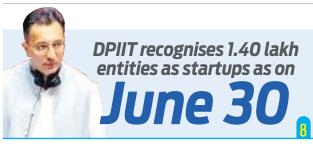
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Sai Durga Tej donates Rs 5 lakh to film

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

- Harish Rao, BRS MLA TG

Date palm cultivation suitable..

State Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Industry Development and Fisheries Minister K Atchannaidu has said that date palm cultivation will be encouraged in the State. The date palm farmers from Rayalaseema met the Minister and told their problems at his chamber in the secretariat on Friday. Responding positively, Minister Atchannaidu directed to take appropriate measures to promote date palm cultivation. In Rayalaseema districts, 700 acres of date palm crops is already being cultivated, besides reducing

MSP legal guarantee issue ...

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

Married traders have edge over ...

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

-PAGE: 8

World champions India look to ...

India's newly-forged coach-captain combination of Gautam Gambhir and Suryakumar Yadav will look to make instant impact against a Sri Lankan team in disarray when the familiar South Asian rivals face off in a limited-overs series starting with three T20Is, here on Saturday. Two-time World Cup winner Gambhir is now at the helm of the shin as India's head coach while the T201 reigns have been handed over to one of the best batters in the format. Survakumar. Gambhir. who has built his coaching reputation in the .

-SPORTS

CM NAIDU RELEASES WHITE PAPER ON FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES DURING YSRCP GOVT

'Jagan landed AP in crisis'

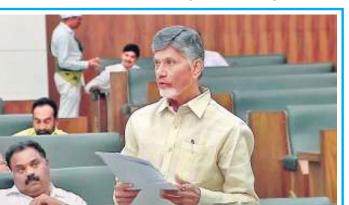
Says debt burden soared to Rs 9.74 L cr in past 5 years

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has accused the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government of exacerbating Andhra Pradesh's financial crisis. On the fifth day of the Legislative Assembly session on Friday, Naidu released a white paper detailing financial irregularities under the YSRCP regime, revealing that the state's debt has surged to Rs 9.74 lakh crore over the last five years.

Naidu criticised the former administration for decreasing state income while significantly increasing debt. He alleged that funds intended for various programmes were diverted and public property was mortgaged to secure loans. "If we collectively understand what transpired between 2019 and 2024, it will clarify our future course of action, Naidu said.

The Chief Minister expressed grave concern over the prolonged delay in completing the Polavaram project and the mismanagement of funds. He suggested that the state is on the brink of bankruptcy, citing the extensive mortgaging of public property and heavy borrowing by the previous government.

- CM claims the previous administration diverted funds and mortgaged public property.
- The delay in the Polavaram project and wasteful spending have put the State near bankruptcy, CM says.
- Telangana's progress in various sectors is partly attributed to urban development, including Hyderabad. Naidu reflects on past TDP
- achievements and investments as evidence of AP's potential. Amaravati's development could
- have made it a world-class city if continued, according to Naidu.
- Naidu to relaunch Anna Canteens



- Naidu calls for creative administration and innovative ideas to advance the state despite financial constraints.
- He aligns with national development goals and advocates for a focus on eliminating poverty and economic imbalances.

Naidu holds talks with NDB team on tieups

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu held a meeting with New Development Bank today in Amaravati. We explored

In a tweet, the CM shared, "Had a productive discussion with NDB Director-General DJ Pandian

potential collaborations in sever-

al crucial areas, including financial support for the CRDA's capital construction, essential infrastructure projects, rural road connectivity, and joint ventures in ports and

PM MODI ON KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS



Pak has not learnt lesson from history

PNS DRASS

Pakistan has not learnt any lessons from history and continues to wage a proxy war in the garb of terrorism to stay relevant, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, asserting that the evil designs of the enemy will not be allowed to succeed. On the occasion of the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas, the prime minister paid homage to the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

He also attended a 'shraddhanjali samaroh' and heard the 'Gaurav Gatha', briefing on Kargil War by non-commissioned officers and visited Amar Sansmaran, and Hut of Remembrance here.

Oppn slams PM for 'petty politics'

PNS NEW DELHI

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

Modi said the Agnipath recruitment scheme was an example of necessary reforms undertaken by the Army and accused the opposition of playing politics over

CM assures all help to flood-hit ryots

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu announced that the government will provide all possible sup-port to the people and farmers affected by the recent heavy rains and floods in the state. Addressing the members of the house on Friday, the CM reported that East & West Godavari, Konaseema, Kakinada, Eluru districts, along with ASR district, were significantly impacted by the floods. Approximately 4,317 acres of crops were damaged and 1.06 lakh acres of paddy saplings were submerged.

Minister Atchennaidu and Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha to visit the flood-affected areas and meet the victims. He also instructed the respective district ministers to collect and submit detailed reports on the damage in their regions.

The CM directed Agriculture

○ 1.06 lakh acres of paddy crop submerged ORs 3,000 each to families losing shelter



In addition to paddy, 3,160 acres of maize and 960 acres of cotton were also damaged. These preliminary damage estimates are expected to

increase as officials conduct field visits. In East Godavari district, 273 acres of crops remain submerged.

Srisailam Project sees surge in inflows

Water level rises above 861 feet reaching 109 TMCs at present

PNS VIJAYAWADA houses stands at 45 236 cusecs

The Srisailam Project is experiencing a substantial inflow of floodwater, with current inflows reaching 2,58,069 cusecs. This includes 2,29,929 cusecs from the Jurala spillway, 20,854 cusecs from the powerhouse, and 7,286 cusecs from Sunkesula. The average inflow has been recorded at 2,11,208 cusecs. The outflow,

through the Right and Left power-

The Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of the Srisailam Project is 885 feet, with a storage capacity of 215.80 TMCs. Currently, the project level is at 861.01 feet, with 109 TMCs of water stored. In response to the rising water levels, the Irrigation department has opened three gates of the Sunkesula Reservoir,

AP, R'Seema

releasing 500 cusecs of water into the KC canal and another which is utilised for power generation 500 cusecs into the Srisailam reservoir.



PNS ■ GUNTUR

The Meteorological Centre has forecast strong surface winds with speeds of 30-40 km/h at isolated locations across North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Rayalaseema in the coming five days.

The daily weather update also indicates that light to moderate rain is expected at a few places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Rayalaseema over the next seven days. Currently, the southwest monsoon is weak over Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Ravalaseema.

recorded at a few places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, at one or two places in Rayalaseema, while dry weather prevailed elsewhere.

Sincere party workers will be rewarded: Lokesh

PNS VIJAYAWADA

On the final day of the 16th AP Legislative Assembly sessions on Friday, Minister Nara Lokesh met with many people seeking nominations for various posts. These aspirants presented their bio-data to Lokesh, who assured them that he would recognise the contributions of those who have diligently served the party and ensure fair treatment for all.

In a subsequent conversation with the media in the assembly lobby,



Lokesh highlighted his commitment to transparency and accountability. He reiterated his earlier promise, stating that the 'Red Book' — which he has mentioned in approximately 90 public meetings — will be used to document and address wrongdoing. He emphasised that all wrongdoers listed in the Red Book would be dealt with according to the law.

Lokesh also addressed recent controversies, noting that before the Red Book's unveiling, YS Jagan had made headlines in Delhi. He pointed out

that the Red Book has garnered significant attention in national media. Lokesh observed that while YSRCP won 11 seats over the last five years, Jagan has held five media conferences in the past month alone. He assured that if Jagan attends the assembly, he will be treated with respect, and the issues will be addressed constructively. Minister Lokesh reaffirmed that alliance leaders will maintain decorum and will not resort to disparaging remarks or disrespect Jagan's family members.



In the last 24 hours, rainfall was

Student dies in school wall collapse

PNS ■ NELLORE

In a tragic incident at KNR High School in BV Nagar here on Friday, a 9th Class student died when a parapet wall collapsed on him.

According to police, students were gathered in one area when a portion of the parapet wall gave way, falling on Mahendra (14), a 9th Class student. Despite being rushed to a government hospital, Mahendra succumbed to his injuries.

In response to the tragedy, the government has announced a Rs 5 lakh ex gratia payment to the grieving family, as confirmed by District Collector O. Anand.

IT and Human Resources Development Minister Nara the incident.

Govt announces Rs 5 L ex gratia



Municipal Administration incident. The local MLA is Minister P. Narayana expressed expected to present the Rs 5 lakh his condolences and directed ex gratia cheque to the family Lokesh has ordered an inquiry into the District Education Officer to on Saturday, according to investigate and report on the officials.

From AP to Paris: Jyothika's race to Olympics

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Jyothika Sri Dandi, an athlete from AP, has earned a place in the Indian Women's 4x400m Relay Team for the Paris Olympics 2024. She is a firstyear BA student at the Easwari School of Liberal Arts, SRM University-AP,

Hailing from Tanuku in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, Jyothika's iourney to the elite sports championship is a testament to her hard work, determina-tion, and resilience. The twotime national champion had her breakthrough in 2021, securing gold in the 400meter race at the Indian U23 Championships. She continued her winning streak in

Championships Thiruvananthapuram and earning a bronze medal in the women's 4x400m relay at the Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok.

Jyothika's exceptional performance at the 2024 World Relays Championships in Nassau, Bahamas, secured the Indian women's relay team's ticket to the Paris Olympics. Her blistering pace and consistency have established her as a formidable athlete on the

global stage.
Vice Chancellor of SRM
University- AP, Prof. Manoj K Arora, expressed his pride, saying, "Jyothika is a national treasure who inspires every young girl with dreams of 2023, claiming victory at the becoming an Olympian."

Hailing from Tanuku in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, Jyothika's journey to the elite sports championship is a testament to her hard work, determination, and resilience. The two-time national champion had her breakthrough in 2021, securing gold in the 400meter race at the Indian U23 Championships



Bhatti's braggadocio budget borrows BRS playbook

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

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

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

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

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

Thanneeru Harish Rao of the BRS. Except for a few changes in allocations to various departments, the budget does not chart any new path. Even more pernicious is that the Congress government followed the same philosophy as the previous BRS government in designing and marketing the budget, with the same singular aim of deceiving the state's people. Let us go into

Of the nine budgets the

previous BRS government presented, except for two years, the "actual" spending never reached the projected numbers. The deviations were so consistent and high that even the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) took the government to task in its reports. As for last year, the latest estimates show that the actual expenditure was less by more than 20%, that is, by Rs 59,000 crore than the one projected in the budget. Since it is safe to assume



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

The above numbers show that the Congress government's latest budget matches last year's BRS budget numbers. The same budget also indicates that the state's share of central taxes will only increase by just over Rs 3000 crore from the previous year's estimate. That means grants from the Center, borrowings (loans) and the State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) should account for the remaining Rs 57,000 crore. One trick the previous government used, year after year, was heavily inflating projections for cen-tral grants beyond rational expectations and then blaming the Center for not matching their inflated numbers. For example, last year, the BRS government projected grants of Rs 41,259.17 crore, while the revised estimates put the number as less than one-fourth of their projections at Rs 9,729.91 crore.

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

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

through increased taxes. hike. The state's tax revenues come mainly from real estate, life tax on vehicles, fuels petrol and diesel, and the sale of alcohol. The state already ranks at the top in taxing fuels, making the cost of petrol and diesel the highest

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

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

> (The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

Jagan refutes TDP's claims on govt's debts

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former Chief Minister and YSRCP President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy criticized Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and the TDP coalition government for not presenting a full budget for 12 months even after 52 days in power. YS Jagan accused Chandrababu of lacking the courage to present a regular budget, instead opting for a Vote on Account. He argued that presenting a regular budget would require allocating funds for the promises made before the elections, which he claims Chandrababu has no intention

of fulfilling.
Regarding state debts, YS
Jagan said that the TDP spread false propaganda by claiming the state debt was Rs 14 lakh crore before the elections, and then Rs 10 lakh crore after the election results. However, as of Iune this year, the actual government debt stands at Rs 5,18,708

The former CM noted that of the state's bifurcation. Referring to government guarantees, the debt was Rs 50,000 crore when Naidu left office, and it increased to Rs 1,06,000 crore under the YSRCP government.

