

Revanth Reddy has been spending time only to protect his CM's seat. It is common in the Congress to see CMs trying to protect their seat as they face 'everyday threat.' The Congress gave '420' assurances to the people. However, the government has not implemented a single major assurance till now. The Congress has lost public confidence.

- Alleti Maheshwar Reddy, BJLP leader

P2

India eyes oil deals with Russia and others: Puri



'SANJAY LEELA'

BHANSALI OFFERED ME A FRESH LEASE ON LIFE'



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SATYABHAMA'



Finance wing starts full budget exercise

- Govt seeks proposals from all depts
- Assembly session likely after Parl session

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The state Finance Department has started a full-scale budget exercise and has invited proposals from all departments, it is learnt.

It has been clarified that proposals should be given after a thorough review of various schemes. It said that the priority schemes of the government and recent announcements should be kept in mind. It has been clarified that proposals would be received by the respective departments till June 18.

Keeping in mind the Lok Sabha elections, the government, which had previously introduced a vote-on-account budget, will soon introduce a full-scale budget. Both Houses have to approve the full-scale budget before the end of July as the vote on account has been approved for only four months. With only 45 days remaining, the Finance Department has started the exercise to draft a full budget.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has already met Ministers and officials of revenue-generating departments and reviewed the objectives, progress and problems. As part of the full budget preparation process, the finance department has sought proposals from all departments.

The Finance Department has made it clear that it wants full details of the targets set based on performance indicators of the respective departments and revenue coming to the government.

In the 2024-25 vote-on-account budget, the Finance Department stated that the government's priorities and the continuity requirements of the respective schemes should be reviewed thoroughly. Adequate allocations should be made in the budget for the priority schemes of the government.



Keeping in mind the Lok Sabha elections, the government, which had previously sought a vote-on-account, will soon introduce a full-scale budget.

DON'T MISS...

'Hyd focused on product...

Telangana aims to leverage its booming IT sector's strengths to help India achieve its goal of becoming a US \$ 10 trillion economy, information technology Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu has said. "Over some time, our industrial and information technology expertise has grown. We are not only for coding but we are also for product development. We also have the talent to build great products from our base stations. So, the time has come to take the leverage," Babu, who is also Telangana's Industries and Commerce and...

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Scientists detect frost atop...

Researchers have detected frost atop volcanoes on Mars, so far considered "improbable" owing to hot temperatures on the planet. The discovery marks the first time that frost has been detected near the planet's equator, challenging current perceptions of the planet's climate, said the international team of researchers, led by those at the University of Bern, Switzerland. The volcanoes in the Mars' Tharsis region, where the frost was observed, are the tallest in the entire solar system. The frost sits...

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'Industry expects growth-oriented...

The industry expects the continuation of growth-oriented policies in the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government and the compulsion of coalition politics will not be a speedbreaker, Mahindra Group CEO and MD Anish Shah said on Tuesday. Apart from the continuation of the growth agenda, the industry expects the government to focus on four key areas - manufacturing for the world, women-led development, farm-led prosperity, and sustainability...

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India vs Mini India: Rohit & Co Eye...

India's batting prima donnas would want to unchain themselves from the vagaries of a much-maligned drop-in track and chance their arms freely against an impressive-but-inexperienced USA in their group league game of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday. India, who are classified as A1 (irrespective of points), need just one more win to ensure their Super Eight berth and despite the two-paced nature of the Nassau County track, they wouldn't like a repeat of the match against Pakistan where they...

-SPORTS

CM to give directions to MPs

BIFURCATION ISSUES

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will hold a special meeting with Congress MPs on June 12 in the context of the forthcoming Parliament session. The MPs will be informed about pending bifurcation issues and the interests of the state.

In the recently held Lok Sabha elections, eight candidates of the Congress won. Congress candidates won with huge majorities in Nalgonda, Khammam and Bhongir.

The Parliament will be in session from June 24. It seems that the strategy to be followed during the session will be told to the new MPs.

It is almost 10 years after the bifurcation of the state. Many bifurcation assurances are pending.

The Bifurcation Act promised an ITIR, a railway coach factory, funds for Telangana and national project tag for the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy project.

Along with these issues, the new MPs will be told the issues to be raised in Parliament. The CM will give directions on that.

The CM who invited the MPs to his residence will meet them on the morning of June 12.

The Parliament will be in session from June 24. It seems that the strategy to be followed during the session will be shared with the new MPs.

NOT TO ATTEND CBN'S SWEARING-IN

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will not attend the swearing-in of the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister. Nara Chandrababu Naidu, who led the Telugu Desam Party-Bharatiya Janata Party-Janasena alliance to a massive win in the Andhra Pradesh assembly elections, will be sworn in as the Chief Minister for the

fourth time on Wednesday, June 12. Highly placed sources said that no invite has been given to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. It may be mentioned here that the CM said that he would attend if an invitation is extended and if the A I C C allows it.



Modi, Shah, Chiru & Rajni to attend Naidu's coronation

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and a constellation of political and entertainment luminaries are set to grace the swearing-in ceremony of TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu as he embarks on his fourth term as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Revanth wants strict implementation of RERA Act

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Tuesday called upon the Telangana Real Estate Appellate Tribunal members to ensure stringent enforcement of the Telangana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TGREERA) norms across the state. The CM asked them to strictly implement the RERA Act so that buyers are not cheated.



'Increase revenue from Mining Dept'



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka pressed officials from the Mines Department to speed up the release of the annual calendar for tenders.

During a review meeting held with Mines Department officials at the Secretariat on Tuesday, concerns were raised regarding the declining revenue from the Mines Department over the last two fiscal years. The Deputy CM emphasised the need to explore new avenues for revenue generation without burdening the public.

He also stressed the urgency to speed up the Medigadda and Annaram Barrages repair, with authorities seeking updates on these projects without causing disruptions.

He stressed coordination with the Irrigation Department to compile comprehensive reports on tenders, revenue and overall progress of riverbank activities, tenders and revenue collection.

In a separate meeting on sand mining along the Godavari River, Minister Seethakka asked officials to take strong action against illegal sand mining.

Continued on Page 2

Judicial Commission issues notice to KCR

POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Justice L. Narasimha Reddy Commission of Inquiry issued a notice to former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) seeking information on the Power Purchase Agreements contracted during BRS rule by June 15.

Regarding the notices issued to KCR, Justice Reddy said, "Notices have been issued to KCR regarding



the Chhattisgarh Power Purchase Agreement and the construction of

the Yadadri and Bhadradi power plants. The Justice Narasimha Reddy Commission issued these notices in April. "Agreements were made without inviting tenders. Notices have been issued to 25 individuals. Former Chief Minister KCR has not yet responded and has requested more time," he said.

He also said that KCR requested time until July 30, but the commission demanded a reply by June 15.

Justice Reddy said, "The commission questioned former secretaries of the Department of Energy, Arvind Kumar, and SK Joshi, on Tuesday. They said the decisions were implemented as directed by the government." Justice L. Narasimha Reddy said that investigations are going on into the Chhattisgarh, Bhadradi and Yadadri thermal plants.

Engineers told to file affidavits in Kaleshwaram probe

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Justice PC Ghose Commission's inquiry into the Kaleshwaram project is intensifying, with engineers responsible for constructing the three dams ordered to submit affidavits detailing all relevant facts by June 25.

Justice PC Ghose informed the media that these affidavits will provide a comprehensive record of the engineers' accounts.

"We have ordered all engineers to submit their reports through affidavits by June 25. The documentation will cover all pertinent details as miscalculations appear evident in the case of the barrages. We are investigating to pinpoint errors and identify involved parties. Representatives of the construction companies will also be summoned for the investigation," Justice Ghose said. It may be mentioned here that earlier, as the Chairman of the Inquiry Commission, Justice Ghose noted that the inquiry into the construction of the barrages in the Kaleshwaram project will not be completed before the end of June.

Continued on Page 2

Govt will provide adequate facilities in schools: Mallu Ravi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress government will provide adequate facilities in schools, TPCC Senior Vice-President Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi said and added that Rs 2,000 crore has been budgeted for that. He said the government will provide toilets and other facilities needed in all schools and that the government will increase the percentage of students studying in government schools by providing all facilities. Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan here on Tuesday, Mallu Ravi said they welcome the idea of semi-residential schools.

Continued on Page 2

PHONE-TAPPING CASE

Police file charge-sheet against 6 people

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Panjagutta police filed a charge-sheet against six accused individuals in the phone tapping case on Monday. In the charge sheet, the police said that out of the six accused, four have been arrested and two were absconding.

The absconders are Prabhakar Rao (A1) and Sravan Rao (A6). The rest of the accused have been arrested and they are in Chanchalguda jail.

In the charge sheet, the police for

the first time invoked Section 166 of IPC against the accused. The Section states that whoever, being a public servant, wilfully disobeys any direction of the law regarding how he has to conduct himself as a public servant, intending to cause, or knowing it to be likely that he will by such disobedience, cause injury to any person, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to a year, or with fine, or with both.



Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi to be next Army Chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi will be the next Chief of the Army Staff succeeding incumbent Gen Manoj Pande, the government announced on Tuesday night. Lt Gen Dwivedi is presently serving as Vice Chief of the Army Staff. Gen Pande will retire on June 30.



India fastest-growing economy: World Bank

To clock 6.7% growth over 3 years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

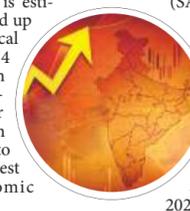
India will remain the fastest-growing major economy recording a steady growth of 6.7 per cent in the next three years including the current financial year, said a world bank report released on Tuesday.

In India, growth is estimated to have picked up to 8.2 per cent in fiscal year (FY) 2023/24 (April 2023 to March 2024) -- 1.9 percentage points higher than estimated in January, according to the World Bank's latest Global Economic Prospects report.

It further said global growth is projected to hold steady at 2.6 per cent in 2024 before edging up to an average of 2.7 per cent in 2025-26. That is well below the 3.1 per cent average in the decade before COVID-19.

"The forecast implies that over the course of 2024-26 countries that collectively account for more than 80 per cent of the world's population and global GDP would still be growing more slowly than they did in the decade before COVID-19," it said. Growth in the South Asia (SAR) region is projected to slow from 6.6 per cent in 2023 to 6.2 per cent in 2024, mainly due to a moderation of growth in India from a high base in recent years.

With steady growth in India, regional growth is forecast to stay at 6.2 per cent in 2025-26. Among the region's other economies, growth is expected to remain robust in Bangladesh, though at a slower rate than in the past several years, and to strengthen in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.



11 are 12th pass, 57 graduate or above: ADR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Eleven out of 71 ministers in the new council of ministers have declared their educational qualification to be 12th standard while 57 ministers have declared having an educational qualification of graduate or above, according to a new report by poll rights body ADR.

A recent report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) provides a comprehensive analysis of the educational qualifications of the Indian ministers, revealing a diverse range of academic backgrounds among the country's political leadership.

The report, which scrutinized 71 ministers, highlights significant trends in educational attainment.

The analysis shows that 15 per cent of the ministers, accounting for 11 out of the 71, have declared their highest educational qualification as

NEW COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



12th standard.

In contrast, a substantial majority of the ministers have attained

higher education.

The report revealed that 80 per cent of the ministers, totaling 57,

have qualifications of a graduate level or above. This group is further broken down into several categories, reflecting various levels of advanced education.

Specifically, 14 ministers have declared themselves as graduates, holding a basic university degree.

An additional 10 ministers have professional graduate degrees, indicating specialized education in fields such as law, engineering or medicine.

The largest subgroup among the highly educated ministers consists of those with postgraduate degrees at 26.

Furthermore, seven ministers have achieved the highest level of academic attainment by earning doctorate degrees.

Apart from these, there are three ministers who are diploma holders. These ministers have completed specialized programmes that provide vocational or technical training.

Sanjay poorest in assets but leads in criminal cases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar is the poorest Minister with the highest number of criminal cases in Modi's Cabinet. Sanjay declared assets worth Rs 1.12 crore in his affidavit. He is in the 76th position when it comes to wealth while the 77th position is held by Jitan Ram Manjhi of the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) of Bihar with assets worth Rs 16 lakh. Among BJP Ministers, Sanjay is the poorest. Sanjay has the highest number of 42 criminal cases of which 30 are serious IPC cases.

Continued on Page 2

RACE FOR TPCC CHIEF POST

Congress leaders exert pressure on high command

SNCN ACHARYULU
HYDERABAD

Telangana Congress leaders are exerting pressure on the high command to get the TPCC President's post.

The leaders of the Madigas, an SC community, are also exerting pressure on the high command for the TPCC President's post.

BC leaders argue that Revanth Reddy from the Reddy community was given the Chief Minister's post and from the SC community, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka was given the Deputy Chief Minister post.

In Telangana, the BCs play an important role in politics. So BC leaders are telling the high command that the TPCC

President post should be given to them.

At the same time, Madiga leaders are saying that Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka who hails from the SC Mala community was given the Deputy Chief Minister post and that in Telangana the Madiga community is more numerous than the Mala community and so the TPCC President post should be given to Madigas.

Some Congress leaders from the Reddy community are also trying to get the TPCC President post. But Congress leaders said the high command will not give the Chief Minister post and the TPCC President post to the same community.

Congress leaders think that the high command may give

priority to BCs while appointing the TPCC President. MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, former MP Madhu Yashki Goud and former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav are in the race for the TPCC President post from the BCs. The Congress high command may consider these names for the TPCC President post.

If the high command considers the Madiga community for the TPCC President post former MLA Sampath Kumar may get a chance.

Meanwhile, from the BCs, Minister Ponnamb Prabhakar is also in the race for the TPCC President post. But he wants both his Minister post as well as the TPCC President post. Congress sources said the high command has made it clear

that Ministers will not be given the TPCC President post.

Interestingly, all the leaders in the race for the TPCC President post are close to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. In the present circumstances, the Congress high command may not appoint someone who is against Revanth Reddy as the TPCC President.

In the past to keep a check on the Chief Minister the high command used to appoint someone from a group opposing the CM as the TPCC President. After Sonia Gandhi became the AICC President she ended that practice. Now, the high command wants the Chief Minister and the TPCC President to work together to strengthen the party.

UCC part of our agenda: Meghwal



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Tuesday said the implementation of a uniform civil code was part of the government's agenda.

He also said a solution will be found on the issue of memorandum of procedure - a set of documents on the appointment, elevation and transfer of high court and Supreme Court judges -- pending finalisation.

He also rejected suggestions that there was a conflict between the executive and the judiciary.

Meghwal on Tuesday assumed charge as the minister of state (independent charge) for the ministry of law and justice.

INSTEAD OF IMPLEMENTING CONG ASSURANCES

Revanth concentrating on protecting his CM post : Alleti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is concentrating only on protecting his seat instead of implementing the election promises given by the Congress, BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy said.

He said that Revanth Reddy is concentrating on protecting his CM's seat and that it is common in the Congress for CMs to focus on protecting their seats as they face 'everyday threats'.

Addressing the media at the State BJP office here on Tuesday, Maheshwar said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had completed six months in office but did not fulfil the main assurances given by the Congress.

He sent an open letter to the CM demanding that he fulfil the assurances given by the Congress.



Maheshwar said the Congress gave '420' assurances to the people. However, the Congress government had not implemented a single major assurance till now.

He said the CM had avoided implementing the Model Election Code so far. He said the government is troubling farmers by not implementing the promise to waive farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh loans.

"The Revanth government failed to implement its assurances and so the people gave only eight LS seats to the Congress even though it has 64 MLAs. The Congress has lost the confidence of the people. The CM had said the Congress will win 14 LS seats and that the Lok Sabha elections are a referendum on the Congress government's rule. The CM should own moral responsibility for the Congress failure as it has won only eight LS seats," Maheshwar said.

He demanded that the CM should apologise to the people for deceiving them and asked the CM to reveal when the Rs 5 lakh Vidya Bharosa Card will be given.

The Congress had assured that it will give scooters to all female students who have completed 18 years. The girls are waiting for scooters, Maheshwar said.

Sanjay poorest in assets but...

