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Published From: VIJAYAWADA HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN





Director Vijaya Bhaskar says, 'Love *BEAUTIFUL* QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer It would be better to name KTR as Joseph Goebbels Rama Rao. He has surpassed even Goebbels. Hitler was misled by Goebbels and his lies. The planning and execution of the Kaleshwaram Project were carried out unscientifically during KCR's rule. People are laughing at KTR's statement on the Kaleshwaram Project. - N. Uttam Kumar Reddy,

Irrigation Minister, Telangana

Big catch: Bandar fishermen net...

Fishermen from Campbelnet at Chinna Kara Agraharam in Machilipatnam made headlines with a remarkable catch: a colossal fish weighing approximately 1,500 kg. This extraordinary event, which occurred recently, came to public attention on Sunday. The drama unfolded as a team of fishermen set out to fish near Gilkaladindi. unaware of the enormous creature lurking beneath the waters between Gilakaladindi and Manginapudi.After deploying their nets and grappling for hours with the massive fish, the fishermen were astounded...

Khadi, handloom creating job...

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



Night flights, long duty hours among...

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

-PAGE: 8

Boxer Preeti beats Vietnam's Vo...

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

Srisailam Dam brimming

Current storage in the dam is 156.38 TMC at a level of 873.40 feet

PNS VIJAYAWADA

For the first time this season, the Srisailam Dam gates are expected to open on July 30. The dam is currently receiving about 4.50 lakh cusecs of floodwater from the upper catchment areas. The current

dam's full

just 6.60 feet short

of the 880

storage in the dam is 156.38 TMCs at a level of 873.40 feet. Water

Resources Minister, Nimmala Ramanaidu, will oversee the release of water downstream.

The Irrigation department anticipates increased inflows into the reservoir around midnight on July 29 or 30. Once the water level reaches 880 feet, the authorities plan to release the floodwater into the Krishna River.

Discussions are ongoing among Srisailam Project officials and higher authorities regarding the release of floodwater.

The dam's full reservoir level is 885 feet with a storage capacity of 215.80 TMCs. Currently, the water level is just 6.60 feet short of the



The average inflow into the reservoir is 4.50 lakh cusecs, with contributions of 2,75,538 cusecs from

the Jurala spillway, 18,938 cusecs from the Jurala powerhouse, and 1,46,746 cusecs from Sunkesula. The average realised inflow is 3.79

Recently, the dam authorities released 18,000 cusecs to Pothireddipadu and 61,111 cusecs for power generation. As of now, no surplus water has been discharged downstream.

Meanwhile, the Almatti and Narayanapur projects on the Krishna River are nearing full reservoir levels.

The Almatti dam currently stands at 516.34 feet against its full reservoir level of 519.60 feet, receiving 2.19 lakh cusecs and discharging 2.96 lakh cusecs downstream. Narayanapur is at 490 feet against its full level of 492 feet, with inflows of around 3.03 lakh

Godavari rises again, maroons villages

PNS AMALAPURAM

Heavy rains in the catchment areas have caused the floodwaters in the Godavari River to rise again, inundating several villages and agricultural fields in the Eluru, Konaseema, and East Godavari

ly island villages in the Konaseema waist-deep water. The Shabari



Many low-lying areas, especial- district, are now submerged in

River, also in spate, is exacerbating the flood situation, causing significant damage in the ASR district. Officials report that villages such as Obalalanka, Komarajulanka, Mandapalli, Kedarlanka, Nagayalanka, Baduvanilanka, Moolasthanam, and Ankampalem are cut off, surrounded by floodwaters. Thousands of acres of crops are

Pistol queen Manu Bhaker

claims historic bronze

PNS CHATEAUROUX

A resilient Manu Bhaker became the first Indian woman shooter to claim an Olympic medal by snaring a bronze in the 10m air pistol event here on Sunday, a triumph that opened the country's account in the Paris Games and ended a 12-year wait for its muchhyped shooters. Continued on Page 2

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Governor S Abdul Nazeer on Sunday congratulated Manu Bhaker for bagging India's first medal, a shooting bronze, at the 2024 Paris

Guv, CM hail feat

Modi dials Manu, lavishes praise

Centre to provide Rs 80,000 cr for

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

medal by finishing third in the 10m air pistol event, an achievement that opened the country's account in the ongoing Games and ended a 12-year wait for its shooters.

Dy CM hails renaming of govt schemes after great personalities

PNS VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

ration to future generations.

The Deputy Chief Minister also highlighted the commendable renaming of the mid-day meals scheme after Dokka Seethamma, a generous individual known for pro-

front of a bullock cart when loud

music from the DJ system startled



viding food to the hungry at any time. He believes that embodying her virtues through this scheme will instil similar values in students. Furthermore, awarding students

for their talents in the name of the Missile Man of India," Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, will generate enthusiasm among the youth. Dr. Kalam, who overcame many challenges and achieved remarkable success as a scientist before becoming the President of India, serves as a significant inspiration to the younger generation.

By implementing schemes in the names of such dignitaries, the government ensures their legacies are remembered. The values of these great individuals will continue to guide the NDA government under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, said the Deputy Chief Minister.

Chevireddy Mohit detained at Bengaluru Airport

PNS TIRUPATI

YSRCP leader Chevireddy Mohit Reddy was detained by police at Bengaluru Airport on Saturday flight to Dubai. This action was in connection with the murder attempt on TDP leader Pulivarti Nani.

An AP police team, led by DSP Ravi Manoharachari, detained Reddy and brought him to SV University police station for questioning regarding the incident involving TDP leader and MLA Pulivarti Nani.

Following the interrogation, police issued a 41A notice to Mohit Reddy, subsequently releasing him with the condition that he must not leave the country without permission. Continued on Page 2

various projects in AP: Pemmasani PNS VIJAYAWADA

Union Minister of State, Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, announced signif-Central government for Andhra

Pradesh, including Rs 15,000 crore for the construction of Amaravati as the State capital. He emphasised the Centre's commitment to fully funding the Polavaram project, a critical lifeline for the State. Additionally, he mentioned that around Rs 80,000 crore will be allocated to various projects in the State, with more funds expected through Central

Speaking to the media in Guntur on Sunday, the Union Minister among the states receiving sub- 2023-24, up from 3.9% in FY 2019-



stantial funds for infrastructure development, particularly in the eastern regions of India.

MP Chandrasekhar praised the Modi government, noting the highlighted that Andhra Pradesh is increase in GDP to 8.2% for FY

20. He also highlighted the reduction in the fiscal deficit from 9.2% of GDP in 2021 to 5.6% in 2024, a drop in inflation to 5.4% by 2023 from 6.2% in 2020, and a decline in Non-Performing Assets (NPA).

Quit MLA post if you don't attend sessions: Sharmila to Jagan

APCC president YS Sharmila has criticised former CM and YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for his insistence on entering the Assembly only if granted the status of Leader of the Opposition. Sharmila posted a message on X condemning Jagan's stance and demanding his resignation Sharmila asked if he was elected to rep-

attending the Assembly. Sharmila highlighted that Jagan's behaviour exemplifies

arrogance and ignorance, deceiving the very people who elected him. She asserted that such conduct mocks democracy. Questioning Jagan's intentions,

resent the people in the legislative assembly or to seek media attention. She noted that while the ruling party is releasing white papers on the alleged irregularities during the previous YSRCP government, Jagan has limited himself to media engagements. Sharmila empha-

Assembly and to hold the ruling party accountable on behalf of the people.

YS Sharmila demanded Jagan's immediate resignation, arguing that his refusal to attend the Assembly renders him unworthy of the MLA status. "Those who do not respect the people's decision and avoid the Assembly are sized that it is Jagan's responsibility to not fit to be MLAs," Sharmila stated.

Minister Dola gored by bullock at village event

PNS ONGOLE

In an unexpected incident, the bulls. The panicked animals Minister for Social Welfare Dola surged forward, causing one to

Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy sustained minor injuries after being gored by a bullock during a religious event in Paletipadu village, Zarugumalli mandal, on Sunday.

The incident occurred during the Poleramma Thirunala festival. The minister and other organizers were standing in



ground, he fortunately only suffered minor injuries. The organisers quickly managed to calm the bulls. Despite the incident, the minister continued to participate in the pooja and later returned to his native village, Naidu Palem.

Over 100 Anna Canteens set for I-Day relaunch

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The TDP-led government in Andhra Pradesh is set to relaunch one of its flagship programs, Anna Canteens, on August 15. Initially designed to provide meals to the poor at a nominal cost of Rs 5, these canteens

served 2.25 lakh people daily before their closure in 2019 by the YSRCP government under YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

Following a landslide victory, the new alliance government prioritised the revival of Anna Canteens, with the Chief Minister signing the necessary files immediately. CM Jagan

of 183 canteens slated for construction and repair, tenders have been awarded for 103, with work at various stages of completion. Several canteens are already prepared for launch.

