

66

రూ.4000లో

చెప్పదానికి

నేడు మీరు అందుకుంటున్న

మన ప్రభుత్వ హయాంలో

పెంచిందే రూ.2875 అని

నేను సంతోషిస్తున్నాను

៤០ថ្លីឡីថ្មី-រុំសរុ អូ០ទ្លីដា ដូ០ជាព្រល ផ្ទាំភ្លុំ០សុំ០



రూ.7,000ల ఎన్టీఆర్ భరోసా పింఛన్ల పంపిణీతో తొలి పండుగ నేడు

ముఖ్యమంత్రిగా శ్రీ నారా చంద్రబాబునాయుడు గారి మూడవ సంతకం చారిత్రాత్త్యక నిర్ణయం.. <mark>ఇకపై రూ.4000 పిం</mark>ఛమ



గత ప్రభుత్వం విడతల వాలీ పెంపు అంటూ చేసిన మోసంతో ఒక్కొక్కలికి రూ.32000 నష్టం



- 28 వర్గాలకు చెందిన 65,18,496 మంది లజ్దదారులకు పించన్ల పంపిణీ
- దేశ చలత్రలో తొలిసాలగా ఒకే రోజు పింఛన్ల కోసం రూ.4408 కోట్ల పంపిణీ
- పెలిగిన పించన్లతో ప్రభుత్వంపై ప్రతి నెల అదనపు భారం రూ.819 కోట్లు,
- గడచిన మూడు నెలలకు పెంచిన పింఛను
 కోసం చేస్తున్న ఖర్పు రూ. 1650 కోట్లు
- వృద్ధలు, వితంతువులు, ఒంటరి మహిళలు, చేనేత కార్తికులు, కల్లుగీత కార్తికులు, మత్యకారులు, చర్హకారులు, దప్ప కళాకారులు, హిజ్రాలు, హెచ్ఐపీ బాభితులు, కళాకారులకు రూ.3000 నుంచి రూ.4000లకు పెంపు
- బివ్యాంగులకు ఎన్నడూ లేని విధంగా
 పింఛను రూ.3 వేల నుంచి రూ.6 వేలకు పెంపు
- తీవ్రమైన అనారోగ్యంతో బీల్ చైర్ లేదా మంచానికి పరిమితమైన వారికి పించను రూ.5 వేల నుంచి పకంగా రూ.15000లకు పెంపు
- కిడ్నీ, కాలేయం, తలసీమియా బాధితులకు
 రూ. 5 వేల నుండి రూ. 10,000లకు పెంపు
- కుష్ణువ్యాభి కారణంగా వైకల్యం పాందిన వాలికి
 నెలకు రూ. 6 వేలు

ఇళపై నెలనెలా 1వ తేదీన ఇంటి వద్దనే పింఛన్ల పంపిణీ

<u>మీ భద్రత –</u> మా బాధ్యత

nd data anta: statute, and to concern and textures, and gift gatego



Monday Mirchi

CBN CHERRY-PICKING BABUS. FROM TG TOO

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has been cherrypicking officials. He is very careful about who gets what posting. Efficiency seems to be the only criterion, and, in this context, he is looking at not just Andhra cadre IAS officers, but also those from other states, including Telangana. A little bird told us that Chandrababu is in touch with Union Minister Amit Shah about these deputations. The buzz is that a few handpicked officials from the Telangana cadre may be deputed to Andhra and the requests have already been made. Yours truly will shortly reveal in this space the details of the cops and other officials in this privileged line-up.

THE TRANSFER THAT DID NOT HAPPEN

Pamela Satpathy continues to be at the helm in Karimnagar, though on 15 June, the Telangana government transferred Collectors, including Karimnagar Collector Pamela Satpathy. She was then not given any posting, but asked to report to GAD. However, the transfer was cancelled in the next reshuffle. Bureaucratic circles are puzzled about what happened so quickly. A little bird told us that all is not well between the Chief Secretary and Pamela. However, Pamela is known for her hard work and political intervention may have helped her keep her position.

PLUM POSTINGS DESPITE REGIME CHANGE

Recommendations work wonders when it comes to the administration in Telangana. One pattern evident from the recent transfer of 44 officials is that most of the Ministers and politicians had their way.

However, the postings of K Ashok Reddy and EV Narasimha Reddy took bureaucratic circles by surprise. For, Ashok Reddy was OSD for Harish Rao; and later he was made I & PR Commissioner. Now, he has been posted as the Managing Director of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board. For newbies, Ashok has experience of working in the water board. EV Narasimha Reddy was TSIIC MD for a really long time during the BRS regime. He was later posted as Director of Tribal Welfare. Now, he has got the plum post of Director of School Education. Noticeably, both were close to BRS and conferred IAS before being transferred. Some bureaucrat circles see community as the common thread running through their elevation in the present regime.

BABUS CANNOT APPLY JUST IN PLAIN PAPER FOR VRS!

Rules are important, whether in service, out of service or while on the way out. In Andhra Pradesh, senior bureaucrat Praveen Prakash, after being eased out of the Chief Minister's Office under the previous dispensation, appeared poised for a political plunge by evincing interest to quit service. Following regime change, Praveen Prakash one fine morning asked the new Chief Secretary to 'accept' his application seeking voluntary retirement from service. Until then, the Chief Secretary was in the dark about Praveen's his application. Subsequent enquiries revealed that Praveen had 'applied' for voluntary retirement in plain white paper and that too not in proper format. The buzz in bureaucratic circles is that such applications cannot be processed under any circumstances. - Yours truly

Midhun under house arrest

PNS TIRUPATI a a l YSRCP' Rajampet MP, PV Midhun Reddy, was placed under house arrest in

Tirupati early Sunday morning. A large number of police personnel have been deployed outside his residence, and visitors are not being allowed to enter.

Upon learning about the house arrest, a large number of YSRCP leaders and supporters began gathering outside the MP's residence. However, they were prevented by the police from meeting their leader. Midhun Reddy had planned

a meeting with party activists in Punganur on Sunday in response to attacks on people who voted for the YSRCP. However, ASP Kulasekhar and East CI Maheshwar Reddy reached his home and served a notice stating that he was being placed under house arrest to prevent a potential law and order situation.

The Rajampet MP told media persons that he was not being allowed to meet his constituents and address their problems.

KCR and Jagan have similarities in their defeat

SNCN ACHARYULU HYDERABAD

There are several similarities between Telangana former minister chief Κ Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) and Andhra Pradesh former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in their defeat in the Assembly elections in their respective states. Only major difference was without changing the sitting MLAs KCR and by changing the majority sitting MLAs, Jagan were defeated in the Assembly elections.

If KCR would have changed some sitting MLAs and if Jagan would have not changed some sitting MLAs, the results of their parties in the Assembly elections would have been different. After becoming the chief minister both KCR and Jagan completely remained away from the people and even to their party leaders. The ministers. Both stopped the ing the Cabinet meetings. But

tradition of going to the Secretariat.

While the Telangana for-Bhavan. mer CM KCR turned his official residence Pragathi Bhavan as the Secretariat and Andhra Pradesh former chief minister Jagan had turned his camp office at Tadepally as the MLAs, even the ministers were Secretariat. Jagan used to go to also not able to meet their chief the Secretariat some times dur-

they field. Both had a lo confidence on the public than their party leaders. This has turned as over confidence to both of them. There was no interaction with the party leaders, cadre and with the public by both of them.

After becoming the chief ministers both were mostly confined within the four walls till the elections were announced. Both depended on bureaucrats than on their party leaders.

Both run the revenge politics when they were in power. In Telangana KCR sent Revanth Reddy to jail and he became the Chief Minister. In Andhra Pradesh Jagan sent Chandrababu to jail and he also Pradesh became the Chief Minister. Both had no habit of listening to the party leaders whatever

they say. Both felt that they knew ers. Both thought that their welfare schemes and their image in the public will bring everything. Now KCR and victory to their parties in the Jagan are struggling to save their parties from defections.

CM Naidu thanks PM Modi for praising Araku coffee

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister Ν. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for endorsing Araku coffee -- "a truly Made in AP product" -during his 'Mann Ki Baat' episode earlier in the day.

Resuming his monthly radio programme after assuming office as the Prime Minister of the country for the third consecutive time, PM Modi stated that there is no dearth of unique products in India. Highlighting the 'vocal for local' initiative, the Prime Minister mentioned the Araku coffee produced in Andhra Pradesh's Alluri Sitaram Raju district, known for its rich flavour and aroma.

"Around 1.5 lakh tribal people are associated with Araku coffee cultivation. The Girijan Cooperative has played a significant role in taking Araku Coffee to new heights. This has brought farmer brothers and sisters together. As a result, farmers' incomes have increased, and they are now leading respectable said PM Mo ater the



The PM posted a photograph of himself enjoying Araku coffee with Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu in Visakhapatnam in 2016. Responding to PM Modi's tweet, CM Chandrababu stated that Araku coffee is grown by tribal women with love and devotion.

Chandrababu Naidu in erment and innovation. He Visakhapatnam in 2016.

emphasized that it reflects the Responding to PM Modi's unlimited potential of the people of Andhra Pradesh and tweet, CM Chandrababu statthat Araku coffee is grown thanked Prime Minister Modi

Botsa questions TDP govt's key decisions

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

KCR conducted the Cabinet

meetings also at Pragathi

strong belief in their welfare

schemes than their party lead-

Both KCR and Jagan had

Former minister Botsa Satyanarayana commended the policies of the newly formed TDP-led coalition government while also raising concerns about some of its decisions. The government, which has been in power for just 20 days, received both praise and scrutiny from the seasoned politician.

Speaking to the media people here on Sunday, Botsa made it clear that he would refrain from criticising the new regime, instead focusing on constructive feedback. He lauded the government's decision to provide a pension of Rs 4,000, expressing hope that the coalition would also be able to fulfil their other promises.

However, Botsa did not shy away from addressing con-tentious issues. He spoke on the resignations of Vice Chancellors (VCs), stating that it is within the government's rights to request these resignations. Despite this, he criticised the alliance leaders for barging into YSRCP offices, calling it

exercise restraint and maintain peace in Andhra Pradesh. In a pointed remark, Botsa

suggested that the damage caused by Jagan's rule surpassed the harm from the state's division, implying that this would become evident upon reviewing the relevant data. When asked about corruption allegations against him, Botsa chose not to respond, asserting that the truth would eventually come to light. Reflecting on the recent electoral defeat, Botsa acknowledged that it was due to the people's rejection, a reality that the party must accept

and learn from. As the TDP-led coalition government navigates its early days in power, Botsa's com-ments highlight the critical balance between praise and scrutiny, essential for a functioning democracy.

State records 62.33% excess rainfall in June

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

misconduct

AP govt vows to

probe ex-AU VC's

Leaders from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) have vowed that former Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University, PVGD Prasad Reddy, will face rigorous scrutiny for his alleged misconduct and irregularities during his tenure. During a press conference at the university's Administrative Block on Sunday, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLAs Ganta Srinivasa Rao and Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu, along with Jana Sena Party's Visakhapatnam South MLA Vamsikrishna Srinivasa Yadav and Anakapalli MP CM Ramesh, promised a thorough investigation into the former Vice-Chancellor's actions and those of his supporters.

"Prof. Prasad Reddy has turned Andhra University into a political playground for the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP),"Srinivasa Rao charged, citing activities such as surveys, money distribution, candidate selections, and even personal celebrations. "These have tarnished the image and prestige of the 100-year-old institution." Allegations against Prof. Reddy also include conducting special examinations to favour certain candidates. "The NDA government will not spare anyone involved in these irregularities and will ensure justice for those affected," Srinivasa Rao asserted, calling for a comprehensive inquiry by the Governor and the government. In a strategic move, Prof. Reddy resigned on June 28, just a day before the NDA leaders' scheduled visit to the campus. Ramesh criticized the former Vice-Chancellor for erecting fences and gates around the administrative block and appointing personal security, comparing the measures to a "central jail" and noting that these actions prevented students from staging protests or addressing their grievances.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The state experienced a significant 62.33% excess rainfall in June, with all districts except Srikakulam and Alluri Sitarama Raju recording this excess. These two districts reported normal rainfall during the current southwest monsoon. Even the Rayalaseema districts observed higher rainfall than usual compared to the previ-

ous year. Despite the overall excess, Prakasam and Nellore districts recorded below 100 mm of rainfall. While the state's normal rainfall is 97.18 mm, the actual recorded rainfall was 157.75 mm. Interestingly, rainfall occurred for around 22 days on average across almost all districts. The past 24 hours saw heavy rainfall in all districts.

139.29%, Chittoor at 127.21%, YSR Kadapa at 110.49%, Annamayya at 102.61%, and

Krishna at 102.19%. The NTR district received 220.60 mm of rainfall compared to the normal 111.76 mm, while Kakinada received 212.27 mm against 114.31 Similarly, mm. Visakhapatnam's normal rainfall of 111.92 mm saw an actual 211.24 mm. Other districts also record-

ed significant rainfall: Srikakulam (143.33 mm), Vizianagaram (209.57 mm), Parvathipuram Manyam (180.07 mm), Alluri Sitarama Raju (193.35 mm), Anakapalli (200.09 mm), Dr. BR Ambedkar Konaseema (172.36 mm), East Godavari (195.03 mm), West Godavari (181.62 mm), Eluru (198.04 mm), Krishna (190.28 mm), Guntur (180.30 mm), Bapatla (130.84 mm)Palnadu

Assembly elections whoever

TODAY ALMANAC Month & Paksham Krishna Paksha Tithi: Dashami: Jun 30 12:19 PM to Jul 01 10:26 AM Jul 01 10:26 AM Ekadashi to Jul 02 08:42 AM Nakshatram: Jun 30 07:34 AM Ashwini to Jul 01 06:26 AM Bharani Jul 01 06:26 AM to Jul 02 05:27 AM 7:27 AM to 9:04 AM Rahukalam Yamagandam: 10:42 AM to 12:20 PM Varjyam: 05:03 PM to 06:36 PM 1:57 PM to 3:35 PM Gulika: Amritakalam: 12:51 AM to 02:23 AM Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:54 AM to 12:46 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER Forecast: Cloudy Temp: 34°° Humidity: 75% Sunrise: 5:38 AM

Sunset: 6:44 PM

Updated: June 30, 2024 5:00 PM

According to the A (142.15 mm), Prakasam Pradesh Water Resources Information and (87.63 mm), SPS Nellore System Management (86.77 mm), Kurnool (149.64 (APWRIMS), Anantapuram mm), Nandval (192.79 mm), district registered the highest Sri Satva Sai (160.47 mm), YSR Kadapa (145.30 mm), excess rainfall at 161.28% between June 1 and June 30, Annamayya (153.74 mm), followed by Nandyal at Chittoor (185.70 mm), and 146.79%, Sri Satya Sai at Tirupati (121.52 mm).

HC order on Kavitha's bail...

Continued from Page 3

Kavitha has challenged the trial court's May 6 order by which her bail applications in the CBI's corruption case and the ED's money laundering case were dismissed.

Kavitha's lawyer had submitted that out of the 50 accused in the excise matter, she is the lone woman, and urged the court to consider granting her bail as the law keeps women on a different pedestal. The CBI and ED had opposed the bail pleas of Kavitha, saying she was highly influential and powerful enough to influence witnesses. Countering the submission made on behalf of Kavitha that she, being a woman, be released on bail, the probe agencies had contended that it was the woman who was playing the main role in the conspiracy here and she was an active politician and a member of the legislative council and cannot seek parity with vulnerable woman. The CBI's counsel had argued that Kavitha was not just a woman but a very influential woman and was powerful enough to influence witnesses as one of the witnesses has even stated that he was threatened by her. The ED's counsel had also contended that Kavitha was a co-conspirator and a beneficiary of the excise scam and the proceeds of crime were directly going to her.

with Andhra Pradesh CM combination of tribal empow-

PM posted a photograph of by tribal women with love for recognizing this and suphimself enjoying Araku coffee and devotion. It represents a porting Made in Andhra products.

demned the recent attack on the TDP office by party leaders, urging both parties to

inappropriate Botsa also

Provide quality seeds to farmers: Pemmasani

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Union Minister of State Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar has directed officials of the Agriculture Department and allied departments to ensure seamless provision of quality seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides to farmers for crop cultivation. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of facilitating crop loans, ensuring proper irrigation, and promoting awareness about profitable farming practices.

ed a review meeting via video ence hall. The meeting includ-conference with officials from ed presentations detailing the agriculture and allied departments in Guntur district on Sunday. District Collector S. Nagalakshmi, along with seed availability, fertilizer dis-MLAs Naseer Ahmed, Burla tribution, soil testing, horticul-Ramanjaneyulu, Tenali Sravana Kumar, and Joint Collector G. farming initiatives.



Rajakumari were present at

establishment of a dedicated toll-free number in the Guntur district to address complaints regarding the sale of non-compliant fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides. He stressed the importance of prominently displaying this number at all business establishments and ensuring prompt resolution of reported issues, with detailed records maintained for scrutiny by public representatives

and higher authorities. Dr. Chandrasekhar also committed to working with the central meeting, advocating for stringovernment to enact legislative changes aimed at rigorously penalizing manufacturers and vendors of counterfeit agricultural inputs.

Encouraging agronomists to explore innovative crop alterextend crop loans not only to natives, Dr. Chandrasekhar landowners but also to tenant urged agriculture department farmers.

The Minister instructed the officials to educate farmers extensively on profitable crop cultivation techniques. He emphasized the need for robust planning to ensure subsidized government seeds reach all eligible farmers while calling for rigorous inspections to curb the circulation of fake agricultural products that harm crop yields, particularly affecting disadvantaged farmers in the district. MLAs Tenali Sravan Kumar,

Burla Ramanjaneyulu, and

Naseer Ahmed contributed

various suggestions during the

gent actions against companies

involved in the large-scale dis-

tribution of counterfeit agricul-

They also urged measures to

tural inputs.

Canada. US...

Continued from Page 3

The State government has enlisted the support of these international experts due to challenges stemming from previous administration decisions, complicating the project's progress assessment over the past five years.

The visiting team includes David P Paul and Gain Franco de Sikko from the US, and Richard Dannelli and Sean Hinch Berger from Canada, recognized for their expertise in dam safety, structural and geotechnical engineering.