Continued from page 1

As per an analysis by ADR, five Ministers have declared cases related to crimes against women and eight Ministers have declared cases related to hate speech. Both of these include Sanjay.

G. Kishan Reddy is in the 24th position with assets worth Rs 19 crore. Dr Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani of the TDP is the richest Minister in the Modi Cabinet with assets worth Rs 5,705 crore.

Govt will...

Continued from page 1

He said that facilities were not adequate in government residential schools and hoped that the percentage of students opting for government schools would increase through semi-residential schools.

Pointing out that the BRS government had closed many government schools stating that there were no teachers, Mallu Ravi said the Congress government will reopen them.

He recalled that the CM had assured that the government will reopen all single teacher schools.

J-K TERROR ATTACK

Raj govt announces Rs 50 lakh compensation, jobs for kin of victims

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan government has announced Rs 50 lakh compensation each to the two families from the state who lost their members in the Sunday terror attack in J-K's Reasi, besides two contractual jobs to dependents and allocation of dairy booths, officials said on Tuesday.

The decision was taken after talks with protesting locals who held a dharna outside the Chomu police station on Tuesday, demanding government jobs and

greater compensation to the families.

The bodies of the four people, including a two-year-old boy, killed in the terror attack on a bus carrying pilgrims, were brought here by train on Tuesday and were taken to Harmada and Chomu by their relatives, police said.

Cloth merchant Rajendra Saini (42), his wife Mamta (40), their relative Pooja Saini (30) and her two-year-old son Titu are among nine killed after terrorists opened fire at the bus that plunged into a gorge.

BRS urges probe into Congress handling of liquor licences

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS leader Manne Krishnak launched a scathing attack on the Congress government's six-month rule, comparing it to the reign of Tughlaq during a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan here on Tuesday.

He particularly criticised Minister Jupally Krishna Rao for his controversial stance on Som Distilleries.

Krishnak condemned Jupally's handling of the Som Distilleries issue highlighting how the minister back-

tracked when questioned about corruption. He welcomed the cancellation of the liquor sales license granted to Som Distilleries but called for an inquiry into why the permits were issued in the first place.

"Those responsible for granting permissions to the fraudulent company, Som Distilleries, must be identified," Krishnak asserted. He questioned why no case has been registered against Som Distilleries, drawing a parallel with the cases filed in connection with the Delhi

liquor policy. Criticising the Congress government, Krishnak labelled it a "U-turn government," accusing it of leaking information and then filing false cases against those who share it on social media.

He said Jupally was caught red-handed and that Som Distilleries had funded the Congress. Krishnak called for a thorough investigation into the deal and demanded clarity on whether the cancellation of the distillery's licenses is temporary or permanent.

Naidu asserts Amaravati will be sole capital city of AP

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

A day before his swearing-in as the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday announced that Amaravati will be the sole capital of the state.

Naidu made this announcement, addressing a joint meeting of TDP, BJP and Janasena legislators, where he was unanimously elected as NDA leader in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

"In our government, there will be no games under the guise of three capitals. Our capital is Amaravati.

Amaravati is the capital," asserted Naidu.

As the first chief minister of bifurcated Andhra Pradesh between 2014 and 2019, he had floated the idea of Amaravati as the capital city.

However, this brainchild of Naidu suffered a setback in 2019 when the TDP lost power and Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP won a landslide victory.

Reddy poured cold water on the Amaravati capital city plans and propounded a new theory of three capitals, which Naidu has now replaced with the decision to have a single capital.

India fastest-growing...

Continued from page 1

"India will remain the fastest-growing of the world's largest economies, although its pace of expansion is expected to moderate. After a high growth rate in FY2023/24, steady growth of 6.7 per cent per year, on average, is projected for the three fiscal years beginning in FY2024/25," the report said.

This moderation is mainly due to a slowdown in investment from a high base.

"However, investment growth is still expected to be

stronger than previously envisaged and remain robust over the forecast period, with strong public investment accompanied by private investment," it said.

It further said that private consumption growth is expected to benefit from a recovery of agricultural production and declining inflation.

Government consumption is projected to grow only slowly, in line with the government's aim of reducing current expenditure relative to GDP, it added.

Lt Gen Upendra...

Continued from page 1

In appointing Lt Gen Dwivedi, the government followed the seniority principle.

"The government has appointed Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, presently serving as Vice Chief of the Army Staff, as the next Chief of the Army Staff with effect from the afternoon of June 30," the Defence Ministry said.

In a rare move, the government last month extended Gen Pande's tenure by one month days before his superannuation.

Gen Pande was to retire from service on May 31. The move triggered speculation that Lt Gen Dwivedi may be overlooked for the top post. The senior-most official after Lt Gen Dwivedi is Lt Gen Ajay Kumar Singh, the Southern Army Commander.

No need to pull each other down on basis of numbers

Will reach out to everyone: Rijiju

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday said there was no need for the government or the opposition to pull each other down on the basis of numerical strength and asserted that he will reach out to everyone for smooth functioning of Parliament.

Assuming charge as Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Rijiju said the government is yet to take a call on the dates of the first session of Parliament after the constitution of the 18th Lok Sabha.

Officials said the first session could be held in the last week of June.

"The Session dates are under



discussion. I cannot share right now," Rijiju said.

Rijiju assumed charge as the Parliamentary Affairs Minister in the presence of his predecessor Pralhad Joshi and Ministers of State Arjun Ram Meghwal and L Murugan.

"We need not pull each

other down on the basis of numerical strength. People use muscle power outside Parliament, but inside the House, we should use vocal power for good debate," he said when asked about the increase in the strength of the opposition in the Lok Sabha.

'Increase...

Continued from page 1

She also asked the Mines Department to fine organisations involved in sand mining and to provide financial assistance to women's groups engaged in business and to access bank loans.

Officials were told to investigate the potential for increasing government revenue by penalising those engaged in illegal sand mining. Until a robust revenue management system is established, guidelines have to be implemented from sand ramps to end-users. Additionally, efforts should be made to increase government revenue while ensuring fair prices for the public. Officials highlighted the prevalence of mafia operations across the state, which affect government revenue.

Police file charge-sheet...

Continued from page 1

Along with Section 166 IPC, the police invoked the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, conspiracy, cyber terrorism, endangering public security and various other sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

A source said that in the charge sheet, the police said that they had destroyed the

evidence at the SIB office which they had stored for several years. They tapped the phones of around 1,200 people during the BRS admin. As of now, the police have not mentioned any political leader in the charge sheet.

Meanwhile, the Nampally court heard arguments on the bail petitions of Bhujanga Rao and Thirupathanna on Tuesday. In the arguments on

behalf of the accused their counsel Uma Maheshwar Rao argued that Bhujanga Rao is having heart problems. Bhujanga Rao was discharged seven months before his arrest.

On behalf of Thirupathanna his advocate, Surender Rao said the counter to the bail application seemed to be a political document. The police have described the alleged offences as serious crimes, heinous crimes etc. but have not submitted any evidence in court, he said.

On behalf of the accused, he argued that the police said they have destroyed evidence, but that is their duty. As per Government of India rules, after completing a mission, they have to destroy all data connected with that, he said.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Shashthi: Jun 11 05:27 PM to Jun 12 07:17 PM
Saptami: Jun 12 07:17 PM to Jun 13 09:33 PM
Nakshatram: Magha: Jun 11 11:39 PM to Jun 13 02:12 AM
Purva Phalguni: Jun 13 02:12 AM to Jun 14 05:08 AM
Rahukalam: 12:16 PM to 1:53 PM
Yamagandam: 7:22 AM to 9:00 AM
Varjyam: 11:11 AM to 12:58 PM
Gulika: 10:38 AM to 12:16 PM
Amritakalam: 11:32 PM to 01:19 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: Nil
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms
Temp: 32°
Humidity: 74%
Sunrise: 5:41 AM
Sunset: 6:51 PM
Updated: June 11, 2024 5:00 PM

Revanth...

Continued from page 1

He emphasised the need for the effective implementation of RERA to safeguard property buyers against deceitful promises made by real estate developers.

After the formation of the state, this marks the inaugural formation of the Telangana Real Estate Appellate Tribunal.

Justice A. Rajashekar Reddy (Retd) is the chairperson, with Pradeep Kumar Reddy Pale, an advocate, serving as the judicial member, and Chitra Ramchandran, a former IAS officer, as the technical and administrative member.

Modi, Shah, Chiru & Rajni to...

Continued from page 1

The event, slated for Wednesday, is anticipated to draw widespread attention, with leaders converging at the Kesarapalli IT Park near Gannavaram. Among the distinguished guests, Megastar Chiranjeevi stands out, having received a special invitation from the Telugu Desam Party. Acknowledged as a "state guest" by the government, Chiranjeevi is expected to share the platform with PM

Modi, Minister Shah, and other dignitaries. His presence underscores not only his association with Naidu but also signifies a moment of pride for the renowned "mega family."

Chiranjeevi, accompanied by his wife Surekha and son, the esteemed Tollywood actor Ram Charan, is scheduled to arrive at Vijayawada Airport via a special flight on Tuesday evening. Official accommodations await them in the city, facilitating their participation in this historic occasion.

Finance wing starts full...

Continued from page 1

It is suggested to focus on the important announcements made by the government recently and propose appropriate funds and approvals for them. It said that there should be adequate rationale for the budget estimates.

The government said that proposals should be made under clear guidelines to get as much funding as possible

considering the needs of the state regarding Centrally sponsored schemes. It has been clarified that appropriate measures should be taken on the budget exercise.

The finance department said that only the expenditure proposals related to the schemes should be given. It said that allocations should be made on the basis of the previous proposals regarding management expenditure.

It has been explained that

departments should submit the expenditure proposals related to the schemes from June 12 to 15 on the portal of the Finance Department.

It has been clarified that the administrative departments should examine the proposals and send them to the finance department with their opinions by June 18. The Special Chief Secretary of Finance, Ramakrishna Rao, has issued a memo on this.

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'Hyd focused on product development'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana aims to leverage its booming IT sector's strengths to help India achieve its goal of becoming a US \$ 10 trillion economy, information technology Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said.

"Over some time, our industrial and information technology expertise has grown. We are not only for coding but we are also for product development. We also have the talent to build great products from our base stations. So, the time has come to take the leverage," Babu, who is also Telangana's Industries and Commerce and Legislative Affairs said in Washington in an interview.

The minister is currently on a trip to the US to engage with industry leaders and attract investments from the United States.

He pointed out that Hyderabad has historically contributed significantly to global tech advancements, with much of the coding work for tech giants like Microsoft,



"All these years most of the software centred around coding, back in India, back in Hyderabad. High-finished products are made in the US and sent back to India and all other countries. So it's like sending dough to the US and all other European markets and getting back the bread at a higher cost," Babu said

Google, and Amazon originating from the city, a top IT minister from Telangana has said the state government is now focusing on innovation and product development.

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and getting back the bread at a higher cost," Babu said.

Telangana, he asserted, aims to leverage its IT sector's strengths to help India achieve its goal of becoming a USD 10 trillion economy, with the state's economy growing to USD 2-3 trillion.

A key initiative is the development of an AI city, where 200 acres have been allocated to provide the necessary infrastructure for research, development, and company offices.

"We aim to harness the vast data generated by our population to build a robust Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem," he explained.

"AI is occupying a major role in times to come. So, we cannot miss that bus... just like we have missed a semiconductor bus. Our late leader Indira Gandhi started a chip manufacturing company in Chandigarh in the 1970s before China or Taiwan thought about the semiconductor industry. For some unknown reason, the factory has been burnt and the governance has also put that aside.

"From that era, semiconductor or chip manufacturing would have taken place in Chandigarh. If we can imagine the strength of the economy now, it would have been multiplefold -- 20x of the economy that we see now. So, we can't miss this AI opportunity now," Babu said.

During his visit to the US, Babu focused on reconnecting with industry stalwarts, particularly those with significant

operations in Hyderabad. "The purpose of my visit is to reconnect with the people, especially IT and pharma industry leaders, and those in other core sectors," he said, adding that the goal is to renew their engagement with Telangana more broadly and substantially, reinforcing the state's commitment to economic progress.

Hyderabad, already known for its strategic location, skilled workforce, and efficient governance, remains a pivotal economic hub. However, the minister emphasised the state's industrial development strategy extends beyond the capital. "Our industrial development strategy focuses not just on Hyderabad but the entire state," he noted.

The government aims to replicate Hyderabad's success across all districts, including tier-2 and tier-3 cities. By fostering a conducive ecosystem for investors at the district and village levels, the Telangana government seeks to ensure balanced growth.

Man who threatened MLA Raja Singh held in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 40-year-old man was arrested here on Tuesday for allegedly making threatening calls to Telangana BJP MLA T Raja Singh, Hyderabad Police said.

The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police traced the accused Mohammed Wasim, 40, using call data analysis to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and arrested him when he arrived at RGI airport here.

He was continuously making calls to the MLA from random numbers by using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) calling applications, and abused him in "filthy language and threatened" him, an official release said.

Raja Singh, who represents Goshamahal constituency here, in a complaint to the police had earlier stated that he received calls from a number and the caller issued threats to harm him and his family, before the assembly elections last year, and the caller even

Mohammed Wasim was continuously making calls to the MLA from random numbers by using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) calling applications, and abused him in "filthy language and threatened" him, an official release said

threatened that before counting day they would kill him and his family.

In the complaint, the BJP MLA further stated that the caller had threatened that he even had a plan to kill Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, during his election campaign in Goshamahal constituency.

Based on the complaint, the Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police registered a case under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sec-

tions 506 (criminal intimidation) and 507 (criminal intimidation by an anonymous communication) and investigated into it, the release said.

During the investigation through call data analysis and after verifying other particulars it was found that accused (caller) Wasim was in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, it said.

A Look Out Circular (LOC) was issued against him and efforts were made to bring him to India, police said.

Monumental neglect of monument to Indira Gandhi

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY ■ HYDERABAD

In Indiramma Rajyam, Indira Priyadarshini Auditorium, known as a cultural hub since its inauguration in 1980, is now a shadow of its former self due to negligence by the previous state government. Nestled in the serene ambience of the Public Gardens at Nampally, Indira Priyadarshini Auditorium is named after late Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. It stands as a testament to cultural vibrancy and artistic excellence in the heart of the city.

The inauguration of the auditorium marked a significant milestone in Hyderabad's cultural landscape. Over the years, it hosted countless performances ranging from classical music to dance recitals, theatrical productions and seminars, enriching the cultural tapestry of the city. Its architecture seamlessly blends modern functionality with traditional aesthetics. Its spacious



Indira Priyadarshini Auditorium

interiors, comfortable seating arrangements, and state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems provide a delightful experience to both performers and audiences alike.

The stage, adorned with intricate designs and equipped with advanced technical facilities, serves as a perfect canvas for artists to showcase their talents.

Apart from that, the auditorium also holds corporate inaugurations, free medical camps for workers and senior citizens and many more.

The auditorium which has been a platform or meeting

point for artistes, performers and art enthusiasts have now lost its significance due to a lack of renovation.

According to social activist Mohammed Abid Ali, "During 2012, when Kiran Kumar Reddy was the Chief Minister in the combined Andhra Pradesh, it was renovated for the first and last time.

For the past four to five years, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, the previous government had completely neglected it. The auditorium which is known for its cultural significance fades away and cries for attention.

HMWSSB warns criminal action against those who open manholes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) warned people to not open manholes in the city. HMWSSB Managing Director Sudarshan Reddy said that according to the section 74 of the HMWSSB ACT, 1989, any unauthorised person opening or removing the cover of manholes without the permission of the authorities will face a criminal case. In addition to fines, the accused may also be sentenced to imprisonment.

On Tuesday the water board released a press statement where it mentioned that as part of the monsoon action plan, the water board had already fixed more than 25,000 safety grills on deep manholes. Emergency Response Team (ERT) and Safety Protocol Team (SPT) vehicles were deployed. Protective equipment is provided to the

personnel working at field level. The vehicles assigned to these teams have a dewatering motor with a generator. With its help, rain water is removed. To check the manholes in the city, in each section a sewerage team headed by a sewer inspector has been formed to monitor the manholes from time to time. They go to the areas under their jurisdiction at field level early in the morning and monitor the situation.