Mohan Reddy confirmed that the canteens will reopen at 100 locations by Independence Day. Minister P. Narayana has been overseeing the refurbishment of these canteens throughout the

state. He stated that significant progress is being made, to relaunch at least 100 canteens by the target date. Minister Narayana, along with Municipal Commissioner Hari Narayanan, has been conducting daily reviews of the ongoing work to ensure



However, all canteens are expected to be ready by August 10, resuming the provision of subsidized meals from August 15. The minister highlighted that Akshaya Patra Sansthan, which previously provided high-quality food, will again be supplying meals under the same conditions, ensuring continuity and quality.

and quality.

timely completion. They are also implementing daily drinking water purity tests to guarantee public safety.

Out of 183 canteens slated for

construction and repair, tenders have been awarded for 103, with work at various stages of completion. Several canteens are already prepared for launch, with more than 100 expected to be opera-

tional by August 15. Previously, Anna Canteen

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premises were repurposed for

ward secretariat offices or storage

Monday Mirchi

TO SAFE ZONE?

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

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

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

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

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

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

OFFICERS IN TOUCH WITH HARISH RAO

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

-Yours truly

TG IAS aspirant among 3 students found dead

Students protest in Delhi FIR registered, three held

PNS HYDERABAD/ **NEW DELHI**

A Telangana IAS aspirant was among the three victims of a flood in the basement of Rau's The police identified the victims as Tania Soni, 25, from Telangana; Shreya Yadav, 25, from UP; and Navin Delvin, 28, from Kerala.

Tania was killed along with the other two aspirants after being trapped for over four hours when heavy rains flooded the basement on Saturday. An FIR has been registered against the coaching centre, the building management, caretak-

ers and others involved. According to the family, Tania Soni joined the elite coaching centre an year ago to pursue her dream of becoming an IAS officer. Her father, my eldest, had big dreams and Vijay Kumar, works with the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and resides in

Mancherial. At the time of the tragedy,

Krishna Paksha

Jul 28 07:27 PM

Jul 29 05:56 PM

Jul 28 11:47 AM

Jul 29 10:55 AM to Jul 30 10:23 AM

to Jul 29 10:55 AM

7:34 AM to 9:10 AM

10:46 AM to 12:22 PM

10:39 PM to 12:13 AM

06:17 AM to 07:50 AM

11:56 AM to 12:48 PM

1:58 PM to 3:34 PM

to Jul 30 04:45 PM

TODAY

ALMANAC

Tithi: Navami:

Nakshatram:

Dashami

Bharani:

Krithika:

Varjyam:

Rahukalam:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Temp: 34°°

Abhiiit Muhurtham:

Humidity: 68% Sunrise: 5:47 AM

Sunset: 6:40 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Updated: July 28, 2024 5:00 PM

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy

Month & Paksham



were travelling to Lucknow. Upon hearing the news, they rushed to

Delhi to bring Tania's body back to Mancherial. Tania is a Delhi University graduate and is the eldest daughter and highly motivated to join the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). Tania's father shared that she kept in touch with her family daily to update them about her studies. He expressed was highly motivated. We are way she died. We are devastated and don't know what to do."

death, Union Minister and Secunderabad MP G Kishan Reddy expressed grief over Tania's death. Sharing on X, he said, "Saddened by the tragic demise of Tania Soni, a resiher life in the flooding at an IAS coaching centre in Rajender Nagar, New Delhi. Personally spoke to her father, Vijay Kumar, and expressed my deepest condolences. My office in Delhi is in contact with the police and other officials to ensure all formalities are completed swiftly. In this time of immense sorrow, I extend my support and prayers to her

STUDÉNTS STAGE PROTEST

Meanwhile, a few students were detained in Delhi after they staged a protest in Old Rajinder Nagar on Sunday, demanding action against those responsible for the deaths troubled thinking about the of three civil services aspirants at a coaching centre in the area, and compensation for their Reacting to the sudden families.



Chevireddy Mohit detained.

Continued from Page 1

Speaking to the media, Reddy claimed he was falsely implicated in the case and vowed to challenge the police's actions in court. He stated that his name was added to the list of the accused 50 days after the incident and asserted that he was in the EVM strongroom with the RDO and Joint Collector at the time of the attack.

It may be noted that a murder attempt was made on TDP Chandragiri MLA candidate Pulivarti Nani at SVU on May 14, resulting in injuries to Nani. Police have named Chevireddy Mohit Reddy as Accused 37 in this case.

Union Budget 2024 a boon for MSMEs: Expert

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Union Budget 2024 exemplifies strategic foresight and sound economic planning, setting the stage for a new era of growth, innovation, and social advancement. Highlighting the critical role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India's economy, the budget aims to support and empower this sector, recognising its significance in driving growth, fostering innovation, and generating employment opportunities. Various initiatives have been implemented to address the challenges faced by MSMEs and help them thrive in a competitive global environment, stated Dr PS Biswa Bhusan Sahoo, Assistant Professor at SRM University - AP.

Dr. Sahoo emphasised the substantial increase in credit allocation for MSMEs as a standout feature of the budget. A major announcement was the establishment of a dedicated MSME Credit Guarantee Fund, which will provide collateralfree loans to eligible enterpris-



This initiative is expected to significantly ease the financing difficulties faced by small and medium-sized businesses, encouraging more entrepreneurs to explore opportunities within the MSME sector.

es. This initiative is expected to significantly ease the financing difficulties faced by small and medium-sized businesses, encouraging more entrepreneurs to explore opportunities within the MSME sector. The government has set an ambitious target of offering Rs 100 crore in collateral-free loans to MSMEs through this fund.

He also noted that the budget introduces various tax incentives and measures to support MSMEs. Notably, MSMEs with annual sales of up to Rs 250 crores will see their corporate tax rates reduced from 25% to 20%. Additionally, streamlined tax compliance processes are expected to reduce the time and cost of filing returns by 30%. The tax holiday for start-ups has been extended by three years, expected to benefit around 10,000 start-ups. These measures are designed to improve the ease of doing business for MSMEs and enable them to focus on growth

The budget allocates Rs 5,000 crores for skill development and capacity-building initiatives within the MSME sector. This includes establishing dedicated centres in every district, collaborating with industry associato design customized training programs for 500,000 MSME employees, and offering incentives for MSMEs to invest in employee training and upskilling, targeting the training of 2 million workers. By prioritizing human capital development, the government aims to enhance the competitiveness of MSMEs and ensure a skilled workforce that can adapt to the evolving business environment.

Further initiatives include providing subsidies to 100,000 enterprises for cloud-based ERP solutions, establishing a National MSME Technology Upgradation Fund with Rs 1,000 crores to facilitate access to advanced technology, and forming partnerships with leading technology companies to offer training and mentorship to 50,000 MSMEs.

comprehensive approach to supporting MSMEs in the Union Budget 2024 is poised to create a robust foundation for their growth, positioning them as key drivers of India's economic progress.

Special festivals lined up in August at Tirumala

PNS TIRUMALA

A series of significant religious events are scheduled in Tirumala this August. Devotees can look forward to the following: On August 4, Sri Chakratthalwar

Varsha Thirunakshatram and Sri Prativadi Bhaiyakara Annangaracharya Varsha Thirunakshatram will be observed. On August 7, Andal Thiruvadipuram Sattumora and Srivaru's visit to Purisaivari Thota will take place. August 9 marks Garuda Panchami, highlighted by Tirumala Srivari Garuda Seva. Kalki Jayanti falls on August 10. The death anniversary of Tarigonda Vengamamba is on August 13, followed by Pavitrotsavams Ankurarpanam on August 14.

Independence Day celebrations and Smarta Ekadashi will be

observed on August 15, alongside the Annual Pavitrotsavams from August 15 to 17. Varalakshmi Vratam and Chatra Sthapanotsavam at Narayangiri Padalu will take place on August 17. On August 19, Sravan Pournami Garuda Seva, Hayagriva Jayanthi, and Vikhanasa Mahamuni Jayanti

will be celebrated. On August 20, Srivaru will visit Sri Vikhanasacharya Sannidhi with the chanting of Gayatri Japam. August 27 will feature Sri Krishnashtami celebrations, including Krishnasta Janmashtami Asthanam at the Tirumala temple, followed by Srivari Shikyotsavam on August 28. Devotees and pilgrims are invited to participate in these auspicious events and seek

VSP crosses 100 tons milestone

PNS VIJAYAWADA

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Sharmila highlighted that Jagan's behaviour exemplifies arrogance and ignorance, deceiving the very people who elected him. She asserted that such conduct mocks democracy.

Questioning Jagan's intentions, Sharmila asked if he was elected to represent the people in the legislative assembly or to seek media attention. She noted that while the ruling party is releas-ing white papers on the alleged



irregularities during the previous YSRCP government, Jagan has limited himself to media engagements. Sharmila emphasized that it is Jagan's responsibility to respond to these allegations in the Assembly and to hold the ruling party accountable on behalf of the people.

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Modi dials...

Continued from Page 1

Pistol queen Manu Bhaker claims...

Continued from Page 1

Rifle shooters Ramita Jindal and Arjun Babuta further lifted the spirits of the contingent at the scenic range, located nearly 300km away from Paris, by securing final spots in the 10m air rifle women's and men's event respectively to keep India in the hunt for more

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

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

appointed and it took me a very wide smile on her face.