Jagan stated that the total state liabilities were Rs 1,53,347 crore when Chandrababu Naidu took

The former CM noted that when Naidu left office, the debt was Rs 2,71,798 crore, compared to Rs 1,18,051 crore at the time of the state's bifurcation. Referring to government guarantees, the debt was Rs 50,000 crore when Naidu left office, and it increased to Rs 1,06,000 crore under the YSRCP government.

office, which increased to Rs 4,08,710 crore by the time he left, a 21.63% increase. Under the YSRCP government, the debt increased to Rs 7,48,000

crore, a 12.90% increase. He highlighted that the YSRCP government had directly transferred Rs 2.70 lakh crore to beneficiaries through DBT schemes over the past five years. Jagan added that even though the state received Rs 5,655 crore from the center on June 10, and was Rs 2,71,798 crore, compared crore by June 12, Naidu still avoid fulfilling his promises.

On the issue of law and order, YS Jagan claimed that the state has become unsafe for women, with 12 rape cases reported in the past 45 days. He accused Chief Minister's son and former minister Nara Lokesh of issuing threats through hoardings displayed across the state, questioning the message they intend to convey. Concerning the sand policy,

YS Jagan stated that the previous YSRCP government sold sand at Rs 375 per ton, generating an annual revenue of Rs 765 crores with a clear and transparent sand policy. He criticized Chandrababu's government for promoting free sand that is actually being supplied at higher rates than during YSRCP's tenure.

He further mentioned that Geology Department was Rs 2200 crore in 2018-2019, increasing to Rs 4000 crore by the end of YSRCP's tenure in 2023-24. The revenue of APMDC also rose from Rs 400 crores in 2018-19 to Rs 3200 crores by the end of YSRCP's tenure in 2023-24.

Refuting the TDP's allegations regarding the Polavaram Project, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said the project works were not carried out systematically during the TDP's previous tenure, leading to the destruction of the diaphragm wall due to heavy floods. He noted that the TDP agreed to complete the project at 2013-14 rates, Rs 20,398.61 crores, but due to the YSRCP government's efforts, the Central Water Commission (CWC) approved the revised project crore. He pointed out that the previous YSRCP government completed significant concrete works related to the Upper and Lower Cofferdams, the tunnel works related to the hydel projects, and the spillway, facilitating the smooth flow of 26 lakh

Jagan outstrips Goebbels in lies

PNS VIJAYAWADA

State Minister for Revenue, Registrations, and Stamps, Anagani Satya Prasad, has accused Pulivendula MLA Jagan Mohan Reddy of surpassing Goebbels in spreading falsehoods. In a statement on Friday, the Minister challenged Jagan to reveal details about alleged political mur-ders discussed during the Delhi protest, questioning his courage to do so.

The Minister criticised Jagan for allegedly spreading false propaganda against the coalition government to gain sympathy, driven by fear of the repercussions from Minister Lokesh's Red Book. Anagani Prasad claimed that Jagan's campaign of deceit, including allegations related to Viveka's murder, the Kodi Katti case, and the Gulakarai case, led to his exclusion from opposition status.

Furthermore, the Minister condemned Jagan for labelling former minister Peddireddy Ramchandra Reddy as a criminal who exploited and mistreated innocent people.



YSRCP chief's charges over attacks baseless: Anitha

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Home and Management, Vangalapudi Anitha, has challenged former chief minister and Pulivendula MLA YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to present full details about the alleged attacks and murders for discussion in the Assembly. She criticised YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for making baseless allegations against the state government, accusing him of attempting to tarnish its image. Anitha suggested that if the YSRCP has any evidence regarding these attacks, they should submit it to the government for further action.

During the Question Hour, Minister Anitha refuted claims that attacks on opposition party leaders and sympathizers were being carried out in a targeted manner. "Our government has been in power for just 50 days. However, the YSRCP alleges that 36 of their party leaders and cadres have been murdered, while ex-CM Jagan reported to Governor SA Nazeer that the figure was 31. The murder in Vinukonda was due to clashes between two groups," she explained. She added that from June 12

to July 23, 42 crimina were registered against YSRCP followers for attacks on TDP leaders and sympathizers, while 38 cases were registered against TDP followers for attacks on opposition party leaders and sympathizers. The government has been taking swift and stringent action against those involved in violence, booking specific cases whenever incidents are



During the Question Hour, Minister Anitha refuted claims that attacks on opposition party leaders and sympathizers were being carried out in a targeted manner. "Our government has been in power for just 50 days. However, the YSRCP alleges that 36 of their party leaders and cadre have been murdered, while ex-CM Jagan reported to Governor SA Nazeer that the figure was 31. The murder in Vinukonda was due to clashes between two groups," she explained.

ment would take strict action against ganja and drug smugglers, announcing the formation of a Special Task Force to prevent such activities. The government is also planning to arrest the kingpins behind ganja and drug smuggling.

Minister for Water Resources Nimmala Ramanaidu commented that the previous YSRCP government reduced the Polavaram

Minister Anitha also Irrigation Project's minimum meters. However, the current state government is committed to maintaining the Full Reservoir Level at 45.72 meters

Additionally, Minister for Social Welfare Dola Sree Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy stated that the government would continue the Volunteer System in the state, with an enhancement of their honorarium under consideration.

CM assures all help to flood-hit...

Continued from Page 1

TODAY

ALMANAC

Tithi: Saptami:

Nakshatram:

Ashtami

Revati

Ashwini

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Forecast: Cloudy

Sunrise: 5:47 AM

Sunset: 6:41 PM

Temp: 33°° Humidity: 71%

Month & Paksham

The government is committed to supporting the people during such natural calamities, drawing on past experiences of assisting during the Hudhud and Titli cyclones.

Krishna Paksha

Jul 26 11:30 PM

Jul 27 09:19 PM

Jul 26 02:30 PM

Jul 27 12:59 PM

to Jul 28 11:47 AM

9:10 AM to 10:46 AM

1:58 PM to 3:35 PM

5:57 AM to 7:33 AM

07:59 AM to 09:30 AM

10:44 AM to 12:14 PM

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

Updated: July 26, 2024 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

to Jul 27 09:19 PM

to Jul 28 07:27 PM

affected families will receive 25 kg of rice, 1 kg of dal, 1 liter of palm oil, 1 kg of potatoes, and kg of onions. Additionally, the government will provide financial assistance of Rs 3,000 per family to those staying in

Continued from Page 1

Naidu noted that Telangana

is advancing in sectors such as

industry, agriculture, and

infrastructure, partly due to its

urban development, including

the metro city of Hyderabad.

He acknowledged that while

Telangana continues to build

on the foundation laid during

his tenure, Andhra Pradesh

Reflecting on the achieve-

ments of the previous TDP

administration, Naidu high-

lighted major developmental

projects such as irrigation sys-

tems, airports, roads, industri-

al corridors, and ports. He

cited successful investments

from companies like Kia

Motors, Hero, Asian Paints,

Isuzu Motors, and Celkon as

evidence of Andhra Pradesh's

appeal to investors.

Naidu lamented that

needs to start afresh.

The CM announced that rehabilitation centres due to floodwater inundation.

Although the CM had intended to visit the floodaffected districts, he was unable to due to a meeting with NITI Aayog. Chandrababu Naidu emphasized that the govern-

'Jagan landed AP in ...

Amaravati, had its develop-

ment continued, could have

mier cities. He is optimistic

that efforts will be made to

restore Amaravati's former

glory, envisioning it as a new

epicentre of growth. "I am con-

fident that soon the world will

discuss Amaravati, and our

state will achieve top eco-

nomic growth," Naidu assert-

Addressing the Polavaram

project, Naidu mentioned that

Rs 15,364 crore was spent, and

claimed that under TDP lead-

ership, the project would have

been completed by 2021. He

announced plans to relaunch

Anna Canteens at 100 loca-

tions by August 15 and to

introduce free sand supply.

Naidu stressed the need for

effective implementation of

these initiatives and fulfil-

ment of remaining promises as

become one of the world's pre-

ment will assess the damage and determine the necessary support for farmers, including input subsidies and recovery measures. He highlighted that the government's efficiency and generosity are particularly crucial during such times.

part of the Super Six pro-

He urged that the Centre

release necessary funds and

emphasized the importance of

hard work. Naidu highlighted

that despite financial con-

straints, innovative ideas and

experience could drive devel-

opment. He praised Deputy

Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's

commitment to progress and

expressed hope for future

Minister Narendra Modi's

vision of Vikasitha Bharat by

Government's vision 2047 for

the state. He advocated for cre-

ative administration and

wealth creation, citing the

planning of 16-lane roads as an

example. "Our goal should be

zero poverty and eliminating

economic imbalances," Naidu

concluded

Naidu aligned with Prime

and the NDA

gramme.

Srisailam Project...

Continued from Page 1

Earlier projections by the Water Resources Department suggested that the Srisailam Project level might reach 860 feet. However, the level surpassed 861 feet by 6 pm on Friday, and authorities anticipate it may continue to rise as inflows increase.

Meanwhile, the upper projects on the Krishna Basin, Alamatti and Narayanpur, have reached their Full Reservoir Level and are holding maximum water. Consequently, surplus water is being discharged into the Krishna River, leading to a gradual increase in the Srisailam Project's water

Oppn slams PM for 'petty ...

Continued from Page 1

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

"It is very unfortunate and deplorable that Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji is doing petty politics even on occasions like paying tribute to martyrs on Kargil Vijay Diwas. No Prime Minister has ever done this before," Kharge said.

"Modi ji is saying that his government implemented the Agnipath scheme at the behest of the Army. This is a blatant lie and an unforgivable insult to our valiant armed forces. Modi ji, it is you who is spreading lies!" he said in a post on X. Asserting that many retired officers had strongly criticised the scheme, the Congress chief said the Agnipath scheme was endangering national security and the aspirations of the rural youth.

All this is on record, he said and demanded that the scheme be completely scrapped.

Pak has not learnt lesson ...

Continued from Page 1

He also visited the Veer

Bhoomi. The prime minister slammed Pakistan, saying it has always faced defeat in the past.

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

The remarks come in the backdrop of surge in terror incidents in Jammu region.

Modi, however, asserted that the nefarious intentions of terrorists will never be fulfilled.

"Our bravehearts will crush all terror attempts," he added. Paying tributes to the soldiers, Modi said the sacrifices made by

the soldiers are immortal. "Kargil Vijay Diwas reminds us that the sacrifices made for the nation are immortal. Even though months, years, decades

and centuries pass by, the lives laid down to protect the nation's borders cannot be erased. The nation is forever indebted and deeply grateful to the mighty superheroes of our armed forces," Modi added.

Recalling the days of Kargil war Modi said he was fortunate to be amidst the soldiers back then, and that he still remembers how the soldiers carried out a difficult operation at such a height. "I salute the brave sons of the country who made the supreme sacrifice to protect the motherland," he said. In Kargil, we not only won the war, we presented an incredible example of truth, restraint and strength, the PM said. Modi said India was making all efforts to maintain peace with its neighbour, but Pakistan showed its true colours.

"However, falsehood and terror were brought down to their knees by truth," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH PANCHAYATI RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NIT No. 6 to 8/4707/2024-25 Tenging and being in the control of the control

Tenders are being invited for execution of three works in Eluru district under R and R (PIP) grant with Rs. 1895.00 Lakh through e procurement platform www.apeprocurement.gov.in. The availability of tender forms and their submission will be entertained from 26-07-2024 to 09-08-2024 till 3.30 pm.

R.O.No: 13763/CL/ADVT/11/2021-22, Dt. 26.07.2924

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Panchayat Raj Circle, Eluru

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Make coordinated efforts for I-Day event, officials told

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Dr G Srijana, NTR District Collector, has emphasised the need for coordinated arrangements for the 78th Independence Day celebrations to be held at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium on August 15.

Dr Srijana, APSP DIG B Rajakumari, NTR District Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhar Babu, and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner HM Dhyanachandra inspected the ongoing arrangements for the State-level Independence Day celebra-tions at the IGMC stadium on

Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Governor SA Nazeer, State ministers, and top officials will participate in the ceremony. The officials of the concerned departments should ensure timely completion of the arrangements, she instructed.

She urged the officials of Police, Municipal Corporation, Revenue, R&B, Transco, Fire,



Caption: NTR District Collector Srijana, Police Commissioner Rajasekhar Babu, APSP DIG Rajakumari, and VMC Commissioner Dhyanachandra discussing the arrangements to be made for Independence Day celebrations at the IGMC stadium in Vijavawada on Fridav

and related departments to start coordinated preparations for the celebrations. She also asked them to create a WhatsApp group to keep

everyone updated. She emphasised the need to identify any deficiencies from previous celebrations and to avoid repeating them. Dr. Srijana stressed that the responsibilities assigned to the district officials should be carried out properly.