The presence of these experts aims to provide crucial insights and recommendations to expedite the completion of the Polavaram project, crucial for the region's water management and infrastructure development.

7306299999 - Toll-free no. for submitting...

Continued from Page 3

Lokesh has pledged swift action on the issues raised during these sessions, aiming to resolve them without delay. Rao praised the Chief Minister's proactive stance in raising pensions by Rs 1000 in a single increment, effectively increasing the pension from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4000 as per their election manifesto. This move, which sets a national record, will see the implementation of a Rs.7000 pension starting July 1, with retroactive effect from April.

istration for financial mismanagement, resulting in substantial reductions in

Highlighting further plans, Rao announced that CM Chandrababu will personally oversee the distribution of pensions in Penumaka village of Mangalagiri constituency on Monday. He called upon all ministers and MLAs to participate in similar initiatives across their respective constituencies. Under Chandrababu's leadership, Rao noted initiatives such as the establish-

However, Rao criticized Jagan's admin- ment of Anna Canteens, increased support for Mega DSC and unemployed pensions, and significant reforms like the Land Titling Act, all aimed at benefiting the disadvantaged.

Addressing other concerns, Rao expressed dismay over the alleged mishandling of the Polavaram project by YSRCP, which, through questionable contracts, has reportedly cost the state a staggering Rs 70,000 crore. He affirmed their commitment to expeditiously completing the Polavaram pro-ject to ensure the prosperity of Andhra

Pradesh. Similarly, Rao emphasised the commitment to developing Amaravati into a world-class capital, accessible to all communities, addressing concerns over its treatment during its development

Highlighting the recent Cabinet expansion, Srinivasa Rao described it as a testament to TDP's commitment to empowering BC communities. He pointed to key appointments such as the state DGP, TTD EO, and CM's secretary as concrete steps in this direction.

All set for disbursal...

Continued from Page 3

Additionally, for 24,318 beneficiaries suffering from serious ailments, the pension has been raised from Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000 per month.

The revision of pensions is expected to increase the financial burden on the exchequer by more than Rs 819 crore per month. The total amount to be distributed as pensions now amounts to Rs 4,408 crore per month, all of which will be disbursed on July 1. The state government will also incur an additional expense of Rs 1,650 crore to clear dues for the past three months.

In comparison, the previous government spent merely Rs 1,939 crore per month on pensions. The current government will need to allocate Rs 34,000 crore annually for this purpose.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and published by B Krishna Prasad for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., Printed at Sree Seshasai Enterprises, D.No. New 3-88, Old 3-22, Chandra Theatre, Gosala, Penamaluru Mandal, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 521 151, Editor-in-Chief: Shobori Ganguli Resident. Editor: B Krishna Prasad, AIR SURCHARGE of Rs 2.00.

Dr Chandrasekhar conduct- the Collectorate's video conferstatus of agricultural activities, land under cultivation, irrigation facilities, rainfall patterns, tural practices, and natural

pension payouts.



DON'T MISS...

V/W Sectt staff body chief's call...

State secretary of the Gram and Ward Secretariat Employees Association, SR Ajay Kumar, expressed optimism that all the issues faced by Gram Ward Secretariat employees will be resolved under the leadership of Nara Chandrababu Naidu, who has recently taken the oath as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh He urged all employees of the Gram Ward Secretariat to contribute to the success of the NTR Bharosa pension programme, which will be organized by the Chief Minister on Monday... -PAGE: 4



The Andhra Pradesh state government will release the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) notification on Monday (July 1). The TET applications will be accepted from July 2, according to a release by Commissioner of School Education S Suresh Kumar on Sunday. The complete details regarding TET are made available on the web portal https://cse.ap.gov.in/. It may be recalled that 20 per cent weightage is given to TET marks in DSC. The Commissioner said that a special help desk has .. -PAGE: 5



Al's cross-border nature will require a 'Global Compact' to ensure its benefits reach all of humanity and to safeguard against any potential misuse. Arundhati Bhattacharva, the top boss of Salesforce India ha s said exudi confidence that for India, Artificial Intelligence will be a "gamechanger" in delivery of public services. Bhattacharya, the CEO and Chairperson of Salesforce India and former Chairperson of the SBI, said that AI is poised to bring about a transformation in every sphere - from ... -PAGE: 8

PM 'endorses' Araku coffee in 'Mann Ki Baat'

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

In a heartfelt tribute during his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio address on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra lauded the Girijan Modi Cooperative Corporation (GCC) for its extraordinary success in bringing Araku Valley coffee to global prominence. Emphasizing the coffee's unique qualities, PM Modi celebrated the dedication of tribal communities in Alluri Sitaramaraju district, whose hard work, supported by GCC and the Andhra Pradesh Government, has transformed a local product into an international sensation.

"It is a matter of immense pride for India that Araku Valley coffee, with its exceptional aroma and taste, is now cherished worldwide," declared the Prime Minister. He highlighted that the extensive cultivation of Araku coffee has economically uplifted over 150,000 tribal families, thanks to the GCC's unwavering efforts in promoting

coffee farming. Reflecting on his visit to Visakhapatnam, PM Modi fondly recalled enjoying Araku Valley cof-fee with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, highlighting its superior flavor. He noted the coffee's multiple global awards and its



popularity at high-profile events such as the G20 Summit in Delhi. PM Modi urged everyone to experience the unique taste of Araku Valley coffee. G. Suresh Kumar, Vice Chairman & Managing Director of GCC, expressed immense pride in the Prime Minister's recognition of Araku Valley coffee during the 'Mann Ki Baat' program.

He underscored the critical support provided by the state govern-ment and GCC in fostering the growth of the tribal communities in the Alluri district. Kumar affirmed that PM Modi's laudatory remarks will inject excitement, enthusiasm, and motivation among tribal coffee farmers, GCC staff, government departments, and all stakeholders in coffee cultivation.

He reiterated that Araku coffee

is a vital instrument in the economic upliftment of tribal communities in Andhra Pradesh.

As Araku Valley coffee continues to win hearts globally, PM Modi's acknowledgement serves as a testament to the potential of Indian local products on the international stage. His call to appreciate and support such indigenous excellence resonates as a powerful message for all Indians to cherish and promote the rich cultural and agricultural heritage of the nation.

CM Naidu thanks PM Modi for praising Araku coffee: P2



P4

Nadendla warns of stern action against **Dwarampudi in** PDS rice scam PNS KAKINADA

Athe pioneer

Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar is determined to expose the YSRCP leader and former MLA Dwarampudi Chandrasekhar Reddy has been allegedly involved in a major PDS rice scam. The Minister has warned that criminal cases will be registered against all those involved and has conducted



officials, inspected several rice godowns and discovered anomalies in the stock. He spent two days in the city, visiting rice godowns and

questioning officials. During the inspection, rice intended for distribution under the PDS was found stored in the Ashok International and H1 godowns. Following the Minister's directions, the officials seized these two godowns. They had received a tip-off that traders were planning to export the PDS rice to South Africa, prompting officials to halt rice exports from the Kakinada Port until the inquiry is concluded.

Allegations have surfaced that the export of PDS rice was being orchestrated by ex-MLA Dwarampudi Chandrasekhar Reddy and his family members.

Minister Manohar criticised Dwarampudi for allegedly turning the Kakinada Port into a hu illegal export activities. He expressed astonishment at the scale of the PDS rice scam.

Canada, US experts inspect Polavaram

Four-member team examines various facilites including diaphragm wall, cofferdams, and the guide bund

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, under the TDP-led NDA government, has prioritised the completion of pending works at the Polavaram project. The project, facing delays due to technical challenges, has prompted the Central Water Commission (CWC) to seek international expertise to address critical issues.

Water resources experts from the United States and Canada visited the Polavaram project on Sunday. Four experts - two from each country met with officials from the Central Water Resources Department in New Delhi on Saturday before arriving in Rajamahendravaram that The team inspected various

with local officials. emain at the project site until July

works. Post their site visit, they will The experts are scheduled to convene with officials from the Central

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Secretary Neerabh

Kumar Prasad has

appointing

come back to AP.

Chief Minister.

State

issued



revised pensions today

PNS VIJAYAWADA

With the stage being set for the dis-bursal of enhanced social security pensions in the State on Monday, the TDP-led NDA has initiated efforts to fulfil its promises within the first month of its term.

The State government has made all arrangements for distributing the revised NTR Bharosa pensions to beneficiaries. A total of 1,20,097 employees have been assigned to facilitate this distribution.

Over 65.31 lakh beneficiaries set at Rs 4,000 per month. For the the State wil

comprehensive inquiry with the CID. Minister Manohar, along with



From Dhoni. Tendulkar to...

The who's who of Indian cricket fraternity, including Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Sachin Tendulkar and Sunil Gavaskar, hailed the title triumph in the T20 World Cup, saying it will inspire the country's "starry-eyed children to move one step closer to their dreams". India's first T20 world champion skipper Dhoni led the chorus of former and current cricketers. hailing Rohit Sharma's men for regaining the trophy after 17 long years after beating South Africa by seven runs in a pulsating final in Barbados on. -SPORTS

aspects of the project site including 3, conducting a comprehensive the diaphragm wall, cofferdams, review of the project's design phase and the guide bund after discussions to its current status and ongoing

7306299999 - Toll-free no. for submitting pleas to CM



PNS VIJAYAWADA

TDP State president Palla Srinivasa Rao announced the launch of a dedicated toll-free number, 7306299999, without delay. facilitating direct submissions of petitions to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. This move comes amidst a surge in citizens visiting Undavalli to present their grievances, reflecting growing confidence in the government's responsiveness. Srinivasa Rao assured that petitions received through the toll-

free number will be prioritized based on urgency, ensuring swift resolutions to pressing issues. "Since assuming power, our coalition gov-ernment has committed to addressing public concerns directly," Rao affirmed, signalling a departure from previous administrations. Our goal is to ensure that every issue brought to us receives prompt attention, supporting those in need

He assured that the issues were promptly escalated to the appropriate authorities for swift resolution. Meanwhile, Minister Nara Lokesh has been conducting regular "Praja Darbar" sessions in Mangalagiri, drawing hundreds of concerned residents daily. **Continued on Page 2**

Department and construction organisations for further discussions.

Chief

orders

Karthikeya Mishra as the Additional

Secretary to Chief Minister Nara

Chandrababu Naidu. Kartikeya

Mishra is currently working as a

director in the Union finance

department, and after repatriation

from the Central deputation, he has

Neerabh Kumar Prasad issued

GO No 1148 on Saturday, which

stated that Kartikeya Mishra, IAS

(2009), has reported to the govern-

ment of Andhra Pradesh. The gov-

ernment hereby admits Kartikeya

Mishra into duty as of June 29 and

posted as additional secretary to the

ly participate in the distribution pro-

pensions. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu will personal-

enoed has been increased from Rs 3,000 to Rs 6,000 per month. Continued on Page 2

gramme at Penumaka in the

Mangalagiri Assembly segment.

Beneficiaries from 28 different cat-

egories will receive the revised pen-

sions, which include arrears for the

total of Rs 7,000, comprising a Rs 4,000 monthly pension for June and

loom workers, toddy tappers, fish-

ermen, transgenders, and artists, is

Each beneficiary will receive a

The revised pension amount for various groups, including the elder-ly, widows, single women, hand-

past three months.

Rs 3,000 in arrears.

physically chall

Kartikeya appointed as Addl Secy to CM No political interference in sports: Pawan

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has pledged to revitalise sports in Andhra Pradesh, vowing to reclaim sports associations from political interference that has plagued hem under the YSRCP government. Accompanied by athletes including renowned cricketer Hanuma Vihari from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, and Delhi, Kalyan received appeals for reforms aimed at fostering genuine sports development.

The athletes emphasized that competent leadership within sports associations is crucial for nurturing talent and ensuring transparency. They advocated for appointing experienced individuals from respective sports to head associations, stressing that political appointees without sports backgrounds should not lead. They highlighted concerns over unethical practices within associa- letes of the government's commit-



Expressing dismay over nepotism in player selections and misuse of association funds, Deputy CM Kalyan condemned the trend of political manoeuvring in sports, which has compromised fairness and meritocracy.

tions, lamenting their exploitation for political patronage and the devaluation of sports achievements. Expressing dismay over nepotism

in player selections and misuse of association funds, Deputy CM Kalyan condemned the trend of political manoeuvring in sports, which has compromised fairness and meritocracy. He assured the ath-

ment to overhaul sports governance, promising measures to restore integrity and elevate the state's sports stature.

In response to the athletes' input. Kalvan affirmed the government's dedication to advancing sports in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in cricket, promising proactive steps to rejuvenate sports associations and uphold the spirit of fair play and excellence.

'Stop diarrhoea' drive in AP from today

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Health, Medical, and Family Welfare Department is set to launch

the 'Stop Diarrhoea' campaign across the state from July 1 to August 31. Following directives from the Ministry of Health, Medical, and Family Welfare, the state government will implement this special programme over the next two months.

Dr S. Venkateswar, the Health and Welfare Family Commissioner, has issued orders to all District Health & Medical Officers (DM &

HO) to ensure the successful execution of the campaign. The primary objective of the Stop Diarrhoea' initiative is to reduce fatalities caused

by this dangerous disease. The 'Stop Diarrhoea' campaign will be conducted in two stages. The first stage, held from June 14 to 30, was organized collaboratively by the state and central governments. The second phase, scheduled from July 1 to August 31, will be carried out solely by the state government. The health department is prepared to distribute ORS packets to children

under five years old

through Asha workers,

ANMs, and CHOs.

PNS NEW DELHI

BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Sunday hailed India's epochal title win in the T20 World Cup and announced a prize money of Rs 125 crore for the team for its monumental feat in the just-concluded ICC showpiece. India defeated South Africa by

seven runs in a tense final at Bridgetown, Barbados, to land their second world title in the T20 format.

"Under the exceptional leadership of Rohit Sharma, this team has shown remarkable resolve and resilience, becoming the first team in the history of the ICC T20 World Cup to win the tournament unbeaten," said Shah in a state-



MONUMENTAL FEAT

BCCI announces Rs 125 cr reward

the ranks of the greats."

Shah later took to social media to announce a cash reward of Rs 125 crore for the team.

"I am pleased to announce prize money of INR 125 Crores for

Team India for winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024," Shah wrote on 'X'

The team has showcased exceptional talent, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Congratulations to all the players, coaches, and support staff for this outstanding achievement!"

Shah also lauded the team's strong work ethics.

'This team has made us all proud with their dedication, hard work, and unyielding spirit. Led by Rohit Sharma, and ably assisted by Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and others they have fulfilled the dreams and aspirations of 1.4 billion Indians," he said in his statement



HC order on Kavitha's bail pleas today

PNS NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court is likely to pronounce on Monday its order on the bail pleas of BRS leader K Kavitha in the corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, who had reserved the order on the two bail pleas of Kavitha on May 28, is scheduled to pass the verdict at 2:30 PM on July 1. Continued on Page 2

ment. "They have faced and silenced their critics with stellar perform-

ances time and again. Their journey has been nothing short of inspirational, and today, they join



AP TET NOTIFICATION TODAY Erstwhile YSRCP govt's DSC notification cancelled

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh state government will release the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) notification on Monday (July notification on Monday (July 1). The TET applications will be accepted from July 2, according to a release by Commissioner of School Education S Suresh Kumar on Sunday. The complete details regarding TET are made available on the web portal https://cse.ap.gov.in/_lt portal https://cse.ap.gov.in/. It can be recalled that 20 per cent weightage is given to TET marks in DSC.

The Commissioner said that a special help desk has been set up in the Commissioner's office for additional information on TET. The previous YSRCP government conducted the TET in February and 58.56 percent of candidates who appeared for the exam have passed. A total of 2.35 lakh people attended TET. It is known that the new alliance government in AP recently announced Mega DSC to fill 16,347 posts. The TDP-led NDA gov-

ernment in the state has decided to conduct a Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) along with Mega DSC. In the backdrop, the notification of Mega DSC will be released on July 1 along with the TET notifi-cation. To this extent, the Education Department has issued an order cancelling the DSC notification issued by the previous YSRCP government.

YSRCP government has issued a DSC notification to fill just 6,100 teacher posts that have been cancelled. Recently, the NDA government in AP announced Mega DSC with 16,347 posts.

Privatisation of VSP is a policy decision: Varma

PNS BHIMAVARAM

Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Steel, Bhupatiraju Srinivasa Varma has made it clear that the Central government's decision to privatise the Visakhapatnam

Steel Plant is a policy decision. The Minister participated in Mrityunjaya Homam and spe-cial pooja at the famous Someswara Swamy temple in Bhimayaram on Sunday Bhimavaram on Sunday. Later talking to the media,

It may be recalled that the

Launch of free bus

ride for women

imminent: Min



the Union Minister said that the people of Andhra Pradesh have a sentiment with the Steel plant and they firmly wish that the VSP must be a public sector unit. The Union Minister

'Bujji' gets rousing reception from fans



Visitors having a look at the car Bujji displayed at Trendset Mall as part of Kalki movie promotion on Sunday (Photo: Ch. Vijaya Bhaskar)

PNS 📕 VIJAYAWADA

The film Kalki 2898 AD star-Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, and Amitabh Bachchan has been receiving positive reviews. Meanwhile, Bujji, the robot car from the film, arrived in Vijavawada to enthusiastic response from film lovers. The car was dis-

played at Trendset Mall on Sunday. The high-budget movie was recently released worldwide.

Prabhas uses the car in Kalki. His fans thronged Benz Circle to see the Bujji car on Sunday, resulting in large crowds. The police and secu-rity personnel failed to control the visitors.

joint action plan 'Prevention of Drugs and Substances Abuse Among Children and Illicit Trafficking', considering the excellent work done in the past two years. On Sunday, Minister

for State of Home Affairs Nityananda Rao presented the award for the best-performing district to Dr Dilli Rao at Vignan Bhavan in New Delhi. The National Commission

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Utsava Committee will offer its Bonalu on July 14. Following this, the Shakambari Devi

Utsavams will be conducted for

The press conference was

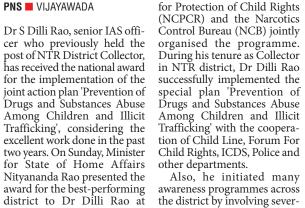
attended by Durga Temple

Executive Engineer KVS

Koteswara Rao, Sthanacharya

Vishnubhotla Siva Prasad

Sarma, and others.