Water board conducts extensive campaigns on how common citizens should behave and behave in the management of sewage during monsoons.

They are creating public awareness with members of local colony associations and self help groups.

Water board is requesting the people to call the authorities, if any manhole lid is damaged or found to be open by calling 155313 number.

City school infrastructure panels inactive

■ HYDERABAD

Unlike in Telangana districts, Amma Adarsha Pathasala Committee (AAPCs) members in Hyderabad district failed to evince interest in activities meant for development of infrastructure in schools. Recently, Telangana government formed the Amma Adarsha Pathasala Committee in March to develop infrastructure in government schools, providing free textbooks, uniforms and take part in other related activities. These activities are intended to increase enrolment in government schools.

The government has decided to involve the women's Self Help Groups (SHGs) to execute, monitor, strengthen and maintain the basic infrastructure related works in all government schools, deliver entitlements of students such as school uniforms and mid-day meals as well as take up sanitation works in all government schools under school

education department. Their participation and ownership of village level development especially in education and in school management, can yield quality outcomes.

The duties or roles of the committee are strengthening of basic infrastructure facilities, construction of girls toilets, providing drinking water facilities, taking up minor and major repair works, renovation and maintenance of existing and dysfunctional toilets, electrification of classrooms, sanitation and maintenance of school premises, installation of solar panels to reduce electricity bills, stitching of uniforms and many more. Recently, the government directed the AAPCs to complete the development works in schools before the commencement of Academic year 2024-25. However, the committee members of Hyderabad district failed to showcase their interests in development activities.

According to an Education

Department official, "Committee members have to play an active role in the development of school, giving publicity to facilities in government schools like qualified teachers, mid-day meal, free uniforms, textbooks etc and increasing the enrolment of the school. However, very few members came forward to take up work and monitor work going on. Moreover, the members are engaged in other activities and not showing much interest.

In the case of rural areas in the district, the committee members are very active. But in contrast when it comes to the city, the members are not enthusiastic to take part in activities. Whenever the Head Masters call them to sign cheques, it is taking two to three days to get their signature.

So far, Nampally, Amberpet and Himayath Nagar committees took part actively in school development activities.

Youth is key to India's economic development: Guv

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor CP Radhakrishnan on Tuesday inaugurated the third graduation ceremony Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University held in Mulugu, Siddipet district on Tuesday.

The Governor said, "India has ample opportunities to grow to a gross domestic product of 30 trillion dollars by 2047, and this will be possible through a developed India, in which the youth should play a leading role. The government will provide more support to natural and organic agriculture for further growth in the context of more than 18 percent of India's gross domestic product. Agriculture is the main source of income for over 70 percent of rural people in the country and over 82 percent are small marginal farmers."

He expressed hope that the importance of horticulture and forestry sectors will increase along with agriculture. The



Telangana Governor CP Radhakrishnan presenting a certificate to a student at Konda Laxman Telangana State horticultural University at Mulugu on Tuesday

Governor called upon the students to achieve their goals of success.

If they face difficulties, they can take a break but they should not turn back. Abraham Lincoln and Narendra Modi have left their mark in the world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a great person who has freed the people from poverty and hunger, he said.

About 156 people got horticulture degrees, 50 forest degrees, 45 horticulture PG, 30 forest PG, and another one got PhD. R Varalakshmi who belongs to 2023 batch received three gold medals for achieving the highest O GPA in BSc Honors Horticulture followed by PCCF Gold Medal in BSc Honors Forestry K Ravali, K Pratyusha received the dean's gold medal. SKLTSH Gold

Medal for securing highest marks in all sections in MCC Horticulture, M.Malavika bagged three gold medals for securing highest marks among female students and topper in vegetable section. GS Divya in the fruit science department, P. Vidya Sri in floristry department and P. Maheshwari received gold medals in the medicinal and spice crops category.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor Dr V Geethalakshmi attended the graduation ceremony as the Chief Guest. Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University Vice Chancellor Dr B Neeraja Prabhakar, University Registrar Dr A Bhagavan, Dean Dr M Rajasekhhar, Director of Research Dr Kiran, DSA Dr Vijaya, Controller of Examinations Dr Srinivasan, Horticulture Commissioner Ashok Reddy, Board Member Dr RK Mathur, professors and students participated.

TTGDA demands transparency in transfers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Members of the Telangana Teaching Government Doctors Association (TTGDA) on Tuesday met Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha and demanded transparency in transfers.

They appealed to the Minister to give priority in transfer to employees working in peripheral medical colleges for more than five years. The transfers are taking place after seven years.

They demanded that those working in Hyderabad be transferred and those working in districts be given opportunity to work in Hyderabad.

Hardship allowance should be applied to all tribal and rural areas (50% for tribal area and at least 30% for other colleges); State to UGC conversion issue file has been



Members of the TTGDA meeting Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha in Hyderabad on Tuesday

completed and reached health department for final order;

The Minister responded positively to the appeal by the doctors.

702 applications registered at Prajavani programme

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Over 702 applications were registered during the Prajavani on Tuesday, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister Seetakka visited the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan as the officials were busy receiving memoranda from people.

Seetakka, accompanied by State Planning Commission Vice-Chairman Chinna Reddy, accepted applications from the public.

A large number of people attended the Prajavani programme to represent their problems. Members of the Greater Hyderabad Driver Cum Owners Association demanded an increase in compensation due to the rising prices of petrol, diesel, and gas.

Heavy rain brings most city areas to a standstill

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad experienced heavy rainfall on Tuesday evening. Areas like Uppal, LB Nagar, Malakpet, Saroornagar, and Himayatnagar saw heavy showers, while Khairatabad, Ameerpet, Lingampally, and Patancheru had light spells.

Siddipet and Medak also saw heavy downpours on Tuesday. The IMD has issued a yellow alert until June 14, with heavy rain expected in isolated places in Adilabad, Nirmal, Rangareddy, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet, and



Jogulamba Gadwal districts of Telangana.

Thunderstorms with rain, lightning, and gusty winds at 30-40 km/h are likely in isolated places in Adilabad, Medak, Kamareddy, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Nirmal, Niza mabad, Mulugu, Khammam, Nalgonda,

Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanamkonda, Jangaon, Siddipet, Yadadri Bhuvangiri, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal Malkajgiri, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet, and Jogulamba Gadwal districts of Telangana.

According to the IMD, the sky will generally be cloudy on Wednesday, with light to moderate rain and thundershowers, sometimes with intense spells and gusty winds at 30-40 kmph, likely in Charminar, Khairatabad, Kukatpally, LB Nagar, Secunde rabad, and Serilingampally zones.

Guv, CM interact with trainee IAS officers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor CP Radhakrishnan and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy interacted with 2023 batch of IAS trainee officers here on Tuesday. The officers have been allotted to Telangana. The trainee officers met the Governor at Raj Bhavan.

Governor Radhakrishnan emphasised the importance of young IAS officers connecting with people.

"It is essential to travel, engage with the populace, and understand the issues that concern them. We must remain accessible to common people," he stated.

He urged trainees to uphold honesty, commitment, dedica-

tion, and straightforwardness in their duties.

"Challenges will arise, but remain committed and dedicated to the public good," he added. The Governor congratulated the IAS trainees on their allotment to Telangana, highlighting the opportunities for innovation and development in the new state.

MCRHRDI Director General and ex-officio Special Chief Secretary to the Government, Dr Shashank Goel, accompanied the trainee officers.

The IAS officer trainees who interacted with the Governor are Uma Harathi N., Ajmera Sanketh Kumar, Garima Narula, Abhigyan Malviya, Ajay Yadav, Mrinal Shershta and IESSD Manoj.

Officials asked to check every school bus before giving fitness certificate

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Transport Ponnamp Prabhakar on Tuesday directed the Road Transport authorities to check every school bus before giving fitness certificates to them.

On Tuesday, he was holding a teleconference with the transport officials. The Minister directed the officials to ensure that no school bus ply on roads without fitness certificates. The officials should conduct an awareness programme on road safety.

He said that he would discuss with Chief Minister



Revanth Reddy regarding permanent buildings to the Transport Department.

Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar directed the authorities on the measures to be taken to increase the rev-

enue in accordance with the government guidelines. Those who registered less quarterly collections have been advised to improve their performance and congratulated those who collected 100 percent tax.

Addressing joint capital issue priority for political parties

Addressing the consequences of the cessation of Hyderabad's status as joint capital of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will be a priority for the respective governments of the Telugu states in the days to come. For, scores of unsettled matters are pending before the governments of the two states, with the Union government having oversight on many of them. The status of Hyderabad as the joint capital of TG and AP, determined for a period of 10 years under the AP Reorganisation Act 2014, officially ended on 2nd June 2024.



the issues surrounding the joint capital status of Hyderabad cannot be wished away. Most importantly, the residual state of Andhra Pradesh could not build its own capital, due to many reasons, some of which are political. So, there is a case for extension of the joint capital status of Hyderabad for another 10 years. Former PCC president and former minister S Sailajanath has demanded the same to facilitate AP in handling pending problems with TG.

Why should Hyderabad be continued as the joint capital of the two Telugu States, irrespective of the claims of TG political circles that the city had been built with the 'blood of Telangana people'? Is it true really? Has it been built without the contribution of people of other regions of the erstwhile state of AP? What is the truth behind the construction of Hyderabad?

really? Has it been built without the contribution of people of other regions of the erstwhile state of AP? What is the truth behind the construction of Hyderabad? The foundation stone was laid for the construction of Hyderabad in 1591 by Qutb Shahi rulers of the Golkonda Empire. In fact, the entire

area of the erstwhile state of AP that existed for 58 years (1956-2014) was part of the Golkonda Empire at the time of the commencement of the construction of Hyderabad. This means the present two Telugu States were integral parts of the Golkonda Kingdom. Qutb Shahi rulers spent huge money that came



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

from people in the form of taxes. In the post-Independence period too, taxpayers' money went into the building and growth of Hyderabad over the years under successive governments

in combined AP. Because of this rationale, the people of erstwhile AP have inherited certain rights over Hyderabad from their ancestors. In this backdrop, it may not be proper on the part of anybody to lay claims to exclusive rights over Hyderabad. Five crore people of the residual AP were witness to bifurcation due to the decision taken by the then UPA government headed by the Congress party. Today, the leaders of the same party are picking up the slogan of continuation of Hyderabad's status as the joint capital for one more decade. Former AP chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu could not build Amaravati as AP's dream capital in time. It was one of the factors that led to his defeat in the 2019 Assembly

polls. As part of political onepmanship, AP Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy mooted three-capital formula i.e. Visakhapatnam (Executive), Amaravati (Legislative) and Kurnool (Judicial). Jagan too failed to realize his goals on the idea of AP capital for various reasons. In this backdrop, two national parties that are working to find acceptance in residual AP; must have a relook at the issue of joint capital. Initially, there was a demand for retaining Hyderabad as the permanent joint capital, on the lines of Chandigarh, which has been serving as the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana. However, government representative stated that it was not possible, since there was no land connection. Pleas for

considering the transfer of a specific strip of land, which includes NH from the outskirts of Hyderabad to Kodad town situated at the state border towards Vijayawada, have not been heeded. Some leaders belonging Congress and BJP have opined that Hyderabad should be made a Union Territory as well as the second capital of the country. Some circles say that the Bharata Rashtira Samiti, having lost power in the 2023 Assembly polls and marginalized further in the LS polls, may stoke anti-Andhra feelings again. Still, given the long-term political interests of the two national parties, it is imperative for them to focus on the continuation of the status of Hyderabad as joint capital of AP and TG.

NTPC-RAMAGUNDAM

BRS smells scam in fly-ash transport

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS alleges scam in transportation of fly-ash from NTPC-Ramagundam. Lorries carrying the ash are being overloaded heavily without appropriate way bills. MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy has made allegations against Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, implicating him in a significant scam involving the transportation of fly ash from the Ramagundam NTPC. According to Kaushik Reddy, each lorry tasked with transporting fly ash, purportedly limited to 32 tonnes, is actually carrying 72 tonnes, with waybills conveniently omitting specific details regarding the transported quantities. "This illicit operation reportedly yields a staggering daily profit of 50 lakh rupees, allegedly funnelled through Anoop, the nephew of Ponnamp Prabhakar", he claimed.

He claimed that personal involvement in intercepting 13 overloaded lorries, yet expresses frustration at the transport department's failure to act decisively, citing undue influence exerted by Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar. "Despite concerted efforts to curtail these activities, overloaded lorries persist in traversing through Husnabad, posing not only a regulatory concern but also a significant risk to public safety, as evidenced by a fatal accident involving an engineering student named Akhil", BRS MLA said. Kaushik Reddy said, "The tragic demise of Akhil has brought renewed scrutiny upon the issue of overloading, prompting Reddy to question the complicity of NTPC officials and their reluctance to disclose pertinent details regarding fly ash transportation". He vowed to escalate the matter by lodging a formal complaint in



BRS MLAs Left to Right KP Vivekanand, Padi Kaushik Reddy and K Sanjay speaking to the media in Hyderabad on Tuesday

Delhi against NTPC officials' alleged misconduct. In response to Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar's purported retaliatory actions, including the burning of effigies, Kaushik Reddy accused him of callously profiteering from the plight of the less fortunate. He issued a stern ultimatum, warning of direct action by

party cadre should the overloading scam persist unabated within three to four days. Emphasising the need for impartial enforcement of regulations, he underscored his party's commitment to holding erring officials accountable, promising punitive action against those implicated in the scandal.

Furthermore, he raised suspicions regarding the implementation of the "Karimnagar Revanth Ponnamp Tax," hinting at potential collusion between political interests and illicit profiteering. BRS MLA K Sanjay said, "Congress leaders are engaging in pointless arguments. When former minister Harish Rao questioned the Congress government, government whip Adi Srinivas cannot tolerate it. If guarantees are implemented and farmer loan waiver are executed by August 15, not just Harish Rao but all BRS MLAs will resign. Adi Srinivas seems to think he will become significant by criticizing elders. In Vemulawada, Adi Srinivas received 71,000 votes, whereas Harish Rao's majority exceeded 80,000. Everyone should learn from Harish Rao, who works for eighteen hours a day, unlike Adi Srinivas, who lacks substantial work".

Need to provide quality seeds to farmers stressed

PNS ■ RANGA REDDY

In a concerted effort to combat the issue of adulterated seeds, an awareness programme for seed and pesticide dealers was held on Tuesday at Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Garden in Farooq Nagar. The event was jointly organised by the police and Agriculture Departments with MLA Veerlapalli Shankar as chief guest. During the seminar, participants, including police officers and town leaders, were honored. MLA Shankar highlighted the importance of providing high-quality seeds to farmers, stressing that most participants, like himself, came from farming backgrounds. He pointed out that government initiatives such as Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bharosa, and loan waivers aim to support farmers. Still, unscrupulous practices like selling inferior seeds undermine these efforts and harm agricultural productivity. Reflecting on his experience



MLA Veerlapalli Shankar speaking at an awareness programme for seed and pesticide dealers in Shadnagar on Tuesday

as a sarpanch earlier, MLA Shankar recounted the challenges faced when genetically modified BT seeds initially failed, leading to significant losses. He praised late chief minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy for compensating the farmers during that crisis. Shankar assured the audience that he would not tolerate malpractices and would take strict measures to curb adulteration within 24 hours if necessary. He emphasised the importance of transparency, urging dealers to maintain detailed

records of seed types, batch numbers, and the farmers who purchase them. The seminar concluded with a stern warning from police officers, who pledged to take stringent action against fraudulent activities harming farmers. The event saw the participation of Shamshabad DCP Narayan Reddy, ACP, other police personnel, Agriculture Department officials, town municipal chairman Konduti Narendar, and senior Congress leader Elganamoni Yadayah.