Vijayawada RDO Bh Bhavani Shankar, DCPs Gautam Shali, Udayarani, K Chakraborty, and district officials from various departments participated in the inspection.

Eastern Naval Command pays tribute on Kargil Vijay Diwas

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) conducted a heartfelt wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial on RK Beach, Visakhapatnam. The ceremony, held to honour the bravery and sacrifice of Indian soldiers during the Kargil War, was attended by dignitaries and military per-sonnel who paid their deepest

Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena, Chief of Staff, ENC, led the tributes by placing a floral wreath at the 'Victory at Sea' War Memorial. He was joined



by other esteemed dignitaries, including Shanka Brata Bagchi, Commissioner of Police, Visakhapatnam, Vice Admiral VK Namballa (Retd), president, Navy Foundation, Brigadier JK Barua, Wing Commander P Shyam Kumar, and G Satyananadam, Zilla Sainik Welfare Officer.

The ceremony was marked by the presence of a 50-men guard who paraded at the venue, showcasing the discipline and honour of the Indian Armed Forces. A twominute silence was observed, allowing attendees to reflect

on the ultimate sacrifices made by the brave soldiers, who laid down their lives for

Kargil Vijay Diwas, celebrated every year on July 26, stands as a testament to the gallantry and valour of Indian soldiers. The day commemorates the heroic efforts of the Indian Armed Forces in one of the world's most challenging terrains—the Kargil-Drass sector of Ladakh. Battling extreme weather conditions and the steep slopes of icy peaks, the soldiers fought with determination and grit, successfully driving out intruders and securing the nation's borders.

Rammohan Naidu pays tributes to Kargil war heroes

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu paid heartfelt tributes to the valiant war heroes on the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. The commemorative event, titled Rajit Jayant Varsha, took place near the National War Memorial in Delhi on Friday. Addressing the gathering, Minister Naidu emphasised India's unwaver-



ing pride in the valour and sacrifices of its armed forces. "Today, we honour the indomitable spirit and bravery of our soldiers who defended our nation during the Kargil conflict. Their sacrifices will forever be etched in the annals of our history," he stated.

The event witnessed a solemn and respectful homage to the soldiers who laid down their lives for the defense of the country. Minister Naidu highlighted the significance of remembering their sacrifices and ensuring their legacies remain an integral part of India's collective memory.



Bright future for mechanical, civil engg in automation: SHAR Director

PNS VIJAYAWADA

P. Gopikrishna, Director of the Management Systems Group at SHAR (Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota), highlighted the promising future for students in Mechanical and Civil Engineering with a focus on Automation. Gopikrishna, the chief guest at Vignan University in Guntur, delivered an insightful lecture to faculty and students in these fields.

In his address, Gopikrishna emphasised the importance of advanced technical skills in spacecraft design. He outlined emerging job opportunities in core engineering and space technology, noting that the current global lag in manufacturing presents an opportunity for

India to lead in this sector. He predicted that robotics, product design, development, and medical instrumentation would gain prominence shortly.

Gopikrishna forecasted a broad integration of robots across various fields including automobiles, agriculture, healthcare, and both software and hardware sectors. He also projected that robots could soon replace automobile drivers. He urged students to engage in research and form groups to drive innovative solutions that address global

The event was attended by Vignan University Vice-Chancellor Professor P. Nagabhushan, along with deans, department heads, staff, and students.

Goal is to make AU on par with IITs and NITs: VC

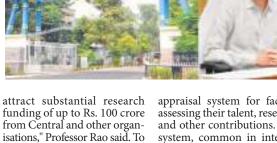
Prof G Sasibhushan Rao says his priority is to depoliticise the campus

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Vice-Chancellor Professor G Sasibhushan Rao has unveiled a blueprint to position Andhra University (AU) as a leading national institution. In an exclusive interview with The Pioneer, he declared, "We aim to elevate AU to the same level as IITs and NITs. Our goal is to create a national brand synonymous with excellence. We have meticulously crafted plans to achieve this. Just as IIT and NIT graduates are highly sought after by employers, we aspire to create a similar reputation for AU graduates."

Professor Rao emphasised the critical need to depoliticise the campus to foster a conducive learning environment. "My first priority is to depoliticise the campus," he asserted. Enhancing the quality of academics stands as a cornerstone of his vision, with a targeted goal to advance AU's National Ranking stitutional Framework (NIRF) position from its current 76 to within

the 30 to 40 range by next year. "A higher NIRF ranking will not only reflect improved education quality, but also



that principals and deans actively engage in teaching, strictly follow academic schedules, and foster a robust research culture within their departments. Professor Rao acknowledged the university's lack of publications in quality journals as a major factor in its declining NIRF ranking. To address this, senior professors and faculty

achieve this, he has mandated

versity and providing opportunities for PhD students. "For the first time, we are introducing a performance

uraged to appl

research projects and funding,

generating income for the uni-

appraisal system for faculty, assessing their talent, research, and other contributions. This system, common in internationally renowned universities, will involve a form provided at the beginning of the academic year and reviewed at its end, helping to gauge the fac-ulty's research projects and other aspects," Prof Rao noted. This initiative aims to enhance teaching and research quality, with a focus on research, publications, faculty development,

teaching. launching five new courses: B.Ed with 500 seats, Hospital Management, Computer Science, BBA, and M.Sc Geo Informatics. "We will

continue to introduce courses

administration, projects, and

based on demand," Prof Rao stated. Emphasising punctuality and discipline, he aims to ensure AU earns a national reputation.

AU will celebrate its centenary on April 26, 2026, with year-long celebrations planned in collaboration with the State government and the AU Alumni Association. These celebrations will include national and international seminars, conferences, and cultural events, with plans to invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the event.

Prof Rao assured transparency in governance and faculty recruitment, addressing irregularities and complaints from the previous administration. He emphasised the importance of quality meals in hostels and introduced a programme to plant 3,000 ecofriendly saplings on campus, supported by the Port and various local authorities.

belt and promote discipline, keeping students away from cannabis and drugs," he stated, reaffirming his commitment to the welfare and development of AU.

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM



BJP leader Karanamreddy Narasinga Rao submitting a memorandum to par State chief Daggubati Purandeswari Purandeswari on Friday

Call for establishment of MSME head office in Autonagar

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Gajuwaka BJP convener Karanamreddy Narasinga Rao has made an appeal to BJP State president Rajamahendravaram MP

Daggubati Purandeswari, advocating for the establishment of a Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) head office at Gajuwaka Autonagar.

During a meeting on Friday, detailed memorandum to Purandeswari, urging her to expedite the creation of the head office and the appointment of a dedicated director to oversee its operations. He

Grama Vignana Vikasa

Kendraalu to assist job seekers

These knowledge centres to provide essential resources and

guidance to those preparing for competitive exams

underscored the importance of this initiative, highlighting that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central government has allocated substantial financial resources for the development of MSMEs nationwide.

Narasinga Rao expressed his deep concern over the neglect by the previous YSRCP government, which resulted in the Autonagar MSME office remaining non-functional for the past two years. He pointed out the critical need for developing MSME clusters and creating employment opportunities for the unemployed youth in the region.

School uniform colour to be changed next year

Minister Lokesh says government mulls reducing school books' weight

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Human Resources Nara Lokesh has stated that the TDP-led NDA government is considering changing the colour of uniforms in government schools from next year. He emphasised that the uniform colour should not resemble his party's colour. Furthermore, he expressed concerns over the weight of school books and stated that the government plans to reduce it.

On the fourth day of the 45th Legislative Council sessions chaired by Chairman Koyye Moshen Raju, TDP MLCs Paruchuri Áshok Babu, BT Naidu, and Dr V Chiranjeevi Rao asked a question about the

implementation of the Vidya Kanuka and Amma Vodi schemes on Friday.

Replying to this question, Minister Nara Lokesh made it clear that the current Vidya Kanuka scheme will be continued in government schools. Also, as per the election promise, Talliki Vandanam will be implemented for students soon after framing the guidelines, he clarified. He expressed concern over the false news spread in some sections of the media.

However, the government is more serious about the implementation of the Vidya Kanuka scheme, he said. "The previous YSRCP government had given the contract to an agency without a call for tenders. There was a big scam regarding ten-ders and many Education Department officials were

involved in it," he added. Further, he said that the government will conduct a probe into the tenders and take appropriate action against the officials involved. In the first phase of Vidya Kanuka, the government spent Rs.1,530 per student in 2020-21. However, the amount was increased to Rs. 2,702 per student in the 2023-24 financial year. When compared to the expenditure in the 2021-22 financial year to 2023-24, the number of students benefited from the scheme was reduced by 7.90 lakh. However, the expenditure increased to Rs.

Honey trap: Visakhapatnam techie loses Rs 22 lakh

Victim got acquainted with the fraudster on Instagram

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

A software employee in Visakhapatnam has become the latest victim of a cyber fraud, highlighting the growing

threat of online scams. The man lost a staggering Rs 22 lakh after falling prey to a honey-trapping scheme on Instagram. The incident serves as a stark reminder of the dangers of accepting friend requests from unknown individuals on social media. The

victim, whose identity has not been revealed, received a friend request from a young woman on Instagram. After accepting the request, they began chatting and eventually exchanged contact numbers.

The woman, who used a fake profile picture likely stolen from another person, gradually built a false sense of friendship with the victim. Over time, she began manipulating him emotionally and requesting

money under various pretexts. Trusting the relationship, the techie ended up fransferring approximately Rs 22 lakh to the scammer. Suspecting fraud,

the victim finally approached the police. Investigation by the cybercrime unit revealed the woman's true identity remained undisclosed, but they were able to trace the source of the scam to Madhapur in Hyderabad.



Inaugurating the Pattana Vignana Vikasa Kendraalu at Church Street, Parvathipuram, on Friday, District Collector A. Shyam Prasad emphasised the administration's dedication to supporting job seekers. "We are committed to providing every possible support to those aspiring for government jobs," he stated. The Collector urged beneficiaries to take ownership of these centres and form committees for efficient management.



He also extended an appeal to sponsors to contribute to

enhancing the facilities. The Vikasa Kendraalu is equipped with a vast collection of books, internet access, job notifications, online application assistance, study materials, magazines, and newspapers. Operational from 8 AM to 8 PM, these centres aim to be one-stop solutions for candidates' preparation needs. Joining the Collector at the inauguration were Municipal Commissioner K. Srinivas, and GSWS District Nodal Officer K. Ramachandra Rao.

Chairperson Bonu Gowreeseari,

This initiative is not confined to rural areas. Similar centres are being established in urban areas to ensure equitable access to resources for all job seekers. By providing a platform for holistic development and skill enhancement, the Grama Vignana Vikasa Kendraalu are set to transform the lives of countless individuals in Parvathipuram Manyam.

A decade after Cyclone Hudhud, victims still await houses Out of 5,352 homes promised to affected families, 672 still stand incomplete

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Nearly a decade has passed since Cyclone Hudhud devastated Visakhapatnam, but the dream of permanent housing for the displaced poor remains unfulfilled. Out of the 5,352 homes promised to the affected families, 672 still stand incomplete, leaving many in a state of uncertainty and despair. As the urgency of this issue

reaches the Assembly floor, the State government has demanded updates, compelling housing authorities to compile detailed reports on the status of these unfinished constructions.

Cyclone Hudhud, which landfall Visakhapatnam on October 12, 2014, left a trail of destruction in its wake. Then Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu pledged to rebuild the lives of those who



lost everything by constructing permanent homes. The government embarked on an ambitious project to build 5,352 flats across 31 sites, introducing Sheer Wall technology for the first time. However, despite the passage of years, only 4,680 flats

have been completed, leaving 672 in various stages of construction.

The delays are particularly acute in areas such as Kommadi, where 608 flats in survey number 83 and 192 flats in Paradesipalem (survey number 21) remain unfinished. In Kommadi, two contractors abandoned the project midway, forcing the task onto a third party. This has resulted in partially finished interiors, with windows and doors missing. While 4,488 flats have been handed over to beneficiaries, 102 of the incomplete flats have also been allotted. This leaves 570 flats unassigned and many families without a permanent roof over their heads.

The distribution of these houses has not been without controversy.

Goods train derails, traffic hit

PNS NELLORE

A goods train derailed near Bitragunta railway station on

Some wagons of a goods train derailed at LC gate 144 near Bitragunta railway station. The alert railway staff



closed the gate.

