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WITH HER COLLABS ALONG SELENA GOMEZ & NAOMI



Sudheer Babu to star in a pan-India supernatural mystery THRILLER

the pioneer Revanth Reddy if you are really a man, make the six MLAs who joined the Congress from the BRS to resign and contest again. Telangana will defeat all of them. Kavitha acca will come and we both will campaign on the streets of Jagityal in local body elections - K Taraka Rama Rao, BRS MLA

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Maintain hygiene to keep diarrhoea...

West Godavari District Collector C Naga Rani has underlined the need to maintain hygienic conditions to contain diarrhoea. The Collector flagged off an awareness rally 'Stop Diarrhea' taken out here on Monday to create awareness among people to check diarrhoea. The 'Stop Diarrhea' awareness rally went through the main road and concluded at the Tahsildar's office. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Naga Rani said that strict measures have been taken to control the diarrheal disease in the district as per the orders of the government..

Implementation of new criminal...

The three new criminal laws. which replaced the British-era penal statutes on Monday, have evoked mixed reactions from legal luminaries with some hailing them as "significant step" towards modernising criminal justice system while others terming them as "draconian" and "cosmetic". The new laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) -- came into effect across the country from July 1 and replaced the Indian...

Patanjali Foods to sell home...

Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved has decided to sell its home and personal care business to listed group firm Pataniali Foods Ltd for Rs 1.100 crore. The acquisition will help edible oil firm FMCG company. In a regulator filing, Patanjali Foods informed that the board has approved the "acquisition of the entire non-food business undertaking i.e. hair care. skin care, dental care and home care carried out by Patanjali Ayurved, including but not limited to all movable..

-PAGE: 8

Six Indians in ICC Team of...

The International Cricket Council has picked six Indians in its 'Team of the Tournament' for the justconcluded T20 World Cup but there was no place for star batter Virat Kohli, who played a matchwinning knock in the final against South Africa. In his new role as an opener. Kohli had an underwhelming World Cup before rising to the occasion in the big final where he was adjudged manof-the-match for his 59-ball 76. India pipped South Africa by seven

runs in a sensational comeback in

NTR BHAROSA PENSION SCHEME LAUNCHED

Poverty-free AP my dream: CM

Distributes enhanced pensions to beneficiaries at Penumaka

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu launched the distribution of the NTR Bharosa pension scheme by personally handing out pensions to beneficiaries at Penumaka village in the Mangalagiri Assembly segment on Monday morning.

Accompanied by the Minister

for HRD, Education, IT, and Electronics, Nara Lokesh, and the local MLA, the Chief Minister drove straight to the hut of Islavath Sai in Penumaka. There, he handed over the pension to her and her parents, Banavath Pamulyanavak and Banavath Sita, all of whom are daily wage earners.

Later, at the Praja Vedika, the Chief Minister addressed the gathering, stating, "Real welfare is illuminating the lives of the people. This is the first step towards improving their living standards." He emphasised that the new government had launched the pension distribution scheme as a first step towards fulfilling its promises. Recalling the slogan of TDP founder, the late N.T. Rama Rao, that society is a place of worship and the people are the real gods, Ĉhandrababu Ñaidu said his government would take this as

Continued on Page 2



the physically challenged increased to Rs 6,000 per Pensions are now

being distributed through 1.25 lakh secretariat employees with volunteer

PNS VIJAYAWADA

A festive atmosphere prevailed on

Monday in Penumaka village of

Mangalagiri Assembly constituen-

cy, represented by the Minister for

IT and Electronics, Nara Lokesh,

as the distribution of pensions for



Fulfilling a promise made during

the recent election campaign to

revise the old-age pension from Rs

3,000 to Rs 4,000 per month, Chief

Minister Chandrababu Naidu per-

sonally distributed the revised pen-

sion amount along with three

months' arrears, totalling Rs 7,000

Continued on Page 2

Naidu signs significant files on his first day, including Mega DSC and the revival

Festive atmosphere in Penumaka

■ Training programmes for youth to be introduced to enhance skills and

Minister Nara Lokesh praised for his electoral victory in

The previous criticised for hindering State progress and deterring

Over Rs 4,408 cr in pensions distributed to 65.31 lakh beneficiaries on

Panchayat Raj department. He asserted his commitment to



'Panchayat Raj dept full of irregularities'

PNS KAKINADA

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, K Pawan Kalyan, has disclosed that numerous irregularities have been discovered within the Panchayat Raj department, necessitating a comprehensive investigation to uncover corruption.

Addressing JSP leaders and activists at Gollaprolu on Monday, Pawan Kalyan emphasised the importance of the Panchayat Raj department and noted several issues that emerged during an inspection.

"The leaders during the YSRCP regime committed massive corruption in the Panchayat Rai department. Although there are ample funds available in the Jal Jeevan Mission from the Central government, the State government has not provided matching grants, resulting in halted projects and missed funding opportunities," he lamented.

Pawan Kalyan also revealed that bills for various works done by contractors, amounting to over Rs 3,000 crore, are pending within the

restoring the system.



The Deputy Chief Minister assured the development of Pithapuram as a model constituency in the country, focusing fully on its progress. He mentioned ongoing discussions with NRIs to establish industries and generate employment. He also noted that he and Chandrababu Naidu are committed to strengthening the state systems first.

PAWAN WANTS 2 JSP MLAs

GUNTUR: Jana Sena Party (JSP) chief and Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan has urged Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to appoint two JSP MLAs as Government Whips. In a letter to Chandrababu Naidu on Monday, Pawan Kalyan recommended the appointment of Narasapuram MLA Bommidi Nayakar and Railway Kodur MLA Arava Sridhar as Government

Atul Singh takes over as DG of ACB

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Atul Singh has assumed charge as Director General of the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB), Andhra Pradesh, in Vijayawada. During his interaction with officers and staff on this occasion, he emphasised the importance of maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in their work. He also encouraged them to update their technological skills and remain vigilant against various forms of corruption prevalent in society. Singh directed all officers and staff to respond promptly to public com-plaints and take timely and appropriate action.

Atul Singh, a 1995 batch officer, has previously served in various capacities, including SP Visakhapatnam, SP in Greyhounds, DCP South Zone Hyderabad, and Joint Commissioner of Police Hyderabad and Cyberabad.

'Why is Naidu tight-lipped over Spl Category Status for AP?'

beneficiaries began in the morn- each, in Penumaka.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee president YS Sharmila on Monday questioned why NDA 'kingmaker' and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is not opening Status (SCS) for the State. Sharmila demanded that the TDP

supremo must answer the people for being tight-lipped on SCS.

"Nitish Kumar resolved and put forth the SCS demand for Bihar before Modi (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) but Naidu is not even opening his mouth on SCS for



AP (Andhra Pradesh)," said

Sharmila in a press release.

Bodies of 3 fallen soldiers arrive in V'wada

PNS VIJAYAWADA

A sombre atmosphere enveloped the International Airport Gannavaram near Vijayawada as the bodies of three army jawans, M.R. Krishna Reddy, S. Nagaraju, and Subhan Khan, who died in Ladakh, arrived on Monday. The bodies Vijayawada on a special Army aircraft. Family members, officers from various regiments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, as well as officials from the Police, Revenue, the Shyok River during military Airport, and Protocol departments, received the bodies of the deceased soldiers at the Vijayawada airport.

Five soldiers were swept away by



training in Ladakh. Among them were Risaldar Muthumalla R. Krishna Reddy, a native of Kalvapalli village in Racherla mandal of

Prakasam district; CFN Sadaraboina Nagaraju of Chevendra village in Pedana mandal of Krishna district; and Subhan Khan of Bapatla.

IRONING OUT BIFURCATION ISSUES

Naidu to meet Revanth on July 6?

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has written to Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to discuss issues related to the Reorganisation Act and other matters. In his letter. CM Naidu emphasised that it has been 10 years since the bifurcation of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. He noted that there have been multiple discussions concerning issues arising from the Reorganisation Act, which have implications for the welfare and advancement of both states.

"It is imperative that we address

these issues amicably with utmost diligence and resolve. In light of this, I propose that we meet at your place on the afternoon of July 6, Saturday," Naidu wrote.

CM Naidu also extended heartfelt

He said if there is one thing that

has remained common in Naidu's

for the remarkable work undertaken in Telangana. He praised Reddy's dedication and leadership, which have significantly contributed to the progress and development of Telangana. Naidu stressed the importance of close collaboration between the Chief Ministers of the Telugu-speaking states to ensure sustained progress and prosperity for both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. He highlighted the shared commitment to cooperative development as crucial to realizing mutual goals of growth and well-being.

CM pulls up min over his wife's spat with police

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has expressed dissatisfaction with the conduct of AP Minister Ram Prasad Reddy's wife, Harita Reddy, towards the police on Monday.

The Chief Minister criticised her manner of addressing the police and requested an explanation from Minister Ram Prasad Reddy via

of showing respect towards police

behaviour, which tarnishes the government's reputation, will not e tolerated.

Minister Ram Prasad Reddy has apologised for his wife's actions and assured that steps will be taken to prevent similar incidents in the

The controversy erupted when Harita Reddy, in Rayachoti, argued with the police, demanding they act as her escort. A video of the alter-He emphasised the importance cation has since gone viral on social

New criminal laws come into force in AP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

the death overs ...

The three new criminal laws - undertaken by Tirupati district Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, police on Sunday. Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha 2023 Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 - came into force in Andhra Pradesh on Monday.

General of Police (DGP) Ch Dwaraka Tirumala Rao said the new laws came into effect on July 1.

.. from today they are being implemented across the state," Rao said. In view of the implementation of the new laws, ducted an awareness session for the Indian Evidence Act.

all the police officials on Sunday. A similar exercise was also

However, the state government is yet to complete the Telugu translation of the three new criminal laws.

Earlier, law secretary V Sunita Andhra Pradesh Director had said only half of the translation work of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 has been completed. The three new laws have replaced the old Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Anakapalli district police con- Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and

People like Venkaiah make nation more vibrant: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday greeted former vice president M Venkaiah Naidu on his 75th birthday, lauding his dedication, adaptability and unwavering commitment to public service.

Modi shared an article he wrote on Naidu, a seasoned BJP leader before becoming vice president, as he noted that his journey exemplifies his unique ability to navigate the complexities of Indian politics with

ease and humility.

He added, "I hope young karyakartas, elected representatives and all those who have a passion to serve learn from his life. It is people like him who make our nation better and more vibrant".

occasion to celebrate a leader whose

life journey showcases dedication,

adaptability and an unwavering

commitment to public service, he added that his eloquence, wit and steadfast focus on developmental issues have earned him respect across party lines. Modi recalled their long associa-Venkaiah Naidu's birthday is an tion and said he had learnt a lot from



"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 because he was inspired by the vision of Nation First. He was associated with the RSS, ABVP and then strengthened the Jana Sangh and the BJP.

life, it is his love for people.

Lauding his ideological commitment, he said his brush with activism and politics began in Andhra Pradesh with student politics as a student leader.

He said, "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 because

he was inspired by the vision of Nation First. He was associated with the RSS, ABVP and then strengthened the Jana Sangh and the BJP." The prime minister also praised the former BJP president's role in the anti-emergency movement and the agitation against the dismissal of the N T Ramarao gov-

Modi said Naidu, known for his witty wordplay, is certainly a word-

ernment in Andhra Pradesh

smith but is a "worksmith" as well. He said, "No less than a stalwart like NTR noted his talent and wanted him to join his party but Venkaiah garu refused to deviate from his core ideology. He led the party on the floor of the Assembly and became the AP BJP president."

In 2000, when the then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was keen on inducting Naidu into the government as a minister, the latter conveved his preference for the Ministry of Rural Development. "This left everyone, including Atalji, puzzled. But Venkaiah garu was clear - he was a kisan putra (farmer's son); he spent his early days in villages. Hence, his area of interest was rural development," Modi said in the write-up.







RAILWAY PROJECTS IN AP

SCR GM briefs CM about progress

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager of South Central Railway (SCR), met with Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, at the AP Secretariat in Velagapudi, Amaravati, on Monday. During the meeting, Jain briefed the Chief Minister on the various developmental works and projects being undertaken in Andhra Pradesh by the South Central Railway Zone. He was accompanied by Narendra A. Patil, Divisional Railway Manager of Vijayawada Division, and M. Ramakrishna, Divisional Railway Manager of Guntur

Earlier in the day, Jain presided over a Safety Seminar at the Electric Traction Training Center (ETTC) in Satyanarayanapuram, where he interacted with Loco Pilot trainees. He emphasized the critical importance of safety in railway operations, highlighting the significant responsibility carried by Loco Pilots and frontline staff. Jain underscored the necessity of understanding the purpose behind safety rules to proactively prevent accidents and ensure smooth train operations.



He advised the trainees to prioritize safety, use rest periods effectively, and report to duty with a calm mind. Approximately 400 Loco Pilot trainees from the SCR Zone attended the seminar.

Following the seminar, Jain chaired the Divisional Performance Review Meeting at the Divisional Conference Hall in Vijayawada. Narendra A. Patil briefed Jain on the ongoing developmental and infrastructure projects in the Division. Jain emphasized the need to expedite pending projects such as the Vijayawada-Gudur tripling works, Automatic Block Signaling in the North Section, and electrification projects aimed at increasing sectional capacity and decongesting the busy

Howrah-Chennai Corridor. Jain also stressed the impor-

tance of improving punctuality, safety, and loading performance in train operations. He urged officials to implement effective planning to execute tasks on time without disrupting train operations. Additionally, he directed the officials to devise strategies to increase earnings and reduce expenditures to achieve a healthy operating ratio and to implement digitization of records at all levels with regular updates. He complimented the Divisional officials and staff for their excellent performance and encouraged them to maintain high safety standards to meet passenger expectations.

Rushikonda buildings best suited for IT growth: Experts

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Visakhapatnam's information technology (IT) sector wants the Andhra Pradesh government to convert the controversial seven-block building on Rushikonda Hill into a centre for promoting IT and related industries. The building's use has been a point of contention, with the previous YSRCP government proposing it as the seat of the Executive Capital and the current NDA government under Nara Chandrababu Naidu consider-Nara

ing it for the Financial Capital. Advocates of the IT sector argue that the Rushikonda building is strategically positioned to support these ambitious goals while also fostering technological growth.

O. Naresh Kumar, vice-president of the Rushikonda IT this building is an ideal loca-



Park Association, emphasised that the State government dedicate the should Rushikonda building to IT promotion and VISA Facilitation Services. "Given the proximity to Rushikonda Hill-1 & 2, GITAM Deemedto-be-University, and premium hotels like Radisson Blu.

tion for IT activities," said Naresh.

"This venue is perfect for hosting summits and meetings with venture capitalists, professional investors who provide capital to high-growth companies in exchange for equity stakes. Using this building for such events could save public money, which would other-

accom modations. Additionally, the government could establish incubation centres and startups within the building," Naresh told The

Pioneer on Tuesday. An IT company CEO mentioned that IT Minister Nara Lokesh might also utilize one of the blocks as a local camp office to facilitate meetings with CEOs of various IT and IT-enabled companies, enhancing collaboration and

decision-making efficiency.
Former IT & Industries Minister Gudivada Amarnath echoed these sentiments, proposing the building as a venue for hosting VVIPs such as the Prime Minister, President, and foreign delegates, in addition to international conferences. "The building's infrastructure is well-tial economic growth.

wise be spent on private hotel suited for high-profile events, which Visakhapatnam's status on the global stage," Amarnath

These suggestions gained significant attention following a visit by Bhimili MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao from the NDA government. Rao provided a visual tour of the building's interiors, showcasing its potential to the public and media, and adding momentum to the calls for its repurposing. The IT community's advocacy for the Rushikonda building underscores the broader aspirations for Visakhapatnam to become a major technological and economic hub. As the debate continues, stakeholders await a decision that could potentially transform the city's landscape and drive substan-

Naidu to...

Continued from Page 1

"I firmly believe that a faceto-face meeting will provide us with the opportunity to engage comprehensively on these critical issues and collaborate effectively towards achieving mutually beneficial solutions for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. I am confident that our deliberations will lead to productive outcomes," Naidu

Minister announces sweeping reforms to revitalise APSRTC

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Minister for Transport, Sports and Youth Services Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy declared a series of sweeping reforms aimed at revitalizing the aimed at revitalizing the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC). Speaking at the Appreciation Meeting of Adarsha Employees at Maddilapalem City Bus Depot, Minister Reddy outlined a bold vision to steer the bold vision to steer the APSRTC towards profitability and enhanced service delivery.

Highlighting the indispensable role of both workers and passengers, Minister Reddy likened them to the "two eyes' of the organization. He underscored his commitment to their welfare, pledging to provide medical insurance for employees and improved services for passengers. As part of the event, the minister inaugurated three new RTC super luxury inter-district services, a significant addition to the fleet costing Rs 1.20 crore. This

stating, "My dream is to see a

poverty-free society with no

economic imbalances. Our



move marks the beginning of a larger plan to introduce 1,400 new services statewide, many of which are already operational in various districts.

Minister Reddy also took the opportunity to recognize and reward the dedication of 20 exemplary employees from the drivers, conductors, vigilance, and security departments. Their hard work has been pivotal in the organisation's progress and its ability to provide excellent services despite numerous challenges.

In his address, Minister Reddy revealed a comprehensive strategy to modernize APSRTC services while preserving the organization's core identity. Key initiatives include the introduction of free bus services for women, the deployment of electric buses, and the expansion of cargo and courier services to increase profitability. Emphasising the importance of commercial policies, he assured that the reforms would enhance service quality and

operational efficiency.

Minister Reddy shared his connection to the RTC, noting his family's 40-year association with the organization. This deep-rooted relationship gives him a profound understanding of its operations and the challenges faced by its workers. He assured that the coming five years would see significant positive changes, aiming for an accident-free state with the cooperation of all stakeholders.

The minister encouraged open communication, inviting employees to reach out to him with any concerns and promising regular district visits every two months to ensure continuous improvement and engagement. The launch event saw enthusiastic participation from East Constituency MLA Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu, RTC Regional Manager Appalaraju, and numerous officers, workers, and activists. The collective effort and support signal the dawn of a new era for APSRTC, one marked by innovation, inclusivity, and

Midhun rebuts Dy CM's charge

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In response to comments made by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan regarding red sandalwood smuggling, Member of Parliament from Rajempet, PV Midhun Reddy, questioned the Deputy CM's integrity. Reddy remarked, "How can the Deputy CM, who is currently on a Deeksha, tell such blatant lies?"

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) MP also criticised the continuous personal attacks from alliance party leaders. "You are in power; the police and systems are all under your control. I am open to any inquiry regarding your allegations about red sandalwood smuggling. I challenge the Deputy CM to prove that I have been involved in such illegal activities at any point in the past 25 years. I am even ready to undergo a lie detector test, and you have five years to prove your claims. If you fail to publicly apologize for these baseless allegations?" asked Midhun Reddy.

People like...

Continued from Page 1

The prime minister said as vice president, he undertook various steps that enhanced the dignity of the office. He was an outstanding chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, ensuring that young, women and first-time MPs get the opportunity to speak. When the decision to remove Articles 370 and 35(A) was placed on the floor of the Rajya Sabha, Naidu was in the Chair, Modi recalled. "I am sure it was an emotional moment for him the young boy who was drawn to Syama Prasad Mookerjee's dream of a united India, on the Chair, when this was finally achieved," he said.

TODAY					
ALMANAC					
Month & Paksham:	Krishna Paksha				
Tithi: Ekadashi:	Jul 01 10:26 AM				
	to Jul 02 08:42 AM				
Dwadashi:	Jul 02 08:42 AM				
	to Jul 03 07:10 AM				
Nakshatram:					
Krithika:	Jul 02 05:27 AM				
D. Historia	to Jul 03 04:40 AM				
Rohini:	Jul 03 04:40 AM to Jul 04 04:07 AM				
Rahukalam:	3:35 PM to 5:13 PM				
Yamagandam:	9:04 AM to 10:42 AM				
Varjyam:	08:18 PM to 09:52 PM				
Gulika:	12:20 PM to 1:57 PM				
Amritakalam:	02:20 AM to 03:53 AM				
Abhijit Muhurtham:	11:54 AM to 12:46 PM				
VIJAYAWADA	A WEATHER				
Forecast: Mostly Temp: 36°° Humidity: 65% Sunrise: 5:39 AN Sunset: 6:44 PM	Л				
Updated: July 1, 2024 5:00 PM					

BRS, YSRCP support crucial for BJP in Parliament

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

The Telugu regional political parties are facing a strange situation in Parliament. The opposition party in Telangana and ruling party in Andhra Pradesh have representation in only one House of the Parliament. While the BJP has no majority on its own in the both Houses it has to depend on other political parties. While the BRS of Telangana has no representation in the lower House, the ruling party in Andhra Pradesh, the TDP has no representation in the Rajya Sabha. But another Telangana. Out of these Lok Sabha seats. The Congress and BJP have eight seats each and AMIM has one seat. But the BRS does not have even a single seat in the Lok Sabha.