Guv, CM hail feat

Continued from Page 1

Bhaker won a bronze medal in the women's 10-metre air pistol competition. "Congratulations to Manu Bhaker on scripting history and becoming the first Indian woman to win a shooting medal at the Olympics! Her bronze medalwinning shot also marks India's first medal at the Paris Olympics 2024," Naidu said in a post on the social media platform X.Appreciating Bhaker, the governor said that she had created history by winning India's first medal at the Paris Olympics. Nazeer said Bhaker made the country and its people proud with her achievement and wished her luck to win many more such laurels in the future.

long time to overcome that. Frankly speaking, I really can't explain how good I am feeling today," Bhaker, whose pistol malfunctioned during the qualification of the same event "After Tokyo I was very dis- three years ago, said with a

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

The last time India won Olympics was in 2012 London edition where rapid-fire pistol shooter Vijay Kumar and 10m air rifle marksman Gagan Narang clinched silver and bronze respectively. Narang is the chef de mission of the Paris contingent right now.

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

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

"Many, many congratulahearing the news of your win, the whole country is basking in the glory of your success," PM Modi said during his telephonic interaction with the 22-year-old shooter. That Bhaker narrowly missed out on a silver did not escape the PM's attention.

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

Bhaker thanked the PM for helping the athletes.

"Sir, everything is well taken care of, we are doing well. My teammates are also saying namaste to you," she said. A pistol malfunction during qualification at Tokyo Olympics had left her crestfallen but three years later, Bhaker got what she craved.

Modi also lauded the shooter for the manner in which she redeemed herself after the disappointment in Tokyo.

"In the Tokyo Olympics, equipment malfunction came in your way of winning a medal. But this time, you have not left any stone unturned and more than compensated for that with the medal." To this Bhaker said, she is now focussed on her remaining events -- 25m pistol, 10m pistol mixed team. "I have events coming up and I am confident of doing well.'

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Centre to provide Rs 80,000...

Continued from Page 1

"For employment opportunities, the Central government plans to invest Rs 2 lakh crore to support 4.1 crore youth over the next five years, including the development of 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). The establishment of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) will be facilitated through a credit guarantee scheme, allowing loans of up to Rs 100 crores without a mortgage. Additionally, Mudra Loans have been increased from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh. Internship opportunities in 500 mega industries will be provided for one crore

youth over the next five

years, with a stipend of Rs

6,000 initially and Rs 5,000 per month thereafter," he

Regarding the Union Budget allocations for Andhra Pradesh, MP Chandrasekhar noted the following: Rs 2,500 crore for railways, Rs 12,000 to Rs 15,000 crore for the construction of an outer ring road, Rs 15,000 crore for Amaravati Capital construction, and Rs 30,000 to Rs 40,000 crore for Polavaram. Funds have also been allocated for the development of backward districts, the Kopperti Node in the Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor, and the Orvakallu node in the Hvderabad-Bangalore Industrial Corridor.

Prakasam district.

Uttarandhra (North Andhra) have been identified as backward districts requiring additional sup-

Dr. Chandrasekhar also outlined plans for industrial development in India, including the establishment of fully equipped industrial parks in 100 cities and the development of 12 National Industrial Corridors. Two industrial corridors in Andhra Pradesh will be developed under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. Furthermore, funds have been allocated for the construction of roads in 25,000 rural areas under the Vikasit Andhra Pradesh-Viksit Bharat ini-

Continued from Page 1

Despite the dangerous conditions, some farmers were seen harvesting their lady's finger crop while standing in waist-deep water. They explained that the floodwaters submerge their fields just as the crops are ready for harvest. The Godavari floodwaters are overflowing the Veduruvada causeway in Ainavilli mandal, disrupting vehicular traffic.

Residents Veeravallipalem and Ainavilli Lanka have been evacuated as their homes are waist-deep in water. Villages such Gurajapulanka, Thanelanka, Nagulalanka, Shivailanka, and Kunalanka in P Gannavaram mandal are in

knee-deep water, with road connectivity cut off.

Godavari rises again, maroons...

In the ASR district, the Godavari River and its tributary, the Shabari, are wreaking havoc, inundating over 25 habitations. Horticulture crops across thousands of acres are marooned. ASR Collector AS Dinesh Kumar stated that officers have been deployed to each mandal to monitor relief operations. The Collector noted that

villages in four mandals are severely affected by the floodwaters. Several habitations in Kunavaram and VR Puram mandals in the Chintoor division are flooded, with residents relocated to relief centers.

Traffic on the national highway in the ASR district was restored three days ago, but it has been suspended

again due to floodwaters overflowing onto the road. The bridge between VR Puram and Kunavaram is

submerged, and the police and bus stations in Kunavaram are inundated. Road connectivity between the Chintoor and Vara Ramachandrapuram mandals is disrupted, suspending vehicular traffic due to submerged roads. Approximately 50 villages

in Mukunur, AG Kodur, and Pedasi Tanapalli panchayat limits have lost road connectivity, with several shops and commercial establishments submerged in 5 feet of water. A second danger signal has been issued at Dowleswaram Barrage as 15 lakh cusecs of water are being discharged downstream into the sea.

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Will develop Manginapudi Beach as major tourist spot: Minister

District administration to constitute Beach Development Committee soon

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Mines & Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra has stated that the State government will develop the Manginapudi Beach near Machilipatnam as a prominent tourism spot. "The government will develop the beach on par with the Brindavanam Garden," the Minister said, adding it is his long-pending dream.

Minister Ravindra, Krishna District Collector DK Balaji, his wife Prudhvi Kalyani, Joint Collector Geethanjali Sharma, and others participated in the Manginapudi Beach cleaning programme on Sunday. They cleaned the beach by collecting the waste, and later attended a yoga session organised on the

Ravindra said that in the coming days, Manginapudi Beach will be developed as a tourism centre. "After the State bifurcation, during the TDP regime, the government initiated several development activities on the beach. A wall was constructed along the seashore, besides a road. For that, the then government first sanctioned Rs. 5 crore, and later Rs.10 crore. However, after the change of the government, those works were stalled," he said

Further, he said that during



Minister for Mines & Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra and Krishna District Collector DK Balaji participating in the Manginapudi Beach cleaning programme on Sunday

the auspicious occasion of Kartika Pournami, irrespective of religion, scores of people visit the beach to take a holy dip in the sea. So, drinking water, a room for changing clothes and other infrastructure facilities are needed there. Toilets and bathrooms also need to be constructed on the beach, he said.

"People of Hyderabad are in search of a spot to enjoy their weekends. Manginapudi Beach is the apt choice for them to spend some time with their loved ones. So, the government is planning to provide all infrastructure facilities near the beach," he said

announced that he will soon constitute a Beach Development Committee comprising some of the prominent political leaders. Also, he said several multinational companies (MNCs) are coming forward to set up beach resorts in Manginapudi. Furthermore, he said efforts are underway to boost temple

tourism in Manginapudi Beach. The Minister added that MP Vallabhaneni Balashoury is striving for the development of Manginapudi Beach. A 'Beach Festival' was organised during the TDP regime from 2014 to 19. Boat riding and cultural programmes were organised grandly. Today, 6,000 to 7,000



Minister for Mines & Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra, Krishna Collector DK Balaji and Joint Collector Geethanjali Sharma performing yoga asanas on the Manginapudi Beach on Sunday

people visit the beach every Sunday and so, the government is planning to organise yoga sessions and cultural activities on Sunday evenings, he added.

The district administration also mulls extending the visiting hours to 8 pm. Now, visitors are not allowed after 5 pm. However, priority should be given to providing lighting facilities and security, he said.

DRO K Chandrasekhar Rao, DPO K Nageswar Naik, Tourism Officer Ram Lakshman, Survey Records AD Manisha Tripathi, I & PR DD Venkateswara Prasad, Collectorate AO Nacharaiah and others were present.

Rs.220 cr for potable water

Meanwhile, Ravindra conducted 'Praja Darbar' at the party office in Machilipatnam and assured that the government will provide drinking water facilities spending Rs.220 crore by implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission, a Central government scheme.

Also, Rs.160 crore will be spent for constructing roads, drains, compound walls to burial grounds and other infrastructure facilities

These funds have been sanctioned under the Upadhi scheme, he added

Big catch: Bandar fishermen

net 1,500 kg giant fish



Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sanghala Samanvaya Samithi leaders burning copies of the budget at the Dharna Chowk in

Allocation for agriculture not up to expectations: APRSSS

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Leaders of the Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sanghala Samanvaya Samithi (APRSSS) protested against the Union Budget by burning its copies, at the Dharna Chowk in Vijayawada on Sunday. They said the budget allocations for the agriculture sector were not up to their expectations.

Speaking on the occasion, APRSSS convener and forminister Vadde Sobhandreeswara Rao commented that the budget allocated meagre funds to agriculture. However, the BJP-led

more funds to big industrialists and provided incentives to the corporate, in addition to redemption of the loans, he alleged.