Senior IAS official Dr Dilli Rao receiving the award from Union Minister Nityananda Rao at Vignan Bhavan in New Delhi on Sunday

Dr Dilli Rao receives award for

best-performing district

Additionally, he organised rallies, and health camps besides the distribution of pamphlets to eradicate the child labour system and sexual harassment in all schools and colleges. Further, special drives against the illegal transportation of drugs yielded good results in the district. Moreover, he focused on the high-risk areas and found drug addicts and sent them to the deaddiction centres.

Dr Dilli Rao expressed happiness over the recognition. Also, he thanked all officials, voluntary organisations and educational institutions for al voluntary organisations, and educational institutions. their cooperation.

Durga temple to host first ever 'Varahi Utsavams'

Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam, located Indrakeeladri in atop Vijayawada, will host the 'Varahi Utsavams' for the first time from July 6 to 15, announced Executive Officer (EO) KS Rama Rao. EO Rama Rao addressed the media at the Mallikharjuna Maha Mandapam on Sunday.

the 'Varahi Utsavams' will be conducted in Vijayawada. He stated that this is the first Additionally, the temple will



time in the temple's history that celebrate the 'Ashada Masa Sare Mahotsavam' for one month starting on July 6, with all necessary arrangements

being made for devotees to submit their 'Sare'. Furthermore, he mentioned

that the Telangana Mahankali

Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan to be developed as community hall

Minister Kollu Ravindra asks officials to prepare a design

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM Transport Minister Mandinalli ciently, aimed at optimizing services without disruption to



Machilipatnam on Sunday. He



V/W Sectt staff body chief's call to make pension disbursal successful

PNS VIJAYAWADA

State secretary of the Gram and Ward Secretariat Employees Association, SR Ajay Kumar, expressed optimism that all the issues faced by Gram Ward Secretariat employees will be resolved under the leadership of Nara Chandrababu Naidu, who has recently taken the oath as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He urged all employees of the Gram Ward Secretariat to contribute to the success of the NTR Bharosa pension programme, which will be organized by the Chief Minister on

Monday. their duties, and no justice The Village Ward Secretariat Employees was served to them by the previous government. Additionally, he pointed out Association meeting took place in Vijayawada on that the previous govern-Sunday. Association State ment left many issues of vil-President Gunipe Raiesh lage ward secretariat employariat employ Kumar criticized the previous ees unresolved.

YSR Congress government for issuing G.O. number 423 to Ward Sanitation and Environmental Secretaries, which led to significant problems. He also condemned the non-implementation of G.O. No. 166, which was intended to promote Grade-2 VROs to Grade-1 VROs.

Rajesh Kumar further criticised the YSR Congress government for implementing a uniform system for secretariat employees, creating a divide between government employees and secretariat employees. He lamented that 162 energy assistants lost their lives while performing

assured of talking to the officials in the Central govern-Finance Minister and top-level ment to ensure that the VSP unit forever.

Ramprasad Reddy has announced the imminent launch of a highly anticipated free bus ride scheme for women in Visakhapatnam. The initiative, long-awaited by residents, marks a pivotal step towards

enhancing mobility and affordability for all citizens. Minister Reddy, speaking at a press conference, articulated his vision to expand the free bus scheme beyond

Visakhapatnam, covering various regions across

the state. Emphasizing inclusivity, he underscored ongoing consultations with women to tailor transport services to meet their specific needs, ensuring equitable access and safety.

In a scathing critique of past overnance, Minister governance, Minister Ramprasad Reddy condemned the previous administration's failure to fully integrate the Road Transport Corporation (RTC) into government operations. Promising a robust overhaul of the RTC, he assured that reforms would be implemented swiftly and effi-

In a bid to promote sustain-

ability, Minister Reddy unveiled ambitious plans to introduce electric buses, heralding a shift towards a greener, eco-friendly public transportation network. This

tions.

initiative aligns closely with the government's commitment to reducing carbon footprints and advancing cleaner modes of transport for future genera-

imminent rollout of the free

his unwavering dedication to improving accessibility and operational efficiency within the state's transport infrastructure. He pledged tangible enhancements that would ben-

positively to environmental conservation efforts statewide. The announcement has been met with optimism and anticipation from residents and environmental advocates alike, heralding a new era of accessible, sustainable public transport in Andhra Pradesh.

works by constructing Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan as a Multipurpose Community Hall in Machilipatnam constituency. He said he would strive to bring funds from the State and Central governments for the community hall construction. Also, he directed the Social Welfare Department officials to prepare a design. He inspected the dilapidated Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan at the district court centre in

Amid preparations for the

bus scheme, Minister Ramprasad Reddy reiterated

asked the officials why the building remained neglected in the past five years. Speaking to the media later, he said that the Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan was constructed 25 years ago. During the tenure of the TDP government between 2014 and 2019,

Rs.5 crore was sanctioned for the renovation of the building. efit commuters and contribute However, the YSRCP government cancelled the GO sanctioning funds, he alleged.

He alleged that former minister Perni Venkatramaiah alias Nani neglected the Ambedkar Bhavan during his period. The YSRCP leaders always gave

Minister Kollu Ravindra inspecting Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan along with officials in Machilipatnam on Sunday



said.

Dilapidated Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan in Machilipatnam

their party offices to gain commissions. Though Machilipatnam MP Vallabhaneni Bala Shoury (previously he was in YSRCP and now in JSP) assured of allocatpriority to the construction of ing MPLADS, Perni Nani

refused. As a result, Machilipatnam Municipal

Corporation officials did not take any steps in this regard, he

"Our government will develop the Ambedkar Bhavan as a Ravindra.

Multipurpose Community Hall. For that, we will bring funds from State and Central governments, besides Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. The building will be developed to conduct meetings and functions. It will have a library and a study circle along with sufficient parking facilities," Ravindra said.

Jana Sena Party leader Bandi Ramakrishna, Machilipatnam former Municipal Chairman M Baba Prasad, AMC ex-Chairman G Satyam, Social Welfare Department Deputy Director Shahid Babu and others accompanied Minister

SMOOTH TRAVEL Vizag Airport embraces DigiYatra



PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Visakhapatnam International Airport is gearing up for a smoother travel experience for passengers with the upcoming implementation of DigiYatra. This innovative system leverages facial recognition technology, allowing passengers to expedite security checks and pre-boarding procedures using just a digital boarding pass on their smartphones. Currently undergoing trials, DigiYatra promises to revolutionize the travel experience at Visakhapatnam. The contactless check-in process boasts significantly reduced wait times, enabling passengers to navigate pre-flight protocols with greater ease. Explaining the user-friendly process to The Pioneer,

Visakhapatnam International

Airport Director S Raja Reddy

outlined the steps involved. Passengers will need to down-

load the DigiYatra app and register using their name, phone

number, and Aadhaar details.

Uploading a selfie and entering

flight information before their

journey are also part of the reg-

the app generates a QR code.

Upon arrival at the airport,

istration process.

Scanning this code at a dedicated DigiYatra e-gate triggers a camera to capture the passenger's image. The system then links the boarding pass to the passenger's facial recognition profile, allowing for a swift facial scan before proceeding to security checks and boarding.

Reddy emphasized that DigiYatra aims to minimize manual identity checks and expedite entry points, security checks, boarding procedures, self-bag drop, and check-in through a digitalized process. He further highlighted the security benefits, stating, "DigiYatra enhances security by mapping passengers with their PNR, ensuring only genuine passen-gers proceed through each checkpoint."

Passenger privacy remains a key concern. The DigiYatra system does not involve central storage of sensitive Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data. All passenger information is encrypted and resides solely on the user's smartphone wallet. This data is shared exclusively between the passenger and the departure airport for validation purposes and is purged from the airport's system within 24 hours of the flight's departure.

Vizag sees a spurt in youth's addiction to online gaming

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The port city is now confronting a troubling trend that threatens its youth: a rapid rise in online gaming disorder, particularly among teenagers. This addiction has cast a shadow over the city, revealing the darker side of the digital age. In a stark example, a 13-year-old boy from Thatichetlapalem has become a haunting symbol of this crisis. Consumed by his phone for more than 10 hours daily, he sacrificed school and social life, prompting urgent parental intervention. Doctors swiftly diagnosed him with



online gaming disorder, under-Similarly, in Ramnagar, a young man's fixation with online betting spiralled into scoring the urgency of the issue.

financial ruin. His family, driven to sell property to cover debts, witnessed the harrowconsequences of ing unchecked addiction. Only intensive psychiatric treat-ment restored hope after hospitalization and marked financial loss.

Medical professionals across Visakhapatnam are increasingly alarmed by such cases, predominantly affecting middle and high school students and even young engineering aspirants. These individuals, engrossed in games like PUBG and Free Fire for extended periods (8-12 hours), neglect

basic needs like sleep, food, and social interaction.

"Parents must remain vigilant," warns Dr NN Neihal, a prominent psychiatrist, highlighting early signs such as excessive phone use, withdrawal from social activities, academic decline, and disrupted sleep patterns. Timely intervention, he stresses, is pivotal in averting severe mental health complications such as anxiety and depression. Treatment for online gam-

ing disorder demands a multifaceted approach involving psychiatric counselling and, in some cases, medication to

mitigate withdrawal symptoms. Dr. Neihal stresses the importance of a gradual reduction in gaming time, coupled with therapeutic interventions that simulate gaming's calming effects.

As Visakhapatnam grapples with this escalating crisis, community-wide awareness and proactive measures are deemed imperative. Safeguarding the mental wellbeing of the city's youth necessitates concerted efforts from families, healthcare providers, and the broader community to combat the scourge of online gaming addiction.





AP can gain a lot by immediate completion of A-P

he contentious issue of granting Special Category Status for Andhra Pradesh and Bihar has been pending for a long time. There has been no way forward, with the light of hope dimming each year over the last 10 years. The change of political alignment at the Centre and the importance that Andhra Pradesh and Bihar presently hold in the power structure has once again ignited the demand.

After all, why are Andhra Pradesh and Bihar demanding Special Category Status? Is there a need for these states to get the status? The reason cited by Andhra Pradesh is that after the bifurcation of combined Andhra Pradesh, the residual state had to forgo Hyderabad -- the fount of revenue generation. Earlier, the revenue from Hyderabad, where thousands of companies and software firms func-

financial needs and requirements of the combined Andhra Pradesh. But by forgoing Hyderabad, the residual Andhra Pradesh has lost a major chunk of this revenue. To be compensated for the revenue loss, the state has demanded Special Category Status so that it can get 90 per cent share from the Central taxes. In other words, SCS can enable the state to stand on its

own financially. As if the loss of Hyderabad is not enough, there has been no capital city for Andhra Pradesh since bifurcation. The state has been reeling under a severe financial crisis as the revenue being generated is not enough to cater to the demands of development. With no capital and no special status, so far Andhra Pradesh has paid a heavy

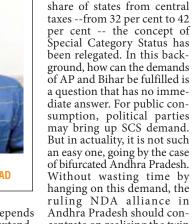
price in terms of everything. As for Bihar, it seeks SCS for compensating the loss of tion, could meet the major mineral-rich Jharkhand,

As if the loss of Hyderabad is not enough, here has been no capital city for Andhra Pradesh since bifurcation. The state has been reeling under a severe financial crisis as the revenue being generated is not enough to cater to the demands of development. With no capital and no special status, so far Andhra Pradesh has paid a heavy price in terms of everything

which was carved out of the have it, in the recently held erstwhile state. By forgoing Hyderabad and losing Lok Sabha elections the Narendra Modi-led BJP could not get even a simple major-ity to form the government Jharkhand both Andhra Pradesh and Bihar respectively suffered a lot. In this back-drop, their demand for for the third time on its own and it is bound to depend on Special Category Status is the support from the very states that had been demandvery much justified. Then what is the way out now? The ing Special Category Status. Bharatiya Janata Party had Although the states have representation in the Central been in power for the past 10 years with a majority on its Cabinet, what will happen to own. So, there had been no their Special Category Status demand? Will Prime Minister scope for both the states to pressurise the Centre for the Modi oblige the demand and accord SCS to AP and Bihar Now as Providence would just because the central gov-



ernment's survival depends on the support being extended by TDP-Jenasena and JDU (Nitish). Any decision in this regard should not be a political one as it involves so much of financial pressure on the central exchequer. Not only that, it might lead to other demands of a similar kind from various backward states.



ruling NDA alliance in Andhra Pradesh should con-Central government has to take into account the opinion centrate on realising the twin engines of development of the Finance Commission with regard to acceding to the Amaravati and Polavaram, demands of Special Category which may bring the state Status. The recent statement perhaps far more benefits of the Finance Commission's than what it can accrue by former head is well indicative getting Special Category of the present financial and Status. Though it may be the political situation. It remains most opportune time for the to be seen whether the Naidu administration, it has Central government will conto take into account other cede the demand of Andhra

Since the increase in the aspects that can be bagged Pradesh by granting SCS or immediately as a student avoid unnecessary issues by attending an exam answers easy questions first and leave the harder one which requires more time to invest. The demand for the Special

Category Status can wait,

given the importance of the

capital city Amaravati and

two needs no involvement of

other states and giving funds

needed for these would be

giving the state a financial package that could compensate for the loss of Hyderabad. Whatever be the final decision on the SCS for the state, the issue will never die down until it is resolved.

Given the present volatile the major irrigation project situation, the Central govern-Polavaram. Realising these ment may not take any decision in this regard on priority. The ruling dispensation in Andhra Pradesh also may comparatively easier for the adopt wait and see approach, Central government. The as it is part of NDA coalition. With the NDA coalition part-ner at the Centre, the JDU has already raised the issue demanding either Special Category Status or a special package for the state. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision in this regard has become crucial for Andhra Pradesh also.

> (The writer is a senior journalist)

Collector conducts surprise inspection of Area Hospital

same.

PNS BHIMAVARAM

West Godavari District Collector, C Naga Rani, conducted a surprise inspection of Palakollu Area Hospital on Sunday. During her visit, the Collector toured various wards including OP and maternity, engaging with patients and their families to assess the quality of medical services being offered.

Collector Naga Rani reviewed the hospital's operations, scrutinizing the display board and attendance registers listing doctors and staff on duty. She sought detailed information on daily statistics of deliveries, outpatient cases, and hospitalized patients.

Addressing the gathered medical personnel, the District Collector emphasized the need for improving patient care. "Patients should receive a warm welcome and attentive medical care," she instructed



sonal challenges, the Collector urged medical staff to remain vigilant against diseases like diarrhoea and dengue. She acknowledged the hospital's current absence of diarrhoea cases but stressed the importance of readiness should any cases arise.

Given the upcoming sea- affirmed her commitment to

conducting regular surprise collaboration with charitable visits to government hospitals. organizations for extensive She warned of consequences outreach. The Collector also for lapses in medical service mandated comprehensive quality or patient complaints, education efforts on seasonensuring accountability al diseases for families and the among doctors and staff. community. Looking ahead, she directed officials to launch a diar-

Accompanying the Collector were in-charge Superintendent Dr. O Ravi rhoea control campaign from July 1 to August 31, urging Kumar and hospital doctors.



PNS KAKINADA

An engineering student was electrocuted when he came into contact with a live electric wire at his residence in the Kondaiahpalem area here on Sunday, police said.

The tragedy took place hile the deceased while the deceased Pampanaboyina Vijay Kiran (21) was cutting loose wire hanging to the wall with a scissor without knowing that it was a live wire in his Anjani Apartment. He was studying first year B.Tech at a private engineering college here.

He was electrocuted and died instantaneously. The two town police registered a case. The deceased boy was the son of Chakradhar Kakinada traffic wing police constable. Pending further investigation the body was shifted to a government general hospital for postmortem, police added.

Steps in place for pension disbursal in Eluru today

PNS ELURU

All arrangements have been made to disburse NTR Bharosa social security pensions to over 2.68 lakh beneficiaries in the district.

District Collector K Vetri Selvi told the media here on Sunday that the pension disbursement would begin at 6 am in the district on July 1. "All arrangements have been made to disburse social security pensions to 2,68,353 beneficiaries. A total amount of Rs 182.73 crore will be disbursed to the beneficiaries in the district," the Collector said.

She said that efforts are being made to achieve 100 per cent pension disbursement on July 1 itself. The village and ward secretariat staff would hand over the pensions to the beneficiaries at their homes. Each staff disburse a pension to 50 beneficiaries.

As many as 4,539 secretariat staff and 826 government employees, belonging to vari-



ous departments, would be assigned the task of disbursement of pensions, the Collector explained, stating that the pension amount has already been withdrawn from banks.

A special focus has been laid on the tribal areas to disburse pensions. "Along with the pension amount, a receipt and the Chief Minister's message to the beneficiaries will also be handed over to the beneficiaries," the Collector stated. The eligible elderly people, widows, lonely women, differently-abled people, cobblers and artists would be extended a total amount of Rs 7,000 which includes Rs 4000 monthly pension and Rs 3000 dues of previous months. The pension was hiked from Rs 3000 to Rs 6000 for those who are suffering from multideformity and leprosy, Collector Vetri Selvi said. District Rural Development PD R Vijay Raju and DPO TSrinivas Viswanath were among those who were present.

1,700 stolen or lost mobile

Iwo boys

3.13 lakh beneficiaries to get pensions in Nellore



PNS NELLORE

Minister for Municipal Administration P Narayana said that 3,13,757 beneficiaries would be disbursed social security pensions in Nellore district on July 1.

Minister Narayana, flanked by MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy and MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy, held a meeting with the officials here on Sunday and reviewed the arrangements being made for the disbursement of social security pensions on July 1.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Narayana said that Rs 214.50 crore would be disbursed to 3,13,757 beneficiaries in the district. It is aimed to disburse 100 per cent pensions on July 1 itself, the Minister clarified.

The Minister recalled that N Chandrababu Naidu assured of enhancing pensions from Rs 3000 to Rs 4000 and as per the assurance, all set ready to hand over Rs 4000 pension on Monday besides Rs 3000 arrears would also be given.