Hyd youth dies after drowning at Hebbe waterfalls in Karnataka

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 25-year-old youth died after drowning at Hebbe waterfalls in Kemmanagundi in Karnataka, Karnataka police said on Tuesday. Shravan, a native of Hyderabad, had come to Chikkamagaluru with his friend to visit scenic places. They reached Chikkamagaluru by bus and took a bike on rent. After visiting a few places, they reached Hebbe Falls on Monday. "Due to the monsoon, the waterfall is at its full might. It wasn't very deep, but the rocks were very slippery. Though they did not know

swimming, they decided to enter the water," a police officer said. Shravan slipped and started drowning, while his friend somehow managed to come out. People nearby rescued Shravan. "He was still alive when he was brought out. There was a doctor among the visitors near the Hebbe waterfalls who tried to resuscitate him. He was then taken to a nearby government hospital where the doctors declared him brought dead," the officer said. According to him, Shravan worked with an e-commerce firm as a system analyst.

Minister warns of action against those adulterating food

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Issuing a serious warning about food quality and adulteration, the Minister of Health, Medical and Family Welfare, and Science and Technology, Damodar Rajanarsimha, emphasised the need for regular workshops every six months to raise awareness in the city. The Minister attended a meeting organised by the Telangana State Government's Commissioner of Food Safety at the State Secretariat on Tuesday. The Minister stated that strict action would be taken against those who indulged in adulteration of food or failed to maintain quality. He urged representatives of various associations to provide quality food to the public. He highlighted that Hyderabad Biryani



has gained international recognition since the time of the Nizam and that Hyderabad is being developed as a medical tourism hub and urged to uphold the recognition. The Minister also mentioned that Hyderabad's reputation as the food capital of India is growing and urged hotel owners to act responsibly. Later on, the minister responded positively to many appeals made by

hotel owners. Associations such as the Telangana State Hotels Association, National Restaurants Association, Oil Merchants Association, Bar and Restaurants, Indian Dairy Milk Products Association, Telangana Packaged Drinking Water Association, Telangana Roller Flour Millers, and Bakery and Ice Creams Association participated in the meeting. State Food Safety Commissioner RV Karnan, Director of Food Safety Dr. Shivalila, Telangana State Hotels Association President Venkat Reddy, Indian Restaurants Association President Sandeep, Indian Dairy Milk Products Association member Sultan Maskati, and association representatives Ramanjaneyulu, Rajasekhara, and Manish Gupta were also present.

Bio-mining plant works abandoned midway in Nalgonda

PNS ■ NALGONDA

The biomining plant planned to be set up at the dumping yard here has been abandoned midway by the contractor. In 2022, tenders have been finalised for setting up of the biomining plant. As part of the exercise, the contractor initiated works to set up the plant but later abandoned it. However, the plant did not progress since then. The garbage has been piling up in the dumping yards in 19 municipalities of the district. Sanitation workers collect at least 450 tonnes of the garbage and send it to the dumping yards for disposal. According to a conservative

estimate by the officials, at least 2 lakh tonnes of garbage piled up at the dumping yards. As dumping yards are full in some towns, the garbage is being set afire, polluting the environment and it is becoming a health hazard. The previous BRS regime sanctioned Rs 2 crore to set up bio-mining plant. The funds are languishing in the bank accounts of municipalities for the past two years. The contracting agency executing the bio-mining plant has been blacklisted by the municipality and cancelled the bid awarded to it. At this juncture, the state went to the Assembly polls. After the polls, the Congress

government replaced the BRS in Telangana. The new regime should focus on the garbage piled up in dumping yard and take a decision on inviting fresh bids to set up biomining plants. According to M Ahmed Sayyed, municipal commissioner of Nalgonda, the state level officials are well aware of the need to invite bids to set up the plants. Therefore, the bids are likely to be invited soon. Once the plant is set up, the wet and dry garbage can be collected separately. The municipality held discussions with a Bangalore-based agency for recycling the dry garbage. The wet garbage would be routed to the bio-gas plant.

TENDERS YET TO BE FINALISED

Developmental works come to a halt in Warangal

PNS ■ WARANGAL

The Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation engineering officials need to focus their attention on the developmental projects in the city. As the election model code of conduct has been lifted, it is time for the civic officials to focus on implementing developmental works. Funds have been allocated in March this year for execution of various developmental works in 66 wards of the city. In all, works worth Rs 20 crore have halted at the level of tenders. Tenders have to be finalised and agreements would have to be reached with the officials in the municipal offices at Kasibugga, Kazipet, Nakkalagutta circle offices of the GWMC. The SEs and EEs would have to focus their attention on these activities. For some works bids have



been opened and for other works bids would have to be invited. They are required to invite tenders for execution of the storm water drains at a cost of Rs 200 crore. In Padmakshi colony, the development works like construction of new bus stand, underground drain works in Padmakshi Gutta Road. Works have not yet taken up for development of electric crematoria in 40th division of the GWMC.

Under the corporate social responsibility, the TS Transco released Rs 50 lakh for implementing various developmental works near the steps well. If the works are not implemented the funds are likely to be withdrawn. The development of Bondivagu Nala expansion works, Bhadrakali tank development works have to be implemented. In Narsampeta municipality, Rs 37.5 Cr have been sanctioned for development of roads and drains in the municipality. The municipal authorities called for tenders in March this year. When contacted the municipal assistant engineer about the tenders, he clarified that the tenders called in March would be cancelled and tenders would be called afresh for execution of the works in the town allocating Rs 1 crore to Rs 1.5 crore for development works to each ward.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Wadhvani Foundation, a global non-profit tech organisation has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with AICTE, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, IIT Hyderabad, IISc Bangalore, and C-CAMP to establish Wadhvani Innovation Network Centers of Excellence (WIN-COEs) to accelerate the commercialisation of academic innovations on Tuesday. This partnership aims to transform academic and laboratory research by Indian faculty, students, and researchers into real-world applications that can be sold, used, or implemented in various industries, thus creating long-term economic value, and benefiting society. Currently, less than one percent of higher education institutes in India are engaged

MoUs WITH IITS, AICTE

Wadhvani Foundation to boost innovation

in research. Their participation in India's Gross Expenditure in Research and Experimental Development (GERD) is just nine percent. The WIN-COEs aim to accelerate home-grown research and discoveries in order to create an ecosystem that provides inclusive and equitable solutions from emerging technologies, like advanced AI, Synthetic Biology and Bioengineering, HealthTech, etc, while also fostering collaboration between industry, universities, research institutions, and the government. Aligned with the Anusandhan National Research Foundations (ANRF) vision of science-driven growth, the initiative will propel innovations that address pressing socio-economic issues. These solutions will be selected by a national jury of experts while the WIN-COEs

will provide funding and a variety of in-kind support to make them commercially viable. Dr. Ajay Kela, President & CEO of the Wadhvani Foundation, said, "Emerging technologies like Advanced AI, Synthetic Biology, Quantum Computing, Semiconductors, Healthtech, and SpaceTech hold immense promise for inclusive and equitable solutions. Our previous collaboration with IIT Bombay funded approximately 100 projects out of which ten were commercially successful. Establishing WIN COEs will amplify such solutions and catalyze their application in real-world scenarios - setting India on a trajectory of scientific economic progress." It also collaborates with AICTE's 13 Innovation Centers, alongside over 100 next-tier academic institutes nationwide.

Stray dog menace across Nizamabad dist

PNS ■ BODHAN

The stray dog menace in all mandals of erstwhile Nizamabad district is posing a threat to the people. The people are dreading to step out of their homes. The situation is more or less the same in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts. Bodhan division received 168 complaints of stray dog attacks during May alone. While some of the dog bite victims have been approaching government hospitals for anti-rabies medicines, some others have been approaching the quacks for curing the dog bite cases. In all villages, butchers' shops have been set up. The dogs have become accustomed to eat meat discarded near these shops. When they could not get any meat, they have been attacking the passersby. It is the duty of the government officials to ensure that the bones and other meat products are not discarded in public places.

The deputy DMHO Vidya of Bodhan has said that anti-rabies medicines are available in government hospitals in Bodhan Revenue division. The hospital personnel have been providing anti-rabies medicines to the injured. There is no shortage of the anti-rabies medicine. While 144 dog bite cases have been registered in May in Bodhan, four cases have been registered in pegadapalli, five in Renzel, six in Yedapalli, 4 in Warni and 4 in Rudruru. In fact, the stray dogs should be administered vaccines against rabies, but there were no such measures in villages and urban areas. With each passing day, the stray dogs are increasing. On May 21, a 12-year-old girl who was playing in Kurnapalli was attacked by stray dogs. The injured has been immediately rushed to government hospital in Nizamabad. On June 8, a boy was seriously injured in stray dog menace in Jakranpalli mandal.

INDIA CORNER

Goa's latest geological and mineral map unveiled

The latest geological and mineral map of Goa was unveiled on Tuesday at a meeting of the state geological programming board chaired by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. The unveiling took place in the presence of Narayan Gad, Director of Mines and Geology, along with other dignitaries and officials, a state government spokesperson said. Besides the geological and mineral map, district resource maps for North Goa and South Goa were also introduced during the meeting. Key topics discussed included the exploration of mining leases funded by the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET). The board also deliberated on the empanelment of agencies under the Directorate of Mines and Geology (DMG) and the establishment of a laboratory for mineral analysis, equipped with advanced instruments procured through NMET funds. Furthermore, the profile of existing iron ore dumps will be studied by DMG-empanelled agencies utilising NMET funds, the spokesperson said.



DU modifies teacher recruitment criteria, draws flak

The Delhi University has modified its eligibility criteria for the recruitment of assistant professors in colleges, introducing an additional layer of "presentation". The move has drawn flak from the teachers' community which has demanded a rollback. The varsity has raised its minimum eligibility from the earlier 50 to 55 points with a relaxation of five points for SC/ST/PwD candidates in its recently notified Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for teacher recruitment. As per the new rules, the process for the final selection of candidates will be conducted in two stages - assessment through presentation and interview with the selection committee. The presentation will be assessed based on several factors, including "humility, passion and zeal for teaching," the notification read. Candidates will also be asked to write an essay on the day of the presentation for the assessment of their writing skills, the June 3 notification said.



CJI Chandrachud visits AOR examination hall in SC

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Tuesday visited the judges' library on the Supreme Court premises where lawyers were taking the examination for qualifying as Advocates on Record (AoRs). The top court conducts the examination for lawyers before designating them as AoRs who alone are authorised to file pleadings in cases in the apex court. The AoR examination was conducted in the pen and paper mode and the CJI visited the examination hall, the top court said in a statement. "Fresh examination for Paper I for the candidates who had opted for computer-based examination and wish to reappear in the same will be held after the reopening of the court after the summer recess. The date of the examination shall be notified in due course," it said. Earlier on Monday, technical glitches were flagged by some candidates appearing for the first-ever computer-based AoR examination.



'BHARAT FIRST', 'VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM' Guiding axioms of India's foreign policy: Jaishankar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

"Bharat First" and "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family) will be the two guiding axioms of India's foreign policy, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday as he began his second term in office.

The focus of the new government will be to position India as a "Vishwa Bandhu" (friend of the world) in a turbulent and divided world facing conflicts and tensions.

Jaishankar, 69, was among the senior BJP leaders including Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari and Nirmala Sitharaman who retained the ministries they handled in the previous government.

"Looking ahead, definitely, I think the two axioms that the prime minister has given us -- Bharat First and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam -- will be the two guiding axioms of Indian foreign policy," he said.

"Together, we are very confident it will position us as 'Vishwa Bandhu' (friend of the world) ...in a very turbulent world, in a very divided world, a world of conflicts and tensions," he told reporters.

"It would actually position us as a country which is trusted by many, whose prestige and influence will grow, whose interests will be advanced," he said.

Jaishankar also welcomed his ministerial colleagues Pabitra Margherita and Kirti Vardhan Singh to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Margherita, a Rajya Sabha MP from Assam, and Singh, who won the Lok Sabha polls from Uttar Pradesh's Gonda constituency, are the new ministers of state in the MEA. "It is for me an immense



honour, a very great privilege to be once again given the responsibility of leading the Ministry of External Affairs. You all know that in the last term, this ministry actually performed exceptionally well," Jaishankar said.

"It rose to many challenges. We delivered where the G20 presidency was concerned," he said.

Highlighting the importance of India's "Neighborhood First" policy, Jaishankar referred to New Delhi inviting leaders of the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Seychelles and Mauritius to the swearing-in ceremony of Modi and the Union Council of Ministers.

"All our neighbours came (to the swearing-in) and the prime minister himself met all of them. I can tell you, they are leaving with a sense that our neighbouring relationships will be the first priority and will be the overriding priority of the Modi government," he said.

Asked whether the new government will push for a permanent seat for India in the UN Security Council, Jaishankar did not give a direct reply and said the country's influence is steadily growing.

Focus will be to resolve remaining issues along border

India will focus on resolving the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday, amid the over four-year border row in eastern Ladakh that significantly strained ties between the two Asian giants. Shortly after taking charge of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for the second term, Jaishankar, referring to cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan, said the efforts will be to address the challenge and that it (support to terrorism) "cannot be the policy of a good neighbour." Jaishankar, 69, was among the senior BJP leaders including Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari and Nirmala Sitharaman who retained the ministries that they handled in the previous government. He said "Bharat First" (India First) and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) will be the two guiding axioms of Indian foreign policy of the new government.

BJP to start organisational rejig soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP is set to kickstart soon the process of wide organisational changes with the launch of a fresh membership drive, followed by an internal poll across states leading up to the election of a new party president.

Though the extended tenure of incumbent president J P Nadda ends on June 30, a recent amendment in the BJP's constitution has empowered its apex body, the Parliamentary Board, to take a call related to a president, including his term, in "emergency" situations.

Sources said the party's Parliamentary Board may extend Nadda's tenure till the election process for his replacement is complete. They, however, added that it is for the party's top brass to take the final call and they may appoint a "working president" till his replacement is elected.

NEET sanctity hit, says SC Seeks Centre, NTA response on plea for fresh exam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Observing that the sanctity of NEET-UG, 2024 has been affected, the Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) on a plea seeking holding of a fresh examination on grounds of alleged question paper leak and other malpractices.

The top court, however, refused to stay the counselling of successful candidates for admissions to MBBS, BDS and other courses.

Taking note of the allegations, a vacation bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah said what the NTA was supposed to do was sacrosanct. "Sanctity (of the exam) has been affected, so we need answers," he said.

Besides the Centre and the NTA, which conducts NEET-UG, the bench also issued notices to the Bihar govern-

ment. There were allegations of malpractice in holding the exam in the state.

"How much time do you want...Immediately on the reopening? Otherwise, the counselling will start," the bench said.

It tagged the plea filed by Shivangi Mishra and nine other MBBS aspirants with a pending petition and asked the NTA to file the response in the meantime. The top court will resume regular hearings from July 8 after the summer vacation which commenced on May 20 comes to an end.

NEET-UG, 2024, was held on May 5 and results were declared on June 4. It was expected to be declared on June 14.

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) examination is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and



other related courses in government and private institutions across the country.

"Issue notice. In the meantime, the response will be filed by the National Testing Agency," the bench said.

It, however, did not agree to the submission of lawyer Mathews J Nedumpara, appearing for the students, that the counselling of students be stayed in the meantime.

"Let the counselling start, we are not stopping the counselling... We will not stop the counselling. If you argue further, we will dismiss this (the

plea)," the bench told the advocate.

It took note of the submission that the fresh plea was tagged with a similar petition filed earlier on which a bench headed by CJI DY Chandrachud had issued notices to the Centre and the NTA on May 17 and that the plea was already listed on July 8. The court granted the prayer.

"The allegation is that exam papers were leaked, and large number of students got the exam papers in advance, and they became successful. Twenty three lakh students wrote the examination, and total number of seats available is 1 lakh. This is the most coveted examination. Sixty-seven students got 720 out of 720 marks.

"The sanctity of the examination is so sacrosanct, and something has gone terribly wrong. The court has refused to stay the counselling, i.e. the admission..." lawyer Nedum para later said Video.

Had Priyanka fought from Varanasi, Modi would have lost: Rahul

PNS ■ RAEBARELI (UP)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Tuesday that had his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra contested the Lok Sabha polls from Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi would have lost by two or three lakh votes.

Addressing a thanksgiving meeting here, he said the INDIA coalition parties fought the election unitedly in Raebareli, Amethi and other parts of the country to reduce the strength of the BJP-led NDA in Parliament.

Gandhi said he and other party parliamentarians would not "fall victim to arrogance" over the poll outcome and work for the cause of the



masses.