Further, he came down heavily on the Central government saying that mud was stuffed in the mouths of farmers, who provide rice to the people of the country. There is a reduction in the budget allocation for even the Upadhi scheme. There were no funds for irrigation works under the scheme. As a result, rural people have migrated to other areas seeking a livelihood, he

He added that the recommendations Swaminathan Commission, constituted during the Congress rule, have not been implemented in the country. Even though BJP bagged less number of seats this time due to the peasants' agitations, the party's attitude has not

changed, he said.

APRSSS leaders Kesavarao, P Jamalaiah, M Haribabu, M Yalamanda Rao, PV Anjaneyulu, M Prasad Babu, P Krishna, M Nageswara Rao and others

Good response to 'Liver Walk' in Port City

Stress on need for public awareness about liver diseases and how a healthy lifestyle can control them

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

A sea of humanity descended upon the picturesque RK Beach Road on Sunday as thousands of people from all walks of life participated in the 'Liver Walk' organised by the Department Gastroenterology at Andhra Medical College. The event, held in the run-up to World Hepatitis Day, aimed to shine

demic of liver disease. The walk saw a diverse crowd including medical professionals, students, and concerned citizens. District Collector MN Herendhira Prasad graced the occasion as the chief guest. Collector Prasad empha-

sised the critical need for public awareness about liver diseases and how adopting a healthy lifestyle can help control them. "Liver diseases such as hepatitis B and C are a growing concern," he stated, highlighting the severe long-term health issues they can cause if neglected. "Millions of people succumb to liver infections worldwide each year, and it is essential to administer the hepatitis B vaccine to newborns within 24 hours of

diseases and how adopting a healthy lifestyle can help control them. "Liver diseases such as hepatitis B and C are a growing concern," he stated, highlighting the severe long-term health issues they can cause if neglected. "Millions of people succumb to liver infections worldwide each year, and it is essential to administer the hepatitis B vaccine to newborns within 24 hours of birth.'

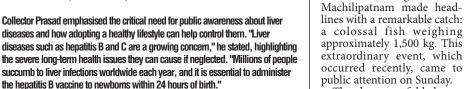
Prasad explained that alcoholics are particularly susceptible to liver diseases. "Hepatitis through the consumption of infected blood products, sharing needles, mother-to-child transmission during birth, unprotected sex, injection drug use, and poor sanitation during tattooing or piercing," he detailed, advocating for a healthy lifestyle and regular medical check-ups as preventive measures. The District Collector also inaugurated a medical camp that provided free liver tests.

Medical experts, including Dr. G. Butchi Raju, Principal of AMC, highlighted that hepatitis B and C are prevalent among alcoholics and those who use unprotected syringes. He mentioned the Central Viral Hepatitis Control Programme, collaboration

with the Central Government at King George Hospital, which offers free hepatitis screening and medicines to

Renowned gastroenterologist Dr. Pedďa Veerarraju painted a stark picture of the global burden of hepatitis and India's role in achieving the World Health Organisation's ambitious goal of eliminating the disease by 2030. "Sustained awareness campaigns and improved access to healthcare are crucial," he stressed.

The Liver Walk culminated in a pledge by participants to prioritise liver health and become ambassadors of hepatitis prevention. As the world marks World Hepatitis Day on Monday, the message from this event resonates loud and clear: early detection, prevention, and treatment are key to defeating this silent killer.



PNS VIJAYAWADA

The drama unfolded as a team of fishermen set out to fish near Gilkaladindi, unaware of the enormous creature lurking beneath the waters between Gilakaladindi and Manginapudi.

Fishermen from Campbelpet

at Chinna Kara Agraharam in

and grappling for hours with the massive fish, the fishermen were astounded by the size of their catch. The sheer weight of the fish presented a formidable challenge, prompting them to



ly enlisted the help of a crane to hoist the giant fish out of the water. The catch, nicknamed the 'Bahubali Fish', attracted a crowd of curious locals who gathered to witness this rare

ment, the giant fish was not suitable for consumption. Consequently, the fishermen decided to cut it into smaller pieces and return them to the

Collector rushes aid to flood-ravaged areas

PNS PEDERU

In the aftermath of the devastating floods that have wreaked havoc across the region, District Collector AS Dinesh Kumar has spearheaded a comprehensive relief operation for the affected residents. While emergency supplies are being distributed, concerns have surfaced about the pace of relief efforts in Chintoor and Kunavaram mandals, which have borne the brunt of the disaster.

To address the immediate needs of the displaced population, the District Collector has overseen the distribution of rice, vegetables, and tarpaulins. Recognising the challenges posed by inaccessible areas, authorities have deployed boats and personnel to reach remote vide immediate medical attenvillages in Chintoor, Kunavaram,

Botsa seeks urgent action

on drug container case

surrounding Daspalla lands



VR Puram, and Etapaka man-Collector Dinesh Kumar has

embarked on field visits to assess the extent of damage and interact with affected families. During these inspections, he has prioritised the establishment of nporary shelters equipp with adequate healthcare and sanitation facilities to prevent the outbreak of diseases. Medical camps have been set up to protion to those in need.

Zoo park celebrates International Tiger Day

Students showcase artistic and photographic talents through works centered on tigers

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The Indira Gandhi Zoological (IGZP) marked International Tiger Day with a competitive spirit as it hosted drawing and photography contests. The event, held on Sunday, drew 110 enthusiastic participants from schools and colleges, from Class I to postgraduate

Students showcased their artistic and photographic talents through works centered on tigers and their conservation. Themes such as 'Tigers and Cubs, 'Human Impact on Tigers,' and 'The Impact of Climate Change on Tigers' provided a platform for young minds to express their understanding of the challenges faced by these



Dr Nandani Salaria, IFS, Curator of IGZP, emphasised the event's significance, stating, "Such initiatives are crucial in cultivating a sense of responsibility towards wildlife conservation among the youth. By engaging them creatively, we aim to foster a deeper appreciation for tigers and their critical role in the

Also calls for probe into allegations PNS VISAKHAPATNAM Former minister Botsa Satyanarayana has launched a

fierce attack on the coalition government, demanding immediate and comprehensive investigations into the unresolved case of the drug container seized by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at the Visakha Container Terminal. The container, suspected to contain narcotic drugs mixed with approximately 25,000 kg of dried yeast. Additionally, he called for scrutiny of the scandalous allegations surrounding the Daspalla lands, valued

in thousands of crores. Addressing the media on Sunday, Botsa highlighted the alarming seizure of a massive drug consignment under Operation Garuda by the CBI, which still remains shrouded in mystery. "What happened to the drug container case from Brazil?" he demanded, urging the government to uncover the origins and far-reaching implications of this

Botsa did not stop there.
Adding fuel to the fire, he brought attention to the allegations implicating the Sandhya Aqua Marine Company, purportedly linked to BJP president Daggubati Purandeswari. He issued a

scandal



Botsa highlighted the alarming seizure of a massive drug consignment under Operation Garuda by the CBI, which still remains shrouded in mystery. "What happened to the drug container case from Brazil?" he demanded, urging the government to uncover the origins and far-reaching implications of this scandal.

Fury erupts over VPA hospital privatization proposal

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA)-owned hospital in Kailasapuram has become a focal point of controversy after the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways announced plans to privatize the facility. This move has ignited fierce opposition from local union leaders who are vehemently protesting the

In a joint statement on Sunday, leaders of the Centre

of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) affiliated unions expressed their deep concerns over the potential negative impact of privatizing the hospital on employees and the local community. K. Satvanaravana, General Secretary of the United Port & Dock Employees Union, and B. Lakshmana Rao, General Secretary of the Dock Workers Union, warned of increased healthcare costs and reduced accessibility if the hospital is handed over to private entities.

The announcement to lease the VPA hospital through a public-private partnership (PPP) model was made by Ports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday during a parliamentary session. The proposed deal, valued at Rs 222.43 crore, has drawn widespread criticism. "The privatization of the VPA hospital is a direct attack on the welfare of port employees and their families," said K. Satyanarayana. "This hospital has been a lifeline for the community, providing essential medical care. We cannot allow it to fall into the hands of private corporations."

B. Lakshmana Rao echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the importance of preserving the hospital as a public institution. "Privatization will compromise the quality of healthcare and undermine the rights of workers," he stated. "We demand the immediate withdrawal of this anti-people deci-

Unions are rallying support from various quarters and

privatization. They argue that this move is part of a larger government push to privatize public assets, which often leads to reduced services and higher costs for citizens. The future of the VPA hospital remains uncertain as the battle between unions and the government intensifies. With the stakes high, the outcome of this conflict will have significant implications for the employees, their families, and the entire com-

stern call to the MPs of North Andhra to confront this issue in Parliament, underscoring the staggering sum of Rs. 25,000 crore involved. "This is not a trivial matter. Those responsible must be identified

and punished," he declared. The former minister lambasted the timing of the drug container seizure, which coincided with the elections, allowing political distractions to overshadow this critical issue. He insisted on an exhaustive inquiry, asserting that every individual involved must be scrutinised without exception. Botsa also reiterated the urgency of investigating the allegations surrounding the Daspalla lands in

Turning his ire towards land misappropriations in

Visakhapatnam.