Due to mismanagement and maladministration in the previ-

ous regime, the financial situation of the state fell into the doldrums. Despite financial constraints, the government is com-mitted to fulfilling its assurances, he reiterated. "To develop all municipali-

ties, a project has been designed at a cost of Rs 5,300 crore," the Minister announced. MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy and MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy also spoke. DRDA PD Sambashiva Reddy and Deputy Mayor Roop Kumar Yadav were among those who were present.



Bodies of woman, her 2 kids found in farm well

PNS CHITTOOR

In a devastating incident in Patrapalle village, Somala mandal, a 29-year-old woman named Rani allegedly jumped into a farm well along with her two young daughters, Jyothi (3) and Himasri (4) on Sunday, resulting in the death of the trio.

According to the police, Rani, who was married to Dilip, left home with her daughters and did not return. Concerned relatives initiated a search and discovered their

bodies in the nearby well. Speaking to the media, Rani's parents expressed shock and disbelief, stating they were unaware of any issues that could have driven their daughter to such a drastic decision. While investigations are ongoing, the police have men-

tioned that family disputes are suspected to be a possible cause behind this tragic incident. A case has been registered, and the bodies have been sent to the Government General Hospital (GGH) for postmortem examination.

drowned in tank



PNS ONGOLE

Two boys were drowned in an irrigation tank at Toorpu Veerannapalem village in Darshi mandal on Sunday.

The deceased boys Darnasi Veera Manikantha (10) and Pulimi Raghava (12) entered the tank, slipped and drowned. The bodies were retrieved from the tank. The police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH for postmortem.

TDP leader Dr Gottipati Lakshmi and JSP leader Kadiyala Lalita Sagar consoled the bereaved family members and assured them to extend financial assistance.

phones recovered

PNS CHITTOOR

The Chittoor district police recovered 1,700 stolen or lost mobile phones.

Talking to the media here on Sunday, SP Manikantha Chandolu said that the district police recovered 1,700 stolen or lost mobile phones

worth over Rs 3.60 crore. He said in three phases 1700 mobile phones were recovered. The mobile phones were recovered in

Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Kerala and Maharashtra. Some of the recovered mobile phones were handed over to the owners. The mobile phones were sent through courier services that were unable to come.

The SP said those who lost mobile phones should send a Hi or HELP message to 94409 00004. Later they should complain after opening the link sent by the police department.



DIVERSION OF FUNDS Bandi asks for probe into irregularities

PNS HYDERABAD

Declaring that the Centre extendthroughout the country as he had written letters thrice regarding the release of funds and extension of the Mission, the Union Minister Sunday, Sanjay thanked of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, said that development projects were hit by the diversion of Smart City Mission funds by the BRS government.

He said that BRS leaders took commissions from contractors country. He said and that some Congress leaders that chances have too are behaving similarly. Sanjay brightened for asked the Congress government the full devel-

ed the Smart Cities Mission to order a probe immediately into opment of Karimnagar and states. Karimnagar and Warangal the irregularities in using Smart City Funds.

In a statement issued on Prime Minister Modi and Union Urban Development Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for

extending the Smart City Mission across the

Warangal cities. He said that he had sent letters

to the Centre seeking Smart City Mission funds.

"We also appealed to the Centre to extend the Smart City Mission as two years were wasted due to the Corona pandemic. The Centre extended the Smart City Mission responding positively to requests from BJP-ruled

Says Cong MLAs getting funds, but not BJP MLAs cities can be developed fully now thanks to the Centre's decision. However, the TG government has to cooperate by sanctioning matching grants without diverting Smart City Mission funds -Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Minister of State for Home

Affairs," he said. He said that the BRS government had diverted Smart City Mission funds. "Karimnagar and Warangal cities would have glittered like mirrors if the funds released by the Smart City funds," he said.

Centre had been properly used. However, the BRS government did not release matching funds and diverted Central funds. Central funds were deposited after I testified before the Standing Council of Parliament," he said.

"The delay in Smart City works was due to the BRS rulers' greed for commissions. Earning commissions from contractors has become the norm for some rulers. Some leaders in the Congress have reincarnated for commissions. A comprehensive investigation should be ordered immediately on the embezzlement of

Rs.322.95 cr to be disbursed to 4,77,789 pensioners in Krishna, NTR districts

Rs.3,000 as arrears for the

March, April, and May, which

will also be distributed begin-

According to sources, NTR

beneficiaries. The pensions

ning on July 1.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

As many as 4,77,789 beneficiaries will receive the Dr NTR Bharosa Social Security Pensions of around Rs.322.95 crore in Krishna and NTR districts on Monday. Ministers, MPs, MLCs, and MLAs will distribute these pensions at people's doorstep. District Collectors DK Balaji district officials are planning to disburse Rs. 160.53 crore to benefit 2,35,477 eligible and Dr G Srijana have made all necessary arrangements for the distribution of pensions.

As per his election promis-

es, Chief Minister N. Vijayawada, and all the peo-Chandrababu Naidu has ple's representatives have increased the social security been invited to the programme. pension amount from Rs.3,000 to Rs.4,000. In addi-Meanwhile, in Krishna distion, beneficiaries will receive

trict, pensions to the tune of Rs.162.42 crore will be distributed to 2,42,321 beneficiaries. Minister Kollu Ravindra will distribute these pensions at a district-level programme to be held in Machilipatnam. The District Collectors have issued orders to all MPDOs to conduct the mandal-level will be distributed at a dis- and village-level protrict-level programme in grammes.

MONDAY | JULY 1, 2024



www.dailypioneer.com facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/ -PAPER WITH PASSION-

Grit and glory

India's T20 World Cup win after a 13-year hiatus is a story of resilience, brilliance and sheer determination

eam India has done it again. It has once again etched its name in the annals of cricketing history by winning the T20 World Cup, ending a 13-year-long wait since their last title in 2011. Like any victory, it doesn't come cheap. A lot of hard work and dedication of the players along with the efforts of the coach and supporting staff must be felicitated for this triumph. The journey to this momentous victory has been a roller-coaster ride, filled with trials, tribulations, and moments of sheer brilliance. This win not only brings immense joy to millions of cricket fans in India who have been at discomfort due to scorching heat. Finally, the monsoon shower and cool breeze of victory brings them joy and something to cherish for years to come. Indeed, the path to this historic win was anything but easy. The final itself was also a heroic effort as team India was under pressure till 15th over when the data analysis showed that India had only eight per cent chance to win. India's cam-



paign in the T20 World Cup saw a mix of thrilling victories and nail-biting finishes. Led by a dynamic captain, Rohit Sharma, (described by Shoaib Akhtar as a 'selfless captain') India showcased a blend of experienced stalwarts and young talents, creating a balanced and formidable team. The group stages witnessed India dominating their opponents with a series of comprehensive wins. A standout performance came against arch-rivals Pakistan, when India came back in the game to win the match. The bowlers, led by a fiery pace attack and wily spinners, ensured that opposition teams struggled to find

momentum. Several players stood out for their exceptional performances throughout the tournament. The captain's leadership was instrumental, his tactical acumen and ability to inspire the team played a crucial role in India's success. The bowling unit, led by a veteran pacer, Jasprit Bumrah was indeed impressive. His ability to swing the ball both ways and deliver crucial wickets when Team India needed it most. His over was a turning point of the match. As the celebrations continued after India's historic triumph over South Africa for the T20 World Cup title, it marked a poignant moment as two stalwarts of Indian cricket, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, announced their retirements from T20 internationals. The victory has indeed lifted the spirits of the people who celebrated in their own style taking to the streets, bursting crackers, and waving the tricolour. The triumph is not just a cricketing success but a moment of national pride, uniting the country in joy and celebration. It is a testament to the hard work, perseverance, and never-say-die attitude of the Indian team. India's T20 World Cup win after a 13-year hiatus is a story of resilience, brilliance and sheer determination. It is a moment that will be cherished for generations and a reminder of the magic that cricket can bring to the hearts of millions. Well done team India. Keep it up!



Modi's tumultuous new innings



pinion 06

DEEPAK SINHA

Like a cricket team facing tough opponents, Team Modi relies on aggressive posturing and self-confidence to maintain its stance

he performance of the Modi team in its new innings can be best described using a cricketing analogy. The new team is woefully short of bench strength and faces a serious quality issue, with some members lacking commitment and motivation to the cause. Despite this, they have come out, much like the Aussies always do in any competition, riding their luck on abrasive aggression, hype and self-belief. It is certainly a technique that has worked well for them against most oppositions, forcing them on the back foot from which they seldom recover. But as we have just witnessed in the ongoing T-20 World Championships with their unexpected departure, bluster doesn't cut much ice with teams that are determined to win and unafraid of battle. Perhaps Team Modi would do well to keep this in mind.The truth is Team Modi is on a very sticky wicket, not unlike those in the Caribbean, with uneven bounce and unpredictable turns. Not surprisingly, they are already three down with not much to show on the board. Amit Shah opened the innings but was LBW on the second ball he faced, the Kashmiri loosener, followed by the Manipuri yorker that beat him all

On a more serious note, while issues of terror attacks in Kashmir can and will be tackled with relative ease, Manipur is at the opposite end of the spectrum. Not since the Punjab and Kashmir insurgencies initially erupted, with terrible consequences, has the Indian State been found so wanting.

The tragedy is that responsibility for this state of affairs rests squarely with Modi 2.0 and its rather incongruous decision not to interfere as things went from bad to worse with the Chief Minister having been rendered ors de combat Manipur today

has fallen off the cliff and is in

need of urgent surgery. If we are

to save this patient, and the

integrity and health of the North

East hinges on that, then the

Army has to be pulled out of the

cold storage where it sits and

allowed to do its job, once again. The second wicket to have fallen was to a railway googly, that of the relatively experienced and administra-tively skilled Ashwini Vaishnav. Sadly, for him, he's got out to a very similar delivery in his last innings as well and just hasn't been able to discern the googly. One can feel sorry for him because it is a tough position that he plays, with stress levels that can only be described as gargantuan. That is also the term that one describes our railways as well, and despite whatever the opposition may say, it is in the ICU and needs urgent attention. Not unlike the Air India story, substantive change is unlikely under the umbrella of one ginormous government-con-trolled public entity. Before 1950, we had around 55 companies operating railways over 55000kms of track until they were all amalgamated into the

THE TRAGEDY IS THAT **RESPONSIBILITY FOR** THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS RESTS SQUARELY WITH MODI AND ITS RATHER INCONGRUOUS **DECISION NOT TO INTERFERE AS** THINGS WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE WITH THE CHIEF

MINISTER HAVING

BEEN RENDERED

HORS DE COMBAT

failure with dire consequences. Change is inevitable, the sooner the better if lives matter as all politicians insist, be it complete privatisation or a mix of synchronised public and private enterprise. The third wicket down, that of Dharmendra Pradhan, to a vicious NEET bouncer, has

been the most devastating for him and the team as well. He's taken a nasty blow on his helmet that seems to have incapacitated him and has the team teetering on the edge of disaster. Whether he can continue to find a place in the playing eleven or if the team can recover and succeed only time will tell. Whatever the result in the long term, there is no getting away from the fact that the NEÉT scandal has been a body blow to Team Modi and its emphasis on loyalty to the cause above all else.

The fact of the matter is that fallout in the forthcoming the problem of leaked ques- state elections, which can tion papers has been around

influential persons have

been able to help their chil-

dren succeed in such cen-

tralised exams, such as the

were perceived to be unfair. The numbers involved tended to be insignificant, but all that changed with the centralisation of admissions under the NTA, leading to cheating at an industrial scale, for want of a better

word. The damage this has caused to the body politic, especially the upcoming generations, is enormously difficult to fully comprehend. The winners and losers are not divided by ideology, ethnicity, religion or any such measure but by those who have the money and those who don't, and in this game of snakes and ladders the don'ts have no ladders to climb. The impact of what all of this means for the ruling coalition, which cannot avoid responsibility, is not difficult to gauge and we may well see some of that then only further add to Mr

Devotees wade through a waterlogged area at Dharm Path in Ayodhya

Trespassing in the lives of others: The uninvited interference



Human curiosity often leads us into the lives of others, crossing boundaries and delving into matters that are not our own

We have an insatiable appetite to interfere in the lives of others. The desire to take a bite of even the tiniest morsel from another's life also makes us, trespass on conversations of strangers at best, more often gossip about others, and make inappropriate remarks at the worst. We were a batch of seven railway officials from across the globe on training in Japan in 1991. Our program was coordinated by a young Japanese lady, maybe a couple of years older than me.

A few weeks together had made the eight of us share an easy relationship – easy enough for me to ask the lady one day if she was married. She had been married for almost a decade. I was already the father of two little daughters; thus, my next query if she had any children was probably not entirely baseless. I should have stopped once she had replied in the negative. My thirst to trespass into the private life of another individual kicked in as I asked her the reason.

She was quiet for so long, a myriad of emotions flitting across her face, that I was afraid that this one time I had



upon. This also sometimes

leads to overhearing interest-

ing snatches of conversa-

tions.Recently, waiting at the

crossed the line. As I was our lives to be trespassed about to apologise for my impertinence, she responded, "Thank you for an insightful query, which set me thinking. The reason is that both I and airport for my flight, I observed a father handing my husband are so busy in our daily lives, that we bareover cash to his young daughly spend our waking hours ter to get tea for the family,

even before she had had time together. There is just no time for to put down the bags. The girl good-naturedly asked making a baby!" It was a lesson learnt about the price of him to wait. I smiled and progress on human relations commented with an attempt in the more developed countries. We were yet to witness that." The family was not this back home, at least in smaller cities and towns.I COVID ward of a hospital. also witness incidents in the The cabin was shared by two lives of others in public places. more patients. One morning, I am certain even others may I overheard the lady on the adjoining bed talking to her be looking at my daily life husband on the phone rather under the microscope. We don't need to be celebrities for loudly, "I am much better. You

must see the uncle on the next bed. He does not do any exercises, just lying there all the time." The shoe pinched. I was not amused at this blatant trespassing in my life.I have observed that the supposedly well-meaning interference is more prominent during a visit to a convalescing acquaintance and dispensing advice from own morbid experiences.

We cannot forget one such well-meaning advice from a neighbour who did not hesitate to tell us that his father had passed away at my age due to a similar affliction that had kept me bedridden for a rather long time. He may have only been trying to caution us to be more careful.We love to dissect the lives of our friends, and even acquaintances, particularly when they are not around. We usually try to pass off the blatant gossip as honat humour, "All fathers are like est criticism or well-meaning advice. If only we keep in amused.I was in a cabin in the mind what Wentworth Dillon said, "Words spoken can never be recalled.

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

ERS LETT

A WAKE-UP CALL

Indian Railways

At present with over double

that kilometrage of track to

expect one single entity to

manage operations, nominal-

ly in six divisions, is a her-

culean task that will lead to

repeated systems or human

Madam — India has been witnessing a series of tragic infrastructural failures, the most recent being the collapse of the roof at Terminal 1 in Delhi, which resulted in one death and injured five others. Such incidents are unfortunately common, with the country experiencing multiple train accidents and bridge collapses. Data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways reveals that 32 bridges have collapsed nationwide between 2020 and 2023. Despite substantial investment in construction, the problem persists. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) reported a record expenditure of ?2,07,000 crore on national highway construction for the fiscal year 2023-24, marking a 20% increase from ?1,73,000 crore in 2022-23 and ?1,72,000 crore in 2021-22.

These figures point to a worrying trend of inadequate construction standards and corruption, leading to significant losses and the need for repeated investments. It is imperative that the government implements stringent measures to tackle these issues, ensuring accountability among contractors and relevant authorities to prevent corruption and guarantee the safety and durability of infrastructure.

Iakir Hussain | Kanpur

IMPROVE BASIC CIVIC AMENITIES

Madam — The citizens of Delhi recently endured severe heat, followed by heavy monsoon rains that resulted in significant damage and chaos. On June 28, the canopy over the forecourt at Terminal 1 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport collapsed on parked vehicles, leading to one death and six injuries. The intense weather changes left Delhiites in a difficult situation, highlighting the need for better infrastructure and planning.

This issue is not isolated to Delhi; cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and others have also suffered during the rainy sea- ical initiative encompassing district

Bridge gender inequality



n response to the news report "25% of new hires are married women, nearly 70% of the workforce are women: Foxconn," published on

son due to poor planning and inade-quate drainage systems. While substantial funds are often spent on constructing statues and other non-essential projects, basic civic amenities remain neglected. It is crucial for the authorities to prioritize improving these facilities to safeguard the well-being of citizens.

Nagendra K Vempally Hydernagar

GOVT HOSPITLS IN A DISARRAY

Madam — The 'Indian Public Health Standard' report, produced by the National Health Mission (NHM), reveals a concerning state of government hospitals in India. According to the report, 80 percent of these hospitals lack even basic facilities. This alarming assessment comes from a survey conducted by the government itself, highlighting a severe scarcity of doctors, nurses, and essential equipment in these institutions. The report sheds light on the conditions of government hospitals under the National Health Mission' (NHM), a crit-

forever and rumours are Modi's troubles. doing the rounds of how

(The columnist, a military veteran and former paratrooper, is presently a Senior Visiting Fellow with the

Peninsula Foundation, Chennai; views are personal) CLAT, through means that

> June 28, I would like to express my views. As India strives to replace China in the global supply chain, incidents like the alleged discrimination against married women at Foxconn's manufacturing plant are highly concerning. Although Foxconn has denied these allegations and stated that 70% of its workforce comprises women, a thorough and impartial investigation is necessary to dispel any doubts. There is a significant disparity in the ratio of men to women in the workforce, and companies like Foxconn can set a positive example by employing more women. This should be encouraged as we work to close this gap. Apple has consistently enforced strict policies with its manufacturing suppliers, and Foxconn should not be an exception. Ensuring gender equality in the workforce is crucial for our progress and competitiveness on the global stade.