Regarding Andhra Pradesh, there are 11 Rajya Sabha seats in this State. The YSR Congress has all the 11 seats and the ruling TDP does not have even a single Rajya Sabha seat. In Andhra former chief minister Nitish Rajya Sabha.

Pradesh there are 25 Lok Sabha seats and the TDP has 16, YSR Congress has four

So the BRS is confined to Rajva Sabha and the TDP and the Jana Sena are confined to the Lok Sabha. Only the YSR Congress has repre-Telugu regional party, the sentation in the both Houses in the Raiva members and the YSR and Congress has two seats. members. At the same time In Telangana there are 17 the BRS and YSR Congress have a total of 16 Rajya Sabha members. In the back-BJD) of Naveen Patnaik of Odisha, which has 9 Rajya Sabha members, has decided not to support the BJP in of YSR Congress and BRS in the Rajya Sabha is crucial to the BJP-led NDA government in critical times. Bihar

Kumar is known as master in taking a U turn. Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United seats, the BJP has three seats (JDU) has 11 Lok Sabha members. If the JDU comes and the Jana Sena has two out from the NDA, the support of YSR Congress in the Lok Sabha also will become crucial to the BJP.

In this way, two former chief ministers (Naveen Patnaik and Nitish Kumar) YSR Congress has represen- with four members in the are giving hope to two fortation in the both the Houses Lok Sabha and 11 members mer chief ministers of Telugu states (KCR and Jagan) seven Rajya Sabha seats in TDP has 16 Parliament their future. In the June 2026, four Rajya Sabha seven seats, the BRS has five Congress has 15 Parliament members from YSR Congress and two Rajya Sabha members from BRS will retire. In AP, all the four Rajya Sabha members will go drop of Biju Janata Dal (to the ruling TDP alliance and the strength of YSR Congress will come down to 7 from 11. In Telangana, two Rajya Sabha seats will go to the Rajya Sabha. The support the Congress and then the strength of BRS will come to three from five. The TDP has to wait for two years to have its representation in the

Poverty-free AP my dream... Continued from Page 1

thinking is always innovative.' He announced that the pension for the physically challenged has been revised to Rs 6,000 per month, highlighting society's duty to encourage them. Chandrababu Naidu criticized the previous government and officials who claimed it was impossible to distribute pensions through secretariat staff. "Today, pensions are being distributed through 1.25 lakh secretariat employees. I have also directed them to seek assistance from volunteers wherev-

Bodies of 3... 'Panchayat Raj dept full...

Continued from Page 1

"My goal is to establish the best Panchavat Raj system in AP," he stated, promising that there would be no corruption from his side. "I was informed that my office needed minor repairs, but I refused, as there is no need to use borrowed money for this purpose. I also declined the purchase of new office furniture, preferring to buy it myself if necessary," he clarified.

Pawan Kalyan criticised the YSRCP regime for spending around Rs 600 crore on constructing a palace at Rushikonda, which now lies unused. "The money spent on the palace is wasted. That amount could have been used for comprehensive district development," he opined. The Deputy Chief Minister assured the development of Pithapuram as a model constituency in the country, focusing fully on its progress. He mentioned ongoing discussions with NRIs to establish industries and generate employment. He also noted that he and Chandrababu Naidu are committed to strengthening the

Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar, during a series of inspections in Kakinada, uncovered a large-scale PDS rice scam. He recalled exposing this scam during the election campaign, pointing out that the government spends Rs 39 per kilogram of PDS rice, but the rice mafia

is siphoning off these funds. Earlier, Pawan Kalyan participated in a pension distribution program, personally handing over pensions to several beneficiaries. Among those present were Collector Shan Mohan Sagili, SP Satish Kumar, former MLA SVSN Varma, and JSP in-charge Krishnam Raju.

Continued from Page 1

They were swept away along with two other soldiers of the Indian Army on June 29 while crossing a river on a T-72 Tank near Daulat Beg Oldie in Eastern Ladakh, along the Line of Actual Control with China.

ADC to the Governor Major Deepak Sarma, officials from the 52nd Armoured Regiment Sandeep Yadav, Artillery Centre, Hyderabad Major Sudhir Sharma, 61st Medium Regiment Lt. Ankur Dahiya, and Sainik Welfare Director Brigadier V. Venkat Reddy were among those who paid floral tributes to the Army personnel.

The Army jawans performed a gun salute as a mark of respect for the deceased soldiers. Airport Director M. Lakshmikantha Gudivada RDO P. Padmavathi, NTR District Sainik Welfare Officer Dr. K. Kalyana Veena, Pedana Tahsildar K. Rambabu, Gannavaram Tahsildar N.S. Pavan Kumar and others placed wreaths and paid tributes to the slain Army personnel.

tion reversed the lives of the people. We need to move forward after recovering from these losses and work together to create assets and distribute the revenue to the people,"

vment opportuni-

The Chief Minister enhance their skills and create Lokesh, for his victory in On Monday, pensions Mangalagiri with a majority of ties. "The previous administraover 90,000 votes, attributing it to the blessings of the constituency's people. "We will remember this and acknowl- 1,20,097 secretariat employedge it appropriately soon," he ees were involved in the distrithe people of the state for five ever necessary.

mentioned plans to provide Chandrababu Naidu praised years and creating an environtraining to the youth to Minister for HRD, Nara ment that deterred investors.

were distributed to 65.31 lakh beneficiaries across 28 different categories. A total of added. He also criticized the bution, with instructions to YSRCP leaders for suppressing seek volunteer assistance wher-

Festive atmosphere in...

Continued from Page 1

The elderly beneficiaries were overjoyed as the Chief Minister launched the pension distribution scheme in the Mangalagiri segment. Two senior citizens of Penumaka warmly welcomed Chandrababu and Lokesh upon their arrival in the village. Both leaders then walked to the hut of Pamulu Naiak in ST Colony, greeting villagers along the way. Chandrababu handed over the old-age pension to Pamulu Naik and the widow's pension to his daughter, with Lokesh and others observing closely. When Pamulu Naik and his family informed Chandrababu that they lacked their shelter, the Chief Minister immediately provided the necessary documents sanctioning a house for them. Chandrababu, who had tea offered by Pamulu Naik's family, inquired about their pen from her.

well-being. Later, addressing a meeting organised in Penumaka, Lokesh noted that the TDP last won the Mangalagiri Assembly segment in 1985 and that he lost the election in 2019 by a margin of 5,350 votes. "But I have remained committed to the people of Mangalagiri, focusing on their welfare and the development of the segment. This dedication led to my election with a record margin this time," Lokesh fondly recalled.

Nara Lokesh promised to work hard for the progress of the Mangalagiri constituency with the cooperation of the people. Several locals presented various representations to Lokesh, and a physically challenged person handed over Rs 10,000 to Lokesh for the development of the capital city of Amaravathi. Lokesh also personally visited a local shop run by a woman and bought a

'Why is Naidu tight-lipped...

Continued from Page 1

announced.

er necessary," he said.

He reminded the public that

on the day he assumed office,

he signed five significant files.

The first was the Mega DSC,

the second was the revocation

of the Land Titling Act, and the

third was the revival of Anna

Canteens. "We will soon begin

filling the vacant posts of teach-

ers. Anna Canteens will be

revived soon, allowing people

to have meals for just Rs 5," he

The Chief Minister also

Reminding that Naidu is a 'kingmaker' of the NDA government at the Centre, she asked if he "doesn't know" that the capital-less state Andhra Pradesh is "more backward than

"Don't you remember the days of demanding 15 years status (SCS) and you (Naidu) yourself said that the state regressed 20 years," said Sharmila.

Further, she wondered why the CM is not 'threatening' to withdraw support to the Centre if it doesn't accord SCS to the southern state.

The Andhra Pradesh Congress chief advised Naidu to adopt a resolution in the Legislative Assembly for the SCS and put forth that demand before the Centre.

Sharmila noted that SCS is the only way forward for the southern state's development, but not special packages.

Atul Singh takes over as...

Continued from Page 1

He was IGP North Coastal Zone in 2014-15 and served as Commissioner of Police Visakhapatnam during the HUDHUD Cyclone in 2014. He was Chairman of the State Level Police Recruitment Board in 2015-16, where he introduced technol-

ogy in police recruitment.

During his tenure on Central deputation as Additional Secretary of the Central Vigilance Commission from 2018 to 2021, he handled several sensitive cases.

He also served as Additional DGP of APSP Battalions during the 2024 elections. Singh has held various positions, including Additional DGP (APSP Battalions), Additional DGP (Provisions & Logistics), and Additional DGP (Railways), before being transferred as Director General of the Anti Corruption Bureau, Andhra Pradesh, in Vijayawada.

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Minister Kollu launches disbursal of hiked pension

The Minister for Mines, Geology, and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, emphasised that the government has increased the Social Security Pension amounts in the State for the welfare of the poor. The pension amount has been raised from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 4,000. Also, the government has distributed the arrears of April, May and June months including the enhanced pension, he

said.
Minister Kollu Ravindra inaugurated the distribution of the Dr NTR Bharosa Social Security Pensions at Nabikhana Noorudheenpet in the 27th division in Machilipatnam on Monday. Minister Ravindra and Krishna District Collector DK Balaji handed over the pension amount of Rs.15,000 to a beneficiary, Seema Parveen, who is bedridden. Also, he handed over pension to an elderly woman namely Kagitha Radhamma and others at the ZP centre in Machilipatnam.

On the occasion, Ravindra said that as per the election promises, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu implemented the enhanced pensions soon after assuming the chair.

Further, he said that the previous YSRCP government had stopped pension for Seema Parveen citing the electricity bill. However, as per the promises of CM Naidu, the pension was first disbursed to



Minister Kollu Ravindra and Krishna District Collector DK Balaji handing over the enhanced pension of Rs.15,000 to Seema Parveen, who is bedridden, in Machilipatnam on Monday

assured the people that his government would implement all election promises in the State within due course.

Collector Balaji said that around 2.42 lakh beneficiaries will receive an amount of Rs.162 crore in the district. The disbursement of pensions started as early as 6 am and MPDOs are supervising the distribution from the control rooms. Later, beneficiary Parveen expressed happiness over reinstating her

Machilipatnam ex-MP Konakalla Narayana Rao, ex-

Parveen, he said. Also, he Municipal Chairman M Baba Prasad, Jana Sena Party leader Bandi Ramakrishna, Municipal Commissioner Bapi Raju, RDO M Vani, DPO and DRDA incharge PD Nageswara Naik, ZP CEO Anand Kumar, and others were present.

> Minister releases 'Stop Diarrhoea' poster As part of the new drive

against seasonal diseases, Minister Kollu Ravindra and Collector DK Balaji released the 'Stop Diarrhoea' poster at Pothepalli of Machilipatnam Rural mandal. The minister said the programme organised by the Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department will go on till August 31.

As part of this campaign, Health Department officials will create awareness of the diseases. He urged the department officials to visit every house and explain the importance of the programme. In view of the rainy season, awareness should be created on safe drinking water, he said.

DM & HO Dr J Geethabai, RWS District Officer T Siva Prasad and others were pre-

Nine nominations filed for six seats in VMC Standing Committee

8 corporators from YSRCP, one from TDP file papers



TDP member Channagiri Rama Mohan Rao filing his nomination before the

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP is likely to face troubles in the ensuing Standing Committee Members' election in the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation. Nine corporators have filed nomination papers for six positions. They filed the papers before the election officer, Additional Commissioner (General) Mahesh, on

Out of the nine nomina-

tions, eight were filed by YSRCP corporators and one by TDP. The VMC Standing Committee consists of six members and is chaired by Rayana Bhagylakshmi. Of YSRCP's eight nominations, six were

filed by the party and two, individually by members.

YSRCP corporators corporators Ambadipudi Nirmala Kumari, Bhimisetty Pravallika, Valluri NDS Kumari, Murthy, Mohammed Irfan, Bapathi Koti Reddy, Esarapu Devi, Attuluri Adilakshmi, and Bhimireddy Siva Venkata Jana Reddy have filed papers. TDP member Channagiri Rama Mohan Rao has also

YSRCP corporators filling their papers before the election officer and Additional

Commissioner (General) Mahesh at the VMC office in Vijayawada on Monday

The VMC Council consists of a total of 64 Corporators, with YSRCP having 50 and the TDP having 13 members. One post is vacant due to the resignation of Kesineni Swetha. As per the current composition, all six Standing

filed nomination.

Committee positions are likely to be won by YSRCP. TDP requested two positions, but has filed only one nomina-

tion at this stage. If all nine candidates remain in fray, there will be an election. Nominations will be scrutinised on July 2, and the withdrawal of nomination papers will be allowed until July 5.

If necessary, an election will be conducted on July 9 as per the schedule.

Bagchi assumes charge as Visakhapatnam CP

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Dr Shankha Brata Bagchi, a 1996-batch IPS officer, officially assumed office as the new Commissioner of Police of Visakhapatnam on Monday. He succeeds Dr A Ravi Shankar, who has been promoted to Additional Director General of Police, CID. In his inaugural Commissioner Bagchi expressed his delight at assuming office on the occasion of National Doctors' Day, commemorating the birth anniversary of the renowned physician Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy—a poignant moment for him, given his medical back-

Commissioner Bagchi emphasized his commitment addressing

Visakhapatnam's pressing issues, notably the eradication will judge my performance by ance policy towards corrup-



my actions," he assured, outlining his proactive strategy to tackle city challenges comprehensively. Highlighting core values of public service and integrity, Commissioner Bagchi pledged, "We are here to serve the public with respect and transparency. Corruption will not be tolerated under my watch." He his zero-to

tion and vowed strict action against any misconduct within the force.

To enhance public-police

interaction, Commissioner Bagchi introduced a dedicated 24/7 contact number, 7995095799, accessible via SMS, WhatsApp, video, audio, or voice messages. This initiative aims to facilitate immediate reporting of concerns or grievances, ensuring confidentiality for all users. He extended this communication channel to police personnel and urged them to utilize it for reporting departmental or personal issues, promising swift resolution. Commissioner Bagchi urged the citizens of Visakhapatnam to utilize the new contact number for any police-related

matters, reaffirming his com-

mitment to fostering a secure

environment where citizens

Policy delays lead to

concerns without fear.

AP TET schedule released

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh School Education department officials released the Andhra Pradesh Teacher Eligibility Test (AP TET) - July 2024 notification on Monday in the view of Mega APDSC to be conducted by the government to fill 16,347 teacher posts across the state.

On the occasion, Commissioner of School Education, S Suresh Kumar said that the schedule, notification, information bulletin syllabus, procedure of online computer-based test, rules and regulations on APTET-July 2024 will be hosted on the school education official website https://cse.ap.gov.in/ on Tuesday.

In a release on Monday, he stated that the candidates can download all the details on the website from Tuesday. There are speculations that the government will release APDSC in a week.

CREDAI team meets CM, **Education Minister Lokesh**



PNS VIJAYAWADA

The representatives of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (ĈREDAI), on Monday, met Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and IT Minister Nara Lokesh separately and congratulated them on their landslide victory in the recent 2024 general elec-

During the visit, they brought to the notice of the

CM and the IT Minister various problems the builders have been facing. They briefed about the shortage of sand, TDR bonds, VLT, RDP and other issues.

They said that the CM responded positively to their issues and assured that he would resolve their problems after speaking with the ministers and officials concerned. The IT Minister assured that he would study the sand issues and bring a new sand

policy for which he needed some time, and assured to solve their issue at the earli-

On behalf of CREDAI Andhra Pradesh, AP unit chairman Alla Siva Reddy, president YV Ramana Rao, general secretary B Srinivas Rao, treasurer Rajasekhara Rao, additional secretary K Ramesh Ankinedu and CREDAI Vijayawada president D Rambabu, vice-president Ch Satish Babu.

Thunderstorms with lightning, strong winds likely in AP

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and strong winds with speeds of 30-40 kmph are likely to occur at isolated places in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next 24 hours, the Meteorological Centre said on Monday.

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh during the next five days and Pradesh and Rayalaseema from July 2 to 5.

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at many places, a few places, or at one or two places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Rayalaseema during the next seven days.

The monsoon is active in coastal Andhra Pradesh and

Rayalaseema. The report added that rainfall occurred at many places over Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, and at one or two places over the last 24

NDA finalises MLA quota MLC candidates

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The NDA finalised the MLC candidates under the MLA quota on Monday evening. The TDP has picked senior leader Ramachandraiah as the MLC political secretary Pidugu Ramachandraiah (TDP) and Hari Prasad (JDP) will file their nomination papers as MLC candidates on Tuesday on behalf of the alliance par-

candidate while JanaSena has

Vizianagaram, a backward dis-

trict in north Andhra with 48 PHCs, relies heavily on pub-

lic health services. In response, the Andhra Pradesh govern-

ment has equipped hospitals

with necessary medical equip-

ment, paramedical staff, and

doctors. District Medical and

Health officials applied for

NQAS certification in 2022,

sand shortage in Vizag Builders forced to purchase sand at

inflated prices from roadside vendors Hari Prasad. The duo leaders

Visakhapatnam is grappling with a severe sand shortage as a Statewide ban on river sand mining remains in effect, compounded by delays in

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

finalising the new govern-ment's sand policy. This scarcity has significantly slowed construction activities. forcing builders to resort to purchasing sand at inflated prices from roadside vendors for urgent projects.

The dwindling sand supply became critical following recent election notifications, exacerbating the situation. Strict enforcement against illegal sand mining in rivers has further curtailed supplies from regions like Srikakulam and Rajahmundry. Despite soaring demand, particularly during the peak summer construction season, the availability of sand has plummeted, triggering a sharp rise in prices. Costs have escalated from Rs 1,200-1,300 per ton just two months ago to as much as Rs 1,500 for highquality sand, while lorry prices have surged to around Rs.50,000 from Rs.37,000-

40,000 previously. Compounding the issue is the inadequate infrastructure of sand depots in Visakhapatnam district, necessitating transportation from government-designat-ed sources in Srikakulam's Vamsadhara and Nagavalli, as well as East Godavari's Godavari regions. Formerly managed by Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development cials.

under the previous administration, these depots were privatised, leading to irregularities where certain entities hoarded and resold sand. Additionally, sand imports from Odisha have been mobilised to meet the escalating demand. The newly elected government's delay in finalising a cohesive sand policy has fur-

Corporation Ltd. (APMDC)

ther aggravated the crisis, stalling legal transportation from key regions like Srikakulam Rajahmundry. Despite existing permits, authorities have allowed limited imports from Odisha, while clandestine river mining in Srikakulam persists, with sand being illicitly transported under the cover of night.

Builders are increasingly apprehensive about ongoing construction projects due to the inadequate and costly sand supply. They express concern that without prompt government intervention and a definitive sand management policy, the shortage could worsen. Disparities in quality between Odisha and local sands only compound their anxieties.

Meanwhile, apprehensions over the security of sand depots, particularly at the Lankelapalem depot adjacent to the national highway, loom large. Amidst the policy transition, reports of unauthorised sand removal have surfaced, prompting minimal corrective action from mining offi-

Andhra govt to fully computerise PACS

PNS VIJAYAWADA

As part of the revolutionary decisions taken by the Central and State governments for the economic empowerment of the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS), the AP government has undertaken a programme to fully computerise the PACS. Also, the initiative aims to transform them into Common Service Centres (CSC), enabling them to work as multipurpose cooperatives.