Visakhapatnam, particularly post-Hudud typhoon, Botsa condemned the handling of these issues. He demanded the immediate release of the SIT report on land misappropriations dating back to 2004 during the TDP regime. Despite his efforts, Botsa's attempts to obtain this report during the YSRCP period were thwarted. "The SIT report must be made public, and the culprits exposed. Enough with misleading the public," he said.

Botsa issued a strident call for transparency and justice, demanding clear answers on whether drugs had indeed arrived at the Visakhapatnam Port and identifying those responsible. "The people deserve the truth," he asserthe pioneer



Ministers visit flood-affected | Collector for efforts to combat cancer areas, assure relief to ryots

PNS RAJAHMUNDRY

A Group of Ministers (GoM), including V Anitha, K Atchannaidu, K Durgesh and N Ramanaidu visited some of the damaged crops in floodaffected areas on Sunday.

Minister for Home V Anitha, Agriculture Minister K Atchannaidu, Water Resources Development Minister N Ramanaidu and Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh vis-ited flood-ravaged crops at some villages in Undrajavaram and Nidadavole mandals. Collector P Prashanthi explained to the Minister the extent of damage caused by the Godavari flood.

The Ministers distributed essential commodities to some of the flood victims at Tallapalem village and also inspected the inundated hous-

Later talking to the media,



Agriculture Achennaidu the Yerrakaluva drain damaged crops in 20 constituencies. The farmers incurred heavy losses due to floods, he deplored.

"The de-siltation works in

distributed essential commodities to some of the flood victims at Tallapalem village and also inspected the inundated houses. culture fields to a large extent"

The Ministers

the Minister made it clear.
Atchannaidu ordered the

officials concerned to take steps to plug the breaches development to canal and rivulet bunds on war footing. He vowed to take up work to resolve the Yerrakaluva flood threat permanently. He also directed the officials to submit proposals for the works immediately. He advised the officials to be on high alert that Godavari is in spate again with

Second annual meeting of National Cancer Grid AP Chapter held

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

District Collector MN Harendhira Prasad has underscored the indispensable role of doctors in delivering comprehensive cancer care to all patients. Speaking at the second annual meeting of the National Cancer Grid AP Chapter, Prasad called for unified efforts to curb cancer through proactive preventive measures. Highlighting the disturbing increase in cancer cases due to lifestyle changes, Prasad stressed the urgency of the situation. He pointed out the vital function of the National Cancer Grid in enabling medical professionals to share insights on the latest treatments and procedures in cancer care. The District Collector affirmed the government's unwavering commitment to providing free, highquality medical services to cancer patients and improving their quality of life.

"Cancer is a growing men-



ace that requires our immedi-Prasad emphasised the ate attention," Prasad stated. importance of continuous meetings for the AP chapter of 'The changes in our modern lifestyle have contributed sigthe National Cancer Grid to nificantly to the rise in cancer keep abreast of the latest developments in cancer treatment. cases. It is crucial for medical professionals to stay updated He assured the audience of the with the latest advancements in district administration's full treatment and care. The support for the collaborative National Cancer Grid plays a cancer services offered by the pivotal role in this regard, fos-Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital tering collaboration and at KGH. He also urged the knowledge-sharing among public to make healthier doctors," he added. lifestyle choices to reduce cancer risk. "Prevention is always better than cure. Simple lifestyle changes can significantly reduce the risk of cancer. I urge everyone to adopt healthier habits and undergo regular screenings."

The Director of Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, Dr Umesh Mahant Shetty highlighted the progress made by the National Cancer Grid in standardising cancer treatment protocols across the State. "Our goal is to ensure that every cancer patient, irrespective of their location or economic status, receives the best possible care. The National Cancer Grid facilitates this by bringing together the expertise and resources of various institutions." The meeting concluded with a commitment to strengthen the National Cancer Grid's initiatives and expand its reach to more regions, ensuring that advanced cancer care



Tribal heritage of Vanjangi preserved in unique way

Vanjangi Bolengamma Thalli Adivasi Traditional Centre opened

PNS ■ PADERU

The Vanjangi indigenous community, located in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh, has made a remarkable move to protect and honour their rich tribal heritage. Partnering with the Centre for People's Forestry (CPF), they have opened the Vanjangi Bolengamma Thalli Adivasi Traditional Centre, a pioneering initiative set to become a symbol of cultural practices.

The centre, inaugurated by District Collector AS Dinesh Kumar on Sunday, is a sprawling two-acre complex located near the Vanjangi toll-gate in Paderu mandal, Alluri Sitharama Raju district. Stepping into the centre is akin to stepping back in time. The very essence of sustainability is embodied in its construction, with locally sourced mud, bamboo, wood, grass, and natural clays forming the building blocks. This eco-friendly approach is a tes-tament to the deep respect the Vanjangi community holds for their environment.

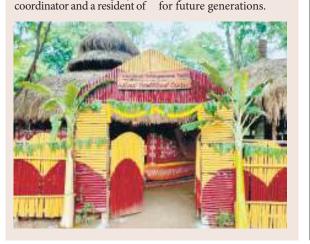
Beyond the sustainable facade lies a treasure trove of cultural heritage. The walls of the centre come alive with vibrant mural artworks, meticulously crafted by local artisans. These murals are more than just visual delights; they serve as a window into the daily lives and ancient customs of the various Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) that call Vanjangi home. These include the Bagata, Kammara, Konda Dora, Nuka Dora, Valmiki, and Kodu communities, each with their unique traditions and ways of life.

"Vanjangi isn't just a location; it's the ancestral home to these indigenous communities," shared Haribariki Gasinaidu, CPF's project coordinator and a resident of

Dumbriguda mandal. "The centre, named after our revered deity Bolengamma Thalli, aspires to be a repository of our heritage. We want to showcase everything from our age-old cultural practices and traditional ways of life to our rituals, artforms, music, and even the time-tested agricultural techniques that have sustained us for genera-

The centre's stewardship a dedicated committee of 30 tribal women from Vanjangi. This committee plays a pivotal role in ensuring the preservation and promotion of these invaluable cultural treasures. The centre aspires to be more than just a museum; it envisions itself as a dynamic platform for education, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of tribal customs among visitors. Cultural exchange programmes are also planned, creating opportunities for meaningful interaction between the indigenous communities and the outside world.

The Vanjangi Bolengamma Thalli Adivasi Traditional Centre also embraces the concept of sustainable tourism. By promoting eco-friendly tourism practices, the centre aims to empower the local commu-nities while creating a platform for visitors to experience the vibrant heartbeat of Vanjangi's tribal heritage firsthand. This approach ensures that tourism becomes a tool for cultural preservation and community development, not a threat to the traditional way of life. The Vanjangi Bolengamma Thalli Adivasi Traditional Centre serves as a model for other indigenous communities striving to safeguard their traditions



DC monitors relief operations

PNS BHIMAVARAM

West Godavari District Collector Chadalavada Nagarani monitored the relief operations in the flood-hit areas on Sunday.

the Yerrakaluva were not car-

ried out during the erstwhile

YSRCP regime resulting in the

floodwater flowing into vil-

lages. Since the floodwater is

not flowing freely to down-

stream, it inundated the agri-

The Collector travelled on a scooter and on a tractor to reach the flood-affected areas. She waded through the floodwater-filled roads to reach the affected areas. The floodwater in River Godavari has been increasing alarmingly for the last two days, inundating several island villages in Achanta man-

Unmindful of risk, Collector Nagarani sailed on a boat from Koderu to Ayodyalanka and Marrimala villages. She inspected the water-filled roads. She waded through the water-logged roads for some distance and later travelled on a scooter. Later she travelled on a tractor to reach the BC colony.

She inspected a medical camp set up at Anganwadi Preschool and enquired whether anybody fell ill. She inquired with the doctors and health workers if they knew how to treat snake bite victims and inquired whether needed medicines were



available to treat people if scorpion sting. She examined the stock register of commodities. She visited some of the houses at Marrimala and inquired with the flood victims about their

She appealed to the villagers to move to the relief camps as the flood water in the river Godavari is increasing. The villagers urged the Collector to take steps to supply drinking water to

The Collector assured the villagers of the construction of

bridge Pucchalanka and Marrimala villages. She directed the officials to supply drinking water sachets to the flood victims. She also promised to take steps to supply odder for their cattle.

Collector Nagarani told the media that 25 kg of rice, one KG of potato, 1 litre of edible oil and 1 kg of onions are being distributed to the flood victims.

Narasapuram RDO M Achyut Ambarish and other officials accompanied the



Minister rescues cattle stuck on island

PNS BHIMAVARAM

Minister for Water Resources Nimmala Ramanaidu rescued a herd of cattle which were stuck on an island at Kanakayalanka village in Yelamanchili mandal.

The Minister was informed by the formers that their cattle herd was stuck in an island in the river Godavari and the flood water is increasing rapidly. The Minister, accompanied by some officials, went to the island by a motorboat.