> > Bal Govind | Noida

hospitals, community health centers, primary health centers, and Ayushman health facilities across the country. The 'Indian Public Health Standard' (IPHS) is a digital platform developed by the government to collect hospital statistics. Among the 40,451 hospitals that participated in the survey, only 8,089 met the PHS criteria. This indicates that 42% of hospitals scored less than 50% on the IPHS scale, while 15,172 hospitals received ratings ranging from 50% to 80%. The report aims to identify and address the deficiencies in these hospitals, with the central government planning to establish 70,000 government hospitals meeting the IPHS standards within 100 days of the new administration's inception. The goal is to ensure that all government hospitals are equipped with basic infrastructure, equipment, and medical staff, thereby improving patient care.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



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

FIRSTCOLUMIN OLDER EMPLOYEES THRIVE UNDER WORK PRESSURE

Younger employees cow down to work pressure while elders manage well



SAKSHI SETHI

s per recent research and studies, younger employees are report-A around 85% of the working parents in the creative, marketing and ing more struggles at work while older ones are doing better. Also, related industries feel pressure to prioritize work over parenting duties while a greater proportion also feels they must sacrifice family life to achieve their career goals. An individual at the workplace often comes across situations where they have too many tasks that need to be completed within a limited timeframe without adequate breaks or rest periods. Moreover, not receiving sufficient recognition or rewards for hard work or perceived unfair treatment or favoritism creates a stressful and demoralizing work environment making it difficult to make decisions and remember tasks which can lead to anxiety and cause stress due to a variety of psychological, physiological and situational factors. When an individual experiences work pressure, it triggers the body's stress response, known as the fight or flight response which releases stress hormones like cortisol and adrenaline, which prepare the body to deal with perceived threats. While this response can be beneficial in short bursts, prolonged activation can have negative effects on both physical and mental health resulting in increased heart rates, headaches and fatigue. Also, constant pressure can impair cognitive functions, making it difficult to concentrate, make decisions and remember tasks, which further increases stress.

There is no denying the fact that work pressure is a natural part of most jobs and can sometimes act as a motivator (such as when prompting a student to study before an important exam), helping individuals stay focused and productive but when the pressure becomes excessive or prolonged, it leads to stress, strain, nervous tension or anxiety. Maintaining a healthy balance between pressure and stress at the workplace is crucial for both productivity as well as employee well-being. Organizations must work towards setting clear communication and expectations by ensuring that job roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and communicated; an environment where managers are approachable and available to support their teams are well created and the distribution of the



tasks and responsibilities are even to avoid overburdening of any single employee. Introducing wellness programs such as yoga, meditation or fitness classes along with access to counseling and support services for employees dealing with stress, regularly acknowledging and rewarding employees for their hard work and contributions, and promoting teamwork and collaboration to create a supportive and cohesive work environment, creating a feedback loop where employees can voice concerns about their workload and suggest improvements, implementing strict antiharassment policies and ensure they are enforced are a few strategies that can help organizations create a work environment where pressure serves as a motivator rather than a stressor. Apart from organizations working towards employee well-being, it becomes crucial for the individual working at any level to maintain a balance between work pressure and family stress as it can be challenging to maintain overall well-being. Prioritizing what is most important both at work and at home, defining clear boundaries between work and family time focusing on high-priority tasks and letting go of less critical ones, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, engaging in hobbies and activities that are outside of work and staying updated on stress management techniques are a few strategies that can help an individual build resilience and manage work stress more effectively. Remember, when stressed, individuals have a more difficult time creating short-term memories and turning those short-term memories into long-term memories. By understanding the causes of work pressure and implementing effective strategies to manage it, individuals and organizations can reduce stress and create a healthier, more productive work environment. (The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Venkaiah Garu: Life in service of Bharat



analys \$ 07

From his early days in politics to his tenure as Vice-President, Venkaiah Garu's career exemplifies his ability to navigate the complexities with ease and humility



Today, India's former Vice-President and respected statesman M Venkaiah Naidu Garu turns 75. I wish him a long and healthy life and also extend my greetings to all his well-wishers and supporters. This is an occasion to celebrate a leader whose life journey showcases dedication, adaptability and an unwavering commitment to public service. From his early days in the political arena to his tenure as Vice-President, Venkaiah Garu's career exemplifies his unique ability to navigate the complexities of Indian politics with ease and humility. His eloquence, wit and steadfast focus on developmental issues have earned him respect across party

lines Venkaiah Garu and I have been associated for decades. We have worked together and I have learnt a lot from him. If there is one thing that has remained common in his life, it is the love for people. His brush with activism and politics began in Andhra Pradesh with student politics as a student leader. Considering his talent, oratory and organisational skills, he would have been welcomed in any political party but he preferred to work with the Sangh Parivar. He was associated with the RSS, ABVP and then strengthened the Jana Sangh and the BJP. Almost 50 years ago, a young Venkaiah Garu immersed himself in the anti-Emergency movement. He was imprisoned and, that too, for inviting Loknayak JP to Andhra Pradesh. This commitment to democracy would be seen time and again in his political career. In the mid-1980s, when the great NTR's Government was unceremoniously dismissed by the Congress, he was again at the forefront of the movement to protect

tsunami swept the State, he got elected as a BJP MLA, thus paving the way for the BJP's growth across the State.

All those who have heard Venkaiah Garu speak will vouch for his oratory skills. He is certainly a wordsmith but he is as much a worksmith. Since his days as a young MLA, he began to be respected for the rigour he put into legislative affairs and speaking for people of his con-stituency. No less than a stalwart like NTR noted his talent and even wanted him to join his party but Venkaiah Garu refused ALL THOSE WHO to deviate from his core ideology. He went on to play a big role HAVE HEARD VENKAIAH GARU Andhra Pradesh and even the only leaders to have worked for both rural and urban develbecame the AP BIP president. SPEAK WILL became the AF BJ president. It was in the 1990s that the BJP central leadership took note of VOUCH FOR HIS Venkaiah Garu's efforts and thus ORATORY in 1993 began his stint in national politics when he was appoint-SKILLS. HE IS ed the party's all-India general secretary. It was truly a remark-CERTAINLY able moment for a man, who as A WORDSMITH DITT LIE IC BUT HE IS and Advani Ji, to be working directly with them. As the gener-AS MUCH A al secretary, he was focused on WORKSMITH how to bring our party to power and ensure that the nation get their first ever BJP Prime Minister. After the move to Delhi, there was no looking back and he rose to become the party's national president. In 2000, when Atal Ji was keen to induct Venkaiah Garu in the Government, Venkaiah Garu instantly conveyed his preference for the Rural Development Ministry. This left everyone, including Atal Ji, puzzled. After all, here was a leader who was

being asked which portfolio he wanted and his first choice was Rural Development. But Venkaiah Garu was clear - he was a Kisan Putra. As Minister, he was closely associated with the conception and rolling out of the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana.' Years later, when the NDA Government of 2014 assumed office, he handled the crucial portfolios of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. It was during his tenure that we launched the important Swachh Bharat Mission and important urban development-related schemes. Perhaps, he is one of opment for such an extensive

Rajya Sabha, ensuring that young MPs, women MPs and firsttime MPs get the opportunity to speak.

When the decision to remove Articles 370 and 35(A) were placed before the Rajya Sabha, Venkaiah Garu was in the Chair. I am sure it was such an emotional moment for him – the young boy who was drawn to Dr Śyama Prasad Mookerjee's dream of a united India!

Apart from work and politics, Venkaiah Garu is a voracious reader and writer. For the people in Delhi, he is known as the person who brought the glorious Telugu culture to the city. His Ugadi and Sankranti programmes are clearly among the most cherished gatherings in town. I have always known Venkaiah Garu as someone who loves food and also hosting people. But, of late, his self-control has also been visible to everyone. His commitment to fitness is seen in how he still plays badminton and enjoys his brisk walk. Even after the vice-presidency, Venkaiah Garu has led an active public life. On the issues that he is passionate about, he calls me and asks me about them. I met him most recently when our Government returned to office for the third term. He was delighted and conveyed his best wishes to me and our team. I wish him again on this milestone. I hope young karyakartas, elected representatives and all those who have a passion to serve, learn from his life and imbibe those values. It is people like him who make our nation better and more vibrant.

democratic principles. Venkaiah Garu has always been comfortable swimming even against the most formidable tides. In 1978, Andhra Pradesh voted for the Congress but he beat the trend and was elected as a young MLA. Five years later, when the NTR period.

When I came to Delhi in 2014, I was an outsider to the national Capital, having worked in Gujarat for the previous decade and a half. In such times, Venkaiah Garu's insights were very handy. He was an effective Parliamentary Affairs Minister - he knew the essence of bipartisanship but at the same time he drew a line when it came to parliamentary norms and rules.

In 2017, our alliance nominated him as our vice-presidential candidate. I can never forget one of the speeches he gave when he resigned as Minister and MP. He could not control his tears when he recalled his association with the party and efforts to build it. It gave a glimpse of his deeprooted commitment and passion. Upon becoming the Vice-President, he undertook various steps that also enhanced the dignity of the office. He was an outstanding Chairperson of the

(The writer is the Prime Minister of India.)

A reflective moment on India's democratic values and political integrity

From displays of loyalty to controversial gestures, this year's oath-taking ceremony reveals a transformed landscape in Indian politics

ewly elected members of the Lok Sabha taking oath to adhere to the Constitution of India is a solemn occasion. "I, X, having been elected a member of the Houe of the People do swear in the name of God (solemnly affirm) that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India and that I will faithfully discharge the duty upon which I am about to enter", is what they have to tell while taking the oath.It is not known what members taking the oath of is the role of the presidents of the parties under whose label they enter the precincts of the House. Agreed, these members were either hand-picked by the bosses of their parties, or they members of political and social themselves could have kept a life but now, the only titans that



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

paeans to their Gods in gun on the forehead of the pro-Chennai. All DMK members except T R Balu raised slogans prietors of the parties demandeulogizing the DMK supremo ing the latter to nominate and Tamil Nadu Chief them as candidates for the Lok Sabha election. While watching Minister M K Stalin, the future some of these newly elected chief minister Udhayanidhi (son of Stalin) and late M Karunanidhi (former chief office, one was flabbergasted minister and one of the by the fall in the quality of politics and the standard of our founders of the DMK) seeking parliamentary system. Previously we had titans as their blessings to serve Tamil Nadu! Sycophancy and servility were

we come across are the wristswearing in as members. There watches and clocks made by has been criticism against the House of Tatas. The members of the DMK and the Dravidian politicians from AIADMK for their servile Tamil Nadu were the butt of nature and lassitude to their jokes as they took the oath of leaders which make them office. After taking the custom-ary oath specified in the Third laughing stocks.

Most DMK members wore Vibhuti and holy Kumkum on Schedule of the Constitution, the DMK members sang their foreheads. It is not uncommon to see MPs and MLAs belonging to the DMK and the AIADMK doing Danda Namaskar, an obeisance to the presiding deity of the party. Though they do not believe in pilgrimage to tem-ples, politicians have made it a point to fall down on the floor once they come face to face with the party head.But whether the sycophancy they exhibit in public is real or not



who took the oath of office last day was going around astrologers and sorcerers in Kerala to ascertain whether the Karunanidhi clan had performed black magic either on him or his family members. Since his father is a bigwig in the party hierarchy, it was the mother who accompanied the son to liberate him from the evil spirits. That is the rational-Sycophancy and servility were is a major question. One of the ism and atheism practised by at their peak while they were elected MPs from Tamil Nadu the followers of Ramasamy

Naicker.While the DMK MPs were happily extolling the K-Clan members, there were reservations in the minds of a section of people about what Thol Thirumavalavan of the VCK, whose antipathy for north Indians is infamous, would do.

He is the one who frequently declares that north Indians are not welcome to stay in Tamil Nadu though he has demanded that Rohingya refugees

should be given a place of resdence in the State. Thank God Thirumavalavan did not raise the slogan Jai Prabhakaran. Many DMK politicians in Chennai were heard asking why the newly elected MPs did not say Jai to Inbanidhi and Tanmaya (Udhayanidhi's son and daughter).

The most disgusting of the lot was made by AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi who shouted "Jai Palestine" while taking oath as a member of the House. This is a cardinal sin capable of throwing shadow over India-Israel ties. People like Owaisi are a blot on this nation as he had the audacity to describe the infamous criminal Mukhtar Ansari as a Shaheed. Owaisi is a living example that one could not

have civility by attending Lincoln's Inn. The day is not far when he or others of his ilk would shout "Jai Pakistan" from the temple of Indian democracy.

Organizations like Hamas have no place in the comity of nations and the civilized world. What happened in October 2023 should be condemned in the strongest of words. India has given enough support to the Palestinians and what it got back was just brickbats. The general public should know the truth.Shouting slogans in support of the party president's wife and children from the Speaker's podium while taking the oath of office is not secularism or pluralism.

(The writer is a special correspondent with The Pioneer; *views are personal)*



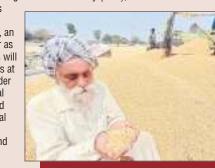


Money 08

Punjab agri dept to provide subsidy on kharif maize seeds

unjab Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department has decided to provide subsidies Pon hybrid seeds of kharif maize and cover over 4,700 hectares of area under maize demonstrations. Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian on Sunday said farmers can avail Rs 100 as a subsidy on the purchase of every 1 kg of hybrid maize seeds certified and recommended by Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana. The

subsidy for hybrid kharif maize seeds will be provided for a maximum of 5 acres of the area or 40 kg per farmer, an official statement quoted the minister as saying. A total of 2,300 quintal seeds will be made available to the state farmers at a subsidised price, Khudian said. Under maize demonstrations, he said, a total area of 4,700 hectares will be covered for which farmers will receive financial support of Rs 6,000 per hectare for various inputs, including fertilisers and insecticides.



Tobacco farmers ask govt to include sector under duty refund scheme

obacco exporters have asked the government to extend the duty refund scheme RoDTEP to the sector to boost outbound shipments. In a meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in Hyderabad on June 29, traders submitted that tobacco exporters are not covered under any scheme that provides export incentives. They "requested to extend support to tobacco exporters by including them under the RoDTEP scheme," the ministry said in a statement. They also requested the government help in curtailing the unauthorized production and use of chewing tobacco in India due to which there is a huge loss to the government exchequer, it added. They also informed that

there is an increase in illicit cigarette sales. The scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) provides for refund of taxes, duties and levies that are incurred by exporters in the process of manufacturing and distribution of goods and are not being reimbursed under any other mechanism at the centre, state, or local level.



EPFO gross new members addition dips 4% to 1.09 crore

etirement fund body EPFO's gross new subscribers addition declined by over 4 per cent to 1.09 crore in 2023-24 compared to a year ago, as per a report by Ministry of Rent to 1.09 crore in 2023-24 compared to a year ago, as yer a report of the report 'Payroll Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI). According to the report 'Payroll Vision of Employment Perspective –January to April, 2024', the Employees Reporting in India: An Employment Perspective –January to April, 2024', the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) recorded 1,09,93,119 gross addition of new members in 2023-24 compared to 1,14,98,453 in 2022-23. The gross addition of new members was affected due to the pandemic and declined from 1,10,40,683 in 2019-20 to

85,48,898 in 2020-21. It bounced back to 1,08,65,063 in 2021-22. The Centre as well as states had imposed lockdown restriction in 2020 and 2021 to curb the spread of deadly coronavirus in the country, which had hit economic activities as well as employment. The data shows that in the last five fiscal years till 2023-24, the gross new members addition by EFPO had not recovered to pre-covid level of 2018-19.





'India most important market for Skoda'

PNS PRAGUE

Czech car maker Skoda is lining up new models, expanding sales network and also looking to forge partnerships to scale up business in India, the most important market for the brand outside Europe, according to global CEO Klaus Zellmer.

The company, which cur-rently sells models like Kushaq and Slavia in the country, aims to drive in an all-new compact SUV early next year hoping to almost double its sales volume in the market.

Skoda Auto India sold around 49,000 units last year. India is the world's thirdlargest passenger vehicle market with annual dispatches surging to 42 lakh units in FY24.

'Indian economy poised for stable high growth phase'

PNS 🗖 NEW DELHI

Indian economy is poised for potentially a stable high growth phase and it is also in a strong position in the context of significant risks that the country is facing, RBI's monetary policy committee member Shashanka Bhide said on Sunday.

Bhide further said with the growth of income that would support domestic demand and additions to production or supply capacity reflected by high levels of investment spending in the last couple of years, domestic economic activity is expected to sustain its momentum.

In terms of growth momentum and inflation trajectories Indian economy is poised for potentially a stable high growth phase.

"It is also in a strong position in the context of significant risks that are also facing us," he said



The current official estimate of GDP growth in 2023-24 is 8.2 per cent, accelerating from 7 per cent in the preceding year.

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India pegged the GDP growth rate for FY25 supply side efficiencies and high growth potential of the economy both in terms of 7.2 per cent. domestic demand as well as India's exports.

Bhide noted that the monsoon rainfall, which is expected to be normal this year, is a significant positive factor for growth as well as bringing

impact of risks from any wn food inflation. adverse weather and climate While noting that improveevents, disruptions in global ment in global demand condisupply chains due to interna-

Indian economy is poised for potentially a stable high growth phase. tional conflicts and the slow tions are necessary to spur external demand for goods recovery of the global econo-

my from the recent high inflaand services, he said sizable capital inflows supporting investment, reflect both the tion period. "Our own overall CPI inflation is marked by high levels of

food inflation and a decline in this component of the overall inflation is crucial going forward," he opined.

Bhide said while food infla-Responding to a question on inflation, Bhide said the contion is at a high level, averagcerns are mainly in terms of the ing about 8 per cent during Jan-May 2024, the overall CPIbased inflation has moderated to below 5 per cent during March-May 2024.

fake invoices and fraudulent registration remain a big challenge for policymakers trying to curb tax evasion. Rolled out on July 1, 2017, Goods and Services Tax (GST)

PNS NEW DELHI

average under VAT). GST also reduced 495 different submissions (challan, forms, declara-

tions, etc) across states to just 12. In seven years, the number of registered taxpayers has risen to 1.46 crore from 65 lakh in 2017. Average monthly GST revenues, soared from around Rs 90,000 crore in 2017-18, to about Rs

The

come

1.90 lakh crore in 2024-25. According to the govern-Introduced seven years ago, the ment data, GST has improved Goods and Services Tax (GST) tax buoyancy from 0.72 (prehas simplified compliance, GST) to 1.22 (2018-23). improved tax buoyancy and Despite compensation ending, state revenues remain increased states' revenues, but buoyant at 1.15.