Following the derailment of goods trains, the train traffic between Vijayawada and Chennai was disrupted. The railway authorities have taken steps to put the wagons on the track and restore the traffic, railway officials



Draw inspiration from warriors, Six-year-old girl raped **MLAs exhort students**

PNS GUNTUR

MLAs Mohammad Naseer Ahmad and Galla Madhavi exhorted the students and NCC cadets to pursue discipline which is key to achieving success. On the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas's silver jubilee, a programme was organized at BR Ambedkar Bhavan here on Friday by the Central Bureau of

Communication (CBC).
Addressing NCC cadets,
MLA Mohammad Naseer Ahmad said historical incidents leave certain lessons for future generations to learn, adding that discipline and preparedness are the keys to success. The MLA exhorted the NCC cadets to draw inspiration from the memorable success of the Kargil war, to make India a great and powerful nation by 2047.

Addressing the college students and NCC cadets, West MLA Galla Madhavi asked them to aim high to take India to the pinnacle of the world by 2047, in terms of development. Ms Madhavi said that the glorious target is achievable if the youth sincerely puts in its efforts. She said soldiers make



many sacrifices to keep the country at peace and development uninterrupted.

NCC Group Commander Col SM Chandrasekhar explained the difficulties faced by the Army in the high altitude warfare during the Kargil war, in 1999. However, he said, India has modernized its armoury and war tactics and grown as an indomitable power. PIB and CBC Additional Director General Rajinder

Chuadhry explained various activities taken up by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to reach the public with correct information. He also motivated the students to take the challenges with confidence and results

with humility. CBC, of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, is organising the 3-day photo exhibition, open to all, to remember the supreme sacrifices made by

the soldiers in protecting the sovereignty of the country.

As part of the programme, NCC cadets from various town colleges led a rally with patriotic slogans, flagged off by CBC Field Officer R Ramesh Chandra and NCC officer Vijay Mohite. CBC has also organized essay writing, elocution, quiz and drawing competitions on the Kargil Vijaya Diwas silver jubilee theme in various colleges

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a deeply disturbing incident, a six-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a 24-year-old man in the Agency area of Kukkunur mandal.

According to the police, the accused, Madakam Venkateswara Rao, lured the girl with promises of buying her eatables on June 25. He then took her on his tractor to a secluded area where he molested her. After the assault, he dropped the girl back in her village.

The girl reported the incident to her parents, who immediately complained to

cases against the accused under the BNS Act Cr. No.130/2024, U/Section 137(2), 65(2) B.N.S., and

Section 6 of the POCSO Act, 2012. The accused has been arrested, and the victim was

admitted to the Government Hospital in Jangareddygudem for treatment.

District Collector K Vetri Selvi said that stringent action would be taken against

the accused. She visited the victim at the hospital. The Collector stated that the minor girl was receiving treatment at the hospital, and the medical examination report from the doctors was still pending. Steps will be taken to ensure the accused is rigorously punished by the courts.

The victim's family will be provided with the necessary assistance, the Collector

Liquor worth Rs 4.52 lakh seized; 2 arrested

PNS ANANTAPUR

The police seized a huge quantity of liquor worth Rs 4.52 lakh when brought illegally from Goa in Rayadurgam on Friday.

SP Murali Krishna told the media here on Friday that on a tip-off, a police team led by CIs Venkata Lakshmamma and Murali Mohan conducted a checking of vehicles. They noticed a transport vehicle moving suspiciously. When the police team asked the driver to stop the vehicle, he tried to flee. The police team chased and intercepted the vehicle on the night of Thursday.

6 red sanders logs seized, 10 smugglers arrested

PNS TIRUPATI

The Task Force police team seized 6 red sanders logs and arrested 10 smugglers at Thallampadu village in the Sullurpet beat area.

DSP Chenchu Babu told the media here on Friday that on the directions of Task Force SP P Srinivas, a task force police team led by RI Krupanand and RSI K Suresh Babu conducted a combing at the Naidupet forest area.



In contrast, under

Jagan points to 'distortion' of facts in Guv's speech

The police team, on a tip-off, cles at Thallampadu village conducted a checking of vehi- on the Nellore-Chennai high-

way. Two cars which were going on the road stopped some distance away after noticing the police checking. When the police were approaching the cars, the occupants of the cars alighted and started fleeing from the place.

The police apprehended 10 of the smugglers. The police found six red sander logs in the cars. The police seat the red sander logs and the two cars. CI Srinivasulu registered a case.

151 stolen/lost mobile phones worth Rs 21 lakh recovered

PNS ELURU

The police have recovered 151 stolen/lost mobile phones worth over Rs 21 lakh during 12 th phase for which complaints were received during February, March and April and so far the police have recovered 1,606 stolen/lost mobile phones.

SP Pratap Shiva Kishor told the media here on Friday that during the 12 phases, the police recovered 151 stolen/lost mobile phones worth Rs 21,14,000 during February

He said that so far the district police in 12 phases have recovered 1,606 stolen/lost mobile phones worth Rs 3,11,83,684.

The police set up a toll-free number 95503 51100 espe-



on lost mobile phones.

The police in the district received complaints of stolen or lost mobile phones through the IMEI, detected those who were using the mobile phones and recovered, the SP said.

The SP said that the offenders divert the attention of cially to receive complaints mobile phone users to bus sta-

tions, railway stations, banks, ATMs and at Rythu Bazars and steal the phones. Awareness is being created among mobile phone users on how to protect their phones from thieves. The SP advised the phone users to download 'find my

device' and backup phones' important apps.



V'wada MP Chinni receives Naidu at Delhi Airport

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was welcomed by Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivnath (Chinni) at the Delhi Airport on Friday. The CM, after releasing a white paper on financial irregularities during the previous YSRCP regime reached Gannavaram Airport by helicopter from the Secretariat and left for Delhi in

a special flight. Chandrababu Naidu will participate in the NITI Aayog meeting in Delhi on Saturday. The meeting will be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In this meeting, CM Chandrababu will speak on important issues related to AP, mainly the Polavaram project. Proposals for the construction of a new diaphragm wall will be placed before NITI Aayog.

Manobandhu Foundation gets new ambulance

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Manobandhu Foundation, which has been serving mentally ill people roaming the streets for the past three years, has bought a new ambulance to improve its services. Dr Vishal Indla, Director of Indlas Shantivan Rehabilitation, inaugurated the new ambulance. During the event, Dr. Vishal stated that an estimated six crore people in the country are suffering from various mental illnesses, with more than 10 lakh of them being homeless. He expressed concern over their living conditions, noting that they

are consuming contaminated food and water, and enduring a very distressing life. He commended the Manobandhu Foundation for taking the responsibility to connect mentally ill individuals with hospitals, and upon completion of their treatment, facilitating their return home.

The event was attended by Manobandhu Foundation Managing Trustee Bhupathiraju Ramakrishnam Raju, renowned psychiatrist Dr Indla Ramasubba Reddy, as well as doctors including Sripati Santhosh Goud, Dr Uha Manasa, and Dr Indla Swapna.

Badminton Championship begins

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Srijana inaugurated the combined Krishna District Badminton Championship at the Chennupati Ramakotaiah Municipal Corporation Indoor Stadium at Patamata on Friday. The tournament is held for under-11, 13, 15, 17, and 19 age groups. Krishna District Badminton

Association president and Andhra Pradesh Badminton Association secretary Dr P Ankamma Chowdary, and secretary Parasa Srinivas introduced the players to Collector

Krishna District

NTR District Collector Dr G

YSR Congress President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy wrote a letter to AP GovernorS. Abdul Nazeer on Friday Nazeer on addressing alleged distortions in the Governor's speech to the joint session of the AP Legislature on July 22, 2024. Reddy criticised the Governor's address, which he

Former Chief Minister and

claimed was influenced by the newly administration.

In his letter, Reddy stated, "I am writing to

formed Telugu Desam-led govern-

highlight certain factual inaccuracies and misinformation in the Governor's address. Instead of outlining a vision for the State's progress, the new Government has turned the address into

the YSRCP government a series of false claims, from 2019 to 2024, the making unwarranted allegations against the previous

Reddy disputed claims that debt the debt stood at Rs. 1,18,051 and liabilities had surged crores.

By the time the YSRC

ment. He pointed out that during the TDP Government took office in 2019, it had risen to Rs. 2,71,798 crores, Government's term from 2014 to 2019, marking a 130% increase. the State's debt grew at By the time the TD a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) Government resumed of 18.15%.

in 2024, the debt had reached Rs. 5,18,708 crores, reflecting a 90% increase. Reddy concluded that the claim of debt more debt increased at a CAGR than doubling during the YSRC of only 13.80%. At the start of the TD Government's term in 2014, Government is inaccurate.

Date palm cultivation suitable | 'Cong hypocrisy on Fasal for Rayalaseema: Minister



PNS VIJAYAWADA

State Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Industry Development and Fisheries Minister K Atchannaidu has said that date palm cultivation will be encouraged in the State. The date palm farmers from Rayalaseema met the Minister and told their problems at his chamber in the secretariat on

Responding positively, Minister Atchannaidu directed to take appropriate measures to promote date palm cultivation. In Rayalaseema districts, 700 acres of date palm crops is already being cultivated, besides reducing the cost burden of plants, the farmers requested the minister to implement drip irrigation for the farmers on a

subsidized basis.

Responding positively, the Minister said that steps should be taken immediately to promote date palm cultivation under the employment guarantee scheme and drip irrigation will be provided as a subsidy soon. Farmers are advised to follow the instructions of the horticulture department in terms of plant quality monitoring.

Bima Yojana exposed'

PNS HYDERABAD

In a pointed critique, Harish took to X to highlight the noted that while Congress MP Jairam had labelled the PM Fasal Bima Yojana as a failure, the Congress government in Telangana is now

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

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



should clarify who is right: the Delhi Congress or the Telangana Congress?" he

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

Postal Dept holds exporters' meeting

Aims to improve postal network for international exports

PNS VIJAYAWADA

A meeting of exporters was held in Vijayawada under the auspices of Chief Postmaster General, Andhra Pradesh Circle. The meeting was held with the collaborating agencies, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministries of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Commerce and Export Promotion (C&EP), Association of Ladies Entrepreneurs of India (LEAP) and the Federation of Indian Exporters Organisation (FIEO).

Postal Department officials, Postal Services Director Jagadish Pai, Visakhapatnam SSP Gajendra Kumar Meena, and Vijayawada SSP M Narasimhaswamy explained the international services offered by the Department of Posts through Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras. Exporters also



engaged in interactive sessions and answered their queries.

The Department of Posts has created a better under-standing of export procedures and trade facilitation. Apart from that, through Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras of the Postal Department, people can safely send their parcel abroad swiftly at low costs. The programme was attended by a large number of exporters from all over the State.

C &EP Joint Director GS Rao, MSME Executive Director Sudarshana Babu, FIEO Assistant Director G Raghunatha Babu, and others addressed the meeting and gave valuable inputs to improve export procedures and ease of trade. Also, they explained how to use it through the medium of postal network for international

DC calls upon entrepreneurs to establish industries

PNS GUNTUR

District Collector Nagalakshmi called upon entrepreneurs to come forward to establish industries in the district as the required infrastructure is available here. District Industrial and Committee (DIEPC) meeting was held here on Friday presided over by Collector Nagalakshmi.

Speaking on the occasion, the district Collector said they are implementing a liberal 'Single Desk Policy' which approves permission to set up industries. The 'Single Desk Policy' makes the process of getting approvals and permission from various departments easy for the establishment of industries.

Collector Nagalakshmi said that the district is favourable for the establishment of industries and there



are more industrial estates, adding that the necessary infrastructure for the development of the industrial sector is available.

The officials of the Department of Industries should organize a wide range of programmes to make aspiring entrepreneurs fully aware of the subsidies provided by the government through various schemes to encourage the establishment

of industries in the district. "Enthusiastic entrepreneurs should set up industries in the partnership method,

according to which there is an opportunity to set up a cluster through the cluster development programme of the government. If the unemployed youth apply for the establishment of industries under PMEGP, Rs 50 lakh will be sanctioned for the establishment of the manufacturing unit and Rs 20 lakh for the services unit," the

Collector announced.
Aspirants should utilize the opportunity of cluster development programmes to grow as entrepreneurs, the Collector said.