The Congress leader accused Modi of ignoring the common people and giving prominence to top industrialists and other personalities during the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple, and said the masses taught them a

lesson by ensuring the BJP's defeat in Ayodhya.

In her brief speech, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi thanked the people of Amethi and Raebareli for ensuring the party's victory in these constituencies.

TAKES CHARGE OF HEALTH Focus on govt's 100-day agenda, Nadda tells officials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP President J P Nadda took charge of the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday.

In addition, he was allocated the Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry on Monday, a day after taking oath as a cabinet minister in the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government.

"Honoured to take charge as Minister of Health and family Welfare under the esteemed guidance of Hon. PM Shri @narendramodiji," Nadda said in a post on X.

"The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare plays a crucial role in the nation's progress and the well-being of its people. As the backbone of the country, the health sector not only promotes public health but also stands as a strong force in addressing and overcoming health challenges," the minister said.

Nadda said that India's healthcare system is recognised globally for its affordable and advanced infrastructure. "This transformation has positioned India as a prominent destination for medical tourism worldwide."

In the previous Modi government, both ministries were led by Mansukh Mandaviya.

After taking charge, he along with Ministers of State for Health Anupriya Patel and Prataprao Jadhav interacted with senior officials of the Health Ministry.

He is learnt to have told them to focus on the government's agenda for the first 100 days, especially on extending the coverage under the Ayushman Bharat scheme for people aged 70 years and above.

Nadda held the health portfolio during the Modi government's first term before he took over as the BJP's working president in 2019. He became a full-fledged party president in January 2020 following Amit Shah's appointment as Union Home Minister.

Nadda's term as BJP president ended in January and he was given a six-month extension to oversee the Lok Sabha 2024 elections. His term ends in June.

The 63-year-old BJP leader, who holds a law degree, started his political journey with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the students' wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). He became the president of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the BJP's youth wing, in 1991.

'Can you assure that steel plants will not be privatised'

Cong poser to Steel Minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday asked new Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy whether he will give an assurance that steel plants, including the ones in Visakhapatnam and Salem, will not be privatised.

Kumaraswamy is new steel minister in a "rustied" government, Congress general secretary

Jairam Ramesh said and posed a set of five questions relating to steel plants in Visakhapatnam, Salem, Nagarnar, Bhadravati and Durgapur.

Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said in a post on X that the previous administration had proposed the sale of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), commonly known as the Vizag Steel Plant, to the prime minister's friends.

More than one lakh people rely on it for their livelihoods and RINL unions have peacefully protesting since the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs' January 2021 approval for 100 per cent privatisation of RINL, its joint

ventures, and subsidiaries, he said. Employees report that deliberate government negligence is pushing the once thriving steel plant into increasing losses, Ramesh added.

"Will Mr Kumaraswamy provide a written commitment that he will not sell the Vizag Steel Plant to the 'one-third' Pradhan Mantri's industrialist friends," he went on to ask.

In 2019, he said, the previous administration decided to disinvest in the Salem steel plant and a massive rally of almost 2,000 people, including workers, their families and many farmers who gave up their land for it, soon took to the streets to oppose the privatisation of the special steel unit.

The plant, Ramesh said, covers an area of almost 25 villages, 18 or 19 of which have disappeared since it was built.

"Workers alleged that the plant was being intentionally mismanaged, and that the leadership of Steel Authority of India Limited had been reduced to a mouthpiece for the ruling party.



Kannada actor Darshan arrested in murder case

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Leading Kannada film actor Darshan Thogudeepa was arrested on Tuesday in connection with the murder of man who allegedly made "derogatory" comments against his close friend, police sources said.

The "Challenging Star" and 12 others were questioned by police after being taken into custody earlier today and subsequently arrested in connection with the alleged murder of the man, identified as Renukaswamy, whose body was found here on June nine.

It is alleged that Renukaswamy, who worked with a pharmacy company and hailed from the district headquarters town of Chitradurga, had made derogatory comments against actress Pavithra Gowda, a close friend of Darshan, in social media posts, the sources said.

The actress has also been arrested.

Odisha gets tribal CM, 2 deputy CMs

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

BJP's tribal leader Mohan Charan Majhi will be the new chief minister of Odisha, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced here on Tuesday.

KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida were made deputy chief ministers of the state, he said.

The decisions were taken at the BJP legislature party meeting attended by Singh and Union minister Bhupender Yadav as observers.

"Mohan Majhi has been elected by the legislature party



unanimously," Singh told reporters.

Mohan Charan Majhi, 52, defeated Mina Majhi of the

BJD by 11,577 votes from the Keonjhar assembly constituency.

The chief whip of the BJP in the previous assembly, he was elected to the assembly for the fourth time.

KV Singh Seo who was named a deputy chief minister defeated Saroj Kumar Meher of the BJD by 1357 votes from Patnagarh, while the other deputy CM Pravati Parida beat BJD leader Dilip Kumar Nayak by 4588 votes from Nimapara.

The new government will take oath at Janata Maidan here on Wednesday

Scientists detect frost atop Mars' volcanoes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Researchers have detected frost atop volcanoes on Mars, so far considered "improbable" owing to hot temperatures on the planet.

The discovery marks the first time that frost has been detected near the planet's equator, challenging current perceptions of the planet's climate, said the international team of researchers, led by those at the University of Bern, Switzerland.

The volcanoes in the Mars' Tharsis region, where the frost was observed, are the tallest in the entire solar system. The frost sits in the calderas of the volcanoes, which are large hollows at their summits created

during past eruptions, the researchers said.

They proposed that the way the air circulates above these mountains, it creates a unique "microclimate" allowing for the thin patches of frost to form.

"We thought it was improbable for frost to form around Mars' equator, as the mix of sunshine and thin atmosphere keeps temperatures during the day relatively high at both the surface and mountaintop, unlike what we see on Earth, where you might expect to see frosty peaks," explained Adomas Valantinas, who led the work as a PhD student at the University of Bern.

"What we're seeing may be a remnant of an ancient climate



cycle on modern Mars, where you had precipitation and maybe even snowfall on these volcanoes in the past," said Valantinas.

In their study, published in the journal Nature Geoscience, the researchers described that the frost is present for only a few hours after sunrise before

it evaporates in sunlight.

Further, at about a hundredth of a millimetre thick, roughly the width of a human hair, the frost is "incredibly thin," yet "quite vast," the authors said.

The frost is part of at least 1.5 lakh tons of water cycling between the surface and air each day during the cold seasons -- about the same as 60 Olympic-size swimming pools, they said.

The Tharsis region on Mars hosts numerous volcanoes, which tower above the surrounding plains at heights ranging from one to two times that of Earth's Mount Everest. Olympus Mons, for instance, is as wide as France, the researchers said.

They said that modelling how frosts form could help scientists understand Mars's other secrets, including those about the existence of water, along with those of the planet's atmosphere.

The knowledge is essential for future exploration and the search for possible signs of life, they said.

For the study, the researchers analysed more than 30,000 images obtained from the Colour and Stereo Surface Imaging System (CaSSIS) onboard the European Space Agency's (ESA's) Trace Gas Orbiter (a spacecraft). The findings were validated through independent observations, including those from the ESA's Mars Express orbiter.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

The road ahead

The depleted BJP's decision to retain key Ministries is a double-edged sword

There are a number of ways to look at the depleted-in-strength BJP decision to hold onto important Ministries within the Union Government, despite pressure from coalition partners like the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Janata Dal United (JDU) for a larger share of the pie. For its part, the BJP has sought to guarantee itself centralisation of power over significant policy choices by holding onto important ministries. This will obviously support upholding a constant course for policy and governance, besides facilitating the quick execution of its agenda and cutting down on red tape. Sitting in significant Ministries enables the party to present its accomplishments and capacity for governance to the public, which is essential for retaining and growing its support base. On the flip sides, disagreements within the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) may arise from coalition partners feeling excluded. Relationship tension could result from this being seen as a lack of respect or trust by powerful regional parties like the TDP and JDU. The partners may utilise their ability to bargain to obtain greater sway, which could spark arguments or even inspire threats of abandoning the relationship. This might cause the partnership to become unstable, particularly since the BJP does not have the numbers to prop a Government on its own. On the other hand, it also means that the coalition will not be able to take use of the variety of perspectives and knowledge that its partners can offer. Policies as a result may be less sensitive to local quirks or inclusive. Sometimes, having all the authority in one place results in lack of accountability.



Sharing Ministries within a coalition can encourage a more balanced Government and serve as a check on decisions made by one person. In the long run, political instability could result from coalition partners feeling consistently ignored. In maintaining control, the BJP must make sure that its coalition partners are respected and feel included. However, the BJP's chances in States where these allies have sizeable support bases may suffer if coalition members leave over discontent. This might be harmful in elections that are hotly contested. Even if they do not hold important Ministries, the BJP is still able to include coalition partners in significant decision-making processes. This may lessen feelings of isolation. Keeping a stable alliance and addressing coalition partners' concerns can be achieved by regular consultations and talks. Providing them with strategic ministries or other types of political recompense might assist maintain coalition members' commitment and satisfaction. Maintaining important Ministries, therefore, is a two-edged sword for the BJP. It can guarantee policy continuity and improve governance efficiency, but it also runs the danger of upsetting coalition partners, which could result in political instability. The outcome will mostly depend on how the BJP humours its alliances and strikes a balance between inclusiveness and shared authority and centralised control.

PICTALK



Competitors at the annual dragon boat race in Hong Kong

Let statecraft replace vicious propaganda



SIDHARTH MISHRA

The BJP poll machinery's aggressive narrative proved to be counterproductive; it's now time to change the nature of dialogue from confrontation to consensus

The seamless swearing in of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the third term, given the fractured mandate handed out by voters in the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, must have come as big relief for those who invest in the Indian market. The investor could be a small-time shareholder or a rich corporate professional. The economic reforms launched by Dr Manmohan Singh, the Finance Minister in the Narasimha Rao Government in 1991, have tumbled on through the regimes of another five Prime Ministers, who followed Rao, including Manmohan Singh himself. The importance of the continuity of these reforms can be gauged from the fact that in the past three decades, it has lifted more than 50 crore Indians out of mortifying poverty. From the economic point of view, the Narendra Modi Government's biggest shortcoming during its second term, which had a very strong mandate, was its inability to carry out farm reforms. It faltered in communicating to the farmers the benefits of the new agriculture laws and the profits it could accrue to the farm hands. The negative narrative perpetuated by the communication machinery of the Modi regime, which was largely taken over by the IT Cell of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), proved to be an impediment not just in the implementation of the farm legislations but also failed to immerse the spirit of Hindu pride in the months following the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. An aggressive narrative, borrowed from the cantankerous television debates and not necessarily backed by facts, on the social media platforms prove to be counterproductive. With the rise of the fact-checking tools, the decisions to let Jawaharlal's Nehru's love stories and propaganda of similar genre overshadow the Narendra Modi Government's achievements proved to be one of the biggest deflating factors in the BJP's campaign of 2024, with the



party falling way short of the halfway mark. The communication battle on the farm laws, instead of focusing on the merits of the reforms, became a fight between the Hindustanis and Khalistanis. The attempt to point those opposed to the reforms as espousing the agenda of Balkanisation was ill thought of, and the BJP has paid a heavy price for it electorally not just in Punjab but across the farmlands of the country. Several other initiatives which could have welded people strongly in the support of the Modi 2.0, got undone by the showing of the brute power of large numbers, not as much on the ground, as in the narratives floated by the establishment's publicity arm. The whole attitude to run down the 'Argumentative Indian', an expression borrowed from the title of the bestseller by Amartya Sen, as anti-national in the event of s/he not agreeing with the Government only helped firm up the anti-Government stand than making them fall

FROM THE ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW, THE NARENDRA MODI GOVERNMENT'S BIGGEST SHORTCOMING DURING ITS SECOND TERM, WHICH HAD A VERY STRONG MANDATE, WAS ITS INABILITY TO CARRY OUT FARM REFORMS

in the Government's line. The biggest question which must be haunting the BJP leadership is that when the residents of Uttar Pradesh took an "overwhelming" part in the celebration of the consecration of the Ram Temple, why did it not endorse the party as enthusiastically when it came to the electoral battle? Once again, the propaganda machinery only helped turn a happy moment into an instant of loyalty test. It was seen that handing out an invitation to the Opposition leaders to a 'quasi-political' function was to get them to refuse and get branded as 'anti-Hindu'. No communication expert would ever prepare a model which would spend time in their hour of glory on the rivals. The narrative so floated in the end created a situation where the 'homecoming' for Ram Lalla got overtaken by 'Ayodhya-coming' of the Opposition leaders. Today, the BJP Government is perched on the support of Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party and Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United).

Both the leaders did not come to Ayodhya but have come to the support of Narendra Modi 3.0. In the past, they have even called the Ramjanambhoomi Movement as a 'political project' of the BJP. The latest narrative of the open denouncement of the voters of Uttar Pradesh by the BJP's extended family will certainly not find traction with either Kumar or Naidu. The castes and communities who did not vote for the BJP voted for Kumar and Naidu in their respective States. The call of the hour is to change the nature of the dialogue from confrontation to consensus, not only among the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners but among all the stakeholders of India, that is Bharat. The demand of the situation is to push the economic and strategic agenda as statecraft than a tool to demonise and belittling those opposed to the Government. (The writer is an author and president of the Centre for Reforms, Development & Justice; views are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUNLIGHT'S INFLUENCE ON LIFE

Madam — Apropos the news story "Sunshine on shoulders, a spring in my step!", published on June 11, this is my response. Summers have been harsh this year. I do not recall Delhi temperatures shooting to 50 degrees plus in the 26 years since we shifted to the national capital. Advisories have been issued by the state governments to avoid venturing out in the afternoons. However, a month down the line, we would forget the harrowing days and long for a glimpse of the sun as monsoon clouds darken the skies. The sun's impact on our lives is undeniable. Reflecting on a hazy morning in east India and contrasting vacations in England highlight how sunlight influences our mood and activities. Sunshine's warmth and brightness are universally cherished, sparking joy in parks and bringing health benefits like the essential 'sunshine vitamin.' Despite modern conveniences, nothing rivals the sun's antibacterial properties for drying clothes. Beyond practical benefits, the sun inspires language and culture, as seen in phrases celebrating people as 'sunshine.' However, this fleeting sunlight also reminds us of the urgent need to combat pollution. By prioritising a cleaner environment, we can ensure future generations enjoy the sun's life-giving rays.

Siya Bhatia | Mangalore

OPEN ACCESS TO GREEN ENERGY

Madam — Apropos the news story "India's green power policies come of age," published on June 7, this is my response. As a daily reader of the newspaper, it's encouraging to see the strides being made towards green energy in India. The MNRE's Surya-Ghar initiative and other regulatory reforms highlight a significant shift towards renewable energy (RE) accessibility. The Surya-Ghar scheme aims to provide affordable electricity through rooftop solar installations, potentially benefiting millions of households by 2027. This is a commendable step towards sustainable energy for all. The recent amendments to the Electricity

Surge in numberplate violations



Apropos the news story "Traffic Police Books 16,800 People for Defective Number Plates This Year," published on June 10, this is my response. As a regular reader of the newspaper, the recent spike in penalties for defective number plates in Delhi is quite striking. The Delhi Traffic Police have booked over 16,800 people this year, a stag-

gering 286 per cent increase from last year. This sharp rise underscores the intensified efforts by the authorities to enhance road safety. Defective number plates are more than a minor infraction; they pose significant risks, from impeding law enforcement to contributing to traffic violations.

The focus on high-traffic areas and the detailed breakdown of top violator zones, like Mayur Vihar and Nand Nagri, highlights the strategic approach taken by the police. It's commendable that alongside enforcement, there are awareness campaigns aimed at educating vehicle owners about the importance of compliant number plates. This holistic approach not only aims to correct current issues but also to prevent future violations, ultimately contributing to a safer and more orderly city.

Saanvi Jain | Jamshedpur

Rules, 2005, highlight the government's dedication to enabling consumers to establish and maintain dedicated transmission lines, enhancing energy efficiency. The Green Energy Open Access Rules of 2022 aim to simplify approval procedures, fostering transparency and consistency nationwide. Judicial interventions are vital for ensuring proper interpretation and enforcement of laws. These efforts signify significant advancement in India's renewable energy drive towards a greener, more sustainable future.