Fake ITC generation still a challenge

GST simplified compliance,

improved tax buoyancy



Without GST, states' revenue from subsumed taxes from fiscal 2018-19 to 2023-24 would have been Rs 37.5 lakh crore. With GST, states' actual revenue amounted to Rs 46.56 lakh crore. The effective weighted average GST rate has consistently fallen since 2017 and GST lowered taxes on many essential items compared to pre-GST rates Common items like hair oil

eign and

domestic

institu-

tional

investors

activity

(FII and

and

oil

and soaps saw tax cut from 28 per cent to 18 per cent. Tax on electrical appliances was lowered to 12 per cent as against 31.5 per cent before.

GST has exempted many essential items and services, such as unbranded food items, certain life-saving drugs, healthcare, education, public transport, sanitary napkins, hearing aid parts, agricultural services, etc. As evaders find newer modus operandi to defraud the exchequer, tax officers have been grappling with generation of fake invoices and fraudulent GST registrations.

In 2023, the Directorate of GST Intelligence (DGGI) detected tax evasion of more than Rs 1.98 lakh crore and arrested 140 masterminds who were involved in defrauding the exchequer. Significant GST evasion was detected in diverse sectors like online gaming, casinos, insurance and secondment (import of manpower services)

SPECTRUM AUCTION DoT to issue demand note to telcos for payment

Haryana to get waste-to-charcoal plants

PNS CHANDIGARH

Haryana will soon get wasteto-charcoal plants, also known as green coal plants, said an official statement here on Sunday. An MoU for this plant will be signed between NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd (NVVNL) and the

Haryana. NVVNL officers will soon visit a few sites for estab-

lishing green coal plants. "Due to the strenuous efforts of Union Power and Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, Haryana will soon get waste-to-charcoal plants, also known as green coal plants

Macroeconomic data, global trends to drive markets

PNS NEW DELHI

Domestic macroeconomic data announcements, global on trends and trading activity of progress and its foreign investors would guide impact on the market sentiments this week, rural econoanalysts said. mv.

After a record rally, markets upcoming may face volatile trends this Ūnion week amid elevated valuations Budget in July and investors would also keep

week. Elevated valuations Swastika Investmart Ltd. remain a concern, with Market sentiment will be gauged by closely

investors now focusing monitoring formonsoon

er levels. Key economic data, such as the US job openings report, will be released on July 2, 2024, followed by the US ISM Services PMI data on July 3, 2024, he noted.

"Additionally, the US Federal Reserve Chairperson Powell's speech is scheduled for July 2. 2024, and the US FOMC (Federal Open Market ninutes will ommittee) m released on July 3, 2024. The movement of dollar index and US bond yields will also be crucial factors to watch," Gour added.

restrictions as to where you

can onboard clients, where

your locations are, and the

customer has to have an office

near one of your locations etc,"

he said on the sidelines of a

When asked about the

branch strategy in the country,

Shaparia quipped that "geog-

raphy is history", and added

that the bank's aim will be to

focus more on digital.

bank event here.



streamlined 17 taxes and 13 cesses into a 5-tier structure, simplifying the tax regime. The turnover threshold for registration rose to Rs 40 lakh for goods and Rs 20 lakh for services (up from Rs 5 lakh on



PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

The telecom department is expected to issue a demand note to telcos this week for payment of spectrum they bought in the just-concluded auction, according to a source.

The auction -- lasted for two days spanning seven rounds this time around - witnessed the sale of 141.4 MHz of radio waves for Rs 11,340.78 crore. In all, 10,500 MHz of

radiowaves used for mobile services worth over Rs 96,238 crore were placed on the block during the auction started on June 25

Mittal's Airtel Sunil emerged as the biggest bidder for radio waves, cornering about 60 per cent of the Rs

trum sold in this auction. Airtel bid and won air-

Reliance Jio - the market leader - got Rs 973.62 crore worth of spectrum - the least in the three-way contest.

Vodafone Idea's (VIL) bid for spectrum was valued at about Rs 3510.4 crore.

As per sources, the demand note would outline both options - upfront payment or payment via instalments and is expected to be sent out early this week to various telecom companies.

As per the terms of the bid document, the payments have to be made within ten days of the issue of the demand note.

11,341 crore worth of spec-

waves worth Rs 6,856.76 crore, and rival Mukesh Ambani's

Haryana Government. the statement said.

After setting up the plants in A meeting in this regard was Gurugram-Manesar and held on Friday evening at Shram Faridabad, this initiative will Shakti Bhawan in New Delhi, be expanded to other cities in chaired by Khattar, it said.

a track of global oil benchmark Brent crude and rupee-dollar

movement for further cues. "Potential volatility in the

stock market is anticipated this

with high expecta-

tions for growth-oriented

next focal point,

prices, he said. On the global front, policies," said Pravesh Gour, the US market has experienced Senior Technical Analyst, some profit-booking from high-

crude

Centre should have state-specific financial approach for development, says Kerala FM

PNS NEW DELHI

Seeking more funds to tide over the state's financial woes, Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal on Sunday said the Centre should have a state-specific rather than a uniform financial approach towards states as each of them has different kinds of developmental activities.

Balagopal, part of the emphasised that monolithic thinking about overall develop-CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) which is in power ment is not practical and also for the second consecutive called for flexibility in utilisa-



term in the southern state, tion of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) depending on the requirements of the state. Flagging serious concerns about reduced central fund trans-

fers and borrowing restrictions, Kerala has demanded a special package of Rs 24,000 crore in the upcoming Union Budget to tackle the liquidity stress.

"A monolithic thinking about the total development and administration of the country is not practical in India because different states should be considered differently, keeping in mind the country's whole development and unity...," he said in an interview in the national capital.

'Rule changes can help onboard customers from anywhere in India PNS MUMBAI do more. "Currently, there are

German lender Deutsche Bank will be focussing on the digital channel over the branch model to grow its business in the country, a top official said. Changes in rules by the

RBI mandating geographical location restrictions while onboarding customers will be of help, Kaushik Shaparia, chief executive of Deutsche Bank Group, India, told PTI. "If the regulator were to per-

"Maybe in the past, having a mit digital access over and above the geographical restricrobust branch strategy was critical but with digitisation, geography has become history. tions, I am convinced we can

showed

'AI to be gamechanger in citizen services'

PNS NEW DELHI

AI's cross-border nature will require a 'Global Compact' to ensure its benefits reach all of humanity and to safeguard against any potential misuse, Arundhati Bhattacharya, the top boss of Salesforce India has said exuding confidence that for India, Artificial Intelligence will be a "gamechanger" in delivery of public services.

Bhattacharya, the CEO and Chairperson of Salesforce India and former Chairperson of the SBI, said that AI is poised to bring about a transformation in every sphere - from healthcare to diagnostics, and education to skilling.

The advent of this futuristic technology will benefit India in a big way, firing the engines of public service delivery, at scale and lower cost, she observed.

In an interview, Bhattacharya also highlighted the need for a

Global Compact' on AI, given ful about what we do with AI, the cross-border nature of techand how we do it," she said. nology and its impact.

Bhattacharya said she is congoes beyond country borders, vinced that AI would benefit and hence requires Global society, but in the wrong hands Compact, consensus, and interit can be prove to be "quite harmnational efforts, according to her. ful" and advocated "caution". "I think there need to be a



"AI is like any other tool, you can use it for good purposes, or you can use it for bad. So one needs to be careful. I am not scared but I would definitely recommend caution...I would recommend that we are care-

AI, at this point, is largely self-regulated, she noted.

Just like climate issues, AI too "AI will need a global compact, it will need people to agree that there are possible ways that AI can be used that would be harmful to mankind...They would need to come together

'AI is like any other tool, you can use it for good purposes, or you can use it for bad. So one needs to be careful. I am not scared but I would definitely recommend caution...I would recommend that we are careful about what we do with AI, and how we do it," Arundhati Bhattacharya said.

Global Compact on this as well. This is not something that is going to remain enclosed within borders of a country, it will impact people globally...AI is not going to be a respecter of borders of a country," he said.

and have some kind of understanding to ensure that we use this tool for betterment of mankind...," Bhattacharya said. Bhattacharya smashed the glass ceiling in 2013 when she became the first woman to lead

State Bank of India (SBI) in the bank's over 200-year history. She retired from SBI in 2017 and went on to reinvent herself with a brand new career innings at the helm of cloud-based service provider Salesforce India in 2020, as Chairperson and CEO a position she has held since. Describing the advent of AI as

for India, Bhattacharya said she is convinced that the technology will bring transformation all across, benefiting society. "India does not have pauci-

ty of manpower, what it needs is technology for us to enable each of those people to reach optimum potential. To do that through brick-and mortar is difficult in terms of bandwidth and costs...if AI can deliver the first layer of it, and offer us insights to determine what exactly is needed, it will ensure fair dis-

tribution...it will be a great step

forward," she said.

FPIs invest Rs 26,565 crore in Indian equities in Jun

After two months of net outflow, foreign investors turned buyers in June, infusing Rs 26,565 crore in Indian equities, driven by political stability and a sharp rebound in mar-

Looking ahead, attention will gradually shift towards the budget and Q1 FY25 earnings, which could determine the sustainability of FPI flows, Vipul Bhowar, Director, Listed Waterfield Investments, Advisors, said.

According to the data with the depositories, foreign port-folio investors (FPIs) have made a net infusion of Rs 26,565 crore in equities this month.

This came following a net

outflow of Rs 25,586 crore in May on poll jitters and over Rs 8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.

Before that, FPIs made a net



investment of Rs 35,098 crore in March and Rs 1,539 crore in February, while they took out Rs 25,743 crore in January.

The net outflow now stood at Rs 3,200 crore in the month, data with the depositories

Chief Ínvestment Strategist V K Vijayakumar said political stability, despite the BJP not getting a majority on its own, and the sharp rebound in markets aided by steady domestic institutional investors (DIIs) buying and aggressive retail buying, has forced the FPIs to turn buyers in India.

Geojit Financial Services

However, the FPI buying has been focused on a few specific stocks rather than being widespread across the market or sectors. This is because Indian equities are still considered overvalued by FPIs, Waterfield

Advisors' Bhowar said. They are favouring the financial, auto, capital goods, real estate, and select consumer sectors.

PNS NEW DELHI

a "gamechanger" and "blessing" kets.



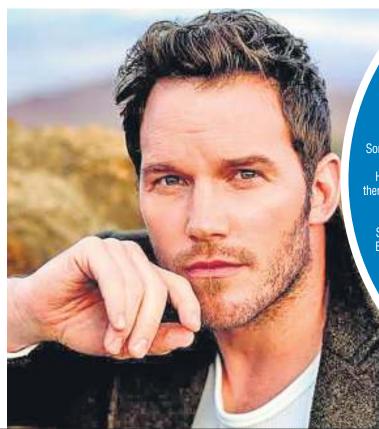
what's brewing?

CHRIS PRATT TO NOW WORK WITH DCU

hris Pratt and James Gunn have collaborated on the Marvel Cinematic Universe's *Guardians of the Galaxy* film. The team last collaborated in 2023 for the final *GoTG* film. It got rave reviews, but many fans were left with a sad feeling because they would not work on another MCU film. James Gunn was named DC Studios' new CEO in 2022. Since then, the filmmaker has made numerous alterations to the DC universe. Gunn is also working on his upcoming Superman: Legacy film. But will he work with Chris Pratt anytime soon? Is Pratt willing to collaborate with James in any DC film? Well, the actor responded positively.

In an interview, Chris Pratt was asked about his recent visit to the Guardians of the Galaxy director on the sets of Superman: Legacy. While Pratt didn't reveal anything, he said there's always a chance he could work with the DCU. The actor was asked if he would join the competing superhero franchise. Pratt said, "Yes, of course." Chris added that he would leave it to the fans and James to decide what role he should play.

Chris Pratt told that he is interested in joining the DCU. "If it fit into my schedule and made sense, I'd adore it. Of course, I enjoy playing Star-Lord and I hope to return. I simply feel so fortunate to be able to perform any of it, or to be considered for any of it. If it's right and the fans adore it, I'd be delighted to do it." Meanwhile, Chris Pratt plays Garfield in the 2024 live-action film The Garfield *Movie*. The actor will next appear in the films *The Electric State* and *Mercy*. Chris' web series, The Terminal List, has been renewed for season two.



Over a decade after leaving *Grey's Anatomy*, Eric Dane, as Dr. McSteamy, opened up about his surprise departure.

From 2006 to 2012, the Euphoria star played Dr. Mark Sloan in the Emmy Award-winning ABC program. The fan favourite character was killed off in the ninth season after an aircraft disaster in which his on-and-off-again love interest, Lexi Grey, died from her injuries.

Eric Dane's departure shocked viewers on a show that takes pride in killing off fan favorites without hesitation. In a recent Dax Shepard podcast, Dane revealed that his exit from the program was not his decision.

In an interview on the Armchair

Expert with Dax Shepard podcast, Dane shared he did not willingly leave the show but was 'let go', noting his struggles with addiction had a

His shall gart to play in his ousting. He said, "I didn't leave as much as I thought I would. You didn't let me go because of that (alcohol and drug addiction), although it definitely didn't help." The Grey's Anatomy star revealed he was under the influence for most of his tenure at *Grey's* Anatomy and might have eventually turned himself into a liability. Dane said, "If you take the whole

eight years I was on Grey's, I was f**ked up longer than I was sober and that was when things started going sideways for me."

He added, "I was starting to become, as most of these actors who have spent significant time on the show, start to become very expensive for the network."

Dane credited show creator Shonda Rhimes for protecting his public image after his exit from the show before noting he was "probably fired" from his job. Dane shared, "I love Shonda; she

protected me, but I was probably fired. It wasn't ceremoniously like, 'You're fired'; it was just like, 'You're not coming back."

Meanwhile, after leaving Grey's Anatomy, Eric Dane went on to star in Last Ship and was recently seen on the HBO show Euphoria.

SHATRUGHAN SINHA **HOSPITALISED, UNDERGOES**

reteran Bollywood actor and politician Shatrughan Sinha, who has been admitted to Kokilaben Hospital in Mumbai, underwent minor surgery. According to a source, the senior actor had a hectic schedule recently due to the polling campaign and his daughter Sonakshi Sinha's wedding. Earlier, when Sonakshi visited the hospital with her husband, Zaheer Iqbal, it raised speculations about her pregnancy.

However, the source confirmed that the actress went to the hospital to see her father. While there's no clarity on how soon Shatrughan will be discharged from the hospital, it is said that the actor is currently stable and under observation.

This comes as a bit of a downer for the Sinha family after the double celebrations of Shatrughan's Lok Sabha win and Sonakshi's wedding. Shatrughan recently won from West Bengal's Asansol constituency in the Lok Sabha 2024 elections and expressed his gratitude to the people of Asansol.

The actor won by a margin of 59,564 votes against BJP candidate Surendrajeet Singh Ahluwalia. Meanwhile, Sonakshi and Zaheer tied the knot on June 23 in Mumbai after seven years of dating. The couple first met at a party hosted by Bollywood superstar Salman Khan. Interestingly, both Sonakshi and Zaheer started their careers with Salman. Sonakshi made her debut opposite Salman in the box-office phenomenon Dabangg, while Zaheer made his debut with Salman Khan's home production Notebook.



Abhijeet Bhattacharya says, 'Chunari Chunari was never a great song'

FUN

9

2

5

Singer Abhijeet Bhattacharya revealed details about two songs he sang for Salman Khan. In a recent interview, Abhijeet stated that *Biwi No. 1's* blockbuster song *Chunari Chunari*, which starred Salman Khan and Sushmita Sen, was 'never a terrific song.' He felt the song was heavy on music and his name was just associated with it. He also revealed an intriguing detail regarding filming Tan Tana Tan for Salman Khan's *Judwaa*.

Abhijeet stated, "It was never a great song for me; it was simply an instrument. So, it's just that my name comes in. It's not that this is my song but it was a big hit from before." He went on to say, "Mere gaane hit hue hain, but it's not vital that the picture be commercially successful. My



songs have been classic." Opening up about *Tan Tana Tan*, Abhijeet admitted that he thought the song was being recorded for Govinda rather than Salman Khan. As a result, he included components that are fundamental to Govinda's songs. The singer added that he thought it was a song for Govinda because David Dhawan had mostly worked with the actor, so he

the duo was working together. He further shares, "David Dhawan has never worked with anyone else except Govinda since he became David Dhawan. So no one told me who was in this. Everyone knows that a movie is being made and Salman Khan is in it. Please believe me, I did not know. The recordist was saying to me, 'Why have you become Govinda?' He was also wondering why I was behaving like Govinda," he said before adding, "I did not even know that Salman was in the picture. But I did not understand in this song why the focus was completely on the dance and choreography. The way it was sung, those expressions and acting were not shown?

ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES



WELL SEE WHAT HAPPENS WI THE MORNING, THOUGH

SPEED BUMP

The second second

YOUR BODY INITIALLY REJECTED THE

NEW KIDNEY, BUT AFTER WE POMPED YOU

assumed

GARFIELD



JANC





GINGER MEGGS







REALITY CHECK Warning: You've been looking for love in all the wrong places. Are you sure you want to continue this search?



SUDOKU

		6			5	Q			Yesterday's solution										
		0			5	0			7	6	3	8	4	2	9	1	5		
	1			7					8	4	2	5	9	1	7	6	3		
<u> </u>			0		-1				5	9	1	7	3	6	4	2	8		
			9						2	3	8	9	7	5	6	4	1		
	3	Q					8		9	1	5	6	8	4	3	7	2		
+	1 C	<u> </u>			-		<u> </u>		6	7	4	2	1	3	8	5	9		
	8		1		7				1	5	7	3	6	8	2	9	4		
				8	a				3	2	6	4	5	9	1	8	7		
				0	9				4	8	9	1	2	7	5	3	6		
	7		8				1		Rules										
		7			4				• Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9)										
6	9			3			5		 The sum of all numbers in										
DIFFICULTY RATING:											any row or column must equal 45.								