The Minister directed the officials to bring the cattle from the island on a boat. The officials rescued the cattle from the

island by bringing them on rafts and shifted to a safer place. The Minister later visited the flood-hit villages of Kanakayalanka and Peddalanka and interacted with the victims.

The Minister distributed 25 kg of rice and other essential commodities to the flood victims. The Minister ordered the officials in the flood-affected areas to be alert and work efficiently till the flood water receded. He also directed them to visit the flood-affected villages regularly. Flood relief special officer B Venkataramana and Tahsildar Ch Vijayasri were among those

who accompanied the minister.

1 killed, 3 hurt in attack by anti-social elements

becomes accessible to all.

PNS KAKINADA

One person was killed and three others injured when a group of anti-socials attacked the car in which they were travelling in Kakinada city in the wee hours of Sunday, police said. The police identified the deceased as Chetla Gali Devudu (46) and injured as Vundurti Sai Ramakrishna, Vundurti Venkata

Kumaraswamy and Mattavarty Nageswerarao. A case was registered and a special police team was deployed to apprehend the hooligans, police added. Police said a group of 10 peo-

ple from Suraiahcheruvu village in Mummidivaram mandal were on their way to the holy shrine of Thalapulamma Lova and shortly after midnight when they reached Kakinada three youths on a motorcycle stopped them near Sivalayam centre in Jagannadhapuram area. The youths started shouting at them saying that their car had hit their vehicle 15 minutes ago at Toorangi, police said.

KCR, KTR mortgaged Telangana future: Uttam

PNS HYDERABAD

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

demands to fill the project's reservoirs as dangerous.

He emphasised that follow-

ing KTR[†]s suggestions could lead to catastrophic consequences, including structural damage to key barrages like the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla.

He warned that overfilling these reservoirs could result in severe downstream flooding, threatening lives and properties in villages like Bhadrachalam and compromising projects ernment for mismanagement

Terms KTR comments on Kaleshwaram irresponsible He pointed out that the state



Úttam dismissed KTR's such as Sammakka-Saralamma and Sitaram LIS.

"It would be better to name KTR as Joseph Goebbels Rama Rao. KTR has surpassed Goebbels. Hitler was completely misled by Goebbels' lies. During KCR's tenure, the project planning, management and construction were carried out defectively. People are laughing at KTR's statement regarding the Kaleshwaram Project," he said.

He criticised the BRS gov-

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

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

is already paying Rs 15,000 crore in interest and principal payments, which is expected to increase to Rs 25,000 crore after

the project's completion. He also highlighted that the state spent Rs 94,000 crore on the project, but only 93,000 acres were brought under cultivation, questioning the project's effectiveness. He said a total of Rs 1.45 lakh crore would be needed to complete the project.

He criticised KTR for attempting to shift the blame for the Medigadda Barrage's collapse on to the Congress government, which assumed office 47 days after the incident. He condemned KTR's remarks as immature and lacking in knowledge, accusing him of spreading misinformation to deflect responsibility from the BRS's failures.

Thunderstorms likely in AP

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are expected to occur in isolated areas of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh over the next 48 hours and on August 1.

Strong surface winds with speeds ranging from 30-40 km/h are likely to affect isolated areas in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Rayalaseema over the next five days, according to a daily weather report from the Meteorological Department issued on Sunday.

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely to occur in several areas across North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Rayalaseema over the next seven days. The south-



west monsoon remains normal over Coastal Andhra Pradesh but weak over Rayalaseema. Rainfall was recorded in a few locations in Coastal Andhra Pradesh and in isolated areas in Rayalaseema over the last 24 hours, the report added.

The cyclonic circulation over North Chhattisgarh and its surrounding areas persists at the same region, extending up to 7.6 km above mean sea level and tilting southwestward with height, according to the Meteorological Centre.

Tractor trolley overturns, 3 dead



PNS BAPATLA

Three persons were killed and eight others were injured when the tractor trolley on which they were travelling overturned at Yajili village in Karlapalem mandal on

Police said that about 20 people belonging to Gattuvaripalem village were going to a temple located at Kondapaturu village to fulfil their vow. The tractor trolley on which they were travelling over-turned near ZP high school killing Gattu Koteswara Rao (65), Gaddam Shivanagulu (60) and Gaddam Lakshmi (40). All the three deceased died instantaneously. The injured were admitted to the GGH here. The police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH for post-mortem. The tractor driver is at large. Driving the tractor at high speed is said to be the reason for the accident.

Three siblings killed as bike hit by unknown vehicle

PNS KAKINADA

In a tragic road accident, three siblings were killed and their mother was critically injured when an unidentified vehicle hit their motorcycle at Murari village in Gandepalli mandal in the wee hours on Sunday.

CI Lakshman Rao told the media that the deceased and their mother worked as agricultural labourers in Narsipatnam in Anakapalli district. They were going to their native Taderu village in Bhimavaram mandal on a

motorcycle.

An unknown vehicle hit their motorcycle killing Nangalam Raju (18), Nangalam Yesu (18 and Nangalam Akhil (10) instan-



taneously. The mother of the deceased siblings Nangalam Durga suffered grievous injuries in the mishap and she was admitted to the Government hospital in Rajahmundry where her condition was said to be very critical. CI Lakshman Rao and SI Ramakrishna visited the scene of the accident, registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH for postmortem. The police began trying to identify the vehicle that hit the bike and fled.

US anticipates over 18 lakh visitors from India in 2024

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

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

new Visa Application Center (VAC)



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

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

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



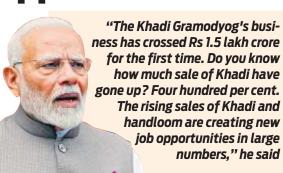
Pregnant horse brutally attacked; six persons booked in Kerala

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

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



Khadi, handloom creating job opportunities in large numbers: PM



PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

"The Khadi Gramodyog's business has crossed Rs 1.5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jaipal: a politician who never compromised on public interest mong India's political staldent leader, MLA, MP and Union

warts, Sudini Jaipal Reddy has A carved a niche for himself in the national political arena as an impeccable leader who never compromised on public interest. During his tenure as a Member of Parliament, Jaipal Reddy raised issues of public importance. Right from his days as a student leader, Jaipal Reddy never encouraged corruption and remained steadfast in his fight for the common man, particularly in the early 1960s.

A parliamentarian for several decades, Jaipal Reddy held key portfolios in various governments. He was bestowed the 'Best Parliamentarian Award' in 1998. Jaipal Reddy played a key role in the formation of Telangana.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

NCP leader Ajit Pawar to launch 'Jansanvad Yatra'

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

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

PNS ■ ROHTAK

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal's wife Sunita

Kejriwal on Sunday urged

the people of Haryana to avenge the "insult" of jailing

her husband in a "false" case

by ensuring the party's win in

the upcoming Assembly elec-tion. She claimed that Prime



who is leading 'Jan Samman

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

Minister Narendra Modi is

'jealous" of Arvind Kejriwal

for the work he has done for

AAP-ruled Delhi and

Punjab. Arvind Kejriwal,

who is also the AAP nation-

al convener, was arrested by

ED on March 21 in a money

laundering case linked to

the alleged excise policy

scam. The Supreme Court

Yatra', said on Sunday. Addressing NCP workers in Nashik, Tatkare credited Ajit Pawar for introducing welfare projects of Rs 1 lakh crore covering women, youths,

□ DELHI CM'S WIFE IN HARYANA

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

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

NTA announces **CUET-UG** results

PNS NEW DELHI

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

been delayed this year.

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

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



said that high inflation and poor law and order in Karnataka are the contributions

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

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



HIGH INFLATION, POOR LAW AND ORDER

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

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

Karnataka's inflation was lower than the national average.

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

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

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

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

PNS PATNA

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

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

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



two years ago. He welcomed the entry of Jagriti Thakur, dent Lalu Prasad. whose father Virendra Nath Thakur's elder son Ram Thakur is the younger son of Karpoori Thakur, a former chief minister of Bihar and a

Bharat Ratna awardee. Notably,

late Thakur is seen as a men-

tor to many top leaders of the

state, including Chief Minister

Nitish Kumar and RJD presi-

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

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

Other prominent inductees

has granted him interim bail

but he is still in jail as the CBI

had arrested him in a relat-

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

Climate change amplifies existing inequalities:CJI

SAYS WOMEN, DISABLED AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE FACE HEIGHTENED RISKS

PNS BENGALURU

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



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

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

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

The CJI said wealthier individuals often have the means to invest in protective infrastructure and cooling systems dur-

ing extreme heat whereas poorer communities lack such resources, making them more vulnerable to climate-related disasters Justice Chandrachud said

ensuring climate justice requires recognising these differential impacts and actively involving affected communities in decision-making processes. Such a participatory approach can foster more effective and equitable climate policies that truly reflect the needs and experiences of those most impacted, he pointed out.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Enough is enough

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

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



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

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

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



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

Honour the unsung heroes of operation Pawan



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

deterrent capabilities.