As part of the Digital India programme, the training programme for 268 PACS in the Krishna district began in Machilipatnam on Monday. National Council for Training Cooperative (NCCT) Nodal Officer Dr SLNT Srinivas attended the programme along with Krishna District Cooperative Officer Chandrasekhar

Speaking on the occasion, Srinivas said that by the end of July, 1,858 PACS will be trained in the 13 erstwhile districts of the State, he said.

As many as 32 services from the Central government and 174 services from the State government will be made available through the CSC, he

He added that the training sessions will be started from Guntur district and from July 1-5, 268 PACS in Krishna district will be trained. The training programmes will be conducted under the supervision of the Union Ministry and State Cooperation Department. Also, Dr Srinivas said that 300 types of services can be provided through this CSC portal. By providing these ser-

vices, opportunities to increase their economic resources will be improved, thus increasing the participation of the members by providing the necessary services to the farmer members of the

It will be conducted under the supervision of the Department of Cooperation, Government of AP, and the National Council for Cooperative Training, Government of India.

Garividi PHC leads in NQAS certification

The prog aims at elevating standards of public health services

PNS VIZIANAGARAM

The Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Garividi in Vizianagaram district has emerged as the frontrunner in the State, achieving the coveted first place for the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) certification. Garividi PHC is among four government hospitals in Andhra Pradesh to be recognised for its exemplary healthcare practices by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Officials from Vizianagaram's Medical and Health Department received the NQAS Award at a ceremony held in New Delhi from Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Pratap Rao Ganapathy Rao Jadhav.

The National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) introduced the NOAS certification programme to elevate the standards of public health services across the nation. Garividi PHC secured a remarkable score of 96.10, topping the PHC category.

An NHSRC team meticulously assessed the health cen-



NQAS consultant Srinivasa Rao receiving the award from Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Pratap Rao Ganapathy Rao Jadhav in New Delhi

tre's practices across eight key areas, including service provisions, patient rights, inputs, support services, clinical services, infection control, quality management, and out-

The evaluation covered services provided in various departments like the Out-Patient Department (OPD), In-Patient Department (IPD), Labour Room, Laboratory,

National Health Programmes, and General Administration Department.

Ĥospitals scoring above 75 per cent in the NQAS assessment are awarded certification three years. These funds must be directed towards hospital development (minimum 75 per cent) and staff welfare (maximum 25 per cent).

along with a financial grant of Rs 10,000 per bed per year for

prompting NHSRC to send assessment teams to the respective PHCs. Dr. N Bhaskar Rao, the District Medical and Health Officer, has expressed optimism about the certification's impact. "At least 25 primary health centres from Vizianagaram district have bagged the prestigious NQAS certification from the Centre. I hope the award will help in the development of the PHC as well as the staff in render-

ing good services to the patients," he said. The NQAS award not only acknowledges Garividi PHC's exceptional healthcare services but also paves the way for continued improvement and support for the public health infrastructure in Vizianagaram district.

he pioneer



2.68 L get hiked pensions in Eluru



PNS ELURU

The distribution of NTR Bharosa Social Security Pensions began in the district on Monday in a big way across the district in which over 2.68 lakh beneficiaries were disbursed pensions.

Housing and I&PR Minister K Parthasarathi, flanked by district Collector Vetri Selvi, launched the distribution of pensions at Pothireddypally village in Nuzvid mandal at 6 am on Monday. The Minister said that over 65.18 lakh beneficiaries were being disbursed about Rs 4,408 crore NTR Bharosa Social Security pensions across the state.

The Minister highlighted that the Chandrababu Naidua headed government has enhanced the pension amount from Rs 3000 and Rs 4000. The beneficiaries were being disbursed Rs 4000 pension and Rs 3,000 dues for April, May and June months. A total of Rs 7,000 was disbursed to each pensioner today, the min-

ister added. "The YSRCP regime had taken five years to raise the social security pension amount from Rs 2,000 to Rs 3000. But the Chandrababu Naidu-headed government enhanced the pension amount from Rs 3000 to Rs 4000 as per the assurance immediately

after coming to power," the Minister asserted

The differently-abled people are being disbursed Rs 6000 pension, people who are suffering from diseases like paralysis were extended Rs 5000 to Rs 10,000 and those who are bed-ridden were being disbursed Rs 5000 to Rs 15,000 under the NTR Bharosa social security pension, the Housing Minister said, and claimed that the pensions were seen buoyed after taking the enhanced pensions today.

Minister Parthasarathi assured of extending pensions on the first date of every month at their houses. All eli-

Nuzvid town to get underground drainage system soon

Nuzvid town, which is famous for mango produce, is getting the much-awaited underground drainage system soon. Disclosing this while addressing a programme organized on the occasion of disbursement of social security pensions in Nuzvid on Monday, Minister for Housing and I&PR K Parthasarathy said that proposals for the construction of an underground drainage system in Nuzvid town are being prepared and the required process would be expedited. "The underground drainage works in Nuzvid town will be executed in a phased manner. The roads will also be reconstructed in the town," he Minister Parthasarathy also

disclosed that drinking water pipeline repair works and the laying of a new pipeline were

The Minister lauded Chief

Minister N Chandrababu
Naidu for disbursing social
security pensions to all eligible people despite the state's
facing financial crisis. The
Minister exuded confidence

that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu could

put Andhra Pradesh on the

development path with his

able leadership qualities and

being taken up in Nuzvid at a cost of Rs 11 crore. Priority is being given to supply protected drinking water to the people of Nuzvid town, the Minister announced and warned the municipal officials and staff that indifference in supplying protected drinking water would not be tolerated. He directed the officials concerned to take steps for efficient sanitation in the town without causing inconvenience

to the people. The Ring Roads works would be completed expeditiously and the indoor stadium would be renovated in Nuzvid town, he

Stating that there are 203 Anna canteens in the state of which 183 have their own buildings. the Minister said steps were taken to ensure that all Anna canteens function by August 16.

gible people would get the The Minister also promised fruits of welfare schemes in to complete the Chintalapudi the alliance-led government, lift irrigation scheme and complete the TIDCO houses he promised.

at the earliest. District Collector K Vetri Selvi said that 2,68,353 pensioners were disbursed Rs 182.73 crore worth of pensions in the district today.

Steps were taken to disburse

100 per cent pensions on July 1 st itself, she added. District Rural Development Project Director R Vijaya Raju and other officials were among those who were present.

95% of

pensions

disbursed:

Minister

PNS VIJAYAWADA



Maintain hygiene to keep diarrhoea at bay: DC

PNS BHIMAVARAM

West Godavari District Collector C Naga Rani has underlined the need to maintain hygienic conditions to contain diarrhoea.

The Collector flagged off an awareness rally 'Stop Diarrhea' taken out here on Monday to create awareness among people to check diarrhoea. The Stop Diarrhea' awareness rally went through the main road and concluded at the Tahsildar office.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Naga Rani said that strict measures have been taken to control the diarrheal disease in the district as per the orders of the government.

She said that the 'Stop Diarrhea' programme is being conducted from July 1 to August 31 to prevent diarrheal disease, adding that this disease can be prevented only through awareness. Steps have been taken to organize wide awareness programmes across the district, she said.

The Collector directed the ASHA workers and the ANMs of the district to visit schools and welfare hostels daily and inquire about the health of children. She also ordered them to distribute ORS and zinc tablets to the needy and educate them about cleanliness and health protection.

All steps should be taken to ensure that drinking water does not get contaminated anywhere in the district, she told the medical and health officials and instructed them to supply protected drinking water. Collector Naga Rani stated that various types of diseases like diarrhoea are prevalent due to lack of hygiene and asked the officials concerned to take steps to improve sanitation in rural and urban areas. Apart from making people aware of cleanliness, she suggested prevention of diseases through precautionary measures. "The officials of all departments of the government should work in a coordinated manner to ensure that no diarrhea deaths take place in the district," the Collector told the officials.

The Collector later released wall posters creating awareness on containing diarrhoea and distributed ORS packets and Zinc tablets. DMHO D Maheswara Rao, District Immunization Officer Deva Sudha Lakshma, Municipal Commissioner M Shyamala and other officials were among those who were present.

AP Women's Commission seeks probe into death of Madarsa student

The Chairperson of the Andhra Pradesh Women's Commission, Gajjala Venkata Lakshmi, has expressed deep concern over the death of 17 year-old Madarsa student Karishma at Luna Centre in Ajith Singh Nagar, Vijayawada. She has announced that the Commission has taken a suo motu case. She announced the decision in a press statement here on Monday. She said that Karishma's

parents raised doubts about her death as there were injuries on Commission takes *suo motu* case



issue seriously and has written a letter to Director General of Police (DGP) Ch Dwaraka Tirumala Rao, urging him to conduct a detailed probe. She said that the case was sensitive in nature.

Also, she asked for the primary inquiry report from Vijavawada Police Commissioner PHD Ramakrishna. She also demanded that the police conduct a transparent probe to ensure justice for the victim's

government to take steps to stop the attacks on women in the State. She mentioned the incident in which two women belonging to Kotavoorut of Payakaraupeta constituency of Anakapalli district were raped by the leaders of a local political party.

despicable act to commit atrocities on women. In a letter, she asked the Anakapalli SP to take immediate action in this incident, arrest the culprits, and send a report to the Commission on the police

Minister for Housing and I&PR K Parthasarathy said that on July 1 itself, 95 per cent of the disbursement She said that it is the most of Social Security pensions was completed in the State. Minister Parthasarathi said here on

their houses. A total amount of Rs 4,170 crore was disbursed to over 61.76 beneficiaries across the state. Disbursing social security pensions to over 61.76 lakh beneficiaries was a record, the Minister claimed

Monday that in 12 hours,

about 61.76 lakh pension-

He said that the disbursement of social security pensions began at 6 am today and continued till evening.

In the previous government, only 85% of pensions were disbursed on the first day despite there being 2.65 lakh volunteers, he claimed, adding that over 1.35 lakh secretariat employees and officials took part in the social security pensions disbursement on Monday.



VMC Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar releasing the poster for the campaign against dengue, malaria, and other

VMC holds door-to-door drive for seasonal diseases

PNS VIJAYAWADA

To raise awareness among the public on the prevention of dengue, malaria, and seasonal diseases, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Swapnil Commissioner Dinakar Pundkar launched posters in the Command

Control Room ...
office on Monday.

this occasion, Commissioner Swapnil stated that during the monsoon season, dengue, malaria, and seasonal diseases are common issues faced by the public. To prevent these, the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation is organising door-to-door campaigns. Health secretaries, malaria workers, and ANMs visit households to educate the public, he said.

Anti-larvae operations, ML oils spray, and Abate sprays are being conducted to control mosquitoes. Efforts are being made to ensure that there is no stagnation of sewage or rainwater to prevent mosquito breed-

Furthermore, under the 'Stop Diarrhea' campaign, the public is being educated about diarrhoea prevention. Health secretaries are visiting households to educate people on maintaining a clean environment, ensuring that food items and utensils are cleaned properly, washing hands thoroughly after using the toilet, and preventing water stagnation in homes, he said.

He added that the municipal corporation is supplying safe and uncontaminated drinking water across the city. To ensure

this, water samples are regularly tested, with more than 300 samples collected in each circle and over 1,000 samples across the city being tested continuously. Measures are taken to ensure that drinking water pipelines do not mix with sewage and desilting operations are conducted regularly, he explained.

Participants in the programme included Chief Engineer M. Prabhakar Rao, Chief City Planner GVGSV Prasad, Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) G'Srujana, Chief Medical Health Officer Dr P Ratnavali, Deputy City Planner Jubin Cherian Roy, Estate Officer T Srinivas, Accounts Officer Narasimha Murthy, Projects Officer UCD Venkateswara Rao, Biologist Surva Kumar, and others.

City wrestler Rohith selected for Sub Junior Natl Championship



PNS VIJAYAWADA

S Rohith Kumar, a student of the SKPVV Hindu High School at Kothapet, Vijayawada, has been selected for the Sub Junior National Wrestling Championship to be conducted in Udhamsingh in Uttarakhand from July 5 to 7. He will be representing the Andhra Pradesh State team in the 71 kg Greco-Roman event.

In a press release on Monday, NTR District Wrestling Association incharge D Srinivasa Rao said that Rohith Kumar was selected for the nationals based on his performance in the recently concluded AP Inter-Districts Wrestling Championship.

Rohith bagged gold medal in the 71 kg Greco-Roman event.

SKPVV Hindu High School committee president T Seshaiah, correspondent Gopisetti Mallaiah, secretary KLV Mohana Rao, HM K Srinivasa Rao and PET MV Satya Prasad congratulated Rohith Kumar.

Collector, MLA Krishna Prasad launch pension distribution PNS VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector Dr G. Srijana, along with Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad, launched the distribution of hiked Dr NTR Bharosa Social Security Pension to the beneficiaries at the Jakkampudi Colony (YSR gram panchayat) of Vijayawada Rural mandal in the district on Monday. They visited the beneficiaries' houses and distributed the pension amounts.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Srijana expressed hap-piness over the successful conduct of the programme in the district. She mentioned that as many as 2,35,477 people are benefiting from Rs. 160 crore distributed in the district. The Village and Ward Secretariat staff, VROs, and other officials visited the beneficiaries' houses from 6 am and handed over the pen-



Prasada distributing pension to a NTR Bharosa Social Security Pension beneficiary at Jakkampudi Colony near Vijayawada on Monday

sion to them.

In the meantime, MLAs Yalamanchili Satyanarayana Chowdary, alias Sujana Chowdary, Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao, Gadde Rama

Mohana Rao, Tangirala Sowmya, Sriram Rajagopal, and Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao participated in the distribution of pensions in their respective con-

GST biggest indirect tax reform: DRM It subsumed many indirect Central and State taxes

PNS VIJAYAWADA

On the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the Goods and Service Tax, Guntur Railway DRM M Ramakrishna said it is the biggest indirect tax reform India has ever seen.

The Commissioner, CGST Commissionerate, Guntur, organised the programme on Monday. Ramakrishna recalled the words of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, while the old India was economically fragmented, the new India created one tax, one market and for one nation through GST implementation. It subsumed many indirect Central and State taxes and removed cascading of taxes



and through digitisation brought transparency. This resulted in substantial increase in tax revenue. The GST revenue in the first month of implementation i.e. July 2017 was about Rs 93,000 crore and it reached to Rs 2.10 lakh crore in April. GST is growing around 12 per cent and it shows the suc-

pliance, formalisation and digitisation of the Indian economy. Guest of honour, A Sridhar

Babu, Tobacco Board Executive Director, said that their efforts in combating tax evasion have also yielded significant results. "We have successfully seized foreign cigarettes worth crores of rupees, and in collaboration with Jindal Urban Waste Management (Guntur) Limited, we have taken proactive steps to incinerate these seized cigarettes at Kondaveedu. I extend my sincere appreciation to Jindal Urban Waste Management (Guntur) Limited for their invaluable support in this endeavor.

'Make defectors resign and contest again' BRS MLA KTR challenges CM Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KTR challenged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to ask the six BRS MLAs who joined the Congress to resign and seek the people's mandate again.

Addressing BRS's district party meeting in Jagtial, KTR said that Kavitha will soon come out of jail and that they both will campaign on the streets of Jagityal during local body elections.

He also spoke about the defection of Jagtial BRS MLA Sanjay and said that Sanjay was driven by personal gain rather than development concerns. He said that MLC Jeevan Reddy would not allow Sanjay to be given even an MPTC ticket.

KTR declared that BRS would emerge victorious in the upcoming elections and asked party workers to remain steadfast with the party.

He accused the Congress of

engineering defections and

said that the practice of 'Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram' started during Indira Gandhi's time.

He said that in 2004, Congress allied with the BRS but later poached 10 out of its 26 MLAs. Despite this, under KCR's leadership, BRS managed to win Telangana in 2014. He reminded everyone of Revanth's futile attempt to topple the BRS government in

KTR said that amidst the contradiction between promises.

instability two-thirds of the Revanth's actions and Rahul's Congress MLAs joined the BRS constitutionally and that the party did not violate any

Constitutional principles. He mocked Revanth Reddy who had once suggested to stone MLAs who joined the BRS and asked whether he now intends to stone those who defected to his party

recently.

statements against party change

KTR assured BRS workers that they have nothing to fear as the party has secured power twice and is poised for future victories.

He criticised the Congress for failing to deliver on promises like job creation and oan waivers and accused it of He also pointed out the duping the public with empty

Assam flood: Over 43 pc of forest camps in Kaziranga submerged

ith worsening flood condition in Assam, rising water levels have impacted more than 43 per cent of the 233 forest camps at Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, an official report said on Monday. As a significant portion of wildlife habitat is now official report said on Monday. As a significant portion of wildlife habitat is now submerged, scores of animals have started crossing the National Highway 715 in search of higher ground towards the southern direction in East Karbi Anglong district. However, no

death of animals has been reported as of now due to floods or accidents while crossing the highway. Floodwaters have submerged a total of 101 forest camps, of which six have been vacated, across Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, according to a flood report. It said 35 camps in Agoratoli range, 21 in Kaziranga, 10 in Bagori, five in Burhapahar range and nine in Bokakhat are submerged. Besides, 21 forest camps in Biswanath Wildlife Division of the national park have been inundated, the report added.



Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani assumes charge as Vice Chief of Army Staff

t Gen NS Raja Subramani on Monday assumed charge as the new Vice Chief of the Army Staff. The officer, who was helming the Army's Central Command, succeeded Gen Upendra Dwivedi. Gen Dwivedi took charge as the Army Chief on Sunday. Lt Gen Subramani has an insightful knowledge and deep understanding of operational dynamics on both the Western and Northern borders, the Army said. Lt Gen Subramani

was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in 1985. He has a distinguished and illustrious military career spanning more than 37 years. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy and the Indian Military Academy, the officer also attended the Joint Services Command Staff College, Bracknell (the UK) and the National Defence College, New Delhi. He holds a Master of Arts Degree from King's College, London and an M Phil in Defence Studies from the Madras University.



Two Indians in Asian Prize for Fiction shortlist

ooks by two Indian authors and one writer of Indian origin have made it to the Besouring a River Breeze" by Mrinalini Harchandrai and "Woman Who Climbed Trees" by Nepali-Indian writer Smriti Ravindra, the other three shortlisted

books are Nigerian writer Ayobami Adebayo's "Spell of Good Things", "The Idle Stance of the Tippler Pigeon" by Safinah Danish Elahi of Pakistan and Sri Lankan-American author V V Ganeshananthan's "Brotherless Nights". Each narrative offers nuanced portrayal of life, weaving together an intricate tapestry of human experiences from different corners of the world, the organisers said. Following an extensive process spanning seven months, 13 group discussions were conducted by five book



Army fully capable to face all future challenges: Gen Dwivedi

PNS NEW DELHI

Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Monday said the Army is ready and capable to face all "current and future" security challenges facing India and that he would focus on continuing to equip the force with the latest weapons and technology.

A day after he assumed charge of the 1.3 millionstrong force, Gen Dwivedi said the Army is facing "unique operational challenges" and that the geo-political landscape is changing rapidly with technology evolving at a "very fast pace"

The Army chief's remarks came amid India's dragging border conflict with China in eastern Ladakh and the challenge of cross-border terrorism from Pakistan.

"I am fully conscious of the responsibility assigned to me and I assure the country and fellow citizens that the Indian Army is fully capable and ready to face all current and



future challenges," he told reporters after inspecting a guard of honour at the South Block in the Raisina hills.

The newly-appointed Army chief, with extensive operational expertise, also said that he will encourage induction of indigenously-built military hardware into the force to boost self-reliance in defence.

'The geo-political landscape is changing rapidly and technology is evolving at a very fast pace," he said.

"The Indian Army faces unique operational challenges

TMC's condemnation of the

incident. A new video has also

emerged, showing Tajmul beat-

ing up another couple a few

Governor Bose, who has

had strained relations with the

state government over various

issues, expressed shock at the

incident and described it as

"barbarous," according to a Raj Bhavan official.

and has requested an immedi-

ate report from CM Banerjee,"

Bengal staged a protest on Monday on the Assembly

premises over the assault on the

couple and alleged atrocities

against women in various parts

of the state. "The appearement politics of the TMC govern-

ment has turned the state into

a den of anti-social activities. It

seems the ruling TMC and its

goons have unleashed Taliban

rule in the state," BJP MLA

Agnimitra Paul said.

the official said.