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 6 The group of people who
- are in charge of a country 11 Throbbed painfully 8 Correct
 - 12 A month
- 10 A black and white animal 15 Uncommon 13 Coming nearer to
- 16 A place with houses, 14 Before second
 - shops, schools 17 Unlock

these

9 Cows and goats have

19 A popular jam flavour 18 Rowers pulls on these

DOWN

17 Bad smell

- 1 Measuring a lot from one
- end to the other
- 2 A compass direction 3 Break suddenly
- 4 Stitched
 - 5 People who are unknown

 - to you



SOLUTIO

ICA

7 A meal





Rajpal Yadav on arranged marriage v/s love!

he comedic powerhouse of Indian cinema, Rajpal Yadav, who was recently seen in Zee5's *Luv Ki Arrange Marriage*, shares some exclusive insights on working with the cast and

his take on marriage. Rajpal Yadav, the comedic powerhouse of Indian cinema, brings his signature wit to the new film *Luv Ki Arrange Marriage*.

But beyond the laughs, the film explores the complexities of love and marriage, a topic Yadav offers a unique perspective on.

offers a unique perspective on. Working alongside rising stars Sunny Singh and Avneet Kaur was a delight for Yadav. He calls Sunny Singh a "kind and close friend," while he also praised Avneet Kaur's organised, dedicated and straightforward nature. The camaraderie extended to the entire cast including veterans like Annu Kapoor

the entire cast, including veterans like Annu Kapoor and Supriya Pathak. "Working with all of them was enjoyable," Yadav says, reflecting on the fun atmosphere on set.

The film explores the long-standing question: love or arranged marriage? As a parent himself, Yadav emphasises that these are decisions best left to the younger generation, free from parental pressure. He references a cherished Indian saying, 'Marriages are made in heaven.' "I don't consider myself worthy of giving advice, but I feel that marriage is a bond between two families filled with freedom and a bond between two souls. Regardless of the setup you choose—arrange marriage or love marriage—I believe that matches are made by a higher power," he added.

Yadav's comedic genius has been a cornerstone of many successful films throughout his career. From his hilarious turn as "Chhote Pandit" in the horror comedy *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* to his portrayal of the bumbling astrologer in the blockbuster *Mujhse Shaadi Karogi*, Yadav has a knack for leaving his audience with his rib-tickling humour. With his heartwarming perspective and signature humour, the *Chup Chup Ke* actor

reminds, the brap brap brap to determine and laughter are essential ingredients for a happy marriage. He continues to entertain audiences with his comedic brilliance, ensuring *Luv Ki Arrange Marriage* adds another chapter to his long list of cinematic successes.

Lip-syncing her way to global stage

TEJAL SINHA

ith her expertise in *Abhinaya* (expressions) and *Writya* (pure dance), Sonali Mohapatra has been an accomplished Odissi dancer and a global performer. At an early age of 5, due to an unfortunate incident, she lost a major portion of her hearing, a loss that later proved to be irreparable. Despite having lost 100% of her hearing in her left ear and 87% in her right ear, she found a calling in dance. With the help of her father, Nirmal Kumar Mohapatra, a renowned vocalist, she became trained in "taal" and "layakariyan," hence mastering the rhythm and flow of the dance.

She began her early training with Guru Tripti Mayee Mohanty and later found guidance under Guru Durga Charan Ranbir. "At the age of 5, I would accompany my father, a trained vocalist himself, for his Odissi shows," recalls the choreophile in this exclusive chat with *The Pioneer.* "I used to adore the performances and how my dad used to give *taal*. During that time, I realised, maybe I couldn't dance like them, but there's of course something within me when it comes to dancing. Every time that I used to sit and watch, it always felt like I was in heaven and used to feel like the apsaras were dancing. However, it did take her some time to convince her father to accept the notion of his daughter taking up dance, knowing how important music and sound are in a dancer's journey. The doctor's suggestion was that, with the exposure to loud music, there could be a much bigger impact on her hearing issue! But as she got a little emotional in this chat with us, she recalled how, being a father, he knew there was something within his daughter. In fact, even the headmistress of the school knew that Sonali had that potential. "I got enrolled under the guidance of Guru Tripti Mayee Mohanty and within no span, my father also took a hiatus from his career for me to memorise the rhythms of popular songs. The training was tough. I couldn't afford to miss a beat! There was no room for errors. During this, my mother had always been a shadow," says the connoisseur, who also recalls how her father sat down for 7 days continuously and used to help her out with the taal and rhythm. The reality of practice and platform used to turn out to be a challenge for her. "I used to also face challenges when

performing a pre-recorded song, especially if the device wasn't working properly. Due to these glitches, I used to, at times, even lose the rhythm. However, now I have adjusted to it." Basically, to our surprise, she revealed how her device helps her to listen to at least 13 percent of it. However, without it, the percent of her hearing goes down to zero. But she never let this affect her confidence and here she is, being an inspiration to many

more. During her journey, her first guru, Tripti Mayee Mohanty, played a very important role in shaping her prowess in dance. Recalling her spend a lot of time for me to get my hands on the hand gestures and other movements. The *taal*, of course, was taught by my father. Later, when she got confidence in me that, I could do it, she herself sent me to Guru Durga Charan Ranbir, who is also my current guru."

She is married to renowned flutist Abhiram Nanda, who is a disciple of Guru Padmavibhusan Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia. And after her father, who has had a major influence in her life, has been her husband. There was a time when, during the live concerts, her father used to sing and her better half, used to give the flute music. He used to help her out with information on the current music. Today, he has become a major root of all her choreographies!

When choreographing her own dance performances, she makes sure that she does thorough research before hand on the topic that she has decided to perform on. She later used to share her idea with her father and husband for her to help with the *taal* and rhythm. The music and composition are further prepared based on her thoughts.

Speaking of her balance between the approach towards *Abhinaya* (expressions) and *Nritya* (pure dance) in her performances, she gleefully enthuses on a concluding note, *"Abhinaya* is based on more challenging rhythms and change of *taals*, which needs a lot of stamina. Meanwhile, when we say *nritya* (pure dance), it is more of high energy, stamina and based on the sculptures of the *Nartakis* that we see in temples. Pure dance is nothing but practice. When it comes to *Abhinaya*, it

Odissi danseuse Sonali

Mohapatra has created a niche for herself, irrespective of her auditory disability. *The Pioneer* got an opportunity to have an exclusive meet chat with her to learn and know more about her art form. more deeply rooted and you feel and understand the characters. Failing to do so, you'll not be able to give the right expressions. Expressions are not just your smile and eye movements; they are the deeprooted understanding of each and every character. Again, it's not just about characters but also the situation."

Demystifying the role of 'chromosomal polymorphism' in recurrent pregnancy loss

A recent study conducted by Redcliffe Labs in India has revealed a significant link between chromosomal abnormalities and recurrent miscarriages. The research found that infertile couples experiencing repeated miscarriages exhibited a notably higher frequency of chromosomal polymorphisms (CPM), reaching up to 33.7%. Traditionally, chromosome polymorphisms have been considered normal variations with little practical significance. However, this study is the first to identify a much higher prevalence—approximately 33.7%—of these polymorphisms among couples facing recurrent pregnancy loss and infertility. As a result, CPM has been identified as a major contributing factor to repeated miscarriages.

Chromosomal polymorphism refers to the innate differences in chromosome number and structure among a population. Chromosome segment inversions, translocations, deletions and duplications are examples of these changes. Even though these polymorphisms are frequently benign and do not directly affect health, they may influence genetic processes during reproduction. They may contribute to disorders like recurrent miscarriages, congenital defects and other reproductive difficulties by causing genetic imbalances in the progeny. Changes brought about by cell division and spontaneous genetic recombination are the causes of CPMs.

Meiotic errors: Chromosomes recombine during the

• **Meiotic errors:** Chromosomes recombine during the development of eggs and sperm. Inaccuracies in this procedure may cause segments to be moved or changed, giving rise to polymorphisms.

• **Chromosome mutations:** If either parent carries these mutations, then CPMs can be inherited from them. Many CPMs are benign and don't harm people, but depending on how they pair together during fertilisation, they may cause complications in the progeny.

• **Mutations:** Chromosome structural alterations can result from random mutations that happen in DNA.

LINK BETWEEN CHROMOSOMAL POLYMORPHISM AND RECURRENT PREGNANCY LOSS

CPMs can interfere with normal chromosomal activity during reproduction, which can result in genetic imbalances in the developing embryo. This may result in various difficulties with reproduction:

• **Miscarriages:** CPMs can result in the development of embryos with chromosomal abnormalities, which frequently cause early pregnancy loss. Significant genetic imbalances usually result in non-viable embryos. • **Impaired implantation:** One of the main causes of miscarriage is the existence of CPMs, which can obstruct the embryo's proper implantation in the uterus.

• **Genetic imbalances:** CPMs can result in genetic imbalances that can lead to congenital abnormalities or disorders that are incompatible with life, even if a pregnancy goes on.

IDENTIFICATION AND TREATMENT DIAGNOSIS

Genetic testing is frequently recommended for couples experiencing recurrent pregnancy loss in order to detect any chromosomal abnormalities, including CPMs. These polymorphisms can be found using karyotyping techniques or more advanced approaches like array comparative genomic hybridisation (aCGH) and next-generation sequencing.

MANAGEMENT

Genetic counselling is essential if CPMs are found. Counsellors can assist couples in considering their reproductive options and comprehending the consequences of their findings. Preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD), one of the assisted reproductive technology (ART) methods, may be suggested to choose embryos free of major genetic abnormalities.



sport 11

FROM DHONI, TENDULKAR TO GAVASKAR ALL HAIL INDIA'S T20 WORLD CUP TRIUMPH Harbhajan

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The who's who of Indian cricket fraternity, including Mahendra Dhoni, Singh Sachin Tendulkar and Sunil Gavaskar, hailed the title triumph in the T20 World Cup, saying it will inspire the "starry-eyed country's children to move one step closer to their dreams".

India's first T20 world champion skipper Dhoni led the chorus of former and current cricketers, hailing Rohit Sharma's men for regaining the trophy after 17 long years after beating South Africa by seven runs in a pulsating final in Barbados on Saturday. Former skipper Dhoni, who led India to their maiden title

win in 2007 in South Africa, praised the team for maintaining their calm during the adverse situations in the game. "WORLD CUP

CHAMPIONS 2024. My heart rate was up, well done on being calm, having the self belief and doing what u guys did," (sic) Dhoni wrote on Instagram.

"From all the Indians back home and everywhere in the world a big thank you for bringing the World Cup H o m e . CONGRATULATIONS.Arre

eee thanks for the priceless birthday gift," said Dhoni, who will turn 43 early next month.

The legendary Tendulkar took to social media to



country has now got a 'fourth star', following two 50-over World Cup wins in 1983 and 2011 as well as the historic triumph in the inaugural 2007 World T20.

"Every star added to the Team India jersey inspires our nation's starry-eyed children to move one step closer to express his delight on India's their dreams. India gets the achievement, saying the 4th star, our second in

T20WC," he wrote on 'X'. Tendulkar, who was a member of the Indian team which suffered a first-round exit in the 2007 50-overs World Cup, said life has come a full circle.

"Life comes full circle for Indian cricket in the West Indies. From our lows in the 2007 ODI World Cup to becoming a cricketing

powerhouse and winning the T20WC in 2024," he said. 'Very happy for my friend Rahul Dravid, who missed out on the 2011 World Cup win but his contribution to this T20 World Cup victory has been immense. I am so so happy for him."

Hailing Rohit's captaincy and the contributions of the other squad members, Tendulkar

said, "What can one say about Rohit Sharma? Superb captaincy! To put the 2023 ODI World Cup loss behind and to keep all our players motivated towards the T20 World Cup is commendable." "Jasprit Bumrah's Player of the Tournament award as well as Virat Kohli's Player of the Match award are both welldeserved. They were just

superb when it mattered," he added.

"Along with Rahul, Paras Mhambrey and Vikram Rathour also made their international debuts in 1996. It was wonderful to see Team India excel under the guidance of this class of '96." "A total team effort. Hearty congratulations to all the players, coaches, support

staff, and BCCI," Tendulkar continued. Gavaskar said that winning the trophy is like finally scoring a hundred.

ambassador for the T20 World Cup in the Americas, Yuvraj Singh individually praised all the key members of the side. it bovs

catch under pressure," Yuvraj added, wondering if he mistakenly did not leave out

Hero of two T20 World Cup

finals and India's would be

coach Gautam Gambhir wrote, "CHAMPIONS!"

Having earlier explained his standout moments of the

game when it was under

progress, legendary Sachin Tendulkar wrote, "Chak De India!!!!" Former India

captain and BCCI president

anvone.

indiavssa

"It is a great win after such a long time. Earlier, I kept saying that India was getting 90s but not getting centuries "You did @hardikpandya7 your a hero ! @Jaspritbumrah93 what an because they were reaching semi-finals and finals. Now, over to bring India back in the game ! Extremely ecstatic for they have got a century and what a wonderful century this @ImRo45 great captaincy under pressure ! @imVkohli is," the former India captain #Rahul Dravid and the whole team #ICCT20WorldCup2024," he

From VVS Laxman to Anil Kumble, Sourav Ganguly to wrote. Gautam Gambhir, everyone "Well played @akshar2026 praised the stupendous @IamShivamDube. Koi reh to nahi gaya ! Oh @surya_14kumar what a achievement in unison.

"Congratulations Team India on becoming the T20 World Champions. Been the best team in the tournament remaining unbeaten throughout," VVS Laxman, current head of the National Cricket Academy wrote on X. "Great composure and character shown by the team to win this from the situation we were in with 5 overs remaining. Every player deserves credit for giving it their all and rising to the occasion and wonderfully led by Rohit," he added. "We are champions!" rejoiced

told PTI.

ace spinner and 2011 World Cup winner Ravichandran Ashwin.

Former India captain and head coach Anil Kumble wrote, "Congratulations team India! Wonderful victory." "YEH MERA INDIA. WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS. SO PROUD OF YOU GUYS. (This is my India. We are the champions, so proud of you guys.)," wrote former spinner

Ganguly Sourav also congratulated the side. "Heartiest congratulations to Rohit sharma and his team .. What a game to win .. May be a World Cup in 11 (13) yrs but the talent the country has ,they will win many more .." (Sic) "Bumrah is absolutely magic ..

Well done Virat,axar ,Hardik and every one .. Rahul Dravid and the support staff .. What a proud moment," Ganguly added. (sic)

Toni Kroos retirement delayed amid Germany's adventure at Euro 2024



Just like another Real Madrid great, Zinedine Zidane in 2006, Kroos is ending his storied career at a major tournament in Germany.

He came out of international retirement in February for one last tournament. Each game Germany plays in the knockout stage could be the last of his career. Germany weathered a thunderstorm, hail and stubborn Danish resistance Saturday to ensure the 34

For now, it stings, just gut-wrenching: SA skipper Markram on World Cup heartbreak

PTI BRIDGETOWN

devastated South African Adevastated South Anterna is hopeful that at some point he would be able to see the good in his team's T20 World Cup campaign but for now, all he feels is a "sting" which, he hopes, will ensure a "fire in the belly for next time". South Africa needed 30 off 30



balls in a chase of 176 against India but fell short by seven runs despite Heinrich Klaasen's awe-inspiring 27-ball 52 in the see-saw summit clash here on Saturday. India had Jasprit Bumrah and



While the Indian players had happy tears in their eyes, the Proteas broke down in the realisation that another major title had slipped through their hands, only this time at the

"It's just gut wrenching, that's really what it is. Each player has been on a different individual journey to get to this first final. Ultimately you become really tight as a group and you want good things to happen to this group because you know they're great people," he said.

Told crowd to behave because Hardik is big-stage player: Sanjay Manjrekar

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

When Sanjay Manjrekar schooled the Wankhede crowd to "behave" after they booed the newly-appointed Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya, all he wanted the public to realise that their boorish behaviour targeting a "big stage player", was unfair. Pandya was jeered at every venue after he was handed captaincy by MI, signalling a controversial end to the



AP DORTMUND

 $T_{\text{game before he retires.}}^{\text{oni Kroos gets another}}$ Germany's Euro 2024 title challenge looks more real than ever.

One of the most decorated players in modern soccer with six Champions League titles and a World Cup, Kroos wasn't flashy as Germany beat Denmark 2-0 on Saturday, but he was a calm, assured presence holding the midfield together.

Kroos already won the Champions League with Real Madrid this season. Now he's three games away from one final trophy and could face his Madrid teammate, Spain's Dani Carvajal, in his next game. Some fans already have their eyes on the final in the German capital and sang about heading to Berlin as Germany saw out the win.

year-old midfielder will play again. Germany faces either Spain or Georgia in the quarterfinals July 5. Zidane reached the 2006 World Cup final with France, only to headbutt an opponent, get a red card and lose to Italy. Kroos and Germany can still dream of a win on home soil and a first major trophy since Kroos and his teammates lifted the 2014 World Cup. Until the Denmark game, Germany had not won a major-tournament knockout game since Euro

Hardik Pandya's death bowling and a blinder of a catch by Suryakumar Yadav to thank for the close win after the peerless Virat Kohli set up the match for them with a brilliant 76-run knock. "It's not the first game of cricket that's been lost with a

team needing 30 of 30 - it's more that India was allowed to bowl well, they're allowed to field well, they're allowed to go from that position to a position of strength," the 29-

2016. The win continues the sense that Germany is finally turning things around under coach Julian Nagelsmann after years of disappointment. He took over last year with

a mission to deliver a hostnation success story at Euro 2024, and has already signed an extension for the 2026 World Cup.

managed to get rid of the chokers' tag to an extent by year-old Markram said in the making their first World Cup post-match press conference. final. "...Right now to pinpoint something is quite tough but "I think one thing that I will definitely say is how proud we we'll reflect over the next few are. Not just of today, the game itself, but the competition as a days, over the next few weeks,

try and find areas that we could have maybe improved in during today's game, but also to highlight the things that went really well for us," he The pain aside, Markram is

proud of his teammates, who

for next time that you're here," he said. admitted that Markram

Klaasen will find it tough to make peace with the result after such a "special effort". 'We've seen him do it many, many times around the world whole, the build-up to get here. and to deliver it in a stage like "So, in hindsight, the things this is a really special effort. So, will still feel really good about this competition. But like I it's going to be tough for him, that's what I say when I mean mentioned, just for the time we reflect back.

being, it stings a bit, but it's "There's going to be lots of good for it to sting. It gives you things to be happy about," he that little bit of fire in the belly said.