Reyansh Tiwari | Tirupati

ATTITUDE SHAPES HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

Madam — Apropos the news story "Factors that influence our attitudes," published on June 10, this is my response. Reading about the Mahabharata and its timeless narratives offers profound insights into human nature. The epic, attributed to sage Veda Vyasa and transcribed by Lord Ganesha, vividly portrays the complexities of human attitudes. It showcases a spectrum of emotions and standpoints that drive actions, often influenced by exter-

nal factors. Duryodhana, a prominent character, exemplifies how arrogance and anger, fueled by his uncle Shakuni and others, lead to destructive behaviour. This mirrors historical atrocities like the Nazi genocide, highlighting the dangers of prejudice and hatred.

Conversely, the story of the Zen Master and the Thief underscores the transformative power of compassion. The Master's forgiveness and understanding helped the wayward student reform, illustrating that empathy can foster positive change. Human attitudes, shaped by social interactions and experiences, can lead to either constructive or destructive outcomes. This continuous learning process underscores the importance of compassion and understanding in shaping a better society. Harold S Geneen aptly encapsulates this, emphasising that leadership is reflected in attitudes and actions, not just words.

Aarush Kapoor | Vijayawada

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

India's green energy rise, including 'Green Coal'

Green coal projects reduce pollution, groundwater contamination, promote sustainability, carbon neutrality and spur economic growth

The Reserve Bank of India's latest report reflects a surge in global optimism regarding India's economic prospects, particularly in the energy sector. This year alone, green energy projects valued at approximately Rs 700 billion are set to commence, marking a significant investment milestone. By 2025-26, further project investments are anticipated to reach Rs 765.2 billion, supported by progressive policies promoting sustainable energy. India's power sector has now achieved full electrification and is integrated into a unified national grid, providing rural areas with 20 hours of electricity daily and urban areas with 23.5 hours. Additionally, India has ascended to become the world's third-largest producer of renewable energy, underscoring its commitment to sustainable development. A key innovation on the horizon is green coal, which is poised to revolutionize energy production in India. Green coal offers significant potential as a sustainable alternative to traditional coal, seamlessly integrating into existing



thermal power plants. For instance, a 1,000 MW power plant consuming around five million tonnes of coal annually could see a significant reduction in carbon emissions by replacing just 10 per cent of its fossil fuel with green coal, equating to half a million tonnes of sustainable fuel. It is estimated that using 1 kg of green coal instead of fossil coal can reduce CO2 emissions by approximately 2 kg per kg of coal replaced. India's largest state-run power generation company is making substantial strides in the green energy sector, including green coal initiatives. An Initial Public Offering (IPO) for NTPC Green, a subsidiary focused on green energy, is expected by the end of the year. NTPC, a major player in India's power sector, had previously planned to produce green coal, also known as torrefied charcoal, from municipal waste. This project, executed by its subsidiary NTPC

Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd and awarded to Macawber Beekay, boasts a plant with a capacity to process 600 tonnes of waste daily, producing 200 tonnes of green coal from municipal solid waste (MSW). The success of NTPC's Varanasi Harit Koyla Pariyojna, managed by Macawber Beekay Private Limited (MBL), Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while inaugurating the Varanasi Harit Koyla Pariyojna, praised the project as a testament to the government's dedication to environmental sustainability. The green coal project is a cornerstone of the "Make in India" initiative and represents significant progress towards the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" mission. MBL has successfully produced green coal for NTPC Ltd, one of India's largest coal consumers in the power sector. After demonstrating the technology in Varanasi, the CPSU has entrusted MBL with additional projects, including the establishment of the world's largest waste-to-green coal plant in Greater Noida. Indian companies have

increasingly diversified into green energy solutions, with MBL leading the way in transforming municipal solid waste into eco-friendly green coal. The inauguration of the world's first commercial green coal plant by Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the company's innovative capabilities. The technology not only converts waste into a viable alternative to fossil fuels but also addresses critical waste disposal challenges. The waste-to-energy process involves the meticulous collection and treatment of MSW, followed by moisture removal and the segregation of non-combustible materials. The refined waste is then processed to produce high-calorific charcoal powder that exceeds the energy value of traditional coal. This method reduces carbon emissions, promotes carbon neutrality, and provides economic benefits by lowering the costs associated with traditional coal usage and mitigating the health risks linked to mining and waste accumulation. (The writer is Chairman & Managing Director, Macawber Beekay; views are personal)



AJAY KUMAR GUPTA





FIRST COLUMN BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER SOCIETY

Every segment of society should work to fulfil the expectations of other segments



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

We all dream of a better world where there is peace, happiness and harmony, don't we? No one would like degradation of the environment, loss of human lives due to wars and murders, corrosion of human spirit by crime and corruption, dehumanisation through poverty and troublesome social, economic and political conditions, embroiled with high tension and turmoil that drain human energy and make life miserable. On the contrary, all would like life to be characterised by harmony and health, well being and wealth and heavenly happiness and purity.

But the question is, what are those values and how can such a socio-political-economic system be established which has those values and which will enhance human experience and enable men and women to have such lifestyle as can make such a society viable? If we conduct a survey among various groups of people, we will find that their opinion would most probably crystallise around 10 or 15 major points. They would say that a better world is one in which the following exist only in milder forms or to a lesser degree than we have in the present-day world.

These major problems or causes of sufferings are wars, violence and cruelty in any form --- poverty, unemployment and social, economic and political injustice, environmental pollution and ecological imbalance, corruption, crime, indiscipline and obscenity, disease, infirmity and high mortality rate, slavery, lack of freedom or deprivation of human rights, hunger, malnutrition or starvation, wrong attitudes towards the other sex and abuse of children, addictions, intoxications, tensions and lack of happiness, hatred, suspicion, fear, cut-throat competition,



rivalry and absence or lack of love and co-operation at various levels of society.

Post this survey, if we conduct another kind of survey, asking every segment of society about what efforts or improvements they expect from the other segments so that we may have a better world order, a fair enough consensus on the following lines would emerge. People would say that they want: Scientists to have an orientation of spirituality, religious leaders to have scientific temper, doctors to treat not only the body but also the mind or the soul, education to have spiritual and moral development also among its aims, women to be given proper social status and man's attitude and outlook towards them to be more spiritualised. The youth and the children should be given more love and they should give more regard and service to the elders. The society should have a balance of love and law and it should be based on the principles of justice, fair play and equality of opportunity.

Now these and such other aims can be fulfilled if every segment of society works for the fulfilment of what other segments expect of it. Each individual also has to contribute of his or her talent or time to work towards raising awareness of the people so as to realise the above goals. For this global task, global cooperation is required. Hence, a new kind of bank to which each individual or institution can offer its contributions so as to build a better world is the need of the hour.

(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views personal.)

The Garhwal Regiment's glorious military heritage



ASHOK K MEHTA

Lansdowne, steeped in military tradition since the establishment of the first Garhwal Battalion in 1887, tells a tale of valour and colonial legacy

The still air in June over the Bhawani Dutt Joshi Parade Ground carved out of Kaludanda (renamed Lansdowne after the then Viceroy) converts into an air pocket when the fourth batch of 251 Agniveers call out Jai Badri Vishal Ki Jai, the feared Garhwal regiment war cry. The raising of the first Garhwal Battalion was ordered in 1887 by C-in-C, later Viceroy, Lord Roberts. The British may owe India USD 49 Trillion as reparation but their payback was impressive: instruments of governance, strategic culture and infrastructure, including 5000 to 6000 feet high ridge-top cantonments, today's hill stations like Lansdowne whose Mall Road became the exclusive white's only-promenade, restricting locals to the windswept 'Thandi-sadak' on the reverse slope.

Dotted with pine, oak and rhododendrons, the ridge lights up with the majesty of Nanda Devi towering among the distant Himalayas. The sprawling Bungalow No 6 amongst a hundred such, constructed in 1906 was home to Colonel Mainwaring commandant of 3/9 Royal Garhwal Rifles and was bought by MES for a princely Rs 10,053!

It was after Nepal's second invasion that Garhwal capitulated and through legendary Jung Bahadur Rana's progeny married into Garhwal's Sah ruling family. Scattered but indistinguishable descendants of erstwhile Nepalese can be found in Pathankot village as are remnants of 2/3 Gorkha Rifles also raised here which have an umbilical cord with the Garhwal Regiment. Originally Garhwals and Kumaonis joined 5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) whose first Colonel was Bobs Bahadur, Victoria Cross winner, Lord Roberts who gave Veer Garhwali a separate identity.

The nom de plume of the Garhwali soldier is valour: in World War I and Waziristan, it won three Victoria Crosses (Rfn Gabbar Singh Negi -posthumously; Naik Darwan Singh Negi and Lt David Kenny) and innumerable battle and theatre honours and gallantry awards till 1947 that would fill this page. After independence, the Regiment bagged one Ashoka Chakra, four MVC, 18 KC, 51 SC, 52 VrC, and 375 Sena Medals. The Regiment has 22 Infantry battalions, three Rashtriya Rifle battalions and two Territorial Army battalions. To commemorate its unique achievements in operations, the Regiment was conferred the Royal title: Royal Rassi (Lanyard) in 1921 and to honour its braves and martyrs, an iconic bronze statue was built in 1923 which was unveiled by C-in-C, Lord Rawlinson. Designed by makers of Victoria Memorial Calcutta, Martin and Co, the statue on green granite is the most unique and defiant image in the world of unknown soldiers, the Veer Garhwals. Added later was the epic shloka from Mahabharat. Lord Krishna to Arjun: 'Lament not the death of a warrior; for one killed in battle is honoured in heaven'. It was a silver replica of this Unknown Soldier that PM Modi presented to the PM of France in 2015 to commemorate the centenary of WWI.

The Darwan Singh War Museum is the grand repository of the history and achievements in war and peace of the Regiment. But the creme d la creme of Lansdowne is the Garhwali Officers Mess which is India's most spectacular, filled with collector's items. Officers and ladies



THE STATUE ON GREEN GRANITE IS THE MOST UNIQUE AND DEFIANT IMAGE IN THE WORLD — OF UNKNOWN SOLDIER, THE VEER GARHWALI

of the battalion who arrived in 1887 chose this ridge-top locale and declared it their mess which sprouted only in 1892. Its red slanting roof and miniature Victorian-style colonnades are draped with ivy and creepers.

In the middle of the lawn is the still functional Sun Dial measuring time by the position of the sun. Carved below is: "The shadow of my finger cast divides the future from the past; Before it stands the unborn hour in darkness and beyond thy power: Behind its unreturning line the vanished hour no longer thine: One hour alone is in thy hand, the now of which the shadow stands." Nearby is the ubiquitous Unknown Soldier, covered with bushwork. The Officer's Mess initially had three large rooms: the main hall, dining room and billiards room. Add-ons were the Card room, the Generals gallery, the indispensable bar and two libraries on either flank. Rooms are resplendent in silver trophies and walls covered by big and small game heads and skins that will draw ire from RSPCA. The Visitors' Book table is eye-popping and studded with memorabilia. The broken China-glass floor is laid out in a design that radiates towards four Maltese Crosses, the original crest of the

Regiment. Crocodile skin sofa sets glisten as no one sits on them. To insert the John Roberts and Co. made billiards table, the entire roof had to be uprooted while the piano from Chappells, Bond Street London (more famous for sartorial products) rests rhythmically in a corner. The glistening mahogany dining table adorning the dining hall is credited to makers C Lazarus also of Calcutta. Every room has a fireplace with brass railings and customised settings. The Card room contains the letter by Field Marshal Bill Slim written in 1967 eulogizing the gallant Garhwali: "I have commanded Battalions of every Regiment of Indian Army but I never had a better one than 3 Garhwal-and that's something from a dyed in the wool Gurkha as me to say. But it is true". The bar has charming water-colour sketches made by a local Gorkha lad, a long-gone Gopal Chhetri that cheer your drinks. The quaint downtown market survives on a small but happy populace determined not to let Lansdowne be renamed either Jaswant Garh (after MVC awardee Jaswant Singh Rawat of 1962 war) or even Bipin Nagar (after late CDS Gen Bipin Rawat whose Shaun village is 30 km away). Soldiers and civilians are agnostic

about shedding colonial legacy and wish to retain Lansdowne. Locals say the state government is monumentally corrupt: so ex-servicemen and politicians don't mix. Still, two Generals made it good. Bhuwan Khanduri who became Chief Minister and TPS (Topsy) Rawat many times minister while highly decorated Ajay Kothiyal KC, SC, VSM and a double Everester lost his deposit during the last state elections. Subedar Major Shailendra Mohan Bhist located at Garhwal Regiment's Kotdwar detachment is look-alike brother of Ajay Bhist more famous as Yogi Adityanath! The clock has moved a full circle: Garhwals bhullas (brothers) are now again joining the depleting Gorkha Regiments and learning to speak Nepali. The Garhwal regimental legacy is protected by its three symbols: Lord Badrinath, the regimental deity, the iconic Unknown Soldier and the Royal Rassi. They help instil gumption and guile while invoking Jai Badri Vishal Ki Jai.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

Organic renaissance: India's rapid shift towards chemical-free farming

As consumer awareness of health and sustainability surges, India is witnessing an unprecedented rise in the organic food market

There was a time in the country when everything produced was organic, the farmers used natural manures like cow dung and compost fertilisers in their fields. The yield was low but it was healthy, tasteful and above all sustainable practice. Then came chemical fertilisers which no doubt increased the yield manifold but also led to several side effects. It is not sustainable and lacks the taste of organic products and above all not as healthy as it should be. Besides the farmers are also paying the price in terms of their health and overuse of Urea and other chemicals ruining the soil quality and depleting the water table. In this scenario, organic farming is the way to go. Now with



AJEET GODARA

newfound awareness people in large numbers are turning to organic products and getting healthy chemical-free products on their plates, India's organic product market has witnessed an unprecedented surge over the last decade, driven by growing consumer awareness about health, sustainability, and environmental impacts.

As urban populations increasingly seek out healthier lifestyle options, the demand for organic food products has soared. This trend is not just limited to a niche segment; it has permeated mainstream consumer preferences, pushing organic products to the forefront of the food industry. The organic food market in India, valued at \$1,582.2 million in 2023, is expected to

grow exponentially to \$8,918.5 million by 2032, showcasing an impressive growth rate of 21.19% per annum. This meteoric rise is indicative of a larger green wave sweeping across the country, where consumers are increasingly inclined towards sustainable and eco-friendly products. Consumers today are more inclined to buy products that are sustainable and environmentally friendly. This aligns with the broader trend towards sustainable and ethical consumption, making organic foods an appealing choice for consumers.

Today organic companies have impressive portfolio of hundreds of SKUs, including staples like pulses, millet, wheat, mustard, barley, rice,



and oils. The products of organic companies are available not only through its website but also on major e-commerce platforms such as Amazon, Flipkart, and Bigbasket, making them accessible to a broad consumer base.

The brands have also expanded their product range into seed verticals, encompassing

wheat, barley, mustard, and other grains. By doing so, organic companies aim to ensure that their organic farming practices start from the very beginning of the agricultural process. What is interesting is that Organic companies are committed to sustainable farming practices and farmer welfare. They provide specialised

training programs to farmers to enhance crop management skills and boost yields. The farmers must be safeguarded from any potential contaminants in their food supply so that the end users get a real organic product. There is definitely a need to maintaining high-quality standards in organic farming else the consumer trust is broken and the industry as a whole suffers. With online registration and certification processes in place most of the fraudulent practices in the segment have been wiped off. But the field is not without challenges. However, the transition from chemical to organic is not simple. It is a painstaking process but rewards are gratifying. Transforming agricultural land into organic farm-

ing takes around three years. And in places where chemical fertiliser use is rampant, it could go beyond three years. Besides, fraudsters often damage their reputations. Often prices are jacked up unrealistically. The growth of organic products in India is a testament to the changing consumer landscape and increasing awareness about health and sustainability. Still, the market share of organic products is just one per cent but the growth is exponential. This sector is growing at the rate of 20 per cent which shows the growing demand for organic food and people's interest in them.