"He condemned the incident

BJP women MLAs in West

and to remain prepared for such threats and distinctive requirements, it is crucial that we continuously equip our soldiers with state-of-the-art weapons and technology and continue to evolve our warfighting strategies," he

> Gen Dwivedi, who assumed charge as the 30th Chief of the Indian Army on Sunday, said he would focus on ensuring that the Army is ready to operate in the "full spectrum of conflict". "It will be my endeavour to ensure that the Indian

'BJP paid heavy

price for throttling

ate in the full spectrum of conflict, maintaining complete synergy with the Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and other

stakeholders," he said. "This will ensure that India's interests are secured and we become a major pillar of nation building to achieve the vision of 'Viksit Bharat-2047'," Gen Dwivedi said.

The defence ministry is in the process of implementing the much-awaited theaterisation model under which it seeks to integrate the capabilities of the Army, Air Force and the Navy and optimally utilise their resources for wars and operations.

Gen Dwivedi said the Indian Army is on the "path to transformation" and it aspires to be 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant) in

"To achieve this, we will encourage indigenous initiatives and induct maximum war systems and equipment that are manufactured in our country," he said.

Rahul accuses Modi govt of pushing Manipur into 'civil war'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi accused the BJP-led government on Monday of pushing Manipur into a "civil war" due to its policies and politics.

The Congress leader also criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not visiting the the state since ethnic violence broke out there.

Initiating the debate on behalf of the opposition in the Lok Sabha on the Motion of Thanks for the president's address, Gandhi alleged that the government is behaving as if nothing has happened in Manipur.

"You have immersed Manipur into a civil war. Manipur has been burnt by you, your policies and your politics," he said.

The Congress leader said it seems as if Manipur is not an Indian state. "For the prime minister, there is no state of Manipur. We urged the prime minister to give a message, to

HOPE FOR REDUCTION OF CRIME: AMIT SHAH

Justice within three years of registering FIR under new laws

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that justice would be delivered up to the level of the Supreme Court in all cases within three years of the registration of an FIR under the new criminal

Addressing a press conference after the new criminal laws were implemented, Shah expressed hope of a reduction of crime in future as 90 per cent conviction was expected under the new laws.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) came into effect on Monday. The new laws replaced the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively.

Justice can be received up to the level of the Supreme Court within three years of the registration of the FÍR," he said. The home minister said that Madhva Pradesh's Gwalior at

with the implementation of the three criminal laws, India would have the most modern criminal justice system in the world.

"The new laws brought in a modern justice system, incorporating provisions such as Zero FIR, online registration of police complaints, summonses through electronic modes such as SMS and mandatory videography of crime scenes for all heinous crimes," he said. Shah said the first case under the new laws was about a motorcycle theft registered in 10 minutes past midnight. He also said the police dis-

missed the case filed against a street vendor for selling water and tobacco products from a cart that allegedly obstructed a public way in central Delhi's Kamala Market after an inves-

The new laws would give priority to providing justice, unlike the colonial-era laws that gave primacy to penal action, and made reporting of crimes even easier by recognising e-FIR, Zero FIR and elec-



Public flogging: Bengal governor seeks report

BJP slams TMC's 'Taliban rule' ly defended him despite the

days ago.

PNS KOLKATA

The public flogging of a couple in West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur district has sparked outrage, with Governor CV Ananda Bose seeking a report from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, while the BJP accused the ruling TMC of "unleashing Taliban rule" in the state.

The man seen in a viral video beating up the couple with a bamboo stick was identified as Tajmul alias 'JCB', purportedly a TMC leader of Chopra area. He was arrested last night.

When produced before a local court, Tajmul was remanded to five days of police custody.

Police registered a case on Sunday after a video clip of the incident, which occurred on Friday, went viral on social media. PTI could not independently verify the video.

The BJP alleged that Tajmul had ties to Chopra MLA Hamidul Islam, who reportedvoice of one MP' PNS NEW DELHI TMC MP Mahua Moitra hit

out at the ruling party for suspending her in the last Lok Sabha session, saying they paid a very heavy price for to loss of 63 BJP MPs.

Speaking during a discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address to a joint sitting of Parliament, she said the BJP will not be able to treat the opposition the way they treated them during the last session.

"Last time I stood, I was not allowed to speak. The ruling party paid a very heavy price for throttling the voice of one MP," she said, referring to her suspension in the last session.

"In their attempt to silence me, the public silenced them, causing them to lose 63 MPs... mujhko bithane ke chakkar méin janta ne aapko bitha diya, aapke 63 MPs loss kar diya," Moitra began,

setting a defiant tone. Moitra condemned the installation of the Sengol in Parliament, calling it a symbol of monarchy with no place in a democracy.



DEFAMATION CASE

Delhi court sentences Medha Patkar to 5 months in jail

PNS NEW DELHI

A court here on Monday sentenced activist Medha Patkar to five months simple 23-year-old defamation case lodged against her by Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena when he

headed an NGO in Gujarat. Metropolitan Magistrate Raghav Sharma also imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on Patkar. The court sentenced Patkar after considering the evidence before it and the fact that the case went on for over two

decades. However, the court suspended the sentence or one month to enable Patkar to file an appeal against the order. Rejecting Patkar's prayer

to release her on the condition of probation, the judge said, "Considering the facts...damages, age and ailment (of the accused), I am not inclined to give excessive punishment."

Remove access restriction on media for Parl coverage

Editors Guild asks Birla, Dhankhar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Editors Guild of India on Monday urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar to remove access restrictions on the media for cov-

ering proceedings of Parliament. The Guild, in a letter to Birla, said the practice of restricting the number of media persons, including those holding per- under the guidance of the presforce when Covid19 protocols were in place. "The country has fought the scourge and moved on and we hope limiting access is also done away with," it said in

a letter to Birla. The Guild also expressed concern over the non-reconstitution of the Press Advisory Committee that was first founded in 1929

manent accreditation, came into ident of the Central Legislative The Guild urged Dhankhar to

restore complete access to all media accredited media persons to the House without the need for them to secure additional access passes, which only adds to the bureaucratic work at a time when the effort is to reduce the

LEADERSHIP CHANGE

Will abide by Cong High Command's decision, says CM Siddaramaiah

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said he would abide by the decision of the Congress high-command on the issue of leadership change, amid a political tussle within the ruling Congress.

A Vokkaliga seer last week publicly requested Siddaramaiah to step down and to make way for his deputy D K Shivakumar.

"It is not a matter to be discussed in public. Whatever



decision the High Command takes, we will go by it," Siddaramaiah told reporters when asked about the Vishwa

Vokkaligara Mahasamsthana Mutt seer Chandrashekhara Swami's appeal.

"I don't want to comment on what Swamiji says. Ours is a national party. There is a high command," the Chief Minister

Meanwhile, Shivakumar warned leaders not to issue public statements on the matter of leadership change and creation of multiple posts of Deputy Chief Minister.

"If anyone crosses the limit, the party will take a decision,"

India could experience above-normal rainfall in July: IMD

India could experience abovenormal rainfall in July, except for parts of the northeastern region, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

Addressing a virtual press conference, IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said July rainfall averaged over the country as a whole is most likely to be above normal -more than 106 per cent of the long-period average of 28.04

cm.
"Normal to above-normal rainfall is most likely over most parts of the country except many parts of north-east India and some parts of northwest, east, and southeast peninsular India," he said.

The Met office said maximum temperatures are likely to be normal to below normal over many parts of northwest India and south peninsular India, except the west coast. "Above-normal maximum temperatures are likely over

many parts of central India,

east and northeast India, and along the west coast," it said. The minimum temperatures are most likely to be above normal over many parts of the country except some parts of northwest and

the adjoining areas of central

India, and some pockets of

southeastern peninsular India, he said. We are expecting good monsoon rains in July. Cloudy conditions generally result in higher minimum temperatures, Mohapatra

Northwest India recorded its warmest June last month since 1901, with a mean temperature of 31.73 degrees Celsius, the IMD said on

Monday.

Implementation of new criminal laws evoke mixed reactions

PNS NEW DELHI

The three new criminal laws, which replaced the British-era penal statutes on Monday, have evoked mixed reactions from legal luminaries with some hailing them as "significant step" towards modernising criminal justice system while others terming them

as "draconian" and "cosmetic". The new laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) -- came into effect across the country from July 1 and replaced the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal

Evidence Act respectively.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi said an opportunity to make genuine reforms has been wasted and "cosmetic changes" have been brought about in new laws, disregarding the crucial aspect of huge pendency of cases in courts, especially in trial courts.

However, senior advocate and former Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Adish C Aggarwala termed the new criminal laws as significant step towards modernising the criminal justice delivery system and deliv-

ery of time bound justice. This view was echoed by



senior advocates Mahesh Jethmalani, also a BJP MP, and Vikas Pahwa.

Advocate and Congress MP Manish Tewari termed the new laws "pernicious in nature, draconian in their implemen-

tation". Activist lawver Kamini Jaiswal concurred with Tewari and termed them as "disaster". Significantly, the apex lawyers' body, the Bar Council

of India (BCI), came in sup-

port of the laws and recently

across the country to refrain from any immediate agitation or protest against the implementation of the new criminal

"One of the important changes brought in by the new laws is the introduction of specific timelines for conducting trials and delivering verdicts," former SCBA president Aggarwala said and hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for decolonising British-era criminal laws.

He said after hearing arguments, the judges will have to render judgment within 30

tion of arguments, which may be extended to a period of 45 days for reasons to be recorded in writing. Jethmalani said the opposi-

tion parties do not under-

stand that these laws are for

everyone, for prosecution, for victims and for criminals. "I don't understand which provision is the problem. They are just saying anything and have not analysed the provisions," he said. Pahwa said, "I think there are a lot of positive points if we read them as a

whole. Of course there's also a flip side. The biggest positive point would be the implementation of technology.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Cosmetic makeover

The new criminal laws have retained old laws with minor changes while others could impact civil liberties harshly

ndia has finally shed its colonial legacy in jurisprudence, embracing a new era with indigenous criminal laws. The big question being asked is whether it has truly moved beyond nomenclature or if it's merely a name change. The archaic Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Indian Evidence Act, and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) have been replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, respectively. This historic change, taking effect from July 1, 2024, has stirred considerable debate among legal experts, practitioners, and the broader public. While some provisions break from the past, others are just old wine in new bottles, adding a layer of confusion in the legal system. The IPC, established in 1860, and the Evidence Act, enacted in 1872, have long been the cornerstones of India's criminal justice system. Both were products of the British colonial administration and have been criticized for their outdated and colonial-era perspectives. The CrPC of 1973 also

formed a significant part of the legal framework governing criminal procedures in India.

The new legal laws Replacing the IPC, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita aims to update and Indianise the criminal code. There are some provisions that are definitely new while others are mere replicas of the old ones. One notable change is the adoption of the definition of terrorism from the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). This new definition encompasses a broad spectrum of activities intended to threaten the unity, integrity, and security of India. However, critics argue that this broader definition could lead to misuse and the criminalisation of legitimate dissent. Another stark

departure is Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam which replaces the Indian Evidence Act and seeks to modernise the rules of evidence in line with contemporary technological advancements. A significant change is the new stance on electronic evidence. Last but not the least, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, replacing the CrPC, introduces several changes aimed at streamlining criminal procedures. The new law redefines the use of handcuffs and expands the scope of police custody beyond the initial 15 days, a change that has sparked considerable concern regarding potential misuse and the risk of increased custodial violence. So far, the legal fraternity has been rather jittery about the new laws. Prominent legal luminaries, State Bar Councils, and Bar Associations have expressed apprehensions about the potential implications of these changes. Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud has commented that the new laws could create a positive impact only if there are concurrent investments in infrastructure development and capacity building for forensic experts and investigating officers. The expanded powers of the police and the handling of electronic evidence are areas of particular concern, highlighting the need for careful implementation and oversight to ensure that the new laws do not lead to increased misuse of power or injustice.



Pilgrims wait in a queue to get themselves registered for the annual Amarnath Yatra, in Jammu

A new dawn in Tibetan diplomacy



A seven-member American delegation led by US House Representatives met with the Dalai Lama, indicating a shift in the US stance on Tibet

American delegation led by Michael McCaul, and Nancy ■Pelosi, both leading lights of the US House of Representatives, recently met the Dalai Lama at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh; this is a particularly significant event. They delivered a clear message that the USA no longer accepts Tibet as a part of China; and the US Congress will be soon passing an Act to be made into a law, called the "Resolve Tibet-China Act". The delegation told the Tibetan spiritual leader that "things have changed now". This American message has unmistakably resisted in Chinese ears. This US delegation first called on His Holiness at Dharmashala, indicating they were calling on the Tibetan government-in-exile, calling on Prime Minister Narendra Modi only thereafter. The Government of India has not hesitated to welcome the delegation. Xi Jinping may have forgotten that Mao Zedong's regime had first claimed 'suzerainty' over Tibet.

Before long, it asserted that Tibet was a Chinese province, before attempting to erase Tibet's culture, heritage and language. These events have their roots in what happened towards the end of World War II. By allowing Stalin's Red Army to enter Berlin first and occupy it, the US made the Russians believe that they were the prime victors of WWII. In 1949, the Soviet Communist regime, by hook or crook, acquired the atom bomb. This made them believe even more they were now a superpower. Eco-militarily though, the Soviet Union was no 'super' but only a Eurasian power, as it had historically been.

Similarly, the US overestimated the Communist Chinese as well. Compared to Chiang Kai Shek and his Kuomintang (KMT) on e mainland, the much more committed. That, however, was no reason to dump the KMT as well as Formosa, now Taiwan from the UN as an official member. In fact, India should have been the correct replacement, but the Nehru gov-



ernment was insistent on giving the right of way to Red China, believe it or not.

The USA, or at least its State Department continued to believe for years that the Soviets and the Chinese were a single communist bloc. The extent of the animosity between the two was fully realized only after the Sino-Soviet clash along the Ussuri River in 1969.

It was only thereafter that President Nixon decided to call on Chinese Premier Mao Zedong in 1972, which brought a great deal of prestige to Dr. Henry Kissinger. The ultimate beneficiary of this resumption of relations was China, when Deng Xiao Ping introduced economic reforms, emphasizing manufacturing and exports. The surplus of trillions of dollars accumulated by China came largely through exports to America. The course of these events explains why the State Department of the USA until now ignored the treatment of the hapless Tibetans by successive Chinese regimes over the last seven decades, beginning in 1959. The question is: this because of provocations over Taiwan, or could there be some larger reason unknown to us? The intentions should become clearer with the unfolding of time.India's stand has also

XI JINPING MAY

HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT MAO ZEDONG'S REGIME HAD FIRST CLAIMED 'SUZERAINTY' OVER TIBET. BEFORE LONG. IT **ASSERTED THAT** TIBET WAS A CHINESE PROVINCE, BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO ERASE TIBET'S CULTURE, HERITAGE

AND LANGUAGE

Unfortunately, the Leftists and communists in the country had clamoured for the (then) newly formed Red Chinese regime, which had requested its recognition within a few days of its winning the civil war. Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Patel, on the other hand, was of the clear view that there was no hurry to recognize the new Chinese regime. In November 1949, Patel invited the American charge d'affairs Donovan to verify if there was an urgency in the recognition

of Red China. Knowing the Sardar through his long correspondence with Jawaharlal Nehru on the subject of China, uppermost in his mind must have been the concern that the Sino-Indian border should be mutually recognized. But Jawaharlal Nehru was in a hurry and without consulting the Sardar, informed the Chinese of India's decision to recognize their regime in the December

of that year itself. While expressing its delight at Nehru's message, China also laid down a few precondi- India's first prime minister, a tions. India would pass on to votary of international peace he new regime all properties and assets of China. Secondly, India would not recognize any members of the KMT. Thirdly, India should support the expulsion of Nationalist China from the UNO, as well as its replacement by the

communist regime. China's perfidious intentions can be gauged from the fact that its communist announced the 'liberation' of Tibet as the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) task just one day before the founding of the People's Republic of China. The Tibetans had expelled the Chinese Amban, although he had been a Kuomintang government appointee.

The Chinese blamed India for it, abusing Nehru as "a lack-ey of British imperialism" and complicit in the British humiliation of China, which Mao sought to reverse. The People's Daily of China in an editorial denounced the concept of suzerainty as feudal and oppressive—the very thing China demanded over Tibet. It even called on the UNO to examine India's relationship with Bhutan. The reality, which the Nehru government chose to ignore despite even Ambassador K.M. Pannikar's warnings was that China was eyeing Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan too. But and brotherhood was o ous to this. The sufferers were from Tibet and India.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal)

Unveiling the deception: Decoding food labels for healthier choices



It's vital to scrutinise food labels beyond their claims. Decoding the fine print ensures that what we eat aligns with our health goals

ecoding Food LabelsAs a dietician, I strive to provide the best possible tailored meal plans to my clients, so why would I not stop and flip food packages to scrutinize labels to ensure what goes on my plate and my family's? Albeit, every time I do that I stop to think about the actual intent of documenting the ingredients on the package and I feel deceived. The idea behind all this 'extra work' was to keep the consumer informed and help them make intelligent choices for themselves. But

I see a granola bar labelled "whole grain" and "healthy snack," only to find sugar listed as the first ingredient! Has the food industry turned food labels into a game of hide-and-seek with our health? Food manufacturers have become masters of a deceptive language game. Over time, they've developed tactics to maximize sales and keep their customers hooked, often at the expense of health. Buzzwords like "natural" and "low-fat" create an illusion of health, while hidden sugars and cleverly disguised serving sizes make it difficult to deci-



pher the truth. These tactics paint a picture of a healthy snack, obscuring the reality which can be quite different.So, does this mean we're doomed to fall victim to marketing tactics? Absolutely not! With a little knowledge, we can become empowered to decode food labels, making informed choices about what

purchases we make. Here are a few key areas to focus on during your next grocery run and fill your shopping cart with what is right for you:As I said earlier, don't allow the food companies to trick you into buying their products just because they claim to be "natural", "low-fat" or "multigrain". Low fat doesn't alone mean that literally. The term also implies added sugars and the use of unhealthy fillers. For the longest brown are specified per serving and

but this does not mean that brown rice syrup is any good and a healthy replacement for sugar! High fructose corn syrup, agave nectar, palm, etc are scattered through the list of ingredients keeping even the most discerning customer, from grasping the true sugar content. When you see "sugar-free" on the label, know that other forms like sugar alcohol or artificial sweeteners might be in play. The latest in line is, "natural sweeteners" or "fruit extract" which again is sugar; no less,

The biggest gamble lurks in the Serving Sizes. As a standardized directive laid down by the FDA, it is ideally meant to help consumers compare the same products from different brands, empowering them to make the best choice for themselves. But, most manufacturers shrink the serving size per package, compared to what an average consumer would typically eat. Consider finishing a whole bag of munchies in one go while the manufacturer suggests two servings per container. All ingredients

rice has wooed Indian buyers, vou ended up twice what you thought was good for you! Ensure you keep a tab of serving size and calculate your portion and calorie/sugar intake accordingly."Rich in protein", "Fiber-rich" etc are another set of crowd pullers that mostly tend to divert customer's attention from other not-so-healthy ingredients. Bearing these points in mind, your next trip to the supermarket will be a game-changer for your household. Don't get carried away by big claims made on the face of the package, TURN IT AROUND & be sure to read the numbers. Whether it is calories, saturated and trans fats, sodium or added sugars, learn the limits and decide for yourself what suits you best. Employ help from label-reading apps that can demystify tricky labels and provide additional information about ingredients. See-through those marketing gimmicks and bring to the table what is healthier and more wholesome for you and your family.

(The author is a dietician and Clinical Nutritionist Ambassador of FIT INDIA Movement of GOI; views are

REFORMING JUSTICE

Madam — India is poised to undergo a transformative shift in its criminal justice system with the implementation of three groundbreaking laws starting July 1st, 2024. However, the primary concern lies in the readiness of our institutions to handle these changes, necessitating a nationwide audit. There has been no thorough assessment of the preparedness across various criminal justice institutions in different states.

Additionally, the transition from old laws to new ones is likely to create significant confusion. It would be prudent to postpone the implementation of these laws until a comprehensive and independent audit of institutional readiness is conducted. Alternatively, a phased implementation to test the waters would be a more sensible approach.