"...When you get really close like that, especially the nature of how the game went, obviously adds to the emotions and it's one of those things but yeah, we can channel it moving forward but I think next couple of days you let it be.

"...You let yourself feel the way you want to feel and then really start reflecting in a positive manner." Despite the disappointment and heartbreak, Markram did not forget to applaud India's brilliance and composure in the final.

"It's tournament cricket, it's tough cricket, it's not easy to win trophies and you've got to take your hats off to a team like India for lifting the trophy. A lot of hard work goes into it.

But yeah, we'd like to think we're one step closer and hopefully moving forward we can get that first win and it can be a snowball effect of quite a few to come," he said.

successful and popular Rohit Sharma's tenure at the helm. The whole episode had a

deep-level impact on Pandva. Manjrekar, while conducting the toss at the Wankhede during a home match of MI, did interject but it only led to a meme-fest by the insensitive social media trolls.

Pandya played a major part in India's second T20 World Cup trophy with 144 runs and 11 wickets, and Manjrekar now stands vindicated.

"What a turnaround for Hardik Pandya. In IPL, there were people jeering him and booing him and I told them to behave because this is a big-stage player," Manjrekar told 'ESPNCricinfo'.

The former India player and noted pundit always knew that Pandva would hold his nerve in pressure situations as he brought his team back in the game with the wicket of the dangerous Heinrich Klaasen and then closed out

the game with a mindblowing final over. "We have seen that umpteen times, wickets of Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller and right at the end, Rabada, so he was a champion and no surprise, to see him flourish on the big

stage," Manjrekar said. Manjrekar reminded Indian fans that even in their humiliating defeat against England in Adelaide, back in the 2022 edition, the colourful Baroda man was a face-saver and a calm presence under pressure.

"Even in that semifinal against England, he came in and gave India some hope with 60 off 33. So that's what he is all about.

"You felt safe when he came to bowl in the last over, he was not going to lose his nerves, he was going to bowl sensibly," he concluded.

Sindhu focussed on perfecting her skills to bag third Olympic medal

PTI NEW DELHI

Two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu is Olympic physically and mentally in best shape but realises she needs to be "much more smarter" in her pursuit of a

third medal at the Games. Sindhu had claimed a silver and bronze medal at the last two Olympics at Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo and will be heading into Paris with the aim of becoming the first Indian to win three Olympic medals.

"It is challenging, it's not easy but, at the same time, it's not impossible," Sindhu said during an interaction conducted by Sports Authority of India, the Indian Olympic Association and the Badminton Association of

India. into the third "Going

Olympics, I need to be smarter. I have a lot of

change the colour, and of course, get another medal for the country."

Sindhu is currently training at Hermann-Neuberger the Sportschule in Saarbrucken, Germany after her proposal was cleared by the sports ministry. She will be heading to Paris directly from there when the Games begin on July 26.

... Physically and mentally I

am right there, I just have to be smarter and my coach Agus (Dwi Santoso) has been taking care of that, my trainer has been taking care of my physical part.

"I am working on all the strokes, whether it is defense, or attack or netplay, it is important to be perfect in all things.

"So I'm not focussing on just one stroke or technique,

experience on my side and I because you never know what need to be much more it is going to be, there are smarter and I hope I can players who are smart enough to change and move to plan B. "So you need to be prepared for it and I am focusing on practicing each and everything make to

added.

everything perfect -- each stroke, all techniques." Asked why she picked Germany as her training base ahead of the Games, Sindhu said: "Prakash (Padukone) sir, and we all discussed and thought, it will be a good

place, it is near to Paris, it is in between nowhere, so I am much more focussed. "I have taken few sparring

partners and have a team and

currently training here has been very peaceful. I can focus even more before the Olympics."

Sindhu has spent most time on the court in the run-up to the Olympics but she hasn't been consistent enough or



beating the top players. The Indian, though, did manage a runner-up finish at Malaysia we play. Masters super 500.

"It took me some time to come back (from injury) and I feel that now I'm doing well. Coming to the finals is not an easy thing. And, finishing matches, it depends on how we play. "Sometimes nothing might

work out," she said referring to the loss in Malaysian Masters final. "I feel that there's been a lot of

improvement and I know that

confident that I'm getting there. I need to keep believing in myself and keep working much harder.

"I feel the Olympics is players. "So it is going to be very challenging and really hard because one is we know each something where it will be very different. I don't want to compare with others but

looking at my form, I'm in great shape and it's just that you have to play very differentiated of the state o differently with every player. "It's a different style of play. I players who would be looking at your game, how you're think the strategy will be very different whether it is Chen playing, what are they doing, Yu Fei or An Seyoung. It also depends on the draws, with whom I play. Looking forward to going to the Olympics. So, yeah, hoping for the best." Sindhu, who trained under

months.

what needs to be done. "So there are a lot of tactics and techniques which will go into this and also physically and mentally you need to be much more stronger, much

smarter." Talking about her mentor Pullela Gopichand for many years, moved from Hyderabad Padukone, Sindhu said he has to Bengaluru after trying out been helping her out by pointing out flaws. four different coaches in 12

Prakash sir has been seeing The ace shuttler feels the level my matches and he's been of competition now is very high. "I've played two Olympics and this will be my telling me a few things if I'm making mistakes. He observes a lot.

"When he sat behind me in the last All England and French Open, his inputs were quite simple. He just always told me that you know just play freely and just give your best."

not finishing I can do much better and I'm high. third and every time the game keeps changing, every Olympics there are different



tollywood

'I am very proud of my daughters'

Since its much-anticipated release, *Kalki 2898 AD* has been making headlines for all the right reasons. The film, helmed by director Nag Ashwin and backed by Vyjayanthi Movies, has not only captivated audiences but has also shattered box office records with its staggering collections. We got the opportunity to converse with the man behind Vyjayanthi Movies, producer Ashwini Dutt, who shared insights into the making of this ambitious project and its future endeavours.

K. RAMYA SREE

Q: Congratulations on the massive success of Kalki 2898 AD! Did you expect such an overwhelming response?

Ashwini Dutt: Thank you! Yes, we anticipated this level of success, but it's always heartening to see the audience embrace the film across all regions.

Q: Nag Ashwin's previous works were known for their depth. When did you realise he could handle such a grand narrative?

Ashwini Dutt: We've known Nag Ashwin since his debut. From the beginning, I saw his potential to handle ambitious projects. He has a unique vision and I've always trusted his creative instincts.

O: Amitabh Bachchan's portrayal in the film has garnered much praise. How did you feel seeing him *in such a significant role?* Ashwini Dutt: Amitabh Bachchan

is a legend and his performance was outstanding. It was a surreal experience to see him bring his character to life on screen.

Q: The concept of the bujji (car) in the film was quite innovative. How did that idea come about? Ashwini Dutt: That was entirely Nag Ashwin's vision. When he presented the concept to me, I was fas-cinated by how well it was integrated into the narrative. It added a unique flavour to the film.

Q: With such success, can we expect a sequel to Kalki 2898 AD? Ashwini Dutt: Absolutely! The

decision for a sequel was finalised

after Kamal Haasan joined the project. His character opens up excit-ing possibilities for the next installment

Q: When can audiences expect Kalki 2898 AD Part 2 to hit the screens?

Ashwini Dutt: We are looking at a release sometime next year around this time for Part 2.

Q: Prabhas played a crucial role in the original film. How was his cooperation during the production?

Ashwini Dutt: Prabhas was pivotal to the film's success. His dedication and support were instrumental in bringing the original vision to life.

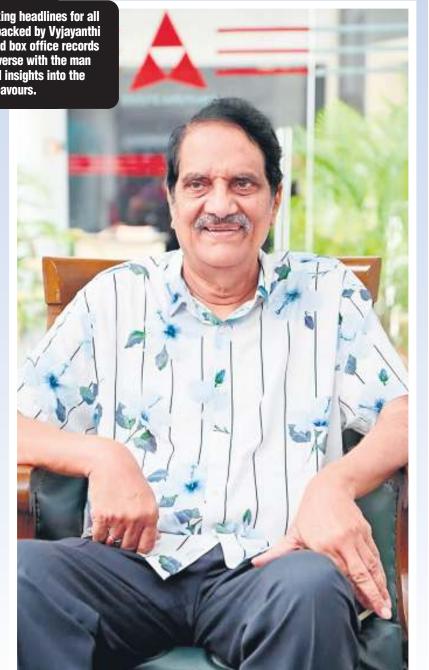
Q: Your daughters have been instrumental in the success of Vyjayanthi Movies. How does it feel as a father to see them achieve such heights?

Ashwini Dutt: I am incredibly proud and fortunate. They have taken our production company to new heights and it's a joy to witness their achievements.

Q: Can we expect more films in the Kalki Cinematic Universe after Part 2?

Ashwini Dutt: Let's see how the story unfolds after Part 2. If the script demands it and the audience desires more, we might explore further expansions.

Q: What are the upcoming projects from Vyjayanthi Movies that audiences should watch out for? Ashwini Dutt: We have exciting projects lined up, including a film with Srikanth's son and another one featuring Dulquer Salmaan.



Allari Naresh's birthday surprise with his next two projects

A llari Naresh, renowned for his comedy and family entertainers, also established himself as a great performer in unique and different concept films. He is now starring in another unique concept films rice is now starting of the Telugu Cinema production houses, Sithara Entertainments.

On the occasion of his birthday, the produc-tion house officially announced the project, ten-tatively titled #AN63, or Production No. 29.

The poster showcases interesting symbols in sign language. This creative poster has raised great intrigue among movie-lovers and Allari Naresh fans. They are trying to decode the hidden message in sign language symbols. Writer-director Meher Tej, known for the highly appre-

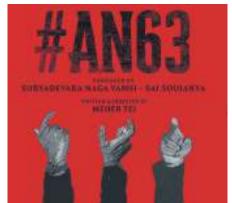
ciated movie *Family Drama*, is writing and directing the film, with a highly distinctive and create concept. Makers have expressed with great belief and huge confidence that the movie will be entertaining and delivers a unique experience to audiences in theatres.

Meanwhile, celebrating his birthday, the actor also received a special gift from the makers of his upcoming film, Bachhala Malli. Directed by Subbu Mangadevvi, known for Solo Brathuke So Better and produced under the banner of Hasya Movies by Razesh Danda and Balaji Gutta, the film promises to be a mass entertainer with a captivat-ing storyline and powerful performances.

The recently unveiled glimpse introduces viewers to the intense character portrayed by Allari Naresh. The teaser opens with a striking scene where the protagonist fiercely removes the Bhagavad Gita playing on a loud-speaker near his house, disturbed by

its intrusion on his sleep. The narrative swift-ly moves to a local bar, where he displays his If moves to a local bar, where he displays his swagger while confronting goons, delivering the impactful dialogue, "*Eyy Evadi Kosam Thaggali... Enduku Thaggali...* (Whom should I keep low... Why should I stay humble...)" This sets the tone for his adamant and robust persona in the film.

Director Subbu Mangadevvi has presented Allari Naresh in a never-before-seen avatar, marking a departure from his usual roles. The actor underwent a notable transformation for this character and his performance exudes raw intensity-cum-conviction. The glimpse has already garnered attention for its mass appeal, offering fans a perfect birthday treat and





showcasing Naresh's power-packed acting chops! Joining Allari Naresh is Amritha Aiyer as the lead actress, supported by a stellar ensemble cast including Rohini, Rao Ramesh, Achyuth Kumar, Balagam Jayaram, Hari Teja, Praveen and Viva Harsha in pivotal roles.

Baachala Malli is being crafted on a grand scale with a team of acclaimed technicians at the helm.

Anticipation for Bachhala Malli is high, fuelled further by the announcement of its theatrical release scheduled for September this year. With its promising storyline, stellar cast and a dedicated team of technicians, the film is poised to captivate audiences and add another feather to Allari Naresh's illustrious career.



CKED

elebrated actor Dhanush, known for his versatility and powerful performances. is gearing up for an exciting lineup of projects, solidifying his status as one of Indian cinema's most bankable stars. Currently immersed in the filming of Kubera, Dhanush's calendar is set to overflow with diverse roles and challenging projects. Post-*Kubera*, he is all set to step into the shoes of legendary music composer Ilaiyaraaja in a biopic helmed by Arun Matheswaran. This venture promises to delve into the life and legacy of the iconic musician, adding another dimension to Dhanush's already illustrious career. Adding to the anticipation, Dhanush is slated to collaborate with director Vignesh Raja, known for his distinct narrative style showcased in *Por Thozhil*. Produced under the banner of VELS company, this upcoming project holds promise for cinephiles eagerly awaiting Dhanush's next cinematic outing. In a testament to his stature in the industry, reports indicate that Dhanush's remuneration for the Vignesh Raja-directed film stands at a staggering 45 crores, underscoring his box-office draw and acting prowess. With each project promising a unique narrative and Dhanush's ability to inhabit diverse characters with finesse, fans and critics alike await the unfolding of these cinematic gems. As Dhanush prepares to bring his Agame to each role, the anticipation surrounding his upcoming releases continues to soar, setting the stage for yet another chapter in his stellar career.



Kalavedika N1 Awards concludes in

Sandeep Reddy Vanga to release audio glimpse of Spirit on Prabhas' B'day

irector Sandeep Reddy Vanga, renowned for his distinctive cinematic style, is set to treat fans with an exclusive audio glimpse of his upcoming film *Spirit* on October 23, 2024, says the sources. This date marks the birthday of superstar Prabhas, adding to the excitement surrounding the project. Spirit promises to be a captivating venture, with the talented Rashmika Mandanna confirmed to play the female lead role. Known for her versatile performances. Rashmika's inclusion has already piqued curiosity among cinephiles.

Scheduled to commence later this year, the filming of #Spirit is eagerly anticipated by fans and industry insiders alike. Sandeep Reddy Vanga, known for his previous blockbuster Arjun Reddy and Kabir Singh, aims to create another memorable cinematic experience with Spirit.

As anticipation builds, fans eagerly await the audio glimpse release on Prabhas' birthday, setting the stage for what promises to be a significant cinematic event in the making of Spirit.

AVIKA GOR AS SARA IN SHANMUKHA

elugu audiences have always embraced diverse films and unique stories. Taking a unique shape in that queue is the devotional thriller Shanmukha. With a powerful title, this film stars Aadi Saikumar in the lead role. Director Shanmugam depicts this film as a creator. Being the second film, this is being produced by SAP Brothers Production, a well-known organisation known for its Indian Parliament film. The makers announced on Sunday that Avika Gor has joined

the film's cast as its leading lady Speaking on the occasion, the director of the film said, "This is a devotional thriller that is being made with an amazing point that no one has touched till now and the director is talking on this occasion. As a visual wonder, we are projecting this film with amazing graphics. In this film, the heroine Avika will be seen in the role of Sara, an energetic girl who does daring deeds. A character who supports Aadi's character and stands by his side. Undoubtedly, this role and movie will remain unforgettable films in her career. Avika will touch everyone's hearts with her acting in this film. We recently completed the final schedule of a very rich set for this film in Hyderabad." Ravi Basoor, who gave life to the films *KGF* and *Salaar* with his music, is providing stunning music for this film. Post-production work is about to start with top technical experts

Ajith Kumar's fierce look from VidaaMuyarchi out now

Mohan Krishna, Nandamuri Mohan

Roopa, veteran actor Murali Mohan,

Telugu Film Producers Council), T.

President Madala Ravi and other

luminaries from the film fraternity. Murali Mohan, expressed his joy at the

awards being named after NTR. He

K.L. Damodar Prasad (President of the

Prasanna Kumar (Secretary), MAA Vice

In the past several days, Ajith has treated his followers with updates. The first-look poster for the Magizh Thirumeni-directed VidaaMuyarchi, his 62nd film, was released by the filmmakers on Sunday. Ajith is shown in the image taking on new challenges since, in addition to his style and grace, he also has a commanding presence on an Azerbaijani highway. The image takes us back to his Billa 2007 days, when he is pictured walking with Yog Japee while wearing a white suit. The scenario had the audience in stitches. With the actor in the foreground and the abandoned roadway in the background, the poster appears to have been carefully thought out by the team. Thus far, we have caught a few views of the action occurring on the highway, which includes the stunt

scenes. Although the posters don't

reveal much, it's clear that the road is one of the main characters in the multi-star film, which also stars Arjun Sarja, Trisha Krishnan, Regina Cassandra and Arav in significant parts We have news from the camp that Ajith has adapted to Magizh Thirumeni's style of filmmaking with ease, and this will be seen on screen when VidaaMuyarchi is released.

"The filming of VidaaMuyarchi is nearing its conclusion and is scheduled to conclude in July." A source close to the film unit stated that the filming, which is now taking place in Azerbaijan, will shortly relocate to India. Anirudh Ravichander is in charge of the music, Lyca is producing, while Om Prakash is in charge of the photography.

glittering even

The grand "Kalavedika NTR Film Awards" ceremony. organised by Kalavedika and Raghavi Media unfolded at Hyderabad's Daspalla Hotel, paying tribute to distinguished personalities across various sectors of the film industry in honor of the legendary actor Dr. Nandamuri Taraka Rama

The event commenced with a heartfelt prayer to Lord Ganesha, followed by the ceremonial lamp lighting and soulful renditions of NTR's iconic songs. Among the guests were Nandamuri



fondly recalled his personal association with NTR, reflecting on how their collaboration in the film Annadammula Anubandham established him as NTR's on-screen brother, which resonated deeply with audiences. Murali Mohan lauded NTR's profound impact in politics, reminiscing on his swift rise, founding a political party and implementing pioneering welfare schemes. He also praised NTR's courage in standing up against formidable odds, concluding with gratitude for receiving the prestigious NTR Lifetime Achievement Award. The ceremony included the presentation of several awards, each bestowed by Murali Mohan and Nandamuri Mohan Krishna. Congratulations were extended to all organisers for orchestrating a successful and memorable event dedicated to honouring the timeless contributions of Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao.