up a much-anticipated duel in the women's 100 backstroke.

They each won their heats, with McKeown posting the fastest time (57.97) ad McKeown right on her heels (57.99).

McKeown is the reigning Olympic champion and former world-record holder - a mark that Smith snatched