Noopur Baruah | Tezpur

A DEMOCRACY IN DISARRAY Madam — The signs were clear for all to see. We eagerly awaited the end of the elections and patiently anticipated the results. Yet, once Parliament convened, it quickly became apparent that walkouts and paralysis were the order of the day. The drama of democracy played out in full view, with heightened agitation across the country. On the anniversary of the Emergency, Parliament was divided, and the opposition was relentless in disrupting proceedings at every turn, reflecting the turbulence within our socalled democratic framework. Opposition leaders harshly criticized President Droupadi Murmu's address, dismissing it as a government-scripted speech riddled with falsehoods. They accused the government of imposing an undeclared emergency and challenged its claims of economic growth and

Leaders highlighted issues facing farmers, unemployed youth, and recent parliamentarians has been laid bare, mentorship draws to a close, we bid

India's T20 World Cup victory



idia celebrated a momentous victory over South Africa in the T20 World Cup 2024 final, marking a glorious return to World Cup triumph after a 13-year hiatus since their last ICC trophy win in 2011. Under the astute leadership of Rohit Sharma, the team showcased exceptional prowess

and resilience, dominating the tournament with consecutive victories. This win was particularly poignant as it marked a grand farewell for two Indian cricket stalwarts, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, along with head coach Rahul Dravid, who had not previously won a World Cup trophy. Both Rohit and Virat announced their retirement from T20 internationals, making this victory an emotional and proud moment for all Indians. Rohit's tactical brilliance and Virat's consistent performances have been instrumental in India's cricketing success over the years. Their departure signifies the end of an era. The Indian cricket team displayed outstanding skill and determination, ensuring that they lifted the ICC trophy and gave their beloved captain and star player a memorable send-off. This victory will be cherished as one of the most emotional and proud moments in Indian cricket history.Bishal Kumar Saha, Murshidabad Bishal Kumar Saha | Murshidabad

with their election appearing to serve only as a means to create chaos, disrupt parliamentary decorum, and hinder smooth functioning.

The disarray within Parliament serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for a recommitment to democratic principles and decorum. The behavior of our elected representatives, which seems aimed more at creating chaos than fostering progress, threatens the very foundation of our democratic institutions. It is imperative that we, as citizens, demand accountability and a return to a more respectful and effective form of governance.

Jayanty Subramaniam | Mumbai

FAREWELL TO A LEGEND

Madam — India's head coach, Rahul Dravid, is not one to seek the spotlight. Yet, it inevitably finds him, whether during his illustrious playing career or his post-retirement role as a coach for both junior and senior Indian cricket teams. national events. The true nature of our As his era of strategic brilliance and

farewell to a coach whose wisdom has guided Team India to new heights. Dravid's tenure has been marked by unforgettable victories and moments of cricketing genius, from nurturing young talent to instilling a culture of discipline

His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of cricketers, embodying the values that define our beloved sport. A World Cup win would be the perfect capstone to Rahul Dravid's remarkable journey. As we celebrate Rahul Dravid's contributions to Indian cricket, we also honor a figure whose integrity, dedication, and humility have left an indelible mark on the game. His departure marks the end of an era, but his legacy will continue to inspire and shape the future of Indian cricket for years to come. What a distinguished man and an outstanding

Jayanthi S Maniam | Chennai

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FIRST COLUMN

THE EVOLVING PATH TO **SUCCESS WITH UPSKILLING**

Success is more than just good intentions. It's a journey paved with education and skill



RACHNA LAKHPATI

The saying "Where there's a will, there's a way" offers a reassuring belief that sheer determination can overcome any obstacle. However, navigating the complexities of real-world success involves more than just good intentions. It requires a foundation built on education, experience, and often, a blend of both. The path to achievement is multifaceted, demanding a strategic combination of willpower, continuous learning, and specialization. Enter the upskilling advocate. These individuals champion the importance of lifelong learning, asserting that the pursuit of new knowledge can unlock doors that even traditional qualifications cannot. The argument holds weight, especially in an era where technology evolves at breakneck speed. The ability to adapt to these changes is crucial. However, the journey of upskilling can sometimes feel like an endless treadmill—each completed course leads to another, creating a perpetual cycle of learning without a clear endpoint. On the other hand, we have the specialist.

Specialists possess targeted expertise, backed by rigorous education in a specific field. Their qualifications often serve as a shortcut past initial professional hurdles, providing a clear and direct path to success. Yet, this path can be fraught with its own challenges. As industries transform and new technologies emerge, specialization that once seemed advantageous may become obsolete. The clear road that once led to career success can abruptly end, leaving the specialist in need of new directions. So, who holds the advantage in this dynamic landscape? The truth, as with many aspects of life, is that the ideal path is a balanced



one. The most successful individuals often embody a blend of both approaches. They possess a solid foundation in a core discipline but are equally committed to continuous learning and adaptation. For instance, someone with a degree in marketing might pursue courses in digital analytics to stay relevant in an increasingly data-driven world. This duality-rooted in depth of knowledge but flexible in acquiring new skillsis what makes them particularly valuable. Employers who recognize the importance of this balance are making the smartest investments.

They seek out candidates who not only have the expertise to excel in their current roles but also the agility to navigate the shifting landscape

These employers understand that a blend of foundational knowledge and a willingness to upskill can create a workforce capable of responding to change with confidence and competence. The key takeaway? While willpower is essential, it must be channeled effectively. Start by building a strong educational foundation in a chosen field, then continually seek opportunities for growth and learning. This approach fosters a mindset of perpetual improvement, positioning individuals to thrive amid the uncertainties of the modern workplace. Yet, the journey doesn't end with acquiring new skills. The future of work demands the ability to unlearn outdated practices and embrace new paradigms. The most successful professionals will be those who approach each challenge with a growth mindset, eager to expand their knowledge and reshape their skills.

They understand that change is the only constant and that adaptability is the ultimate competitive advantage. Rather than seeing your career as a ladder to climb, envision it as traversing a vast, ever-shifting landscape. The willingness to learn and grow continuously is key to unlocking a fulfilling and successful career in an ever-evolving world. So, abandon the notion of being a finished product and embrace the journey of lifelong learning. It's a marathon, not a sprint. With the right mindset, you'll be well-equipped not just to survive but to thrive in the ever-changing world of work. Are you ready for the adventure?

(The writer is an author and has penned three books; views are personal

Focus shifts to prudent public wealth management-



The new Govt is overhauling India's disinvestment policy. It is supporting non-profit enterprises, and maintaining a strong presence of State-run firms in strategic sectors

he new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is reviewing the existing disinvestment policy to shift its focus from selling central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) to prudent public wealth management (PWM), supporting not-for-profit enterprises, and ensuring strong presence of state-run firms in strategic sectors'.

A CPSU is an undertaking in which the Union government has majority share holding meaning it holds more than 50 percent of its shares. Disinvestment is fancy nomenclature for sale of these shares to private investors. When, disinvestment results in reduction of the government's shareholding in the CPSU to below 50 percent and concomitant transfer of ownership and management control to private entity, this is termed as 'strategic' disinvestment or privatiza-

The extant policy on disinvestment was announced by the Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech for FY 2021-22.

Under it, CPSUs were classified into two broad categories i.e. strategic and nonstrategic. The strategic group covers atomic energy, space and defense; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services. The non-strategic category includes all other sectors viz. industrial and consumer goods, hotel and tourist services, trading, and marketing and so on. The government's intent was to sell all undertakings in the strategic sector with the caveat that at least one (and a maximum of four) will be retained in the public sec-

As for undertakings in non-strategic sectors, it wanted to reduce its shareholding to below 50 percent in 'all' of them. Put simply, they would all be privatized. All loss-making undertakings in this category would be closed.

Also tagged to this policy was government's intent to use the proceeds from disinvestment for meeting its fiscal deficit (excess of total revenue over total expenditure) or FD target. This part was a continuation from the past when the Modi - government started selling its shares in CPSUs in 2015-16 with particular focus on 'strategic' disinvestment. In the backdrop of devastation caused by Covid-19 pandemic and debilitating effect on its finances during 2020-21 (in that year, FD had scaled to 9.2 percent of GDP), in the budget for 2021-22, Sitharaman had put even greater reliance on proceeds of disinvestment by setting an ambitious target of Rs 175,000 crore. During that year, the government had planned big ticket disinvestments such as Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), IDBI Bank, NMDC Steel and Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) and

But, the process has remained stuck in the slow lane even as the targets of proceeds from sales were missed year-afteryear. Only during two years viz. 2017-18 and 2018-19, it achieved the target. That was primarily because, in those years, it had conducted two big-ticket sales of its shares from one CPSU to

During 2017-18, the government sold



IN CASES WHERE THE STRATEGIC SALE IS MOOTED, THE GOVT FACES A BIGGER CHALLENGE AS APART FROM A FAVOURABLE MARKET, IT NEEDS BIDDERS WITH DEEP

POCKETS

in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) yielding Rs 37,000 crore. In the following year, it undertook the sale of its 52.63 percent stake in the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) yielding Rs 13,000 crore. But, those sales can't be termed as strategic as the purchaser being another CPSU namely ONGC/PFC, the Government continues to have effective ownership over the divested entity viz. HPCL/REC.

The results during 2021-22 and 2022-23 were particularly disconcerting. During 2021-22, against a target of Rs 175,000 crore, the ctual proceeds from disinvestment were a meager Rs 15,440 crore. During 2022-23, against a target of Rs 65,000 crore, the actual was nearly half at Rs 31,059 crore. For 2023-24, the FM had lowered the target to Rs 51,000 crore which during the course of the year was further revised downwards to Rs 30,000 crore. Even against this, the actual proceeds were a meager Rs 14,564

crore.
What does the interim Budget for 2024-25 say?

In a briefing following the presentation of the Budget by Sitharaman on February 1, 2024. Somanathan had stated that the "government no longer views disinvestment from the perspective of balancing the budget". Can it be taken to mean that it has shed its age-old stance of using proceeds from share sale for reducing FD. The answer is 'No' as it has set a target of Rs 50,000 crore for 2024-25 under the head "miscellaneous capital receipts" which includes disinvestment proceeds besides receipts from asset monetization.

The very idea of garnering resources from the sale of government shares in CPSUs is inherently flawed. This is because unlike tax revenue, which can be projected with a degree of certainty based on the existing tax rate and a reasonable assessment of the growth in nominal GDP, the same cannot be said about proceeds from disinvestment. In this case, a lot depends on the market company in which share-sale is contemplated.

is mooted, the Government faces wealth management (PWM), a bigger challenge as apart from a favorable market, it needs bidders with deep pockets. The lengthy and cumbersome process of approval and bureaucratic red tape further undermines the chances of its kicking the ball rolling just around the time when the strategic investors are ready to put in their bets. The Niti Aayog identifies compa-

nies for disinvestment which are then considered by the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD), a long-drawn process by itself, which takes it to the Alternative Mechanism (AM) a group of ministers, including finance, road transport & highways, administrative reforms, etc.,
for approval. After AM's
approval, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) moves a proposal for in-principal approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). In view of above, the government

shouldn't put any number to

preparing the budget as the end of the year, slippage is inevitable. Even so, the government's tax revenue is buoyant (for three years in a row since 2021-22, these have exceeded the target) and it is getting higher dividends from CPSUs as also higher dividends from the Reserve Bank of India (for its FY 2023-24, the RBI has made a huge dividend transfer of Rs 210,000 crore to the Centre for latter's use during 2024-25) and public sector banks (PSBs). These positive trends should be good enough for scenario and, in particular, the perception of investors about the need to depend on 'miscellaneous capital receipts'.

What happens to strategic sale? In cases where the strategic sale From the emphasis on public in strategic sectors, one gets sense that the government has completely abandoned the path of privatizing CPSUs in these sectors. As it is, under the 2021-22 policy, it had intended to retain at least one (and a maximum of four) undertakings in the strategic sector. Now, it seems it won't privatize even one. The government's decision to drop its plan for sale of BPCL which was on its agenda since 2019-20 is an indication of things to come.

Changing horses midstream won't be in the best interest of the country. Fundamentally, the State shouldn't be in the business of running enterprises. There always remains a risk of political interference and bureaucratic red tape which can seriously hamper the working of CPSUs. The government should continue the process of share sale and focus on de-

bureaucratizing it. (The writer is a policy analyst;

Surviving the scorch: Strategies for managing heat waves in India

The summer of 2024 has seen record-breaking temperatures. It is imperative for policymakers to understand the underlying causes and implement effective measures

he country is in the midst of intense heat waves causing severe hardship in the entire North, Central and Western India for more than a month. India may have recorded the hottestever temperature in 2024. On 29th May 2024 Delhi recorded 52.3 Degrees Celsius temperature at a weather station in Mungeshpur a suburb of Delhi though later on it was proved that it was slightly on the higher side. Even cooler places like Dehradun have noticed the highest temperature of the last 53 years this year. More than 30 crore people in India are prone to high risk due to lack of means to escape heat waves. The people are feeling severe shortages of power and water and many grids are col-



ing to prolonged outages. Several people have died due to heat waves across the country. According to official sources, 150 people have died due to heat waves and around 30,000 people suffered heat stroke from March to mid-June 2024. The people from Delhi and other adjoining areas are rushing to hill stations of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and other lapsing due to overload lead- hills to escape the heat torture ters will be ruining the stabil-

and in the process causing heavy traffic jams and throwing in disarray the civic amenities in several towns and cities. The River width of Ganga in Varanasi has reduced by 35 % and similar reports are forthcoming of the narrowing of other streams and rivers.

The experts have been warning the government and the society at large about the changing weather trends of the country. Now the question for the policymakers, professionals and administrators is to assess the causes of such an unprecedented rise in temperature and how to mop up resources to deal with it. If the mandarins in power in the centre and state do not change the way to deal with it efficiently and effectively many disasity and cohesiveness in the

One thing all must learn is the fact that high temperatures are the results of the combined effects of global warming, increasing urbanisation/concretization leading to changing weather patterns. As far as Delhi and nearby areas are concerned the dry and warm westerly winds from Rajasthan and Haryana are the causes of the heat wave. Now these winds continue during the night and do not allow the night temperature to fall and this is further accentuated when these westerly winds lead to cloud formation in the sky which prevents cooling the temperature. To find the solution our planners and civic administrators in cities must meet the challenges of the

'urban heat island effect'. In nature trees and other vegetation in the landscape along with green roofs help in reducing the urban heat island effects by releasing moisture through transpiration, and by shading reflecting the sun radiation back into the atmosphere. Therefore, the massive dense urbanisation, buildings, roads and pavements absorb and retain the heat and hence the urban heat island effect with disastrous consequences. On the other hand, the effects of heat waves in rural areas are different; there is less or minimal heat island effect but the heat effects mostly relate to health issues like severe dehydration, heat stroke, heat exhaustion and gastro-intestinal diseases exacerbated by the long power cuts and water

shortage.

India is not the only country affected by heat waves. Europe is also suffering from heat waves since April 2024. The temperature is above 30 degrees Celsius in south Europe, particularly in Spain. This year in Europe the highest temperature was noticed in Zeneca and Bosnia at 33.3 degree Celsius on 14th April 2024. The European country's architecture is such that they cannot cope up well with continuous heat waves. The objective of this article is to stress that in India the Central and State governments should jointly devise a policy to effectively deal with summer weather.

The first thing to be done is to declare the temperature beyond a certain limit as a nat-

ural disaster/climate emergency and put in place standard operating procedures to deal with it for the different cities and rural areas. In rural areas, the government must ensure a supply of potable water and electricity as well as a mobile dispensary to provide quick health care services. In each village lakes and ponds should be created compulsorily so that people including farmers and cattle get water. It needs short-term planning risk assessment and early warning systems based on the Meteorological India Department forecast.

One of the fundamental requirements is the need to remould the district administration by creating an integrated and holistic approach so that climate-resilient develop-

ment is ensured and preparations are made in advance to deal with any emergent situa-

However, real change in the entire civic administration is essential in urban areas. The town and country planning needs complete overhauling as also revisit the power-centric civic bodies. The drainages are in shamble and must be protected so that the next emergency in rainy weather does not derail the life and proper-Development Ministry set up a task national force to recom-

mend action? (The author is the former Director-General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and Chancellor of FRI University; views are personal)

Tata Motors domestic sales dip 8% in June

ta Motors on Monday reported an 8 per cent decline in total domestic wholesales to 74,147 units in June. The company's domestic wholesales stood at 80,383 units a year ago. Sales of passenger vehicles, including electric vehicles, in the domestic market, were lower by 8 per cent at 43,624 units in June as compared with 47,359 units in the year-ago month, it added. "Going forward, we foresee recovery of demand, as

enquiries have remained strong despite low retails in the past two months. This strong enquiry pipeline, in addition to the onset of festive season from August, augurs well for the industry," Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Managing Director Shailesh Chandra said in a statement. The automaker is fully geared up to leverage this growth opportunity on the back of strong demand for SUV portfolio, especially Punch and Nexon, as well as new launches in the coming months, he added. In the April-June guarter,



Gold flat at Rs 72,350 per 10g, silver rises by Rs 200

old prices traded flat at Rs 72,350 per 10 grams while silver gained Rs 200 per kg in Gthe local market on Monday, according to HDFC Securities. Silver prices rose by Rs 200 to Rs 90,300 per kg from the previous close of Rs 90,100 per kg. "In Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) are trading flat at Rs 72,350 per 10 grams unchanged from the previous close," Saumil Gandhi, Research Analyst at HDFC

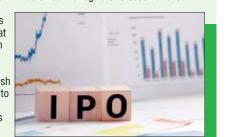
Securities, said. In the overseas markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at US\$ 2,327 per ounce, slightly up US\$ 1 from the previous close. Gold struggled to find direction on Monday and moved in a narrow range above the US\$ 2,320 level during the European trading session, Gandhi said. "...traders appear cautious about making aggressive directional bets given uncertainties about the US Federal Reserve's interest ratecutting plan, resulting in sluggish range bound price activity," he added.



Brainbees Solutions gets Sebi's go ahead to float IPO

rainbees Solutions Ltd, the parent firm of online e-commerce platform FirstCry, Phas received Sebi's approval to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO), an update with the markets regulator showed on Monday. Apart from this, three more companies -- SaaS platform Unicommerce eSolutions, Maharashtra-based Gala Precision Engineering and Interarch Building Products -- obtained the regulator's nod to float the initial share sale. These companies -- who filed their preliminary IPO papers with Sebi between January and May 2024 -- obtained the regulator's observations

during June 25-28, according to the update. In Sebi's parlance, obtaining its observations means its approval to float the public issue. According to the fresh draft red herring prospectus (DRHP), Pune-based Brainbees Solutions' proposed IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares, aggregating up to Rs 1.816 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 5.44 crore equity shares by existing shareholders





RBI, ASEAN to create platform for fast cross-border retail payments

The Reserve Bank of India and ASEAN countries have decided to create a platform to facilitate instant cross-border retail payments. The platform is expected to go live by 2026.

In a statement, RBI said it has joined the Project Nexus, a multilateral international initiative to enable instant crossborder retail payments by interlinking domestic fast payments systems (FPSs).

Nexus, conceptualised by the Innovation Hub of the Bank for The Reserve Bank has been collaborating bilaterally with various countries to link India's FPS – Unified Payments Interface (UPI), with their respective FPSs for cross-border Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M) payments

International Settlements (BIS), aims to connect FPSs of four ASEAN countries (Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand); and India, who would be the founding members and first mover countries of this platform.

An agreement to this effect was signed by BIS and central

Mcap of BSE-listed firms hit

lifetime high of Rs 443 L cr

September. This optimism

contributed to the strong per-

formance of IT stocks," Vinod

Nair, Head of Research at

Geojit Financial Services, said.

Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance,

UltraTech Cement, Tata

Consultancy Services, Infosys,

JSW Steel, HDFC Bank, Tata

Motors, Hindustan Unilever

and ICICI Bank were the

Larsen & Toubro, IndusInd

NTPC, State Bank of India,

biggest gainers.

Among the Sensex pack,

banks of the founding countries -- Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), Bank of Thailand (BOT), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

(BSP), Monetary Authority of

Singapore (MAS) -- and RBI on

Sunday in Basel, Switzerland. Indonesia, which has been involved from the early stages, continues to be involved as a

special observer. "The platform can be extended to more countries, going forward," RBI said. Once functional, Nexus will

play an important role in mak-

ing retail cross-border payments efficient, faster, and more cost effective. The Reserve Bank has been collaborating bilaterally with

various countries to link India's FPS - Unified Payments Interface (UPI), with their respective FPSs for cross-border Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M)

India, Australia look at increasing cooperation in minerals, processing

PNS NEW DELHI

India and Australia are looking at ways to increase cooperation in critical minerals and their processing, besides battery production, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Monday.

Both countries have signed an interim free trade agreement and are in negotiations to expand that into a comprehensive pact, he said.

"We are looking at how we can integrate our (India and Australia) economies in terms of battery production, in terms of mineral production, in terms of mineral processing, in terms of vehicle production," the secretary said here at a conference on the roadmap for vehicle electrification organised by India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA).

IESA is a leading industry alliance focused on the development of advanced energy storage, e-mobility, green hydrogen, and emerging technologies in India.

Founded in 2012 by Customized Energy Solutions



"We are looking at how we can integrate our (India and Australia) economies in terms of battery production, in terms of mineral production, in terms of mineral processing, in terms of vehicle production," the secretary said here at a conference on the roadmap for vehicle electrification organised by India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA)

(CES), IESA's vision is to make India a global hub for R&D, manufacturing, and adoption of advanced energy storage, emobility, and green hydrogen technologies.

Barthwal also said that the government has taken a series of steps to promote domestic manufacturing of electric vehicles (EVs) and strengthened the ecosystem around that, such as boosting charging infrastructure.

Speaking at the event, Australian Commissioner to India Philip Green OAM said they have huge mineral and energy resources that can support 'make in India'

RBI appoints Arnab Kumar Chowdhury as new ED

PNS MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Arnab Kumar Chowdhury as executive director with effect from Wednesday.

Chowdhury will look after three departments, including DICGC.

Prior to being promoted as executive director, Chowdhury was serving as Chief General Manager-in-Charge in the Department of

Supervision. As executive director, he will look after Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), foreign exchange department, and international department, the RBI said in a statement. Chowdhury is a chartered accountant and holds a master's degree in economics. He is also a certified associate of IIBF.

He has experience of over three decades in the Reserve Bank of India.

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal held a pre-Budget meeting with various stakeholders on Monday, an official statement said.

During the meeting, Sonowal highlighted the government's commitment to fostering a collaborative environment, encouraging stakeholders to share their suggestions and ideas for nation building. The Ministry of

Shipping, and Waterways is committed to developing sus-

The market capitalisation of

BSE-listed firms hit a lifetime

high of Rs 4,43,05,344.36 crore

on Monday, driven by a

rebound in equities, where

the benchmark Sensex ended

jumped 443.46 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at a new clos-

ing peak of 79,476.19. During the day, it climbed 528.27

points or 0.66 per cent to

of BSE-listed firms hit a new

record high of Rs

4,43,05,344.36 crore (US\$ 5.31

trillion) amid an optimistic

tained its upward momen-

tum, with a reduction in the

US PCE inflation raising hopes

"The domestic market sus-

trend in equities.

The market capitalisation

The 30-share BSE Sensex

at a new all-time peak.

79,561.

Sonowal holds pre-Budget meeting with stakeholders



tainable, world-class maritime and inland waterways infrastructure to enhance EXIM trade and support economic growth," he added. According to Sonowal, the government's focus is on building a robust ports economic growth and environmental sustainability.

'With projects like the Vadhavan Mega Trans shipment Port and the Cruise India Mission, MoPSW is poised to make India a global maritime hub," he added. More than 150 stakeholders from major ports, shipping sector, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping) and representatives from FICCI, CII, National Union of Seafarers of India, Assocham, Shipyard Association of India, Maersk, DP World IM Baxi TCI Seaways MSC, etc, took part in the meeting, the statement added.



ATF price hiked 1.2%, commercial LPG cut by Rs 30

1.58 per cent and the midcap index climbed 1.11 per cent. Both the smallcap and midcap indices hit their lifetime highs. Among the indices, IT soared 1.84 per cent, teck

jumped 1.46 per cent, commodities (1.21 per cent), telecommunication 1.03 per cent, industrials (0.95 per cent) and metal (0.73 per cent). Utilities, power and realty were

the laggards.
A total of 2,656 stocks advanced while 1,346 declined and 144 remained unchanged on the BSE.

among the laggards.

In the broader market, the

BSE smallcap gauge jumped

Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,822.83 points or 2.36 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 509.5 points or 2.16

Jet fuel or ATF price on Monday was hiked by 1.2 per cent while that of commercial LPG used by hotels and restaurants cut by Rs

30 per 19-kg cylinder in line with international oil price trends. Aviation tur-Aviation bine fuel (ATF)

price was hiked by Rs 1,179.37 per kilolitre, or 1.2 per cent, to Rs 96,148.38 per kl in the national capital, according to

a price notification of stateowned fuel retailers. The increase followed a steep 6.5 per cent (Rs 6,673.87 per kl)

The ATF rate in Mumbai was increased to Rs 89,908.30 per kl from Rs 88,834.27.

Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of

local taxes. Alongside, oil firms cut the price of commercial LPG by Rs 30 to Rs 1,646 per 19-kg cylinder.

This is the fourth straight monthly reduction in rates. The price was last cut by Rs 69 per cylinder on June 1. Prior to that, rates were on May 1 reduced by Rs 19 per cylinder,

and by Rs 30.5 on April 1.

Rs 7,581 cr worth notes still with public

RS 2000 NOTES

97.87% RETURNED

PNS MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday said 97.87 ination banknotes have returned to the banking system, and only Rs 7,581 crore worth of the withdrawn notes are still with the public. On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced the withdrawal of Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation. The total value of Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation, which was Rs 3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, has declined to Rs 7,581 crore at the close of business on June 28, 2024.

Thus, 97.87 per cent of the Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned," the central bank said in a statement.

Tariff hikes to raise ARPU by 15%, help expand operating profits for telcos

PNS MUMBAI

Tariff hikes by the top three telcos will help increase the average revenue per user by 15 per cent, and expand the operating profit by over 20 per cent agency said on Monday.

The 20 per cent hikes by the telcos after a two and half year hiatus can expand telcos' profit before interest lease depreciation and tax (PBILDT) by 20-22 per cent in FY25, Care Ratings said in a report.

It termed the same as a 'structural positive" for the telecom sector struggling on the Return on Capital Employed (ROCE) front because of the huge investments in 5G rollout, including

spectrum purchases, it said. An analysis by the rating agency revealed that the hikes will improve the telcos' blended average revenue per user

(ARPU) by about 15 per cent to Rs 220 in FY25 from around Rs 191 in FY24.

Every Re 1 increase in ARPU will add about Rs 1,000 crore to the industry's PBILDT. it added. The 15 per cent quently on profits will aid the telcos to deleverage the capital, technology upgrades and in network expansion, it said.

Its associate director Prasanna Krishnan said the sector's debt levels will moderate in FY25, and are expected to decline going forward with the expected moderation in capex intensity coupled with muted participation in recently concluded June 2024 spectrum auction.

leverage ratio (debt/PBILDT) of the telcos is to improve from 4.35x in FY24 to 3.8x in FY25 with the expansion in PBILDT and some moderation in debt level," he added

Sensex, Nifty close at fresh record highs on gains in IT, banking shares

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex rose by 443 points to close at a new record high while Nifty settled above the 24,100 mark on Monday on buying in banking and IT shares in line with gains in Asian and European mar-

The 30-share BSE Sensex rebounded by 443.46 points or 0.56 per cent to close at an alltime high of 79,476.19. During the day, the barometer soared 528.27 points or 0.66 per cent to 79,561. As many as 20 Sensex shares closed higher while 10 stocks declined. The broader Nifty rose by 131.35 points or 0.55 per cent to close at a fresh lifetime high of 24,141.95. Intra-day, the index hit a high of 24,164, just 10 points short of its lifetime high of 24,174 hit on Friday.

Sensex and Nifty had hit intra-day record high levels on Friday but closed lower due to profit-taking in blue-chips.

Among Sensex shares, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Consultancy

Services, JSW Steel, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Tata Motors and ICICI Bank were the biggest gainers.

NTPC, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank and Axis Bank were among the laggards.

The domestic market sustained its upward momentum, with a reduction in US PCE inflation raising hopes for a rate cut by the US Fed in



September. This optimism contributed to the strong performance of IT stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

India's manufacturing sector output increased at a sharp pace in June as new business continued to flow in amid favourable demand conditions and resulted in record upturn

in employment, an HSBC PMI survey showed. "The consistent buying interest on dips suggests bullish control, likely continuing the current tone. The renewed strength in midcap and smallcap segments adds further positivity," said Ajit Mishra ' SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap and midcap indices raced to record high levels. Smallcap gauge jumped 1.58 per cent and the midcap

index climbed 1.11 per cent. Among the indices, IT soared 1.84 per cent, teck jumped 1.46 per cent, commodities (1.21 per cent), telecommunication 1.03 per cent, industrials (0.95 per cent) and metal (0.73 per cent). Utilities, power and realty were

the laggards. A total of 2,656 stocks advanced while 1,346 declined and 144 remained unchanged

on the BSE. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled higher. European markets were trading with gains. US markets ended lower on Friday.

Patanjali Foods to sell home, personal care biz to group firm Patanjali Foods for Rs 1,100 cr assumed liabilities of PAL care, home care, and hair care.

PNS NEW DELHI

Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved has decided to sell its home and personal care business to listed group firm Patanjali Foods Ltd for Rs 1,100 crore. The acquisition will help edible oil firm Patanjali Foods to become an FMCG company.
In a regulator filing, Patanjali

Foods informed that the board has approved the "acquisition of the entire non-food business undertaking i.e. hair care, skin care, dental care and home care



limited to all movable assets,

carried out by Patanjali immovable properties, con-Ayurved, including but not tracts, licenses, books and records, employees and certain

through a slump sale arrangement on a going concern basis". This is subject to the approval

of shareholders, lenders and other necessary approvals. The deal will accelerate the company's transition into a leading FMCG company, Patanjali Foods said. The home and personal care business of Patanjali Ayurved currently has strong brand equity in India's FMCG space and enjoys a loyal consumer base, the filing said.

Presently, it caters to four key segments - dental care, skin

Patanjali Foods and Patanjali Ayurved have also agreed to enter into a licensing agreement, permitting the company to use the trademarks and associated intellectual property rights, owned by the latter.
"The transfer of the home

and personal care business has been mutually negotiated between the company and Patanjali Ayurved (basis valuation exercises conducted by independent valuers) for a lump sum consideration of Rs 1,100 crore only".

Vijayawada | Tuesday July 2, 2024



Devgn, has peaked fans' excitement since its trailer was released. The film follows the romance of Ajay and Tabu's characters, who had to part ways due to their own actions. In a new interview, Neeraj Pandey said why he did not de-age the actors to play them in their younger incarnations, as it would appear 'crazy.' He also stated that there would always be 'two different sets of performers to portray two age groups.' In the interview, Neeraj also stated, "We only did that when it was necessary for the story. Unfortunately, de-aging has become overdone to the point of technological misuse. In this scenario, Aiav and Tabu's characters cannot be aged 21. That would be ridiculous!

Shantanu Maheshwari and Saiee M Manjrekar play younger versions of Ajay and Tabu, respectively. Neeraj also stated that the decision to select younger actors was made from the start. "We were very clear from the start that there would be two different sets of performers to portray two age groups because it matches the plot, which I believe is the beauty of it. After the age of 24, people undergo changes. Our physical appearance changes. Pandey also answered some of the most anticipated questions

about his film." When asked why he chose the title Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha for a love story, he replied, "You have to see the film to understand that, releasing on July 5th.'

Another user inquired about the film's thrilling elements, saying, "Your movies have always been engaging and edge-of-the-seat thrillers. Can we expect the same from Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha? I am planning to watch it on the first day." Pandey enthusiastically responded with a big "ves." When guestioned about what inspired him to make a love story, Pandey shared, "A lot of people have come to me saying they don't find MS Dhoni as a sports movie but a romantic film, and that is surprising. But a story is a story." Describing Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha in three words, he chose, "Life. Love. Eternal."

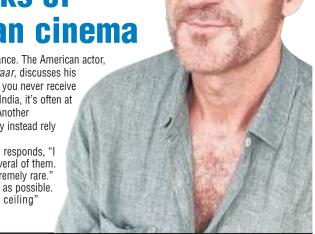
This Reddit AMA session was a delightful experience for all Neeraj Pandey fans as they eagerly waited for the film. Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha is a musical romantic drama spanning 23 years, set between 2000 and 2023. The original soundtrack for the film has been composed by Oscar-winning music director M.M. Keeravani. The film also features a stellar ensemble cast, including Jimmy Shergill, Saiee Manjrekar, and Shantanu Maheshwari.

what's brewing?

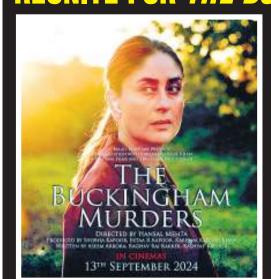
Mark Bennington speaks of being typecast in Indian cinema

Mark Bennington's path in Indian showbiz is a riveting story of perseverance. The American actor, who recently appeared in *Maharaj* and *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*, discusses his experiences. "There are several obstacles in India. For example, in the West, you never receive a script at the last minute; you have time to develop your character. Here in India, it's often at the last minute, so I'm learning lines on the plane or on my way to the set. Another distinction is that actors in the West seldom negotiate their fees directly; they instead rely on representatives to do it. I only recently got an agent," he explains. When asked about being typecast because of his white ethnicity, Bennington responds, "I

usually am offered characters from the British Raj and have turned down several of them. Roles like the one I got on Saas Bahu Aur Flamingo (the web show) are extremely rare." He says that his goal is to make the roles he takes on as real and interesting as possible. "Bennington also acknowledges that he may never be able to "break the ceiling" here, as international performers do in the West."



KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN AND EKTAA R KAPOOR REUNITE FOR THE BUCKINGHAM MURDERS

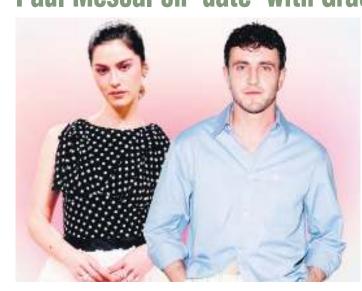


fter Veere Di Wedding and Crew, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Ektaa R Kapoor are joining hands again for Hansal Mehta's upcoming The Buckingham Murders. While the duo already won the hearts with such comedy dramas, With this they are coming with a murder mystery and it indeed looks interesting. The film will also introduce Kareena Kapoor Khan as a co-producer. The film will be released in cinemas on

The film has indeed created a stir with the release of its intriguing poster, offering a glimpse into its intense, thrilling world and leaving the audience keeping an eye on the secrets of the murder mystery to unfold. The film started making noise long before its release, screening at the BFI London Film Festival 2023 and being the first film to open at the Jio MAMI Film Festival 2023. The film is going to be an intense thriller film, anticipating agendas and relations that unravels the thrilles about a hidden Murder that

Taking to their social media, the makers shared an intriguing poster, announcing the release date of the film. They jotted down the caption - "We're thrilled to announce that #TheBuckinghamMurders is coming to theatres on September 13, 2024." Starring an excellent ensemble cast Kareena Kapoor Khan, Ash Tandon, Ranveer Brar, and Keith Allen, The Buckingham Murders is directed by Hansal Mehta, written by Aseem Arrora, Kashyap Kapoor, and Raghav Raj Kakker. Produced by Balaji Telefilms and TBM Films alongside Shobha Kapoor, Ektaa R Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor Khan.

Paul Mescal on 'date' with Gracie Abrams in London



t seems like romance is on the cards for Paul Mescal and Gracie Abrams.

The Irish actor and the us hitmaker were photographed at BRAT Restaurant in London, according to a TMZ exclusive from June 30. The latest photos of the couple show them sitting at a small table inside a crowded restaurant. They were likely on a dinner date. TMZ stated that they had ordered a couple tiny sharing platters. The latest photographs appear to signal a prospective pair alert. One of the photos on set shows the All of Us Strangers actor and the American composer who recently launched her second album, The Secret of Us, engaged in a compelling conversation. Meanwhile, another photo shows Mescal leaning across the table to affectionately stroke Abrams' cheek.

The pair's London date comes just days after the 24-yearold singer's new album, which features a great collaboration with Taylor Swift—us. Her passionate relationship with Swift has grown significantly since she became the standout opening act for the Lover singer's pioneering Eras Tour in November 2022.

Emma Roberts shares how Space Cadet inspired her in real life

Emma Roberts, known for comedies like *We're the Millers* and *Wild Child*, is all set to tickle audiences' funny bones with an inspiring tale of achieving one's dreams in her upcoming Amazon Original Movie, Space Cadet. Written and directed by Liz W. Garcia, this classic coming-of-age comedy, with a touch of romance, will remind audiences to chase their greatest dreams, for the sky is truly the limit. The story centres on one of the most unlikely astronaut candidates: Tiffany Rex Simpson (played by Emma Roberts), a Florida-based bartender with a penchant for partying. Rex's life takes an unexpected turn after she finds herself inexplicably admitted into

NASA's highly competitive Astronaut Candidate (AsCan) training program. As Rex, Roberts embodies a relatable underdog, a dreamer who dares to take a chance

"I am obsessed with space," Emma Roberts shared with enthusiasm. She elaborated, "When I read the script, it instantly reminded me of some of my favourite movies stories about young women finding their place in the world, even when it seems impossible. I absolutely fell in love with Rex. She's fun, she's smart, and she's not afraid to be

honest. I couldn't wait to bring her to life." While Rex might not have the customary qualifications on paper, she possesses a unique kind of ingenuity. After all, she's always been known for her unconventional thinking.

Space Cadet also celebrates the inroads that women have been making and will continue to make into science and engineering, with Rex and other female characters pursuing technology-based careers. Notably, for Roberts, the film inspired possibilities she hadn't seriously considered before. "Working with Liz on this film, I thought, Maybe I could direct something

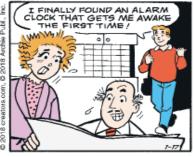
one day," she added. "I had always wanted to, but I never really thought I could until this movie. I think the Space Cadet is saying, it's never too late to revisit your dreams. I know it sounds cheesy, but I really do believe

Besides Emma Roberts (who also serves as an executive producer), the film also stars Tom Hopper, Poppy Liu, and Gabrielle Union in pivotal roles. Space Cadet promises viewers a heartwarming and hilarious ride, premiering exclusively on Prime Video on July 4, 2024, in English with dubs

ARCHIE









CALVIN AND HOBBES





YOUR SIDE WALLOWS IN DECAY





GARFIELD







REALITY CHECK



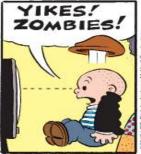
SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY









SUDOKU



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18 A list of restaurant meals 19 People who work in

- 10 Very old 14 A person from Sweden 11 A crown-wearing woman 15 The largest continent 12 A female relation
- 17 Adult males 13 Workers sit at these in offices 16 Hot coals left after a fire



3 A feeling that makes

4 Check the length of

8 Large extinct animals

5 A female sheep

you want to scratch

IS IT TRUE TIGER KELLY HAS A PET

GINGER MEGGS







DIFFICULTY RATING: ** ** \$25000

DOWN 1 An emergency vehicle

classrooms

Normal



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> Tuesday July 2, 2024

ROAD TO GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Natania creating waves globally with her collabs along Selena Comez & Naomi

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Making a niche in the music industry for herself, Natania Lalwani has captivated audience yet again with her tracks Gulzar and Thank You God. In an exclusive chat with The Pioneer, she discusses anything and everything around her music and inspirations.

oining *Desi Trill* and receiving guidance from Jay Z's Roc Nation, Natania has carved out a successful career for herself by contributing to high-caliber productions like 4 More Shots Please, Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken, Joy Ride, Wedding Season, Industry Promo and Only Murders in the Building, which starred Selena Gomez.

A special interview with Natania Lalwani, currently one of the most in-demand and endearing singers. Her singing style, voice and genuine demeanour captivates the audience at numerous musical venues. Her latest track Gulzar is currently trending and meanwhile, her composed Thank You God had went viral.