Two held from Ujjain in MP for extorting from Thane hoteliers

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

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



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

amajwadi Party (SP) president and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav Friday took a dig at the speculated rift in the BJP in the state, saying he has heard that Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya is a "pawn". He was speaking to reporters after unveiling a 'Samvidhan-Manstambh' at the SP headquarters here, where he also targeted the Yogi Adityanath government over the issue of

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



Many leaders know Dr Sivaji only

as a member of the Rajya Sabha (1988

to 1994). But if you look closely at Dr

Sivaji's political journey, you will understand the unique aspects of his

personality. Dr Sivaji was arrested

under the Maintenance of Internal

Security Act on 26 June 1975 -- a day

before the proclamation of

Emergency in the country. Dr Sivaji

was the first detainee to be arrested

under that Act in combined Andhra

Pradesh. Though not a lawyer, Sivaji

created a sensation by arguing the

case registered against him in the High Court. The Janata Party took

shape during 18-23 January 1977

when all opposition parties in the

country decided to contest together

under one name, with one election

symbol, one flag and a common agenda. Talking to the likes of Chaudhuri Charan Singh from time

to time, Dr Sivaji announced the birth

of the Janata Party first at a press con-

Dr Sivaji did get an opportunity to

contest in the elections held then.

However, he politely refused due to

lack of financial resources. When

he sent a message to Dr Sivaji that he

would personally give Rs 1 lakh if he

had a problem with money to contest

the elections. However, Dr Sivaji

Desam Party, the selection of candi-

dates for the Lok Sabha elections was

held in 1984. At that time, prominent

parliamentarian Minoo Masani sent

a letter to TDP founder-president NT Rama Rao through a special messen-

ger, stating: "Rama Rao, perhaps you

After the emergence of the Telugu

politely rejected the offer.

ference in Vijavawada.

Congress asks Kerala govt to withdraw from coastal highway project

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

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

DR YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI

A neta who backed

farmers to the hilt



MSP legal guarantee issue rocks Rajya Sabha session

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Dhankhar repeatedly asked

the members to allow the proceedings to continue and also threatened to name members for disrupting the House.

As per the rule, an MP named by the Chair has to withdraw from the House for the remainder of the day.

Opposition members, however, refused to relent and continued to shout slogans, disrupting proceedings for a few more minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

The meetings of this committee are being organised regularly. Since July 22, 2022, the committee has met 6 times. Additionally, 35 meetings of various sub-committees have also been held.

"Whenever the panel submits its report, the government will examine it," Chouhan said. On the question of whether the government wants to give a legal guarantee of MSP to

farmers or not, the minister said it is continuously working towards farmers' welfare. The MSP rates have been

increased regularly to give proper prices to farmers, he

The agriculture minister informed that the government has a six-pronged strategy to give appropriate MSP to farm-

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

(SRINIVASA PRASAD SAKHAMURU

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

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

It is indeed a great thing that a nationally renowned leader like Minoo Masani chose to write a letter of recommendation about a common man like Dr Sivaji, who had never contested in any election till then. Later, in 1986, he got an opportunity to contest as a candidate, but he passed it at the last minute. Dr Sivaji was finally elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1988.

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

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

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

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

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

Dr Sivaji's role in the development of the Guntur Railway Station is noteworthy. Since at his behest many trains passing through Guntur were sanctioned, he was hailed as 'Train Sivaji'. Although Sivaji did not study economics, he made a lot of observations in that direction. Many consid-

er Dr Sivaji as an economist. Many people do not know Sivaji had a role in all the central budgets introduced from 1989 to 2023. It has become a custom for the Union Finance Minister, regardless of the party to which he or she belongs,to send a letter to Dr Sivaji before the Budget meetings. The same convention continued till last year's Budget. Most of Dr Sivaji's proposals were included in the Budget.

> (Tomorrow is Dr Yelamanchili Sivaji's birthday)

Agniveers will be 'very useful' for ITBP: DG

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

JD(U)-BJP-TDP held together by Fevicol-like bond: Min Rajiv Ranjan

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

zero from 99 after being bitten by a snake -referring to the grand old

party winning 99 seats in the Lok Sabha polls. "Ye pre-poll alliance hai aur ye alliance Fevicol se sata hua hai (This is a pre-poll alliance and it is held together by Fevicol-like bond)... We've seen your character closely and you attack us like a vulture," he said, criticising the opposition's tactics.

Singh also took a jibe at the Congress's performance in the Lok Sabha polls, saying, "Ninety-nine is a very dangerous number...in a board game you can get bitten by a snake and come down directly to zero. This is just the beginning. In five years, you'll be bitten by

a snake and end up at zero," he said, referring to the game of snakes and ladders.

The Congress had won 99 seats in the Lok Sabha polls but its tally went down to 98 after party leader Rahul Gandhi vacated the Wayanad seat from Kerala while retain-

ing Rae Bareli in Uttar Pradesh. He argued that the budget aims to make India self-reliant, but the opposition is more focused on opposing Prime Minister Narendra Modi than discussing the budget itself. "The people of this country have chosen him and given him the mandate for a third term," he said to the opposition, amid constant

UP: 9 of family among 14 get life term in 17-yr-old murder case

PNS BUDAUN (UP)

A court here awarded life imprisonment to 14 people, including nine of a family, in connection with a 17-yearold murder case, a lawyer said on Friday.

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

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

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

As per the police complaint lodged in the matter, they opened fire at the house, attacked with sticks, and looted Pan Singh's house. They also took Pan Singh and hacked him to death with an

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

reply to the Rajya Sabha. Under the scheme, a com-

prehensive risk coverage for crops of farmers against all non-preventable natural risks from pre-sowing to post-harvest stages of the crops at a very reasonable premium for the farmers is being provided.
"The PMFBY is successful-

ly fulfilling the objectives and targets of the scheme especially in natural calamity hit seasons/years/areas," he said.

Due to various initiatives taken under the scheme, the minister highlighted that the Gross Cropped Area (GCA) covered in 2023-24 has grown to 598 lakh hectares, as compared to 501 lakh hectares in

The number of farmers enrolled was 3.97 crore in 2023-24, as compared to 3.17 crore in 2022-23 with a growth of over 25 per cent. Hence, the coverage of area and farmers is

at its highest level till date.
Recently, Jharkhand and Telangana have also decided to rejoin the scheme which is likely to further increase the coverage area and number of farmers enrolled.

"As against the premium of Rs 32,440 crore paid by farmers till date, claims of Rs 1,63,519 crore have been paid

PIL against Centre's 'Samvidhan Hatva Diwas' dismissed

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

interruptions from them.

War heroes join in as celebrations begin at Dras

PNS DRAS (LADAKH)

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

The silver jubilee celebrations of the Kargil Vijay Diwas will culminate in Dras on Friday amid a patriotic fervour. The two-day event of the 'Kargil Vijay Diwas Rajat Jayanti Varsh' began on Thursday in Dras.

This significant milestone honours the valour and sacrifice made by the Indian armed forces during the Kargil War.

Over the past one year, numerous events have been held across India to mark the landmark occasion.

Prime Minister Narendra Memorial on July 26 and pay Modi will visit the Kargil War homage to the bravehearts



who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty, his office said on Thursday. At Dras, today's events were graced by a large number of senior serving officers, gallantry awardees, veterans, and

next of kin of the bravehearts who laid down their lives during the Kargil War. The key highlights of today's celebrations included the battle reminiscence at Lamochen View Point, 'Vijay Bhoj', and

'Shaurya Sandhya', officials

At Lamochen View Point in Dras, a special event was held to remember the bravehearts of the Kargil War.

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

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

PNS NEW DELHI

Tiger Tadoba-Andhari Reserve (TATR) will be launching "Gallery for a Cause," a unique initiative designed to celebrate and promote the special relationship between art and nature. The inaugural exhibition will launch online on July 29, 2024, in honor of International Tiger Day, allowing a global audience to participate in this

important cause.

Dr. Jitendra Ramgaonkar, Executive Director, said, "Gallery for a Cause is a testament to the powerful synergy between art and nature. Through this initiative, we aim to inspire a deeper appreciation for our natural world and mobilize resources for the conservation of the majestic tiger and its habitat. The objective is to spread awareness about conservation efforts

while generating self-sustaining funds to support the ongoing preservation of our precious wildlife and natural habi-

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

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Honouring the heroes

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

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



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

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

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



Urban violence: Human nature vs city life



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

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

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

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



"evolved spectacularly" during this period when the pressures of survival, which were great, moulded them. The problem, according to Morris, is that humans had evolved as tribal animals and "the basic characteristic of the tribe is that it operates on a localized, inter-personal basis. To abandon this fundamental social pattern, so typical of the ancient human condition, was going to be against his grain." This, how-ever, is precisely what humans had to do with the emergence of towns. Intercity coordination developed with the growth of agriculture and trade. The human being "became a citizen, a super tribes man, and the key difference was that as a super tribes man he no longer knew personally each member of his community." It was this change from the personal to the impersonal society, "that was going to cause the human animal the greatest agonies in the millennia ahead. As a species we were asquerading as members of we had to learn to do, but it was not easy we are still fighting against it in all kinds of hidden and ways-and



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

Exploring our bonds: From castes to communities



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

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

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

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

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

I lived in a hostel in Japan for three months for a training. There were hundreds of men and women of different nationalities interacting with each other in the mess or during the entertainment programs over weekends. It was interesting to note people bonding with each other in a foreign land based on common language. We from the Indian subcontinent gravitated towards Hindi or Urdu speaking persons, irreAmerica formed their own

also remember a train ride in Switzerland in 2005, when an advertisement caught my eye. An Indian movie star stared back at me, exhorting me to buy an expensive item. I did not have the money, but the pride of an Indian face on Swiss train compensated

for the lack of resources. During my professional life perennial debate about the utility of having different departments and officer level recruitment based on the same, which many thought led to a departmental bias. The Indian organization has now done away with the practice - it is now a unified Efficacy of the change will be known only in future. I across the world have department based cadres. It instils a sense of pride in belonging

to the department, leading to more efficient working. I also remember our school days. Each of us were divided into Houses, which were

Spanish speaking people colours or celebrity Indians. There was a healthy system There was a healthy system of each House scoring points during the academic year, culminating into the grand finale - the annual sports. We would be cheering our House performers till our sore throats would permit. I never witnessed animosity or professional envy on the better performance of rivals.

We tend to overlook a reality, probably because it is deeply ingrained in our psyin the railways, there was a che. Indian army has regiments based on communities. I have yet to come across any community biased incidents in the services. It might have something to do with the organization's resilience and strength of its leaders. Schwartzberg, American director, producmanagement service. er, and cinematographer, aptly remarked, "I think we need to do some deep soul believe railway organisations searching about what's important in our lives and renew our spirit and our spiritual thinking, whether it's through faith-based religion or just through loving nature or helping your fellow man."

(The writer is an author; views are personal)

SC MUST INTERVENE

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

some that are not so hidden."

People have tried to satisfy

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

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

Janga Bahadur Sunuwar Jalpaiguri

BUDGET: THE GOOD BAD AND THE UGLY

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

SC stays nameplate diktat

E EDITO



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

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

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

so it should take care of all A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

CONCERNS OVER PM POSHAN SCHEME

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

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

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

Yugal Kishore Sharma Faridabad

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

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

Ganpat Bhat | Akola

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Send your feedback to:

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FIRST COLUMN THE GOD IS OMNIPRESENT

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

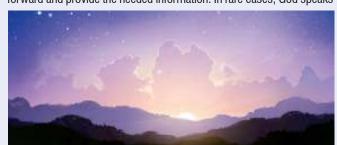


AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

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

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

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



in dreams or when we are not in deep sleep, generally around 4 AM. The timing is a big indicator that it is God, who has spoken, not what we have imagined. Whatever God states will also be corroborated in a scripture like the Bhagavad-Geeta. All this happens because a devotee of God has taken the 'chintan' (meditation) option. What does God communicate or what benefits do we derive from such communications? First of all, we begin to become peaceful. Because without peace no enjoyment is possible. If our minds are disturbed, we cannot enjoy even in the most comfortable circumstances. As God is the only source of real peace, not freedom from noise, we become entitled to it. 'Sukha' or genuine happiness follows even in not-so-opulent surroundings. This feeling leads to unmixed joy as our connection with God is strengthened by sustained practice. Our prayers for guidance and help will be

Progressively, God becomes the guiding light of our lives. Help, as needed, will become available, God finds mediums, who can provide such assistance. For example, a competent doctor will become available to treat us. It all sounds so easy; it is. Not only will we be healthy but the necessary energies of all kinds will be ours too. One will feel secure, comfortable, relaxed, good, etc. The best emotions like hope, satisfaction, patience and tolerance will become parts of our psyche. Our consciousness will become better, i.e. spiritual over some time. In short, life will become highly enjoyable. Worrying, sadness, depression and anxiety will be gradually replaced by superior emotions. It is up to us to

Israel and Palestine seek solutions amid global strife-



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

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

Israel's efforts to normalise relationships with neighbouring countries. In response, China swiftly intervened, brokering an unprecedented rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran. This diplomatic achievement was monumental during Ebrahim Raisi's presidency, although tragically overshadowed by the helicopter crash that claimed the lives of Raisi and his dynamic Foreign Minister while returning from a joint irrigation project inauguration in Azerbaijan province.In his recordbreaking address to Congress, Prime Minister Netanyahu outlined his vision for peace, affirming that he would not cease fire until victory was achieved—a notion that seems illusory given the ground real-

Ironically, before the speech, his entourage hinted that he would present "a vision" for the future of Gaza and the region. Ultimately, that vision consisted of "a demilitarized and deradicalized" Gaza. Netanyahu, who struggles to convince his ultra-Orthodox partners to teach their children basic math, now claims to plan on educating "a new generation that must be taught not to hate Jews." This plan remains unclear, but he quickly shifted to slogans about an "Abraham Alliance" between Israel and "moderate" Arab nations, conveniently ignoring his coalition's refusal to even utter the words "two-state solution," the very foundation for this alliance. Following our victory, with the help of regional partners, the demilitarisation and deradicalisation of Gaza can lead to a future of security, prosperity, and peace. That's my vision for Gaza," he proclaimed to Congress.