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



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

KARGIL WARS

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

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

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

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

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

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

How generative Al is transforming the workplace-



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EMPOWERING MINERAL RICH STATES

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

The historic rise of women leaders



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

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

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

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

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

P V Madhu Nivriti | Secundarabad

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

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

MODI'S OLIVE BRANCH TO RSS

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

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

C K Ramanathan | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN A PATH TO **PERSONAL LIBERATION**

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



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Budget is pro-growth but stability concern remains -



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



rebound in the US economy, India

could achieve growth even higher than 6.5 – 7 per cent projected in

the Economic Survey for 2023-24.

But, there is a flip side to it. This has

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

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

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

THE GROSS TAX

REVENUE TARGET OF RS 3840,000 **CRORE IS** OVER-AMBITIOUS AND THE BUDGET **ASSUMES RECEIPTS OF RS** 50,000 CRORE DISINVESTMENT OF GOVERNMENT SHARES IN PSUS, A PROGRAM IT HAS DECIDED NOT TO PURSUE. **EVEN MAJOR EXPENDITURE**

ITEMS COULD

GET OUT OF

CONTROL

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

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

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

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

(2018).Meanwhile, to address the concerns on employment, MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) and agriculture, the budget has proposed several initiatives. For MSMEs, it proposes a new credit guarantee scheme to facilitate term loans to enable them to purchase requiring collateral or third-party guarantees (a self-financing guarantee fund is mooted that could provide each applicant with guarantee coverage of up to Rs 100 crore); increase in the limit of Mudra (Micro Units Development Refinance Agency, a subsidiary of SIDBI) loans to Rs 2000,000 for those who have repaid previous loans; expanding SIDBI branches to provide the much-needed access to credit and additional support for

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

of employment.

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

(The writer is a policya nanalyst;

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

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

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



airline was also the first to order over 2000 of the world's lightest aircraft seats from Expliseat. These seats will contribute to a weight saving of 1.2 metric tons per aircraft resulting in enhanced fuel efficiency and reduced emissions per flight.Beyond fleet upgrades, airlines are implementing carbon offsetting programs as part of their neo aircraft, known for its sustainability efforts. These 20% reduction in fuel conprograms allow passengers to

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

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

ly leading the way towards a more sustainable future for air



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

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

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

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

that can inspire broader global initiatives beyond

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

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

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

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

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

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



Adani to commission petchem project by Dec 2026

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

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



Commerce Secy meets Russian, UAE ministers on trade issues

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

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



Need to take nuanced approach for FDI from China: Official

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

other manufacturing sector

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

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

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

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

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

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

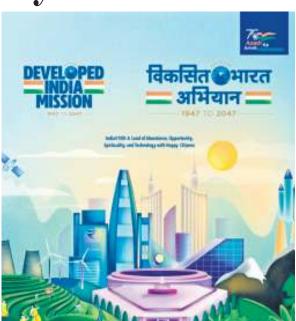
India needs to strive to be a US\$ 30 trillion economy with a per capita income of US\$ 18,000 per annum by 2047, the approach paper for vision for Vikshit Bharat in 2047 has

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

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

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

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



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

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

income that is comparable to the high-income countries of

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

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

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

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

UltraTech to acquire India Cement

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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

This announcement comes

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



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

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

Removal of angel tax for startups to help attract investors

PNS MUMBAI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

As per the Securities and Exchange Board of India

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

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

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

Generally, he said, a two-

year extension is given and hopefully it should come sooner than later.

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

at 86.46 per cent.

Govt scraps auction of 3 critical mineral blocks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

according to a notice by the Mines Ministry.

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



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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 728.07 points or 0.90 per cent.

The valuation of LIC surged Rs 44,907.49 crore to Rs

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

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

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

Coal India to boost output

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

PNS KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PILOT FATIGUE Night flights, long duty hours among factors

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

tiredness

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

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

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

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

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

ence on the increase in fatigue. than 10 hours of flight duty The online survey that covered 530 respondents, most of them captains with significant hours in operating medium short-haul flights, was done from July 16-22. Amid concerns over pilot fatigue, earlier this year, aviation regulator DGCA proposed changes to the Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms, but of pilots considered the increasing flight duty period and landings as the week the amended regulations are progressed to have a deep influyet to be implemented.

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

crore were approved, it said. As part of its comprehensive

The mining major has set a capital expenditure target of Rs 15,500 crore for the 2024-25 fiscal. In line with its investment plans, CIL intends to allocate a significant portion of funds to diversification projects, including solar power, thermal power plants, revival of fertilizer

modernisation strategy, CIL is embracing latest equipment, advanced exploration and assessment techniques, effi-

plants, surface coal gasification (SCG) and coal bed methane (CBM) during the year.

Vijayawada | Monday July 29, 2024

SONAKSHI AND VIJAY'S 'DOUBLE WIN' AT **TOIFA**

¬he Times of India Film Awards, honoured exceptional accomplishments in the Bollywood industry, particularly highlighting OTT films and series from 2023. The event acknowledged outstanding skills in different areas such as acting, content creation and technical knowledge.

The event saw double the excitement for both Sonakshi Sinha and actor Vijay Varma at the recent TOIFA. Sonakshi's latest projects, Dahaad and Heeramandi, have been very well received. Now with things going great on the work front, Sonakshi bagged two awards at TOIFA.

The actress bagged the Acting Excellence (Female) award for Dahaad. She also won the People's Choice Award. On the other hand, her portrayal of Fareedan in Heeramandi is still lauded by

the audience.

Meanwhile, Vijay Varma, who has often showcased a distinctive personality to viewers by effort-

lessly embodying his characters. won the Acting Excellence in a Negative Role award for his web series Dahaad, where he displayed his versatility and perfectly portrayed the character Anand with his exceptional acting skills. Furthermore, he also received the Acting Excellence in a Supporting Role award for his performance in *Jaane* Jaan. This acknowledgment showcases his talent for succeeding in various roles, solidifying his status as one of the industry's most outstanding

ady Gaga received backlash for the technical issues during her performance at the Paris Olympics Opening Ceremony. Numerous people expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of audibility of the singer's voice, raising doubts about the functionality of the audio equipment. Nevertheless, after facing criticism, Gaga decided to use X as a platform to share a statement. It is evident that she refused to allow the negativity to impact her mood. "I feel so completely grateful to have been asked to open the Paris @Olympics 2024 this year. I am also humbled to be asked by the Olympics organising committee to sing such a special French songa song to honour the French people and their tremendous history of art, music, and theatre," Gaga wote. Gaga stated that Zizi Jeanmaire, a French ballerina born in Paris, sang the song. She performed the well-known song Mon Truc en Plumes in 1961. "And this is not the first time we've

crossed paths. Zizi starred in Cole





what's brewing?

Porter's musical Anything Goes, which was my first jazz release. Although I am not a French artist, I have always felt a very special connection with French people and singing French music.l wanted nothing more than to create a performance that would warm the

Sonakshi Sinha graced the runway on Day 4 of Hyundai India Couture Week

diva Malaika Arora and actor Rahul Khanna showstoppers for ace designer Siddartha Tytler on Day 3 of showstopper for acclaimed couturier India Couture Week 2024.

2024, turning heads as the

Dolly J. The fashion event saw the

unveiling of Dolly J's breathtaking collection, 'La

Vie en Rose.

The Rings of Power brings out new trailer

an Diego was transformed into Middle-earth as Prime Svideo showcased the highly anticipated second season of the epic series, *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power.* Showrunners J.D. Payne and Patrick McKay were joined on the iconic Hall H stage by over a dozen cast members for a lively and insightful conversation moderated by Emmy-nominated actress and renowned genre fan

> The ensemble cast thrilled the 6,500 fans who packed the massive convention center hall by unveiling a brand-new exclusive trailer for the upcoming season. The action-packed trailer focuses on the long-feared reemergence of the legendary villain Sauron, heralding the return of darkness and evil to Middle-earth after many years of hard-fought peace among all of its realms. The trailer also highlighted the creation of more of the titular *Rings of* Power, forged with the aid of Sauron's powers of deception and manipulation The second season of *The Lord of the* Rings: The Rings of Power will premiere exclusively on Prime Video on

In season two of The Rings of Power, Sauron has returned. Cast out by Galadriel without an army or ally, the rising Dark Lord must now rely on his own cunning to rebuild his strength and oversee the creation of

the *Rings of Power*, which will allow him to bind all the peoples of Middle-earth to his sinister will. Building on season one's epic scope and ambition, the new season plunges even its most beloved and vulnerable characteristics. ters into a rising tide of darkness, challenging each to find their place in a world that is increasingly on the brink of calamity. As friendships are strained and kingdoms begin to fracture, the forces of good—Elves and dwarves, orcs and men, wizards and Harfoots—will struggle ever more valiant to hold on to what matters most to them all: each other

Robert Downey Jr is back in Marvel's world

Marvel Studios came back to San Diego Comic-Con with Deadpool variants dancing and a choir, announcing news about the next two Avengers movies and surprise appearances by Harrison Ford and Robert Downey Jr. Robert will not reprise his role as Iron Man in Marvel's