She starts off with gusto, saying, "When I was growing up, my mom used to listen to music a lot. I've always liked music, thanks to artists like Bob Dylan, Cat Stevens, Whitney Houston, Simon & Garfunkel and others. I believe that my passion for Bollywood Shiamak dancing, together with other factors, ultimately shaped my style."

Her most recent body of work includes songwriting credits on Do It Like That for The Fall Guy, starring Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt and her debut worldwide single Gulzar, a brand anthem for Naomi Osaka. "I think I had a level of delusion (which I still have, haha), and I didn't really overthink it. I just knew I wanted to go pursue music," the singer-songwriter adds in additional information. "Convincing my parents that sending me across the world was what I really wanted to accomplish was the difficult part at the time. In the end, I took advantage of

every musical opportunity available at the time, including joining a choir to prove to them how serious I was!

She presently juggles numerous balls, so anyone looking for an answer to issues about abundance of talent should turn to her. The pop singer has been relentlessly pushing her boundaries by accepting new tasks, all while utilising her skills in the entertainment industry. "I constantly create based on feeling and emotion in both realms, trying not to overthink things. I enjoy writing pop music and adding Indian portions to help convey the narrative and heighten the emotion," a

Sindhi native adds. Mumbai Magic, a new song by Desi Trill, takes the city by storm and wraps itself around millions of stories. The song is a joyous celebration of bustle, tradition and hope. The three musicians on the label, Shalmali Kholgade, Subhi and Natania Lalwani, envision a Mumbai in which timehonoured customs coexist with the energy of a contemporary city. The song pays tribute to how the city can inspire and energise people, serving as both a home and a muse. from the colonial gateway of India to the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, Conversely, we hear Natania, who was a member of The Stop Gaps Choral Ensemble, regarded as one of India's most esteemed choirs, go on to say, "I wrote the Gulzar song in response to a conversation I had with someone in which I chose to be extremely vulnerable and express my feelings. He had asked for my patience as he talked about his feelings, so that evening I went into the studio and stated, 'He said I have to be patient!' Gulzar was then born. She wants to remind people to go boldly and show their hearts by showing them who

they really are. That produces only lovely things and life is too short to do anything else. Gulzar originated from a deeply intimate event and was a highly personal song. Furthermore, every song that she is releasing as an artist is inspired by a true event or circumstance. Sharing her music with the public and using it as a

vehicle for self-

expression feels

practice, providing immediate and effective relief for a wide range of health

issues. What inspired me to focus

specifically on pure essential oils was

witnessing their profound impact on both physical and emotional well-

being. Essential oils are incredibly ver-

satile; a single drop can uplift a person's

mood, ease stress, and promote healing at a cellular level. Their ability to work

on multiple levels-physical, emotion-

al, and energetic—aligns perfectly with

my holistic wellness approach. In pran-

ic healing, we understand that

true health encompasses

really freeing.

She participated in the Boston Summer Program at the Berklee School of Music in 2010. After that, she relocated to Los Angeles and enrolled at Hollywood, California's Musician's Institute. "There is no set recipe for collaborations; they all happen so differently. I'm lucky to have a fantastic support system around me that helps me get into situations that result in amazing partnerships like these. It constantly serves as a reminder that teamwork is essential to success in all endeavours and I genuinely like assisting other artists in sharing their tales."

Buzz was generated when Natania's single Mess Me Up was released on Lowly Palace and Chill Nation. After that, she dropped the single Yellow Lights, which became the first cover of the official Spotify playlist No Borders and was included on other Spotify and Saavn playlists. More than 1.5 million streams have been received. It made its debut on Rolling Stone and was played on Radio One throughout India. Natania has collaborated with Not Famous on Kissing Mouths, Deep Chills on Feelings and Muscle Memory since their

releases. Additionally, from this, we also learned that, "Normally, I just compose music without considering a particular brand or brief. I'm much more creative when it comes to the lyrical content of those studio sessions. so I always try to think outside the box and attempt something new. It's similar to letting go and seeing what emerges when you step into the creative

Thankfully, thus far, brands have appeared to relate to those records of mine.

Her music is entirely focused on her personal experiences, but when she creates for other musicians, she almost acts as a best friend or therapist, helping them go deeply into their tales. It's really a privilege for her to be able to do that! She genuinely thinks that India is about to have its moment. "It's time to go worldwide because India has incredible talent! There seems to have been a change in the way that people want to hear new sounds and this is the ideal moment and place for Indian music to gain popularity," Four More Shots fame shared.

"I remember when I didn't have a team at all and I was sending hundreds of emails a day to try and collaborate with artists and I was so disappointed that no one was responding to me," she says, describing a particularly difficult period in her career. "It taught me to try the window if the door won't open and to accept rejections with a grain of salt! As an artist, I believe that persistence is a crucial attribute, as is having a strong enough self-belief to keep continuing."

In this interview, the *Thug Ranjha* fame looks ahead and declares, "I want to do anything and everything! As an artist, my main objective is to express my narrative from the bottom of my heart through music and establish a connection with listeners. I also want to discover methods to work with India to create music that contributes to global cultural moments. Oh and I'd like to receive a Grammy. Working with Naomi Osaka was undoubtedly an eye-opening experience! Beats absolutely adored the record we previously owned and this song was incredibly inspiring. Shuffle the deck, I'm the queen of the pack is the opening line and it truly reflects an icon like Naomi, so I'm glad it suited and we got to work together to create a time for her to shine."

To be honest, "Only Murders in the Building with Selena Gomez was a really fun project to work on. They liked a song I already had and they thought it was a perfect fit for the scene when Selena Gomez was in an art gallery. I was thrilled that it worked so perfectly there! I was particularly excited about working on Four More Shots because Mikey Mccleary had asked me to co-write the theme song, something I had been yearning to do for a long time. After that, I worked with him to compose the music for the entire production and we had to immerse ourselves in the characters' lives and minds. After seeing the episodes, we would modify the songs to reflect the experiences of the characters. It was a lot of joy for me to select a few of the vocalists to perform the songs.

EMBODYING THE ESSENCE OF PRANIC HEALING

PNS HYDERABAD

nspired by the soul's journey toward self-realisation, Niki Hingad, the founder of Thetapegaasi, embraced both art and pranic healing. This intertwining of creativity and healing is a harmonious pursuit of spiritual growth and understanding of oneself.

An internationally acclaimed artist and a pranic healer recognised by the Art Society of India, her work has been showcased in prestigious exhibitions at venues such as Jehangir Art Gallery, as well as in London and Frisco, and has been featured in prominent New York art magazines. Her artistic approach delves into metaphysical themes, particularly the concept of "Shunya," or zero, exploring the depths of existence.

Sharing more in detail on the concept of Shunya or zero influence on her artistic creations, she shares, "I was fortunate to explore the concept of Shunya, delving into its essence of nothingness. I discovered that it forms the foundation of everything, encompassing various levels of truth. For instance, Jainism asserts that shunyata never existed, while Hinduism offers a different perspective. In science, multiplying anything by zero results in zero, and dividing by zero leads to infinity. This profound realm captivated my

exploration." Several pivotal experiences have shaped her dedication to pranic healing essential over the past 15 years. The intrinsic drive to know herself led Niki to integrate healing with her art. She enthuses, "Understanding and exploring the inner journey is crucial and Pranic Healing has facilitated this for me since I embarked on this path 15 years ago. Witnessing the limitations of conventional medicine in addressing chronic conditions and emotional distress motivated me to seek alternative healing methods. Pranic healing provided a holistic approach that addressed not just the symptoms but also the underlying energetic imbalances, offering profound and lasting relief."

Over the years, working with diverse patients facing critical health issues,

ment to pranic healing. The transformative results that she observed, including significant improvements in health and well-being, reinforced her belief in the effectiveness of this practice. Each success story further fueled her passion and dedication, driving her to deepen her knowledge and refine her techniques.

The COVID-19 pandemic was another pivotal moment that underscored the importance of holistic healing. The widespread impact of the virus on both physical and mental health highlighted the need for effective, natural remedies. Her work during this time, particularly with patients suffering from post-COVID symptoms like anxiety and insomnia, reaffirmed the critical role of pranic healing in providing comprehensive



such as cancer, dengue and severe was inspired to create a brand that could been a significant part of my healing depression, further solidified her commit-provide natural and effective remedies to practice, providing immediate and address these issues.

She thus aims to harness the essential oils to promote natural healing and wellness. Each product is meticulously crafted with care, enhanced with the energy of crystals to amplify its impact, and sourced globally with ethical precision to

ensure the highest quality.

The connection between art and healing practices is straightforward: she can infuse more creativity and thoughtfulness into the process, producing the most impactful outcomes.

And so further, she shares, "Essential oils have always

not just the physical body an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, internationally acclaimed artist Niki Hingad. discusses embracing art and pranic healing with the goodness of essential oils.

but also the mind and spirit." Additionally, her commitment to social responsibility led her to establish an art foundation, introducing art education to children nationwide in collaboration with the JJ School of Arts. She also serves as a director at the Council for Fair

Art and healing intersect profoundly, contributing to social responsibility and community well-being. Art serves as a powerful medium for expression, addressing social issues and fostering empathy through creative exploration. "Art therapy enhances emotional healing by providing a non-verbal outlet for individuals to process experiences and connect with others. Together, art and healing create spaces for connection and dialogue, nurturing inclusive communities and promoting mental well-being while advocating for social change."

Business Practices.

Also, as a director at the Council for Fair Business Practices, she aims to promote fair business practices within society. As the director of this institute, she strives to incorporate the voice of holistic practices and wellness into our community.

Managing hormonal imbalances with Keto

ormonal imbalances can significantly affect one's health and well-being, leading to issues such as weight gain, fatigue, mood swings, and reproductive challenges. The ketogenic diet, commonly known as keto, has gained attention for its potential benefits in managing these imbalances. Below we are discussing how keto can play a role in hormone health and how his specially designed Ketorets Method can help.

• Understanding the ketogenic diet The ketogenic diet is a high-fat, low-carbohydrate

eating plan that shifts the body's metabolism from relying on glucose for energy to utilising ketones, which are produced from fat. This metabolic state, known as ketosis, can influence several hormonal pathways in the body

• Insulin and glucagon balance

conversations.

One of the most significant effects of the keto diet is its impact on insulin levels. Insulin is a hormone that regulates blood sugar levels, and its overproduction can lead to insulin resistance, a common precursor to type 2 diabetes and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). By drastically

reducing carbohydrate intake, keto helps lower insulin levels, improving insulin sensitivity and aiding in the management of conditions like PCOS. which is often characterised by insulin resistance and hormonal imbalances.

• Impact on ghrelin and leptin

Ghrelin and leptin are hormones that regulate hunger and satiety. A ketogenic diet can help stabilise these hormones, reducing hunger and aiding in weight management. This is particularly beneficial for individuals struggling with hormonal weight gain, as it promotes a more balanced appetite and can support long-term weight loss efforts.

• Estrogen and progesterone

For women, the balance of estrogen and progesterone is crucial for reproductive health and overall well-being. Keto's ability to influence insulin and reduce inflammation can have a positive effect on these hormones. Lowering insulin levels helps manage

symptoms like weight gain, bloating, and mood swings. Additionally, the anti-inflammatory properties of a ketogenic diet can support hormonal balance and reduce symptoms associated with menstrual cycles

• The ketorets method

Rahul Kamra has designed the Ketorets Method, a structured approach that has helped many individuals improve their hormonal health. This method integrates Intermittent Fat Fasting, Circadian Rhythm Hacking, and Caloric Deficit to create a comprehensive plan that addresses hormonal imbalances. The Ketorets Method emphasizes the importance of nutrient-dense foods and personalised adjustments to maintain hormonal

Considerations and personalisation

While keto can offer significant benefits for managing hormonal imbalances. Kamra emphasises the importance of personalisation and caution. Each individual's hormonal



landscape is unique, and what works for one person may not work for another Women, in particular, should pay close attention to their bodies and consult with healthcare providers to ensure their nutritional needs are met.

For those with specific conditions like thyroid disorders, It is advised that a well-formulated ketogenic diet that includes a variety of nutrient-dense foods is

essential. Ensuring adequate intake of vitamins, minerals, and fiber is crucial to avoid potential deficiencies and support overall health. The ketogenic diet holds promise as a tool for

managing hormonal imbalances, thanks to its effects on insulin, appetite-regulating hormones, and inflammation.

However, it's not a one-size-fits-all solution. Personalised approaches, guided by professional advice, can help individuals harness the benefits of keto while maintaining hormonal health and overall

(The author, Rahul Kamra is the Founder of Ketorets.)

SIX INDIANS IN ICC TEAM OF TOURNAMENT











he International Cricket Council has picked six Indians in its 'Team of the Tournament' for the justconcluded T20 World Cup but there was no place for star batter Virat Kohli, who played a match-winning knock in the final against South Africa.

In his new role as an opener, Kohli had an underwhelming World Cup before rising to the occasion in the big final where he was adjudged man-of-the-

match for his 59-ball 76. India pipped South Africa by seven runs in a sensational comeback in the death overs to win their second T20 World Cup title after 17 years.

The ICC XI featured Indian skipper Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel and two pacers in Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh.
Rohit led from the front with

257 runs at a splendid strikerate of 156.7 to his name. He was the second most leading

run-getter after Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz. The Player of the Tournament

and India's trump card in their title win, Bumrah returned with 15 wickets. But more than his wickets, his

impact in restricting the scoring rate of teams made India's Bumrah most important player right through the tournament.

His economy rate of 4.17 was the best ever by any bowler in a single edition of the men's T20

Following their historic semifinal finish, Afghanistan found three players in the ICC team, including left-arm quick Fazalhaq Farooqi, who topped the wicket-takers chart jointly with Arshdeep (17 wickets each).

Wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who topped the runs scorers' list with 281 runs as an opener for Afghanistan, also found a place alongside skipper Rashid

crafty leg-spinner

brilliantly led Afghanistan in their historic run and returned with 14 wickets with a tidy economy of 6.17. Marcus Stoinis of Australia

and Nicholas Pooran of the tournament co-hosts West Indies completed the XI. Runners-up South Africa did not find a player in the XI and pacer Anrich Nortje was

named the 12th man. Nortje began the tournament with a brilliant 4/7 against Sri Lanka and took at least one wicket in all but one match.

In the final, he was the pick of South Africa's bowlers with figures of 2/26 from his four

ICC TEAM OF TOURNAMENT: Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh (all Indians); Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Rashid Khan, Fazalhaq Farooqi (Afghanistan); Marcus Stoinis (Australia) and Nicholas Pooran (West Indies); 12th be decided by selectors: Shah nine ODI matches that India will play before the Champions BCCI Secretary Jay Shah on Monday asserted that "seniors will be there" in next Trophy scheduled in February-

Seniors will be there in CT

and WTC; next T20 captain to

March in Pakistan. India's ODI assignments before that include three games year's Champions Trophy and the World Test Championship each against Sri Lanka (away), New Zealand (home) and final if India qualifies for it, while a decision on whether Hardik Pandya succeeds Rohit England (home).

On Hardik Pandya's all-round performance in the World Cup and chances of him taking over captaincy from Rohit in the T20 format, Shah said: 'Captaincy will be decided by the selectors and we will announce it after discussing with them.

'You asked about Hardik, there were lot of questions over his form but we and selectors showed faith in him and he proved himself."

Pandya served as Rohit's deputy in the format.

India broke the shackles of a tormenting 11-year run during which the side failed to win a single ICC title.

After losing two ICC finals over the last 12 months, the trophy drought finally ended here and Shah hoped the winning run will continue.

"I would want India to win all the titles. We have the biggest bench strength, only three players from this team are going to Zimbabwe. We can field three teams if the need



All three white ticked off; one red to go, tick it: Dravid to Kohli

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN

Staying true to his no-nonsense taskmaster image, outgoing India head coach Rahul Dravid had an assignment for star batter Virat Kohli even on his last day at work and within hours of India winning the T20 World Cup. "All three white ticked off, one red to go. Tick it," Dravid told Kohli in a video of the Indian

By three white he meant the limited-overs global trophies -the T20 World Cup, the ODI World Cup and the Champions Trophy -- all of which Kohli has collected as a player. What's left now is winning the World Test Championship Final.

India have lost the WTC Final twice (against New Zealand in 2021 and Australia in 2023). The 35-year-old Kohli, who

retired from Internationals after the World Cup triumph here on Saturday, merely smiled at Dravid as he repeated himself to assert his point, albeit with a warm smile on his face. "Go tick it."

The 51-year-old Dravid, who was appointed India coach in 2021, ended his tenure with this event.

India defeated South Africa by seven runs in the humdinger to claim their second overall T20 world crown, having won the of about 70 members.

title in its inaugural edition in South Africa back in 2007 under Mahendra Singh Dhoni. In the ODI format, India won the 1983 and 2011 World Cups before snaring the 2013 Champions Trophy.

The congratulatory video also featured Suryakumar Yadav, whose blinder of a catch to dismiss David Miller proved crucial in the final here.

The Mumbaikar said it would dressing room celebrations take him at least two days to shared by the ICC on its fully grasp the enormity of the

> "No feelings right now, I don't know what to say," he said. Pacer Arshdeep Singh flaunted a couple of polaroid shots of his, one taken on the morning of the final and the other with the winner's medal around his neck and the trophy in his

hands in the afternoon. "This is what belief can do," he said.

The Indian team is currently stranded here as Barbados has been shut down due to hurricane Beryl, originating in the Atlantic. The category 4 hurricane has intensified with maximum sustained winds of 210 kmph.

The Indian team was supposed to take an Emirates flight from New York via Dubai. A source told PTI that the plan now is to take the team back to India on a charter flight.

Indian contingent, including support staff, families, and officials, consists

India to tour Australia for multi-format Women A series in August

PTI ■ SYDNEY

India and Australia will lock horns in a multi-format women's A series in Queensland next month, in what is seen as a preparation for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Bangladesh in less than four months' time. The tour will comprise of

three T20Is in Brisbane, three ODIs in Mackay and a four-day match at Gold Coast. Cricket Australia on Monday confirmed the schedule and named three Australia A squads for the series.

Australia vice-captain Tahlia McGrath will lead the 20-over and 50-over sides, while

Former India wicketkeeperbatter Dinesh Karthik, who

announced his retirement from

on Monday was appointed as batting coach and mentor by

Royal Challengers Bengaluru.
"Welcome our keeper in every

sense, Dinesh Karthik back

into RCB in an all new avatar.

DK will be the batting coach and mentor of RCB Men's

team," RCB posted on 'X',

You can take the man out of

cricket but not cricket out of

the man! Shower him with all

the love, 12th Man Army," the

Terming this an exciting

opportunity, Karthik stated: "Coaching at a professional

level is incredibly exciting for

me and is something I'm truly

passionate about as a new chapter in my life. Hopefully,

the breadth of my experiences

as a player can contribute to the

development of the group and

"I believe that cricket success

hinges not only on technical

proficiency but also on match

bring added value.

formerly twitter.

post added.

forms of cricket last month

PTI BENGALURU

Charli Knott will be in charge of the four-day game.

"I'm really looking forward to being a part of this series and for the challenge that India A will pose," McGrath said in cricket.Com.Au.

"It presents those of us not playing in The Hundred with the chance to prepare for a huge summer against a strong opposition," she added. Fellow Australia quicks Megan Schutt, Kim Garth and

Tayla Vlaeminck will also feature in the white-ball matches, which will be their first hit-out since April's tour of Bangladesh as they begin preparations for the T20 World Cup scheduled in

batting coach, mentor

intelligence and composure. I

am eager to coach and mentor our batting group, helping them to not only refine their

method but also to develop the

keen match awareness needed

"It's also great that I can

continue my association with RCB as the franchise continues

to move from strength to

strength," he stated in a release

The cricketer, who is also into

commentary, had a spectacular

last season for RCB where he

played the role of a finisher and

scored 326 runs at an average of

to excel under pressure.

issued by RCB.

appoint Karthik as

First T20I: August 7: Second T20: August 9; Third T20: August 11 (at Allan Border Field).

First one-dayer: August 14; Second one-dayer: August 16; Third one-dayer: August 18 (at Great Barrier Reef Arena, Mackay).

Four-day match: August 22-25, Gold Coast District Cricket Club.