(The writer is confounder of Natureland Organics; views are personal)

MONEY MATTERS

Steel demand to grow by 9-12 % in FY25: Ind-Ra report

The steel demand is expected to grow in the range of 9-12 per cent during the ongoing 2024-25 fiscal, according to India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra). The demand will be supported by steady growth in the end-user industries such as automobile and infrastructure sectors, the rating agency said in a report on Tuesday. The agency forecasts the steel demand growth in the range of 9-12 per cent year-on-year for FY25, it said. "Raw material and finished goods prices are expected to be range-bound on a moderate recovery in global demand. Domestic players are likely to see stable credit metrics, due to higher profitability and improved operating cash flows amid debt-led capex," Rohit Sadaka, Director and Head, Materials and Diversified Industrials at Ind-Ra, said. The agency further said that it expects the global steel demand to be steady with some moderation in China demand due to its transition to low carbon initiatives.



HCLTech, Germany's apoBank extend ties with USD 278-mn deal

IT services company HCL Technologies (HCLTech) on Tuesday said it has expanded partnership with Germany's largest cooperative primary bank Deutsche Apotheker- und Ärztebank eG (apoBank). The estimated contract value of the deal is USD 278 million over a duration of 7.5 years, according to a regulatory filing. "HCLTech will accompany apoBank with an outcome-oriented managed services model that delivers resilient, scalable, high quality and compliant digital foundation services, enabling apoBank to deliver fast and secured banking services to its customers," a company statement said. apoBank COO Thomas Runge said HCLTech has extensive Avaloq expertise and deep understanding of apoBank, which makes it an ideal partner. "We look forward to working with apoBank to help them serve their customers by leveraging our comprehensive portfolio."



Shriram Life declares Rs 201 cr bonus in FY'24, up by 35%

Shriram Life Insurance has declared a bonus of Rs 201 crore for the financial year ending March 31, 2024 following the robust growth in premium income. The bonus payout would benefit 3.86 lakh policy holders of Shriram Life Insurance. Shriram Life Insurance declared Rs 201 crore bonus, up by 35 per cent from Rs 149 crore in the corresponding period of last year on the back of "robust growth in premium income which was driven by diversification of sales during FY'24," a company statement said here on Tuesday. "Our surge in new business premium in FY'24 was led by a combination of factors which includes new partners, technology upgrades and focused sales," said company Managing Director and CEO Casparus J H Kromhout said. "We believe this growth must be shared with our customers, who are the fulcrum of our growth story," he said.



India eyes oil deals with Russia and others: Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) is looking to build a new oil refinery to meet the rising demand for fuels like petrol and diesel, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Tuesday as he took charge of the ministry for the second time.



He said BPCL is looking to build its fourth oil refinery in the country. "The details are being worked out," he said

Listing his priorities in the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's third term, he said finding and producing more oil and gas to cut India's import reliance, green hydrogen, natural gas and refining and petrochemicals will be top priorities.

The government has in recent years ensured "availability, affordability and sustainability" of energy to citizens, he said. "We have performed well."

And this will be the mantra in Modi 3.0 as well, he said.

Spelling details of his priorities, Puri said attracting investors to oil and gas exploration and production in the ongoing bid rounds as well as in unique tenders like the one floated by ONGC seeking a foreign partner for raising output at one of India's old fields, Mumbai High, will be high on agenda.

agenda.

Also, the push towards producing and increasing usage of green hydrogen, an alternative to fossil fuels that has zero emissions, will continue, he said, adding use of biofuels would also be encouraged.

On securing supplies of crude oil, which is refined into fuels like petrol and diesel, he said India has diversified its sources of supplies including from Russia.

From buying less than a percentage of its total imports, India emerged as the biggest buyer of Russian sea-borne oil, snapping up barrels sold at a discount as some Western nations halted purchases after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

"We are a longstanding partner of the Russian federation.

We have had discussion with the Russians on long-term deals," he said. "I am confident that both our private and public sector players will sign long-term deals with countries where they see benefit in doing so."

He said BPCL is looking to build its fourth oil refinery in the country.

"The details are being worked out," he said.

BPCL operates refineries at Mumbai, Kochi in Kerala, and Bina in Madhya Pradesh. It is aiming to raise capacity to refined crude oil from 39 million tonnes per annum to 45 million tonnes and the new refinery is part of that plan.

The refinery is besides the one that Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is building near Chennai, he said.



Goyal takes charge of Commerce Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader Jitendra Prasad Goyal on Tuesday took charge of the Commerce and Industry Ministry and said it will work to promote the country's economic growth.

Jitendra Prasad also assumed charge as the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry.

Goyal said the ministry is committed to making India a Vikshit Bharat by 2047.

Goyal took charge of the ministry for the second time.

The commerce minister, who won his first Lok Sabha elections from Mumbai North constituency by a margin of over 3.5 lakh votes, took oath as the Cabinet Minister on June 9.

JAIPRAKASH ASSOCIATES INSOLVENCY

NCLAT asks ICICI to consider one-time settlement proposal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Insolvency appellate tribunal NCLAT has asked ICICI Bank to consider bankrupt Jaiprakash Associates Ltd's (JAL) one-time settlement proposal to clear its outstanding loans.

The JAL has challenged an order by National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Allahabad earlier this month to initiate insolvency proceedings against the company.

While hearing the plea by the JAL, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has issued a notice to ICICI Bank in this regard. It said the private sector lender may consider the one-time settlement (OTS) proposal submitted by debt-ridden JAL by June 24, the next date of hearing.

During the proceedings of the NCLAT, the JAL through its counsel submitted that the company is inclined to make the entire payment within 18 weeks, if the OTS is accepted by the bank. This was opposed by creditors alleging that the total debt is over Rs 26,000 crore. Earlier, the JAL moved an OTS proposal to creditors



The JAL has challenged an order by National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Allahabad earlier this month to initiate insolvency proceedings against the company

before the NCLT, which had a provision of an upfront amount of Rs 200 crore and the balance of about Rs 16,000 crore to be paid on or before 18 weeks from its acceptance.

However, this was dismissed by the Allahabad bench of the NCLT and directed to initiate the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) against JAL.

In its order, a two-member vacation bench of the NCLAT said that the JAL may also consider a deposit of some bigger amount by the next date of hearing. "Considering the submission so made, notice is issued to the Respondents

(ICICI Bank and IRP)," said the NCLAT order passed on Monday. It further said: "Let the matter be now listed on June 24, 2024, within which

period the Respondent Banks may file a reply and may consider the proposal/OTS submitted by the appellant by the said date. The appellant may also consider the deposit of some bigger amount by the next date.

An application was moved by the Corporate Debtor (JAL) to defer the order in the company petition. However, NCLT on June 3, 2024, dismissed the application and initiated CIRP against the corporate debtor.

NCLAT was hearing a petition filed by Sunil Kumar Sharma, on behalf of the suspended Board of Directors of JAL, against the order passed by the NCLT. On June 3, the Allahabad bench of NCLT admitted the six-year-old petition filed by ICICI Bank in September 2018 and appointed Bhuvan Madan as Interim Resolution Professional after suspending the board of JAL.

During the hearing of NCLAT, apprehensions of over 25,000 employees and continuation of various projects by JAL were also raised. "... The same is answered by the counsel for the IRP that he has taken over the company as a running concern and no adverse impact.

Sensex, Nifty settle almost flat amid volatile trade

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended almost flat on Tuesday after a record-breaking rally as investors preferred to remain on the sidelines awaiting further triggers.

After trading in the positive territory for the most part of the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 33.49 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 76,456.59 due to fag-end selling. During the day, it jumped 370.45 points or 0.48 per cent to 76,860.53.

In a volatile trade, the NSE Nifty ended marginally up by 5.65 points or 0.02 per cent to 23,264.85.

Sensex and Nifty hit their all-time high levels in the early trade on Monday.

"After a notable rebound, the domestic market has stabilised, awaiting further triggers. With the resolution of



uncertainties in government formation, attention has shifted back to global and domestic indicators. Concerns have risen regarding potential US rate cuts following last week's strong US job data, leading to an increase in US bond yields.

"However, FIIs have been net buyers lately. Investors are now gearing up for this week's policy decisions from the US Fed and the BoJ, as

well as key inflation data from the US and India, seeking insights into the trajectory of rate cuts," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Asian Paints, Reliance Industries, ITC, Sun Pharma, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and JSW Steel were the major laggards.

ENERGY MATRIX

Will increase contribution of renewables, says Joshi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government will continue to increase the contribution of clean energy in India's energy matrix, senior BJP leader Pralhad Joshi, who took charge as Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy said on Tuesday.

He was accompanied by his wife, daughter and son-in-law.

Before taking charge, the minister along with his family members took off his footwear and offered prayers.

Speaking to reporters, Joshi said under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a lot of development has happened in this sector and the country stands fourth globally in renewable energy in terms of installed capacity.



"The PM has put faith in me to lead this department and I will try to work hard to live up to his expectations," he said.

On the priorities for the sector, he said, "This (new and renewable) sector is already contributing towards India's energy security, and we will work in this direction. I will also review the 100-day plan which has now changed to 125 days."

A long-time BJP worker, Joshi, was allocated the portfolio of New & Renewable Energy on Monday in the Narendra Modi-led NDA government. He replaces R K Singh who lost the Lok Sabha election from the Arrah constituency.

Gold rises Rs 150; silver plunges Rs 1,400

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose by Rs 150 to Rs 71,950 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday in line with firm trends in the international markets, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had ended at Rs 71,800 per 10 grams on Monday.

However, silver prices plunged Rs 1,400 to Rs 90,700 per kg. In the previous session, it had closed at

Rs 92,100 per kg. "In the Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) are trading at Rs 71,950 per



10 grams, up by Rs 150 from the previous close," Saumil

Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the global markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,303 per ounce, up USD 10 from the previous close. Gold rose on Tuesday as traders covered their shorts ahead of the US Federal Reserve's meeting outcome and US inflation data, which may provide fresh clues about the timing of the interest rate cuts, Gandhi said.

Sebi launches investor certification exam to foster financial literacy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday launched a free, voluntary online investor certification examination, which will help individuals gain comprehensive knowledge about stock market investing.

Developed in collaboration with the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM), this voluntary certification aims to help investors test their knowledge of markets and investing, Sebi said in a statement.



The certification examination has been designed to assist individuals in their journey to gaining comprehensive knowledge about investing in the Indian securities markets.

During the launch, Ananth Narayan G, Whole Time Member of Sebi, highlighted that the new certification examination is a significant step towards enhancing digital financial education in the securities market.

'Industry expects growth-oriented policies'

Doesn't see coalition as speedbreaker: Anish Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The industry expects the continuation of growth-oriented policies in the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government and the compulsion of coalition politics will not be a speedbreaker, Mahindra Group CEO and MD Anish Shah said on Tuesday.

Apart from the continuation of the growth agenda, the industry expects the government to focus on four key areas - manufacturing for the world; women-led development; farm-led prosperity; and sustainability.

In an interview with PTI, Shah said private capex, which has been behind the government capex, is also expected to pick up with the continuation of a stable government at the Centre.



He said the high government capex will help "private capex grow and will create greater demand... (and) faster growth. That's what we expect... now private capex will also pick up"

"From an industry perspective, stability is positive. What is also positive is the fact that this government has focused more on capex for long-term growth," said Shah, who is also the president of industry chamber FICCI.

When asked if the compulsions of coalition politics as BJP did not get a clear majority in the recent general elections, could become a speedbreaker

for growth, he replied in the negative.

"If we look back over the last 20 or 30 years we have had a number of coalition governments and the economy continued to progress. Yes, we may ask for faster progress now but given the actions that have been taken over the last 10 years, and given the stability in ministries as well... (there is) a lot more confidence that the

growth agenda will continue going forward," Shah said.

Asked about specific expectations from the government, Shah said, "One is, I would say continuation of the growth-oriented policies that they've had and the second is acceleration in (four) specific areas."

"These include focus on manufacturing by reducing cost and promoting ease of doing business with a view to encourage output of high quality products.

The second area which needs attention is woman-led development, he said, adding, it is important to promote women participation in manufacturing.

"This is something where the corporate sector has an equal role (to play)," Shah added.

He said women should have more representation on the boards of the companies as well

as in leadership positions.

Shah listed farm-led prosperity as the third focus area where the industry expects the government to take steps to improve farm productivity, reduce wastage and promote mechanisation.

He said that there is a need to revamp value chains from farm to fork as it will have a long term impact on the farm sector.

Stressing on the significance of sustainability, Shah said the industry is also looking forward to the government to take steps on creating sustainable urban infrastructures with focus on green economy.

He said the high government capex will help 'private capex grow and will create greater demand... (and) faster growth. That's what we expect... now private capex will also pick up'.

MSME loans will be focal point for growth over next 5 yrs

PNS ■ MUMBAI

SBI, the country's largest lender, on Tuesday said small business lending will be the "focal point" for growth and profit for the next five years. The state-owned lender launched a product christened "SME (small and medium enterprises) Digital Business Loans", under which loans will be sanctioned in 45 minutes.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No: G3/2024/2245-2578 Dt: 11.06.2024
Name of the Work: For 15 Works *Repairs to baby pond for arresting leakages at Mansoorabad Pockets: Chennu, Maintenance and repairs to Children park at Huda Sea Nagar, Drilling of Borewell at Shivam Hills Park, Provision of 1000 Gyrp Equipment at Dhanikyapur Colony park, Construction of Foot Path Community Hall at Jaspuri Colony & Repairs of Compound wall and provide Toilet to Community Hall at Woker Section Colony in Ward: Nos.11, Magale 12, Mansoorabad & 13-Hayathnagar of Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC. Estimate Amount: Rs.88.21 Lakhs. Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 21.06.2024 @ 3:00 PM. Name & Address: Officer: Call No: 54 16 80000. E-mail: Executive Engineer, Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC, (M). 6790574355 & 7331199513. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ <http://www.aprocurement.telangana.gov.in/> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC.

Government of Telangana
Superintending Engineer Office, PR Circle Siddipet
e-Procurement Tender Notice
NIT No: HD/Tender/11-03-11-06-13/2023-24 Dt: 11.06.2024
Out of the total (11) works: Replacing Bridges under PMGSY-II and other works in BCWD, SDF, GADA, MRR & CRR etc. in undersigned with total estimate cost of Rs. 1917.80 Lakhs. Tender schedule can be had from e-procurement market from 11.06.2024 till 11.07.2024 for each tender with minimum (7) working days to participate from date of upload. Other details can be had from e-procurement market place @ <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>. email ID: seprodpt@gmail.com Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PR Circle Siddipet.

'Sanjay Leela Bhansali offered me a fresh lease on life'

Taha Shah, who was recently dubbed the "National crush," following his performance in *Heeramandi*, really lives up to the title. He joins us for an exclusive conversation in which he opens up on working with Sanjay Leela Bhansali and the overwhelming support he gets for his character 'Tajdar'.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

In the current entertainment world, actors can become well-known through a variety of channels, such as a memorable part in a beloved film or an exceptional performance in a box office hit! May 2024 has been a pivotal month for Taha Shah, as he becomes well-known for his part in the notable project *Heeramandi*. Many have nicknamed him the new heartthrob of India because of his alluring on-screen persona and natural charm; how could we have missed his interview?

During a conversation with us, Taha Shah expressed his interest in playing Tajdar in *Heeramandi* by saying, "Look, I'm not lying! Working with Sanjay Leela Bhansali, the most luxurious director in this country, was undoubtedly a noteworthy experience. To tell the truth, even if it meant taking on the role of a junior artist, I had been waiting a very long time to be involved in any of his projects. That someone like myself was given a direct main role in his movie is just fate! I want to declare publicly from this interview that Sanjay Leela offered me a second chance at this industry and a fresh lease on life. I feel like he's helped me kickstart my career again! I will always heedlessly accept every project Mr. Bhansali proposes." In reality, he accepted a three-day contract. Additionally, he spent fifteen months pursuing the audition. He and his companion sincerely implored and begged the casting agent to give them a chance at any role!