52-minute, record-breaking fourth address. Tragically, there was not even the slightest hint of how he plans to extricate Israel from the tragic impasse it is trapped in under his watch.Israeli analysts expose these hyperboles, stating, "The goal of Benjamin Netanyahu's trip to Washington, including his appearance before the U.S. Congress, is not and never was to advance a diplomatic agreement to bring home the Israeli hostages safely and to end the fighting and suffering. Rather, it is designed to enlist domestic American support to keep waging the war." Another analyst remarked, "Netanyahu may have won 52 standing ovations from the rapturous, majority-Republican audience, but his rhetoric, which so impressed Washington, offered nothing for

Meanwhile, in Beijing, 14 Palestinian groups, including Hamas and Fatah, signed the Beijing Declaration. This rare display of unity, facilitated by China, marks a significant shift towards reconciliation among Palestinian factions—a unity long deemed unattainable due to numerous internal and external challenges. The persistent disunity has exacerbated the Palestinians' suffering beyond Israeli oppression. Therefore, the recent declaration offers a glimmer of hope for a more cohesive and effective Palestinian political movement, provided the commitments are genuine and

Israelis watching back home

actionable. The Beijing Declaration signifies a remarkable step towards Palestinian unity and sovereignty. The declaration's commitment to post-war governance in Gaza and the establishment of a temporary

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

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

region.Concurrently, Ukraine's

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

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

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

FIGHTING' choose between chintan about God or 'chinta' (worry) about material He continued, "A new generation of Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, national reconciliation governstand together. objects, goals, etc.God is the owner of whatever there is. Palestinians must no longer be taught to ment underscores a unified vision during his visit to Beijing this week, (The writer is a spiritual teacher and guide; views are personal) hate Jews but to live in peace with us. Those for Palestinian self-governance informed China's Foreign Minister

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

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

PALESTINE'S

TO ENGAGE

WILLINGNESS

WITH CHINA'S

DIPLOMATIC

INITIATIVES

A HOPEFUL

PATHWAY

TOWARDS

AND PEACE,

SUN TZU'S

RECONCILIATION

REMINISCENT OF

ASSERTION THAT

'THE SUPREME

IS TO SUBDUE

ART OF WAR

THE ENEMY

WITHOUT

OFFERS

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

It all began at a hospital where he saw patients discharged, but still in need of various forms of care - elderly patients who require dressings; ex-ICU patients who need oxygen daily; and cancer and postsurgery patients - what if he



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

One doesn't have to look too far to see the social impact of high levels of youth unemployment. In South Africa, where youth unemployment has hit could provide nursing care to a high of 59.7%, unemploythem, from the comfort of ment is considered to be the their own homes? Not only is root cause of many problems he being productive in life, but the country faces today -

including crime, poverty and

Closer to home, the epidemic of drug use in Punjab ĥas been fuelled by social and economic factors including high unemployment, and underemployment; and pressing national issues like youth suicide are compounded by youth unemployment. Never has it been more important for our young people to have opportunities for bright and productive

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

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

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

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



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

Two-thirds of the country's workforce aren't qualified for current job openings. With such a shortage of qualified workers, businesses are struggling to fill positions creating a significant challenge. It's not just the quantity of skilled

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

Rural youth, in particular, need greater access to quality skill training providers who also support placement, whilst also requiring help to convince families that skills are indeed the way to go – a route often in conflict with the white-collar aspirations of both youth

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

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

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

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

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



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

harma major Cipla Ltd on Friday reported a 17.77 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,175.46 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2024. The company had nosted a consolidated not profit of De 200.07 posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 998.07 crore in the first quarter of the last fiscal, Cipla Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated total revenue from operations during the quarter under review stood at Rs 6,693.94 crore as against Rs 6,328.89 crore in the yearago period, it added. Total expenses in the first quarter were higher at Rs 5,242.77 crore as

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



KFin Technologies Q1 profit jumps 57% to Rs 68 cr

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

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



DPIIT recognises 1.40 lakh entities as startups as on June 30

PNS NEW DELHI

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

These startups are eligible for a host of incentives, including income tax benefits under the startup Indian action plan, which was announced in 2016.

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

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



"DPIIT has recognised 1,40,803 entities as startups as on 30th June 2024," Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasdada said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha

a written reply to the Rajya

Out of this, over 25,000 are recognised in Maharashtra. It is followed by Karnataka (15,019), Delhi (14,734), Uttar Pradesh (13,299) and Gujarat (11,436).

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

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

The minister added that under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups, Rs 154.60 crore loan was guaranteed by the member institutions as on June 30 this year as against Rs 271.49 crore in 2023.



IndiGo profit drops 12% to Rs 2,728 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The parent of the country's largest airline had a profit after tax of Rs 3,090.6 crore in the year-ago period. According to a release, the total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose 18.09 per cent to Rs 20,248.9 crore.

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



I-T dept clarifies acquisition cost of real estate bought before 2001

PNS NEW DELHI

The cost of acquisition of real estate properties purchased market value (FMV, not exceeding the stamp duty value) as of April 1, 2001, or the actual cost of the land or building for the purpose of calculation of long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax, the I-T department has said.

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

allowed taxpayers to compute gains arising out of sale of capital assets after adjusting inflation.

For properties purchased before 2001, fair market valuation (not exceeding the stamp duty value) can be used as a base to determine the indexed price. The indexed price will then be reduced from the sale price for calculating LTCG that will be taxed at 20 per cent.

In a post on X, the I-T department said an issue has been raised as to what would be the cost of acquisition as on April 1, 2001, for properties purchased prior to 2001

Paytm can approach the RBI

for a grant of payment aggre-

gator licence. Thereafter, The

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

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex rebounded by 1,293 points while broader Nifty shot up nearly 2 per cent to a record high on Friday, cutting short the five-day losing streak on heavy value-buying at lower levels and a rally in blue-chips like Reliance Industries.

The 30-share BSE Sensex 1.62 per cent to settle at 81,332.72. During the day, it soared 1,387.38 points or 1.73 for Nestle closed in green. per cent to 81,427.18.

The NSE Nifty surged

428.75 points or 1.76 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 24,834.85. All the Sensex shares except



Bharti Airtel was the biggest gainer, rising by over 4.51 per

cent. Adani Ports, Sun Pharma, Tata Steel, HCL Technologies, Infosys, JSW Steel and Mahindra & Mahindra were

the other big gainers. Nestle was the only loser, closing lower by 0.07 per

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

The US markets ended mostly lower on Thursday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.40 per cent to US\$ 82.04 a barrel.

Rupee recovers from all-time low, closes at 83.72 against US \$

PNS MUMBAI

The rupee recovered from its all-time low level and appreciated 6 paise to 83.72

(provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, on strength in the domestic markets and expectations of fresh foreign inflows. Forex traders said

the rupee traded within a narrow range, taking cues remained flat.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.72 and touched an intra-day high of 83.69 and a LKP Securities.

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

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

'Market participants are focused on the Personal Consumption Index, with significant attention on the upcoming US FED policy meeting on July

said Jateen Trivedi, VP

Crisis-hit Paytm's proposal to invest in payments arm under govt's consideration panel approves it, Joshi said,

PNS MUMBAI

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

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

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

Paytm's parent entity One 97 Communications Ltd (OCL) has investment from China.

Therefore, the inter-ministerial panel comprising of offi-

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

Reserve Bank of India will examine their proposal and take a call on providing a licence or not, he added. Once the Inter-ministerial

Paytm shares surge 10%;

Shares of One 97

hit upper circuit limit

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

the BSE. On the NSE, it surged 9.99 per cent to Rs 509.05 -- its upper circuit.

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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

The bonds have been issued for investors from the US, Europe and several Asian countries, the company said in a statement. "The US\$ 305 million (approximately worth Rs 2,500 crore) green bond was jointly issued by SAEL along with 5 wholly-owned subsidiaries together referred to as 'The Restricted Group',' the statement said. The proceeds will be used to expand the company's renewable energy portfolio, which currently stands around 4 GW, it added.

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

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

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

the regulator, the proportion of

loss-makers was lower among

married traders compared to

married traders group, married

traders group had a higher pro-

On comparing single vs

single traders.

ServiceNow to make strategic growth investments

PNS ■ CHENNAI

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

Following the investment by ServiceNow, Prodapt will promote the 'Now Platform' offered by ServiceNow to expand business transformation services through enhanced industry and domain specific go-to-market capabilities and increased skilling of ServiceNow profes-

According to global market

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



Corporation), 73 per cent of global telecom service providers identified AI investments as their top transformation priority as they move away from legacy systems to automated platforms.

As per the agreement,

SERVICENOW

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

"Prodapt's stellar reputation

in the telco space and their proficiency with ServiceNow are a winning combination for customers seeking to accelerate their business transformation journeys," ServiceNow Senior Vice President of Ecosystem Ventures David Parsons said in a company statement on Friday.

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

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

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance reports Q1 PAT up 29.7%

PNS CHENNAI

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

sponding quarter of last year. Total income during the quarter under review grew by 40.9 per cent to Rs 5,828 crore, from Rs 4,134 crore registered in the corresponding

quarter of last year. Disbursements made during

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

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

SEBI STUDY ON PROFIT-MAKERS

Married traders have edge over single traders

portion of profit-makers than

single traders group across all the three years," the study

Besides, group of married

traders had lower proportion

PNS NEW DELHI

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

The regulator's analysis suggests stark differences between the trading behaviours and outcomes of married and single traders, as well as between male and female traders. The Sebi's study, on intraday trading in equity cash seg-

traders tend to outperform their single counterparts in several key areas. During the years -- FY19,

ment, found that married

FY22 and FY23-- examined by



revealed.

suggests stark differences between the trading behaviours and outcomes of married and single traders, as well as between male and female traders

> traders across years. During FY23, 75 per cent of single traders were loss-makers, while the number of married loss-making traders was 67 per cent. Additionally, married traders executed a significant

ly higher number of trades on average than single traders, indicating a higher level of engagement and activity in the market.

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

"Proportion of profit-makers among the group of female hydrogen. With India importing traders was higher as compared to the group of male traders, across all the three years," it

Govt committed to promoting coal gasification projects

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

approximately 83 per cent of its oil, over 90 per cent reduce reliance on imports of methanol, and 13-15 per

cation offers an opportunity to

11,2024

and conserve foreign exchange,

especially in the oil, gas, fertilizer, and petrochemical sectors. The gasification pro-

jects will lead to partial import substitution for oil and gas and cleaner utilisation of the country's abundant coal reserves, the coal ministry said in a statement. To promote coal gasification, the government

offers 50 per cent rebate in revenue share in commercial auction policies for gasification coal, established a new sub-sector for syngas production, and provides long-

term coal allotments to gasifi cation plants.







Vijayawada | Saturday July 27, 2024

Harvey Weinstein hospitalised with COVID-19

ollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, was taken to a New York hospital due to various health issues, including COVID. According to records from the New York City Correction Department, Weinstein, aged 72, was located at the Bellevue Hospital Prison Ward.
According to publicist Juda Engelmayer, Craig

Rothfeld, Weinstein's authorised representative and prison consultant, stated that Weinstein, who was found guilty of rape in both New York and California, is dealing with diabetes, high blood pressure, spinal stenosis, fluid on his heart and lungs, and has recently been diagnosed with

COVID and double pneumonia.