AUSTRALIA A SQUADS
T20 squad: Maddy Darke,
Sophie Day, Nicole Faltum
(wk), Tess Flintoff, Kim Garth, Charli Knott (vc), Katie Mack, Tahlia McGrath (c), Grace Parsons, Megan Schutt,

36.22 with a massive strike-rate

He was given an emotional

farewell after RCB lost the

Eliminator to Rajasthan Royals.

batter played 257 matches in

IPL representing five franchises

Mumbai Indians, Delhi Daredevils, Kings XI Punjab and RCB. He had amassed

4,842 runs at an average of 26.32. Playing for India, Karthik scored 1,752 runs and

struck nine half-centuries in 94

In 26 Tests, Karthik has 1,025

runs to his name, which

includes a century against Bangladesh. In 60 T20Is, he has

scored 686 runs at an average of

26.38 with a 142-plus strike-

Speaking about Karthik's

appointment, RCB Director of

be just as impactful as a coach.

"His longevity and track record

as a player speaks volumes about his skill and dedication. I

know he will bring that same

quality and commitment to

this new professional chapter,"

Cricket Mo Bobat said he will

ODI matches.

Kolkata Knight Riders,

Overall, the wicketkeeper-

of 187.36.

Courtney Sippel, Tayla Vlaeminck, Tahlia Wilson. One-day squad: Maitlan Brown (2nd and 3rd matches only), Maddy Darke, Sophie Day, Nicole Faltum (wk), Tess Flintoff, Kim Garth, Charli Knott (vc), Katie Mack, Tahlia Knott (vc), Katie Mack, Tahlia McGrath (c), Grace Parsons, Megan Schutt (1st match only), Courtney Sippel, Tayla Vlaeminck, Tahlia Wilson.

Four-day squad: Maitlan Brown, Maddy Darke (wk), Sophie Day, Emma de Broughe, Nicole Faltum (vc), Tess Flintoff Charli Knott (c) Tess Flintoff, Charli Knott (c), Katie Mack, Lilly Mills, Grace Parsons, Kate Peterson, Courtney Sippel, Georgia

Stay in moment, keep flexible mindset: Bindra's advice to Paris-bound Indian athletes

there," he added.

Sharma as the next T20 captain

will be taken solely by the

Talking to select media here, Shah lauded the contribution

of senior players in the side's T20 World Cup triumph at the end of which skipper Rohit,

senior batting star Virat Kohli and all-rounder Ravindra

Jadeja announced their retirement from the shortest

happened with three greats

retiring," Shah said when asked about his thoughts on the team's next phase following the

retirement of the seasoned trio.

"The way this team is

progressing, our target is to win the World Test Championship final and Champions Trophy. There will be a similar squad playing there. The seniors will be

This means that fitness

permitting, senior players are likely to be available for the

international

has already

selectors.

format's

assignments.

Transition

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

s India's first individual As India's first individual Olympic gold-medallist, Abhinav Bindra knows a thing or two about handling bigstage pressure and he simple piece of advice for those aiming for the podium in the upcoming Paris Games -- stay in the moment and have a flexible mind.

Bindra, who won the yellow metal in men's 10m air rifle event in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, wants Indian athletes to enjoy their time at the world's greatest sporting extravaganza.

'I want to wish all the athletes the very best of luck. They've done us all proud already by giving it their all and doing consistently well over so many competitions. And now it's their moment to shine on the world stage," Bindra said during a meet and greet programme organised by the Athletics Federation of India

(AFI) here on Monday.
"The Olympics is the greatest platform to sport in the world, and the whole world is waiting to welcome them. The whole country is waiting for our



athletes to do their best and make us all proud.

'I would just want them to give their best to stay in the moment, to remain flexible in mindset and just back the work that they had put in. You know, true confidence comes from the effort that has been put in over a consistent period of time, which I'm sure they have," the 41-year-old added. Two-time Asian Games goldmedallist and Asian champion shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor, who is bound for Paris, said star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's gold-medal winning feat in Tokyo has inspired

other track-and-field athletes. "Our athletes are performing well and they will win medals in the Olympics. Since Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal in the Tokyo Olympics, other athletes also want to win medals for their country," he said.

Asian Games silver medallist javelin thrower Kishore Kumar Jena, who will also be participating in the Paris Olympics along side Chopra, hopes India will clinch its bestever medal haul in athletics in Paris. "We take pride in representing

our country. It is a matter of happiness that many have qualified for the Olympics from India, and we hope to win the highest number of medals," he said.

"The journey has not been easy, it has involved a lot of hard work, staying away from home, and practising day and night.

Jena said he is satisfied with his preparation for the Paris Games. "Preparations are going well,

and we are determined to perform at our best and give 100 per cent.

trailing by 27 runs. Meanwhile, the tourists went past

316 to register their highest score in

Test cricket, going past the 315 they made against England at Shenley in

Although South Africans closed in on a lead they struggled to get the partnerships going.
The next stand was worth 14 runs

between De Klerk and Tumi

Sekhukhune before the latter was

Jafta returned to bat, but she could

add just nine more runs and

departed for 15 and they went to tea

The hosts eventually conceded the

lead in the final session. This was

the third instance of India giving

away the lead after enforcing a

follow-on and the fifth overall.

India overcome resilient South Africa to win one-off Test by 10 wickets

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Tndia were made to wait a tad longer for the winning moment by centurion Laura Wolvaardt, but they eventually went past the line convincingly by 10 wickets on the fourth and final day of the one-off Test women's Test against South Africa here on Monday.

India were required to chase a modest 37 after bowling out South Africa for 373 in their second innings and the hosts accomplished the task in 9.2 overs without losing a wicket. India had declared their first innings closed at 603 for six.

The opening duo of Shubha Satheesh (13 not out) and Shafali Verma (24 not out) steered their side home comfortably.

This is India's second 10-wicket triumph in Tests after a scoring a similar win over the Proteas at Paarl in 2002.

After getting bundled out 266 in their first innings, South Africa fought well through hundred-makers Wolvaardt (122, 314b, 16x4) and Sune Luus (109, 203b, 18x4) in the second innings.

However, SA could only delay the inevitable.

Resuming at the overnight 232 for two, and trailing India by 105 runs, Wolvaardt and Marizanne Kapp appeared to be in good touch.
The former brought up her maiden

woman batter to score a Test, ODI and T20I ton in the same year. However, Kapp was soon trapped leg-before by Deepti Sharma for 31, while Sneh Rana ousted Delmi

slipped to 266 for four. With still work to be done for the South Africans to take the lead, Wolvaardt tried to anchor the innings but was dismissed for 122 when Rajeshwari Gayakwad trapped her in front to reduce the

But the Proteas marched on and went past the 300-run mark, their highest team total in Tests against the Indians. The previous best was the 266 that made in their opening

South Africa needed less than 50 runs to take the lead at this stage. Nadine de Klerk and Sinalo Jafta



visitors 281 for five.

innings here.

and SA were 302 for five then.



stuck together until the lunch break However, in the post-lunch session, the visitors sent Anne Dercksen to Jafta retired hurt due to cramps, as join De Klerk.

But Dercksen departed for five,

The partnership between De Klerk and Masabata Klaas produced 23 runs before the latter fell to Shafali, who cleaned her up.
De Klerk, who was dropped on fifty

run out for six.

at 336 for eight.

by Renuka Singh and Vastrakar during a mix-up, brought up her

half-century soon but Rajeshwari Gayakwad knocked her out for 61. falling to Pooja Vastrakar with SA

Vijayawada | Tuesday July 2, 2024

tollywood

'WE STYLED JR NTR'S OSCAR OUTFIT SPIRED BY HIS ICONIC ROAR IN RRR'

Tollywood's style icon Ashwin Mawle, who has been the stylist for the stars of Telugu cinema, speaks over an exclusive telephonic interaction with *The Pioneer* sharing his journey transitioning from international model, being recognised by Allu Arjun and styling stars representing Telugu cinema on global platform.



one are the days when we didn't need the advice of a stylist for our big days. Today, celebrities have their own personal stylists, making them glam bam every time on stage. Well, today we have with us one such stylist, Ashwin Mewale, onboard for our Tollywood segment. You

name a celeb and he has worked with them. Ever since being noticed by *Pushpa* star Allu Arjun, he has very well won the title of being Tollywood's BFF stylist. Most recently, he has become the very first stylist from the South to style celebrities for their global awards, including styling Allu Arjun for the National Award and the Berlin Film Festival. But would you believe, if we say, that becoming a

stylist happened pretty accidentally in his journey? Initially, at the age of 16, he got an international modelling offer from Switzerland. The Hyderabadibased stylist, via a telephonic call with *The Pioneer*, recalls, "It was a tough decision to make if I had to pursue my studies or to take up this coincidental offer that took me to Switzerland. I was anyways weak at studies; my parents and I had to push me to study, which I failed miserable at. It was a very young decision to make for something that had come to me very coincidentally. I never thought that I could be a model because I was all freckled, pimpled and longhaired, like that teen who was growing into adolescence. But if something was coming my way, I could see that I'd never been abroad by then, and so I thought, if nothing, I'd get a free trip abroad." "I had nothing in my mind; I didn't know what a stylist was," he humorously shares. "I did not know the spelling or anything like a stylist that exists. (we

laugh). Like I told you, I was ambitionless. I took up

my modelling career by fluke! The only thing in my head was that I'd get to see foreigners (he laughs out loud). I did not see the struggles or anything related to modelling too until I was trained. My agency just told me that you are photogenic and that you can do really well. That was like a learning experience there, but I had no idea what I wanted to do. In my life, many things have been coincidental and very impromptu." Having never been to a fashion school, becoming a stylist too came up very extemporely. During his break time in his modelling work, he made sure to visit Hyderabad, or even twice a year. It was during this time that he and actor Allu Arjun became good friends, and it was him who spotted his hidden talent and asked him to style the actor for Arya 2. "He told me that I was not supposed to do anything much but just shop for him. He liked the way I used to dress and called me the 'best dressed guy in the city'. I love the way you spare things up and style yourself. I want something like that for me in this movie," he gleefully recalls. He, along with the star, travelled to Dubai for his shopping and it was he who also helped Ashwin out about how to pair certain things for a scene. During this, a buzz happened that Allu Arjun had hired a stylist, and the concept of a stylist was pretty new for South Indian cinema back then. He further recalls, "The buzz also claimed that the stylist was from abroad, though I was from Hyderabad. The curiosity of media and people was x100. When the pre-release stills from the film came out, everybody was like, this (Arya 2) has become the most-stylist film of South

After that, he was poured in with a lot of offers. One of which was styling Kajal Aggarwal with 70 costumes in *Darling*. By the time he could realise, months had passed in Hyderabad and he had taken up many

India back then."

offers and signed a lot of films. He suddenly became the stylist of South Cinema. He realised this was his calling and passion, which were hidden. "Kajal has been a sweetheart and she has been my first best friend in the industry." shares the stylist. who has also styled Jr NTR for the Golden Globe Award and styled megastar Chiranjeevi for the Padmavibhushan Award, as we discuss him styling the Darling star for the film. "Though I was a beginner and I didn't know what costume designing for a film was like, she's always been there and taught me. She was the first actress I styled. Styling a male actor was very easy because it was like I was styling myself. However, on the other hand, styling an actress involves a lot of things. Kajal was so helpful and understanding and sometimes she'd simply let my mistakes just go away."

The industry, he says, has taught him a lot throughout his career. While there was his initial calling by Allu Arjun, Jr NTR has always been a big supporter in the industry to teach him a lot of things. Then there's director Sukumar, who, to him, was like his school teacher. It was the support he has received from the stars that, he says, has made his journey flow so smoothly. "Jr NTR and I go back almost eight years or even more. I have been styling him in all his films, appearances, projects and advertisements. When it came to the Oscars, it was a surreal moment for all of us. The only thing I knew, even before he told me, was that I had to make something special for him. We had to make sure to create something that made the world turn around and look at him. We sat down and I presented a few of them and he zeroed in like two or three and we locked in Gaurav Gupta to design. We came up with the concept of the most iconic scene in RRR, where Jr NTR roars like a tiger. We took that as

inspiration and incorporated it into his black velvet sherwani. This was done in no time by Gaurav Gupta. All thanks to him and his team for creating it in 2 days. And that's how his outfit was the most talked about on the red carpet at the Oscars."

Styling for 100% Love with Naga Chaitanya and Tamannaah was one of his most challenging projects, with the transitions that Tamannaah's character brings into the film. He further credits both actors for making it easier for him to work. Then the next challenging one was Temper, since the film demanded a new look for Jr. NTR. He also adds that Nannaku Prematho was more challenging than Temper because it had Jr. NTR in a look never seen before. "I took up that challenge to make this look because it was an entire game-changer look for NTR. The pre-planning was certainly challenging, but the outcome was worth it. He gave me the freedom to try out different looks." You go by his portfolio, and just like we mentioned, he has worked with many celebrities. Well, the cutie couple Varun Tej and Lavanya Tripathi, one could just not stop to adore their wedding pictures. And guess what? The couple was styled by none other than Ashwin! "When they called me and my partner, they were like. There's something we wanted to share with you. We, of course, knew what was coming. It took us a couple of months to go to the locations, and we came up with colour palettes and the theme. I gave them a presentation and they just loved it. They just left it to us. It was just not both of them, but we had styled the entire guest list, right from Allu Arjun to the brothers and cousins of the couple. We did almost 90 wedding looks for all of them in just one month." Well, for him, it would be a dream come true to work with Deepika Padukone, Privanka Chopra and Varun





omma Barusu Productions has released a teaser for The Birthday Boy, directed by debut NRI team The Birthday Boy, directed by debut NRI team Whisky and partner. Tollywood director Mehar Ramesh unveiled the teaser, appreciating the filmmakers' creative approach. The film will be released on July 19. The teaser features a classic TV broadcast and a joyful

birthday party that takes a dark turn when the police arrive. The movie follows five friends as they navigate life in the United States, combining humour, drama and

real-world situations. The makers have employed the sync sound (live

recording) technique to ensure authenticity and a realistic mood. Whisky and his producing partner have invested all their savings into this high-quality, technically superior film. To enhance the film's visual appeal, a Hollywood technician from Turkey has also been brought on board for a unique type of colour grading. *The Birthday Boy* promises to be a captivating blend of humour, drama and real-life experiences, brought to life by a passionate team of newcomers.

Sudheer Babu to star in a pan-India supernatural mystery thriller

Sudheer Babu, the celebrated Telugu star also known as Nawa Dhalapati, will be leading an upcoming supernatural thriller film. This pan-Indian film is set to break new ground with its unparalleled visual effects and a

storyline that promises to be larger than life. Directed by debutant Venkat Kalyan, this film will offer an extraordinary cinematic experience. Sudheer Babu, fresh off the success of his latest theatrical release, *Harom Hara*, which premiered on June 14, 2024, has been widely praised for its intense action

sequences and engaging narrative. This ambitious film will be presented by Prerna Arora. The makers are on the verge of announcing a major heroine from Bollywood who will join this stellar cast. The film will be released around Shivratri in March 2025. This project is set to be the biggest pan-India release, marking a significant milestone in Indian cinema. It will depict an epic battle between good and evil energies, adding depth and intrigue to the story! Sudheer adds, "I've been travelling this path for a year now, delving into this

script and genre and I can't wait to share this journey with our audience. Prerna Arora, our dedicated team and I are pouring our hearts into delivering a world-class cinematic experience. We're excited to bring a story that truly resonates and we hope it leaves a lasting impact on everyone who

Demi-Leigh Tebow in Calendar Song captivates all

Sriram's Kodi **Burra** launched

with a grand

Sannidhanam temple.

pooja ceremony

Hero Sriram, who has impressed the Telugu audience with films like Okariki Okaru, Rojapulu, Snehithulu and Raagala 24 Gantallo, has officially launched his new movie Kodi Burra on Monday at the Hyderabad Film Nagar Daiva

This film is produced by Kancharla Satyanarayana Reddy,

Gattu Vijay Goud, Chinni Chandu, Vattam Raghavendra and Samudrala Mahesh Goud under the V4 Creations banner.

Aarushi play the heroines. Mahaveer also plays an important

role. MLA MalReddy Rangareddy, who was a guest at the *Kodi Burra* movie launching ceremony, turned on the camera.

Producer Bekkem Venugopal applauded, while director Bharat Kamma handed over the script afterwards.

Director Chandrasekhar Kanuri stated, "We are excited to

begin filming Kodi Burra. Sriram, the hero, will be portrayed

differently in this film. So far, he has appeared in films about love and romance. Sriram will appear as a police officer in this film! Shruti Menon, the heroine, is playing a doctor."

According to hero Sriram, the *Kodi Burra* movie will have a crime thriller narrative. "When you hear the title of our film, you will have a better sense of what it is about. I

fourth film. The *Kodi Burra* movie is being made with an interesting narration to appeal to everyone. Shruti Menon

has made films in both Tamil and Malayalam. Now, with

am delighted to be working on this film with V4

Creations. This is our director Chandrasekhar's

this film, she is being introduced to

Telugu. I'm happy to be a part of an

interesting film.

Chandrasekhar Kanuri serves as the director. Shruti Menon and

Shine Screens' much-anticipated 8th film, directed by Koushik Pegallapati of Chaavu Kaburu Challaga fame, was officially launched on Monday with a grand pooja ceremony at Annapurna Studios. Set in a distinctive world with a captivating premise, this horrormystery film has already created a buzz with its intriguing first look. The film stars the action hulk Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas and the evercharming Anupama Parmeswaran in lead roles, promising a gripping narrative that will keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Adding to the buzz around the project, both stars are slated to portray parts they have never played before in their lives. Regular filming is

#BSS11

officially

launched

scheduled to begin on July 11 and will proceed at full speed. With a talented cast and crew and an innovative storyline, this film is sure to capture the attention of cinemagoers and leave a significant impact on



the anticipation for *Bharateeyudu 2 (Indian 2)*, the highly anticipated vigilante-thriller starring the Universal Star Kamal Haasan, is reaching a fever pitch. The film, directed by the S Shankar, sees Haasan reprise his iconic role as Senapathy,

the aged freedom fighter. The excitement surrounding the film reached a new peak with the release of the catchy new single, *Calendar Song*. The song, a vibrant blend of energy and style, is sure to appeal to the masses, featuring a special appearance by Miss Universe 2017, Demi-Leigh Tebow. The visuals, reminiscent of Shankar's visual style, promise a treat for the senses.

Calendar Song, composed by the musical maestro Anirudh Ravichander, is a mesmerising track featuring enchanting vocals by Sravana Bharagavi. The lyrics, penned by Chandra Bose, add anoth-

er layer of depth to the song.

Produced by Subhaskaran's Red Giant Movies and Lyca Productions, Bharateeyudu 2 promises a grand cinematic spectacle, blending high-octane action with a powerful message of social justice.

APSARA RANI TO FRIGHTEN IN RACHARIKAM scenes that will hook the

A psara Rani, Vijay Shankar and Varun Sandesh starrer's upcoming film *Racharikam* is a firstof-its-kind blood-curdling thriller. This movie is being produced by Eswar under the banner of Chill Bros. Entertainments. This movie is directed by Suresh Lankalapalli, who also provided the story and screenplay. The post-production work for this movie, which has already completed its shooting, is in full swing. The makers are making the movie without compromising anywhere and are set to give a never-before experience to the viewers. Recently, a special poster from the movie featuring heroine Apsara Rani was released, and there was a huge response from the audience. The poster showed Apsara Rani in an aggressive avatar like Kaali Maa, with blood all over the body. As the poster suggests, the movie will have great significance for Apsara Rani. This movie is being made with a thrilling concept, different content and

average viewer. The postproduction activities of this film are going on at a fast pace in Saradhi Studios. Expectations have been created among the audience about this movie, which is in the final stages. Hyper Aadi, Rangasthalam Mahesh, Vijay Ramaraju, Srikanth Iyengar, Mahboob Basha, Rupesh Marrapu, Prachi Thaker, Latha, Ishwar and others are playing important roles in this film. Varun Sandesh's role in the film will please the mass audience. While Vengi provided the music for this movie, Arya Sai Krishna worked as the cameraman. Ram Prasad provided the dialogue. Chanakya is the executive producer and JP is the

The release date of this movie will be announced