Robert is set to portray the antagonist, Victor Von Doom, also known as Doctor Doom, in one of the forthcoming *Avengers* films. Downey started Marvel's winning streak with Iron Man and portrayed the beloved character in nine movies; however, on Saturday, he was seen sporting Dr. Doom's mask and a green cloak. Downey said to enthusiastic cheers that there is a new mask, but the task remains the same. The session did not talk about Jonathan Majors, who portrayed the antagonist Kang the Conqueror and was previously an important figure in Marvel's Avengers strategies. The



conviction in December for assaulting a former girlfriend. In April, he was given a one-year counseling program as punishment and managed to dodge prison. Both Robert Downey Jr and his Avengers: Infinity War and Endgame directors Anthony and Joe Russo, also known as the Russo Brothers, will make a comeback to

the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The upcoming Avengers films, Doomsday and Secret Wars, will be directed by them. The brothers led the Avengers series through its extensive plot, culminating in Avengers: Endgame in 2019, which featured the demise of Downey's character, Tony Stark,

the show-stopper for Kunal Rawal's showcase at India Couture Week, Aditya Roy Kapur left a lasting impact, his charisma really lighting the place on fire. He had a slightly bushy beard that lent a sense of refinement to his deep blue sherwani, which he matched neatly with black dhoti-style pants. Aditya elegantly captured the essence of Punjabi Munda culture at the Taj Palace, showcasing Kunal's 'Sehra Festive



ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES



REALITY CHECK





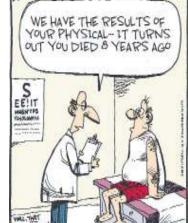


GARFIELD



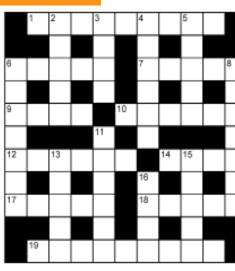








CROSSWORD











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- 4 A very rude remark The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45. 5 Weird or uncanny

ACROSS 6 What you get if you stay out in the sun too long Large printed words on a

newspaper's front page

17 The sound a horse makes

19 These are carried in rain

2 The fourth even number

3 A fruit on a paim tree

18 A smell

DOWN

- meat 6 One of the five senses 11 A shooter of arrows 7 Brush hard to clean
- 13 A piece of glass that 9 Catch fish with these 10 Opposite of youngest
- can make a rainbow 15 A greeting in Hawaii 12 A cricket referee 16 This covers a sheep 14 Clean with water



8 Someone who sells

GINGER MEGGS



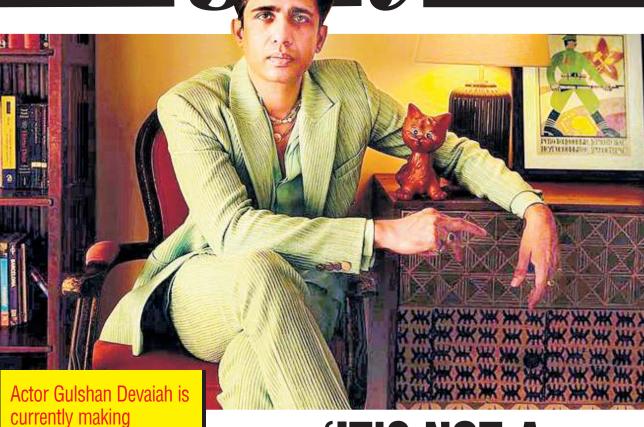




DIFFICULTY RATING: ***

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> Monday July 29, 2024



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

AARTI SREENATH

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

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

film was also compelling."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The plus: One of the standout features of *Planet*

including ultra-high-definition 4K cameras, drone

stunning visuals that are both awe-inspiring and

emotionally evocative. The imagery is

technology and time-lapse photography, to capture

Earth III is its unparalleled cinematography. The

series employs advanced filming techniques,



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

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

MR INDIA WORLD 2024:

Chennai's 'Siruvan' gazes upon international glory

Chennai native Gokul

Ganesan is all set to

2024 pageant. In an

The Pioneer through

getting into this

tidbits.

MR INDIA WORLD

industry and more

his pageantry journey,

his motivation towards

represent the nation at

the upcoming Mr World

exclusive chat, he takes

TEJAL SINHA

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

This Chennai native is not only a fashion model but also a

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

In an exclusive interview, The Pioneer interacts with INDIA

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

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

moving forward."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Planet Earth III: Jaw-dropping views and heartfelt narratives

TANISHA SAXENA

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

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

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

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



series is not only informative but also deeply Planet Earth III also excels in its educational value. Each episode is rich with scientific insights presenting up-to-date research findings and expert

accessible and engaging manner ensures that the

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

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

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

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

Presented by: David Attenborough

Composers: Hans Zimmer, Jacob Shea, &

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

Executive Producer: Michael Gunton

Streaming on: Sony BBC Earth

Total episodes: 8

Review based on: 3 episodes Rating: 3

Suryakumar is a bowlers' captain, says Axar Patel

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

In the last assignment, the captain is backing you and telling you that you can do T20 World Cup which India won, Pant batted at No 3

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

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

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

"If you have that chance, if

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

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

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

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

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



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

PTI NEW YORK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AP MARSEILLE (FRANCE)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Marseille.

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

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

Saturday - and this time the

On Wednesday, Morocco fans rushed the field and threw bottles in protest when Cristian Medina appeared to score an equalizer in the 16th minute of stoppage time for Argentina - causing the game to be suspended for around two hours. That goal was later disallowed by VAR for offside. But there was no sign of a

repeat of those scenes when Ihor Krasnopir scored in the eighth minute of stoppage time to seal a 2-1 win for 10-man Ukraine at Stade Geoffroy-Guichard. Morocco looked like it was edging closer to the quarterfinals after Soufiane Rahimi's 64th-minute penalty leveled the game at

1-1. The forward, who took his total to three goals for the Paris Games, won the spot kick when he was fouled by Volodymyr Saliuk. Saliuk was sent off for the offense. Ukraine had taken the lead

in the 22nd through Dmytro Kryskiv. Ukraine's late win left all four teams in Group B tied on three points after Argentina shook off defeat to Morocco by beating Iraq

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

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

Gondou's far-post header in and

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

Iga Swiatek and Carlos Alcaraz got the Paris Olympics tennis competition started with first-round victories under closed roofs at Roland Garros, the site of their French Open titles less than two months ago. Novak Djokovic also won in

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

know if I'm going to play or

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

Nadal, the Spaniard

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Australia takes early lead against US On Day 1 of swimming

AP ■ PARIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Douglass, Gretchen Walsh, Torri Huske and Simone Manuel - rallied to take silver. China took bronze. The U.S. Finally got its first gold in the men's 4x100 relay. freestyle The Americans were anchored by Australia took the silver.
CHINA TAKES FIRST
GOLD OF GAMES

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

FRANCE'S

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

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

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

TENNIS CONTROVERSY

Novak Djokovic was perplexed by the Olympics rules after his 6-0, 6-1 rout in less than an hour against an overmatched Matthew Caeleb Dressel, who won the eighth gold medal of his player from Australia who

level, main-draw singles match since June 2022. Djokovic felt other singles players deserved a spot at the Olympics instead of Ebden. Ebden was in Paris to compete in men's doubles, where he's been as high as No. 1 and currently is No. 3 and has won two major championships. That made him available for the singles competition when 16th-

Denmark pulled out because of a wrist injury. Ebden was not the first doubles player asked to fill in, but he was the first to say yes. He hadn't even practiced singles in about two years

ranked Holger Rune of

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

Nadal's first match in singles,

hadn't competed in a tour-

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

RAIN DISRUPTIONS

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

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

Grand Palais.

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

when she stepped into the

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

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

collapsed.

HUNGARIAN FENCER LOSES

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tollywood

DIRECTOR VIJAYA BHASKAR SAYS, 'LOVE IS BEAUT K. RAMYA SREE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tagline, 'Love

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

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



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

banners of Sri Venkateswara

multilingual venture in Tamil,

Telugu and Hindi.

Cinemas LLP and Amigos Creations

Pvt Ltd, Kubera is being crafted as a



First Gear from Mechanic Rocky reveals all key characters

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

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

role. The teaser also features a humorous

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

entertainment.

Action King Arjun's dynamic look from Vidamuyarchi is here

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DULQUER SALMAAN'S BIRTHDAY GIFT

Title track of Lucky Baskhar released

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

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



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

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

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



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

llari Naresh, renowned for his successful comedy films, is branching out into diverse genres with his latest project. Partnering with the esteemed Sithara Entertainments, Naresh is set to star in a unique concept film that promises to break new ground.

The film, tentatively titled Production No. 29, has already piqued the interest of movie enthusiasts with its intriguing concept poster featuring sign language symbols. This innovative teaser has generated considerable buzz on

social media. The project officially began with a Pooja Ceremony on July 27th. Meher Tej, known for the well-received Family Drama, is both writing and directing the film. The regular shooting is slated to commence within the coming week.

The producers are confident that this film will

offer a distinctive cinematic experience. Suryadevara Naga Vamsi of Sithara Entertainments and Sai Soujanya of Fortune Four Cinemas are leading the production, with Venkat

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

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

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

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

played by Indraja and his son, played by

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

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