In February 2020, Manhattan jurors convicted him of rape, but in April, the New York Court of Appeals overturned the verdict, stating Weinstein was not given a fair trial due to the judge allowing testimony from accusers he was not formally charged with assaulting.



Weinstein, who has been admitted to Bellevue Hospital several times, has refuted allegations of misconduct and denied engaging in non-consensual sexual encounters with anvone.

There is a possibility that he might face a new trial for rape charges in

Manhattan in September. Weinstein's legal team expressed their desire to move forward at the earliest opportunity.

Manhattan District Attorney's Office prosecutors plan to charge Weinstein with more violent sexual assaults, following more women agreeing to testify.

The milestone for the

#MeToo movement was Weinstein's verdict, as women alleged sexual misconduct against numerous men in various industries like entertainment, media and politics. A jury determined that in 2006, Miriam Haley, a former production assistant, was sexually assaulted by the co-founder of the Miramax film studio. In 2013, the same jury found that the co-founder raped Jessica Mann, an aspiring actress. He received a 23-year prison sentence. Weinstein also received a 16-year sentence in a different rape case in California.



ALIA BHATT SHOOTS 'FEROCIOUS ACTION' WITH BOBBY DEOL

filming one of her high-ly anticipated movies, Alpha. As everyone eagerly anticipates the Spy Universe movie, it has been disclosed that the actress is currently filming an action scene with Bobby Deol. According to reports, Alia and the villain of the movie, Bobby Deol, are cur-

rently filming in Mumbai on a highly secured set in Film City. "It is a ferocious action sequence. You important scenes of the film and even a fly cannot enter this set. I think they have at least 100 guards can call it brutal. It is a no-holdsbarred face-to-face action sequence between Alia Bhatt and Bobby Deol. There will be blood," a source cited by the news agency claimed.

"The shoot location is impregnable. This is one of the most

manning the location and covering all vantage points," the insider added. Alia Bhatt had earlier revealed the title of her Spy Universe film, Alpha, on her Instagram this month, stating that filming for the highly anticipated movie has officially started.

UNCOVERING KEY ART FOR ONLY MURDERS IN THE BUILDING

isney+ Hotstar released the key art for *Only Murders in the Building* season four. The Emmy-winning, Original comedy series starring Steve Martin, Martin Short and Selena Gomez returns August 27, exclusively on Disney+ Hotstar. In season four, our amateur podcasting trio wrestles with the shocking events at the end of season three surrounding Charles' stunt double & friend Sazz Pataki. Short, Selena Gomez, Michael Cyril Creighton, with special



guest stars including Meryl Streep, Da'Vine Joy Randolph, Eugene Levy, Eva Longoria, Zach Galifianakis, Molly Shannon, Kumail Nanjiani, Melissa McCarthy, Richard Kind and more. Only Murders in the Building hails from co-creators and writers Steve Martin and John Hoffman. Martin and Hoffman executive produce along with Martin Short, Selena Gomez, This Is Us creator Dan Fogelman and Jess Rosenthal. The series is produced by 20th Television, a part of Disney Television Studios

Yoo Ah-in denies charges of sexual assault

Yoo Ah-in, famous for his successful movie Burning, has been accused of sexual assault by male individual. According to a report published by Soompi, an investigation into the matter has been initiated by the police. The lawyer representing the actor rejected the accusations, urging individuals to refrain from engag-

sary specula-tion." Yoo Ah-in's lawyer, Park Jung Hyun, said, "The claims in the criminal complaint involving Yoo Ah-in are not true. Additionally, we ask that you refrain from

ing in "unneces-

speculation regarding his personal life."

The man alleged that the actor sexually assaulted him on July 14 while he was asleep at an apartment. It wasn't owned by either the man or Yoo Ah-in. Allegedly, there were additional males at the scene. The reported incident occurred in the Yongsan District of Seoul. The Seoul

Yongsan Police Station confirmed that a 30vear-old man had filed a criminal complaint. The man was already inter-rogated by the police regarding the case. According to the report, he has tested positive for not using drugs.

STANDALONE



Jacqueline Fernandez turns heads in stunning black gown at India Couture Week 2024

CHRIS PINE VEXED BY STAR TREK'S DELAY

Star Trek, didn't hold back in voicing his frustrations about the delays in the possible fourth installment of the reimag-ined series. Chris Pine has played Captain Kirk in Star Trek for almost ten years since appearing in the third film in 2016. Even though fans have been patiently anticipating the fourth install-ment, Pine revealed that they have encountered some obstacles in getting Star Trek 4 started.

At a recent ACE Superhero Comic Con event, Chris Pine

explained the causes of the fourth installment's delays. Critics gave negative reviews to Star Trek Beyond, the third film

hris Pine, the actor from not succeed in making a signif-Star Trek, didn't hold back icant impact on the box office, bringing in \$343 million while having a production budget of \$185 million. The franchise was put on hold due to negative reviews and disappointing box-office sales. There have been some whispers of a sequel over the years, but nothing has mate-

> Chris Pine suggested that studios should focus on satis-fying die-hard fans rather than giving in to industry pressure for expensive productions to cater to a wider audience.
>
> He said, "I think we should

make films that appeal to people who want to see the film. in the revamped series.

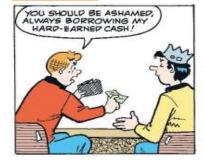
I'm sick of trying to please make muc Additionally, the movie did people who don't want to see sense to me."

what we do." Chris Pine mentioned that the movie industry is overly concerned with making money back and big bud

gets are harming it. He said, "We're at place where, to make a film, you make it for like \$500 million. That's half a billion dollars to make these films that you like. For it to be considered successful and for everyone to be paid back, you have to make extraordinary amounts of money. The metrics of it don't seem to make much



ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



GARFIELD









THEY GROW UP SO SLOW.









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19 Opposite of strength

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ACROSS

8 Chefs

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10 A large continent

12 A ship's tall pole 14 The country just north

17 A female relation

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3 An ancient South American

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4 Worshipped statues

6 A moving staircase

13 Part of a stage play

15 Opposite of uncles 16 A pointed top of a

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5 Yelling loudly and shrilly

THIS ONE? A NEWSPAPER DELIVERY BOY

GINGER MEGGS







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equal 45.

the pioneer ayawada

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> Saturday July 27, 2024

'WAKING UP SEEING WOMEN MAKING RANGOLIS FEELS SO BEAUTIFUL

AARTI SREENATH

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

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

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

"Hyderabad is a good place; everybody is so friendly. The city has been very welcoming for me," shares the artist.

Initially, the thought of leaving everything behind in Bihar to move to a new city was daunting. "I was nervous in the beginning because it wasn't easy to leave everything behind in Bihar and move here to Hyderabad, an absolutely new city. The circumstances were very different," she admits. "I always wished to live in a city where I could explore more of

expectations, but it's all so nice

Comparing Hyderabad to her hometown, Monita observes, "It's very different! We belong to a place where people are not so open-minded about almost everything. However, they are supportive and helpful. There's a huge cultural difference between both places, as I belong from the North, Bihar to be precise."

One of the aspects of Hyderabad that she cherishes the most is its vibrant culture and traditions and how people wake up early in the morning and make rangoli in front of their houses. "The one thing that amazes me is how they are connected with their roots and follow their culture."

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

Although the Madhubani artist does not see herself as forging a career, she is deeply committed to educating people about the traditional artwork of Bihar and giving them the expe-

rience of peace that art gives.

Hyderabad, with its clean streets, greenery and public art, has been a pleasant surprise for

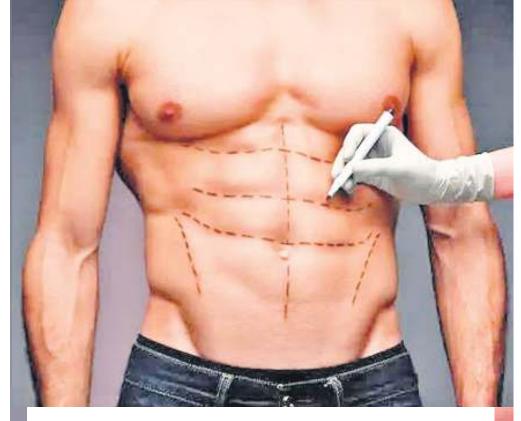
my artwork. I didn't have any been to many places here, but as far as I saw, it's a clean city with so much greenery. I like the paintings that have been done on the pillars or walls. It looks decent.

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

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

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

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



Rise of liposuction amongst men

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

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

One of the main reasons driving the rise of liposuction among men is the advancement of technology and techniques in the field of plas-tic surgery. In the past, liposuction was a risky and invasive procedure that came with a long and painful recovery process. Today, thanks to innovations such as laser-assisted liposuction and ultrasound-assisted liposuction, the procedure has become less invasive and offers minimal downtime and scarring. Men. who are often busy with careers and families, now see liposuction as a viable option to achieve their desired results without disrupting their daily

Another factor contributing to the increase in male liposuction is the growing awareness and acceptance of cosmetic procedures in society. Gone are the days when only women were expected to care about their appearance. Men are now also seeking to look their best and are willing to invest time and money to achieve their desired look. The idea of "self-care" has become mainstream, and more men are viewing cosmetic procedures as a means of improving their self-confidence and self-image.

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

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

The rise of liposuction among men is a reflection of the changing societal perceptions of masculinity and the increasing acceptance and accessibility of cosmetic proce

With the advancements in technology and techniques, liposuction will continue to be a popular choice among men seeking to enhance their physique and improve their overall well-

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

'TUNE'ING INTO MUSICAL RHYTHM

TEJAL SINHA

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

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

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

The troupe of these talented men finds their

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



future for Indian music bands."

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

for coping and playful alternatives. Jayanth further shares, "We will showcase this in a combination of Western a n d Carnatic aesthetics. We could refer to it

as a workin-progress. We are now writing our own lyrics using our band's collective thoughts instead of hav-

ing an external person do it for us. Currently, the band exclusively performs covers from the worlds of Tollywood and Bollywood." Staying true to the core of the song, the band

adds their own twists to the instrumentation while allowing each musician to showcase their solo tal-

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

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

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

Since starting out, the band has entertained various Tollywood celebrities, such as music directors, actors, and directors. In Satyabhama starring Kajal Aggarwal, Raghavendra sang a song, with drummer Jayanth providing extra beats. Both

artists recently collaborated on this project.

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

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

PTI ■ PALLEKELE

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

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

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

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

Survakumar's elevation came

for the job. The selectors also ignored his comparative lack of experience as captain.

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

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

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

Jasprit Bumrah has been deservingly rested from this as a slight surprise given he leapfrogged Hardik Pandya Arshdeep Singh and



Mohammed Sirai to make the most of favourable conditions at the Pallekele International Stadium, where the surface tends to assist pace and bounce.

On the same metric, Sri Lanka will feel depleted since two of their experienced bowlers

Dushmantha Chameera (bronchitis and respiratory infection) and slingy Nuwan Thushara (broken finger) have been ruled out.

The hosts have added Asitha Fernando and Dilshan Madushanka, who took a fivefor the last time India and Sri Lanka played in the ODI World Cup, as replacements. The 2014 T20 World Cup winners, Sri Lanka are wading through turbulent times following their first-round exit from the last edition. Skipper Wanindu Hasaranga, coach Chris Silverwood and

consultant coach Mahela Jayawardene tendered their resignations after the debacle in the Americas.

DREAMI

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

of experienced stars, but knows well that his team is desperately short on solid performances.

The Sri Lankan team of the current does not inspire confidence given their frailties across departments despite Jayasuriya's assessment that the fortunes in the next two

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

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

TEAMS (FROM):

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

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



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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gautam Gambhir's key task as India head coach will be man-management and not coaching a bunch of talented month, to continue featuring players in their respective in the other formats for a long skills, said former player and ex-chief selector Sandeen Patil on Friday. Gambhir is set to start his tenure with a limitedovers tour of Sri Lanka comprising three T20Is and as many ODIs, with the first game in the shortest format set to be played on Saturday.

"I don't think his job is to coach the Indian team. His job is to help the Indian team," Patil told PTI Videos in an exclusive interview here.

'That's how it works at the top level. You need player management. That will be the challenge for Gambhir."

"He has done it and I am sure he will continue to do the same with the Indian cricket team," said Patil on the sidelines of an event organised by Shrachi Rajasthan Tigers.

Patil, a member of India's World Cup winning team in 1983, hoped Gambhir will continue to have success at international level after excelling in the IPL.

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

Patil backed senior India players Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who retired from the T20 internationals after winning the World Cup last run.

and there is no question of an Indian team without them. I wish the Indian team all the best wherever they are playing and whatever tournament they are playing, they are bound to do exceedingly well," he said. "Surya comes from Mumbai and is a very dear friend of mine. He has been given the captaincy and he deserved it. I wish him all the best," he said about India's newest T20I captain.

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

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

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

Chinese-Chilean table tennis player makes Olympics debut at age 58 in Paris Games AP SANTIAGO (CHILE)

Table tennis player Zeng Zhiying left China in 1989, the same year of the Tiananmen Square massacre, to teach the sport in northern Chile. Fast-forward 35 vears, she will debut in the Olympic Games at age 58 under the name she adopted in the South American nation:

Tania Zeng, who became famous in Chile after winning a bronze medal at the Pan American Games in Santiago last year, retired from table tennis long ago. Though the sport brought her to Chile, she stopped playing to have more time to dedicate to a business she opened and eventually start a family. Her dream of becoming a professional athlete returned during the pandemic. Her pinnacle will be reached in Paris."I never imagined (making it to the Olympic Games) because I took it up for entertainment, to do some sport," Zeng said in an interview with The Associated Press at the country's Olympic training centre.

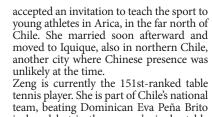
"I gained confidence by playing a lot are still doing extremely well | I always won, I liked playing more and



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

delegation. Born in Foshan, in southern China, Zeng is the daughter of a local table tennis coach. As a child, she used to follow her mother to professional table tennis training sessions. For a decade, the Chinese-Chilean athlete was a highperformance player.

But her life took a turn in 1989, when she



in her debut in the women's singles table tennis tournament at the Pan American Games. She lost to American Lily Ann Zhang in the following round but still managed to win the bronze in the team competition.

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

Zeng will play in Paris with more experience and the same determination to fulfill a lifelong dream. She hopes no injuries affect her performance at the Olympics, which is a concern for any older



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

Tovak Djokovic, Rafael Olympics are high, and I can't Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz and don't want to change that. are on the Paris Olympics' tennis schedule on Saturday, the first day of action at Roland Garros.

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

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

"Expectations

It creates a persona motivation for me to approach it in the best possible way for the best possible result," said Djokovic, who took home a bronze in 2008.

The first match in Chatrier will involve top-ranked Iga Swiatek of Poland, who has won four of the past five championships in that stadium at the French Open, against Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania. That will be followed by Djokovic vs Ebden.

After Nadal and Alcaraz start the night session, the day's program concludes with a pair of former No. 1 players who own multiple major titles: Naomi Osaka of Japan vs Angelique Kerber of Germany. Jasmine Paolini of Italy, the runner-up to Swiatek at the French Open in June and to Barbora Krejcikova at Wimbledon this month, opens play at Court Suzanne Lenglen against Ana Bogdan on Romania.

That will be followed by Alcaraz, who is coming off trophies at the French Open and Wimbledon, against Hady Habib of Lebanon.

Canada women's soccer coach removed by Canadian Olympic Committee over drone controversy

The Canadian Olympic Committee removed women's national soccer head coach Bev Priestman for the remainder of the Paris Games following an alleged drone spying scandal. The COC said in a statement

released early on Friday that assistant coach Andy Spence would lead the defending gold medalists for the remainder of the tournament.

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

involvement, but did not



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

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

external review. The COC said on Wednesday that assistant coach Jasmine Mander and analyst Joseph Lombardi were "sent home immediately," and that it had accepted Priestman's decision

Games." He added Priestman

was suspended from her duties until the end of the

organization's independent

tournament

completion

and

the

the

to remove herself from coaching the opening match. Priestman held a brief media availability on Wednesday after guiding her team through a one-hour practice.

"My reaction was you feel like this program has let the country down," the 38-year-old Priestman said.

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

AP ■ PARIS

 F^{iji} stayed on track for a third successive Olympic gold medal in rugby sevens by reaching the semifinals at the Stade de France. The Tokyo Games silver and bronze medallists - New Zealand and Argentina - were knocked out,

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

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

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

plays Australia, and France meets South Africa.

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

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

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

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

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

69,000-strong crowd. Andy Timo cut inside his marker and scored, then Aaron Grandidier Nkanang scored twice in three minutes; the first from a ruck turnover, and the second from Jefferson-Lee Joseph's offload. Rayan Rebbadj converted all three

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

to close to 21-14. But with more than two minutes to go, and one of them with a man advantage while Jordan Sepho was in the sin-bin, Argentina couldn't get the ball back.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vijayawada | Saturday July 27, 2024



Kantara 2 nears completion, set for summer 2025 release

n 2022, Hombale Films' *Kantara* emerged as a massive hit in Karnataka, quickly capturing the interest of audiences across India The film's success led to its dubbing in Hindi, where it achieved blockbuster status with lifetime collections of Rs 80 crore. Following this triumph, the makers announced Kantara 2 and production commenced

in 2023. It has been learned that the shoot for Kantara 2 is nearing its end. Sources close to the project reveal that the team has completed filming the outdoor sequences and is now focusing on the indoor portions, which are expected to take an additional 15 to 20 days. The postproduction phase has already begun, with significant emphasis on

"Kantara 2 is set to be incorporating prequel and mythological elements into the storyline," the source shared. "The film aims to surpass the original in scale and impact. The post-production and visual effects are being handled with the utmost care to ensure the film is a major step up from its predecessor. The initial promo provided just a glimpse of what's Hombale Films and Rishab Shetty, who also directs the sequel, are targeting a summer 2025 release for Kantara 2. The film is envisioned as a highbudget visual extravaganza, with significant investment in

VFX to deliver an

experience. The

promotional campaign

is expected to begin in

October 2024, with

further details to be

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

undeep Kishan responds to food safe-ty raid claims on his restaurant Vivaha Bhojanambu. In the wake of a recent raid by the Food Safety Department of Telangana, actor Sundeep Kishan has defended his restaurant, Vivaha Restaurant, VIVana Bhojanambu, against allega-tions of rule violations during a promotional event for his Tamil film Raayan in Hyderabad.

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

he upcoming episode of *Telugu Indian Idol Season* 3 is set to be an emotional rollercoaster as legendary drummer Anandan Sivamani reveals the

last message from his mentor and godfather, the late S. P. Balasubrahmanyam. The touching tribute will air exclusively on the Aha OTT platform every Friday and

Anandan Sivamani, affectionately known as 'Drums

Sivamani, will be a guest judge on the show and will share poignant memories of SP Balasubrahmanyam,

whose influence has been instrumental in his career.

Sivamani, who began his musical journey under SPB's guidance, expressed his profound grief over the mae-

guidance, expressed his profound grief over the maestro's passing on September 25, 2020, due to complications related to COVID-19. In this special episode, Sivamani will present and play the last voice note sent by SP Balasubrahmanyam, offering viewers an intimate look into their enduring bond and the final words of wisdom from the celebrated singer.

Additionally, Sivamani shared his emotional tribute

to SP Balasubrahmanyam on Guru Purnima, observed on July 21, 2024. He will recounted how the occasion

brought back memories and how deeply SPB's legacy

Judge S. Thaman will also reflect on his personal con-

nection with SP Balasubrahmanyam, sharing a cherished memory of his first flight at age 12 with the leg-

endary singer. Thaman will discuss the support he received from Sivamani during challenging times, including his father's passing, highlighting the profound

to the community, not just for financial gain. Each of our seven outlets donates around 50 food packets daily, totaling about 350 packets or over Rs 4 lakh in monthly donations. Given this, it's improbable we would skimp on something as minor as an expired rice pack-

Sundeep acknowledged that minor issues were identified during the raid but insisted that these did not pertain to food safety or cooking stan-

"We are fully committed to maintaining cleanliness. The

SPB's final message revealed on

Telugu *Indian Idol Season 3*

Bhojanambu was established issues raised were minor and with the intent of giving back not related to cooking safety. medical certificates for The so-called 'stagnant water' was actually a drain," he clar-

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

the inspection.

The Food Safety

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

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

has been on caring for my fathers death, my focus has been on caring for my family, and I rarely expressed my grief. Sivamani garu's gesture of pausing his pilgrimage to support us was deeply moving and brought tears to my eyes."

Sivamani was notably impressed by contestant Keshav Ram's performance on *Telugu Indian Idol Season*

3. He announced his intention to recommend Keshav

to the renowned A. R. Rahman, saying, "Whenever I

encounter exceptional talent, I make it a point to intro-

duce them to AR Rahman. I've already taken pictures

of Keshav and will be sending them to him shortly."

food handlers, and unverified water quality reports.

tollywood

On the professional front, Sundeep Kishan's latest project, *Raayan*, a collaboration with Dhanush, was released recently. Additionally, he is set to star in the Telugu film Vibe, directed by Swaroop RSJ, and an untitled project by Trinadha Ŕao Nakkina.

Sai Durga Tej donates Rs 5 lakh to film journalists

Sai Durga Tej, often called as the Supreme hero, apart from his projects, have also been admired for his heartwarming gesbeen admired for his heartwarming gesb tures towards the audiences and the fraternity. In a commendable gesture yet again, the Virupaksha actor has donated an amount of Rs 5 lakhs to film journalists.

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

The Telugu Film Journalists Association

thanked the actor.

The moment was deeply emotional for Pavala Shyamala, who expressed her gratitude through tears, overwhelmed by the support she has received. In a video call with Sai Durga Tej, she shared how his gestantly in the latest and how his gestantly in t ture has impacted her life and how it symbolises the compassion that exists within the industry. Sai Durga Tej, touched by her words, assured her of continued support, promising that he

and the entire

industry will

she received from Chiranjeevi. This mention highlighted the communal

support system that exists within the film community, where stars



Committee Kurrollu trailer highlights many societal, political aspects

continues to impact him.

Saturday at 7 p.m.

The highly anticipated trailer for *Committee Kurrollu* has officially been released, captivating audiences with its portray-al of rural life, youthful experiences and sociopolitical dynamics. Produced by the talented Niharika Konidela under Pink Elephant Pictures in partnership with Shree Radha Damodar Studios, the film is slated for a grand release on August 9, 2024.

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

Niharika and the team. 'Thank you Niharika for calling me and making me a part of this

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

renowned for his skillful storytelling, the film promising ensemble

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

c a s t . an experienced editor, is

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

film that captures

essence of rural life and the characters the rural setting. Anwar Ali, shaped

number in *Devara* lobal sensation Jr. NTR is poised to mesmerise audiences once more with a thrilling new dance sequence in his upcoming film *Devara*. Early buzz suggests this performance could eclipse his legendary Naatu Naatu from Rajamouli's blockbuster

Choreographed by the acclaimed Sekhar Master, the energetic dance number in Devara is slated to begin filming in just two days. Sekhar Master shared his enthusiasm for the project, emphasising that the song is crafted for highenergy dance and promises to be spectacular. Known for his successful collaborations with NTR on hits like Bantipula Janaki and Apple Beauty, Sekhar is said to have choreographed some of his most dynamic moves yet

Jr NTR set to outshine *Naatu*

Naatu with new dance

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

upcoming number.

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



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

poster,

arking the actress birth-day, the mak-day, the makher character, the actress is expected to play the role of Nani's mother in the film.

Previously, the makers had released a glimpse also known as "Not A Teaser" on the occasion of SJ Suryah's birthday. The verse hints at a huge storm happening. In the teaser, Nani shows that he compares the history of the film with Lord Sri Krishna, who united with Satyabhama to defeat the naracasur. Then, the teaser demonstrates Nani and Pri Arul Mohan, preparing for the blows of the antagonist, SJ Suryah. SJ Suryah looks menacing as a cop in the film. The teaser received overwhelming responses, with fans praising composer Jakes Bejoy for his banger of a back-ground score.



🕇 atural Star Nani has wrapped up shooting for his upcoming film Saripodhaa Sanivaaram, which is set to hit theaters on August 29. Directed by Sujeeth and produced by DVV Danayya, the film marks the end of a significant chapter in Nani's fil-

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

off in September, with the film to be shot across various stunning locations in India, including a major segment in Kashmir. Sanu Varghese, who previously

collaborated with Nani on Iersey, Shyam Singha Roy and Hi Nanna, will handle the cinematography for this film.

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