"I barely prepared for this part at all. My director literally called me to the set and said, "You are my Tajdar." On his sets, we are expected to play the everyday scenes from a Sanjay Leela Bhansali film; we don't actually receive a script. We used to film in the middle of nowhere, never understanding the history of my character, that's Sanjay Leela Bhansali's style. He anticipates that every one of his actors will impromptu prepare on the sets! I was also absorbing the energy that my co-star Sharmin was giving off."

The actor further disclosed, "I realised that love is really vital while working on *Heeramandi*, but that you should always choose the greater good for the people over your own romantic feelings. You have no idea how much a Sanjay Leela Bhansali set affects us! You enter a completely new time zone each time you step foot on his set, which is why you experience these selfless feelings as well."

Taha added, "In their own times, *Heeramandi*'s story defied social conventions. Considering Tajdar's acceptance of Alamzeb, I'm sure attitudes would have shifted. It's also important to remember that no series like this has ever been produced before! The information is independent. The world was introduced to *Heeramandi* by Sanjay Leela Bhansali!"

"I spent the most time with Sharmin Sehgal, and our friendship got off to a great start. It assisted us in ice-breaking! We became so accustomed to one another that we failed to notice when we started sharing personal stories. We had a conversation about her marriage! We shared dinners and lunches together. During the break, we would stroll around the sets while cracking jokes. I now genuinely trust her! She has shown me nothing but kindness thus far." Taha commented on how much of their chemistry is being highlighted!

"I am handling all this hullabaloo about me being the national crush very gracefully," Taha said to us. "I'm thrilled with my unexpected success, but I'm afraid of letting it control me. What happens if, in the next minute, I manage to detect a low? How am I going to handle that? I refuse to get disoriented and influenced."

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY

It's no surprise to see how people these days go to greater lengths to follow their passion. A similar case has been with Suhas Hegde, an IT professional who followed his passion for exploring the technology space, shifting his career from being a naval commander to making his mark in the IT field. To begin his journey, he enrolled himself at the Indian School of Business to pursue a PGP course in information technology and strategy.

Suhas Hedge hails from a middle-class background in Mapusa, a small town in Goa. His father being a retired school teacher and his mother being a housewife, he recalls his journey in this exclusive chat sharing: "I completed my schooling from PUC in Goa and later completed my BTech in Naval Architecture and Shipbuilding from Cochin University. I also pursued my post-graduation at the prestigious IIT Delhi. During my mid-career, I was selected to attend the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, Ooty, where I completed my MSc in Defense and Strategic Studies along with chosen officers of the armed forces of India and over 50 officers from foreign armed forces. Finally, I was enrolled in the technical branch of the Indian Navy after successfully cracking the Service Selection Board (SSB) interview, which is known to have the toughest selection method for government services."

This played a key role in his career. He initially started his career in operations onboard India's aircraft in Mumbai and later joined a design organisation in Delhi, where he worked on contracting and designing complex technical marine platforms.

During these days, he shares, "I have learned to work with global teams. I was selected to collaborate with foreign nations to get a niche TOT in the shipbuilding domain. Following my MSc in Defense and Strategic Studies from DSSC, I have taken up CEO's office roles, where I was a staff officer and a subject matter expert advisor to the fleet commander of the Eastern Fleet. Apart from that, I took part in over 13+ international maritime exercises during deployments and high-stakes events that have given me a rare opportunity to sail on the Singaporean frigate RSN and US Aircraft carrier as part of my personal exchange. In regards to leadership roles, I was selected to head a large unionised industrial organisation with over 700 workers in Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam."

While delivering warships, he came across various grievances and expectations, which gave him a thorough understanding of consumer needs. By working in various locations across the country, from Delhi to Kochi, and on international engagements, he has gained great exposure to managing global and multicultural teams. Being a technology evangelist, he believed technology was the greatest enabler to solve complex problems. Deep diving into the sector empowered him to understand the nuances of its implementation.

A double-major in information technology and strategy, he further shares, "PGP was the best decision I have taken as it eased my transition from the government sector to the corporate sector. My core subjects on marketing, finance, and strategy helped me understand the business side of the industry. I also studied a wide range of electives that provided me with vital knowledge on new product development, digital transformations, IOT, information technology and other disruptive technologies. Its curriculum introduced me to structured thinking and problem-solving that can be used in any sector, which prepared me for the roles in the present company. ISB provides a lot of opportunities to network with industry professionals and alumni



NAVIGATING FROM SEA TO CORPORATE WORLD

In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, Suhas Hegde, an IT professional, shares his journey from being a naval commander to succeeding in the corporate world.

through various on-campus events, pro bono consulting projects, experiential learning programs, and study treks."

However, he did go through his own good share of challenges as well during his transition from the government sector to the corporate sector.

"Though military service is respected by a lot of companies, it does not translate into employment opportunities," he highlights, adding, "There is a tendency to stereotype defense veterans who want to join corporations. I had difficulty convincing companies that the skills I acquired during my previous tenure were relevant to the corporation. This is where PGP from ISB helped me. Some of the recruiters are willing to give candidates from prestigious business schools an opportunity because of the skills and knowledge acquired during the course. Finally, I have succeeded through various levels of interviews with multiple companies, culminating in the final interview with the business heads."

As we head towards the end of this interaction with him, he shares how he aspires to lead large organisations and help them solve their problems through the advent of technology.

EATING YOUR WAY TO WELLNESS

Poor food habits can not only lead to stress but can also lead to diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, cardiovascular and other diseases. We can control our weight and prevent chronic diseases through our dietary decisions. Mindful eating and a balanced nutrition strategy are crucial for overall health. Therefore, if you are a picky or poor eater, then it's time to transform your eating habits and live a healthy life that radiates physical wellness and mental well-being.

According to the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, poor eating habits cause more deaths than smoking. At least 11 million people die across the globe annually, either because of certain foods or because of a lack of certain foods. These are the findings of the 2019 study, which was gleaned from three parameters—diet, sales of food products, and household expenditures over the last three decades. The main aim here was to get an approximate estimate of the impact of a poor diet on death caused by non-communicable diseases. One of the most alarming findings of this study was that, cardiovascular diseases had caused deaths globally, and poor eating habits were the main reasons for this.

Poor eating habits

If you think poor eating habits mean consuming junk food or untimely eating, including snacking—there's a lot more to it. Loosely explained, poor eating habits mean denying the body essential health nutrients and also overeating. By consuming frozen foods that are low in

nutrients, fiber, and vitamins, there is a dependency on high salt consumption, which leads to excess sodium, fats, and sugar in the body. It can also lead to serious diseases like stroke, heart attack, and other related diseases.

Here are a few tips for maintaining a healthier diet:

- **Hydrate:** Say goodbye to sweet drinks and opt for the most easily available and nutritious drink—a glass of water. Consuming 8-10 glasses of water a day not only flushes out toxins from the body, but scales down chances of dry eyes and eye strain. It also helps in the lubrication of joints, digestion, maintains blood pressure, leads to glowing skin, weight loss, and keeps the kidneys healthier.
- **Portion eating:** Besides keeping acid reflux and heartburn at a safe distance, portion eating prevents excessive consumption of food and helps in enhancing sleep, digestion, energy levels. It also helps in controlling the sugar levels in the body.
- **Prioritising protein intake:** Prioritising protein intake offers numerous benefits for overall health and well-being such as muscle growth & repair, weight management, metabolism support, blood sugar regulation, bone health, and immune function among others.



● **Snacking right:** From avocados and bananas on toast to munching berries, mixed nuts, smoothies, hummus, low-fat cheese and yogurt, there are a plethora of choices for the

discerning eater. You can also opt for baked and whole-grain crisps, corn, sprouts, lotus seeds, protein bars and oats. These food items are packed with energy, vitamins,

fiber and also loaded with nutrients.

- **Avoid snacking:** Eating constantly or snacking too much may cause insulin spikes. This results in constantly high levels of baseline insulin in the blood for most of the time, which eventually bring insulin resistance along with obesity, Type 2 diabetes, Hypertension and PCOD.
- **Timing meals:** The timing of meals is closely related to metabolism, which is why it is important to eat on time. It's a good idea to keep a gap of at least four hours between two meals as this will prevent acidity and even heartburn. Eating on time also controls the body cycle.
- **Follow the circadian rhythm:** Following your circadian rhythm, which is your body's natural internal clock that regulates various physiological processes over a roughly 24-hour cycle, can offer numerous benefits for overall health and well-being like enhanced metabolic health, improved sleep quality, improved digestive health optimise hormone balance and better mood regulation. Good food habits help in brain development, support the growth of bones and muscles, and most importantly provide energy and power to the body keeping stamina levels up and fatigue at bay. Therefore, to ensure that you say goodbye to diseases, changing your food habits and eating healthier will ensure a stress-free and happier life.

(The author, Deepak Pal, is a sports and functional nutritionist, at Sens Clinic.)

what's brewing?



Actress Tejaswi Madivada and Bigg Boss Telugu star Inaya Sultana were present at the HICC Novotel for the Hlife exhibition's opening. Tomorrow is the last day of the fashion and lifestyle exhibition!

● Inaya Sultana



● Pooja



● Pallavi



● Unnathi

PARTY



● Varsha



The Pakashastra restaurant in Manikonda, Hyderabad, has officially been launched. The restaurant, which was started by Varsha of Jabardasth renown, is certain to please your palate with a wide variety of mouthwatering dishes.



● Meenakshi



On June 26, at a ceremony at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris, Audrey Azoulay, the organisation's director-general, will name SEVENTEEN as the organisation's Goodwill Ambassador for Youth.

Photos by- SV Chary



The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Care Hospitals in Banjara Hills announced the successful conclusion of the first Coronary Anastomosis Wet Lab mastery. Aspiring cardiac surgeons from various regions came together for this historic occasion, which gave them a priceless chance to hone their craft under the direction of two of the industry's top specialists.



Students from Sri Chaitanya School shined at the 2024 NASA NSS ISDC Conference in America. With 62 of its winning projects entered, the school won the title of World Champion for the eleventh time in a row. Students had the opportunity to interact with prominent NASA astronauts Bryan Versteeg and Jose M. Hernandez during the event.



The information firm OpenText has announced the opening of a new office in Hyderabad, India. The office, which is spread across four floors, is located at Tower B of Aquila, Phoenix Tech Zone in the Financial district. It will act as the center of the company's engineering operations.



The FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) Smart Urban Innovation Award 2024 in the "Sustainable Cities" category has been given to Ramky Infrastructure Limited (Ramky). Their noteworthy assistance in treating and disposing of legacy leachate in Jawahar Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, is acknowledged with this award.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



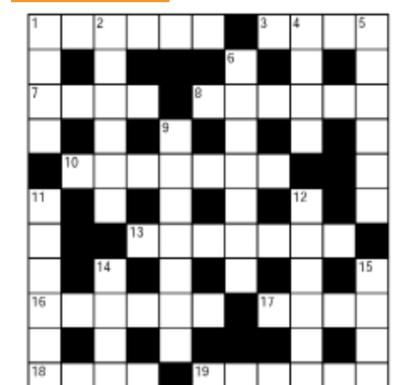
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

3	2	7	1	9	5	4	6	8
9	1	4	8	3	6	2	7	5
6	5	8	7	4	2	9	1	3
7	3	5	2	6	8	1	4	9
8	6	9	4	5	1	7	3	2
1	4	2	9	7	3	8	5	6
5	7	1	6	8	9	3	2	4
2	9	3	5	1	4	6	8	7
4	8	6	3	2	7	5	9	1

Rules
 • Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
 • The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

- Completely quiet
- Scheme
- Plenty
- A covering for fried fish
- Begged
- Inquisitive
- Middle
- Closed
- Utters aloud
- One third of ninety
- A type of spear thrown by an athlete
- A month
- These tell the time
- The writer of a book
- Jealousy
- Don't go away

DOWN

- Sprinkle this on food
- Small
- Overdue
- Opposite of wide

SOLUTION



GINGER MEGGS



Ravi Teja, Sreeleela reunite for a mass film

Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja has not only carved a niche for himself but has also become an icon, inspiring many budding filmmakers and actors, especially in Telugu cinema. With a plethora of cult blockbusters under his belt, he has left an indelible mark on Indian cinema with his memorable performances spanning various genres. His unique comic timing and unparalleled on-screen charisma have won the hearts of audiences and cinephiles alike.

Sithara Entertainments in collaboration with Fortune Four Cinemas, embarks on the production journey of Ravi Teja's landmark 75th film, tentatively titled *Production No. 28*. Making his directorial debut with this project is the promising young talent, writer-director Bhanu Bogavarapu.

The team has disclosed that Ravi Teja will be seen portraying a mass character infused with his trademark humour. Fans were eagerly awaited his return to such a quintessential mass role, and the makers have pledged to deliver just that.

With Bhanu Bogavarapu, known for his contributions as a dialogue writer for the blockbuster *Waltair Veerayya* and as the story and screenplay writer for the hit *Samajavaragamana* and dialogues for the upcoming *NBK109* featuring Nandamuri Balakrishna, audiences can expect a riveting mass entertainer from this collaboration.

Joining the cast as the female lead is the sensational actress Sreeleela, who previously shared the screen with Ravi Teja in the box office hit *Dhamaka*. Adding to the excitement, the music will be composed by the latest sensation in T-town, music director Bheems Ceciroleo, renowned for his blockbuster soundtrack for *Dhamaka*.

Renowned technician Vidhu Ayyana will oversee cinematography, while Sri Nagendra Tangala will handle production design. Nandu Savirigana is set to pen the dialogue for the story and screenplay crafted by Bhanu. National Award-winning editor Navin Nooli will lend his expertise to editing the film.

The film officially commenced with a pooja ceremony on Tuesday. Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya are producing the film under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, respectively, with Srikrupa Studios presenting the film. Stay tuned for further updates from the makers.

The first shot was directed by Bhanu Bogavarapu, and the regular shoot of the film has now kicked off.



'I've delved into an emotional action movie for the first time with Satyabhama'

K. RAMYA SREE

Actress Kajal Aggarwal's latest venture, *Satyabhama*, alongside co-star Naveen Chandra, has recently dignified the big screens, igniting a buzz among audiences and critics alike. Released on June 7, the film, directed by Suman Chikkala, has received resounding success, particularly garnering praise for Kajal's commanding portrayal of a powerful police officer.

In an exclusive interview with us, Kajal Aggarwal, affectionately known as the 'Queen of Masses', delved into her experience portraying the character of Satyabhama, shedding light on the personal resonance she found with the role. "I could relate to Satyabhama on a personal level," Kajal shared, adding, "Just like her, I am someone who voices out her opinion and reacts to societal situations. Like everyone else, I have personal opinions about what transpires in society."

During promotional events, Kajal was repeatedly asked about her career post-marriage and motherhood. The actress asserted the importance of maintaining a balance between personal life and career aspirations. "I fail to comprehend why a heroine's career should undergo a transformation after marriage. Everyone has a personal life, including heroines. Fortunately, the industry has evolved, affording married actresses ample opportunities to flourish. Balancing personal and professional spheres is indeed challenging, but acting is my passion, making the endeavour worthwhile. My family's unwavering support is paramount in navigating this journey," she remarked.

Additionally, there's been considerable buzz labelling this phase as Kajal's second innings and her return to the silver screen. However, Kajal offers a nuanced viewpoint, stating, "I've remained active in the film industry even during the past two years of my pregnancy and the new motherhood phase. Even during my pregnancy, I continued working. I never officially took a maternity break. Three months post-partum, I resumed filming. So, this isn't a difficult phase professionally."

With a repertoire boasting over 60 films, Kajal expressed that *Satyabhama* offered a unique experience unlike any other. *Satyabhama* navigates through various societal themes, including youth, gaming, betting, and religion, encapsulating a diverse range of emotions. "I have portrayed many characters thus far, but this is the first time I've delved into an emotional action movie. While filming, I experienced emotions I had never encountered before, lending a sense of realism to the character."

Addressing her recurring role as a police officer, Kajal expressed her delight in the positive reception to her performance, emphasising the authenticity and diligence invested in crafting the action sequences. "I even performed the action sequences myself. We dedicated ourselves to choreographing realistic action sequences. I desired action scenes that aligned with my image and felt genuine, and Subbu, our choreographer, meticulously brought that vision to life," she affirmed.

Looking ahead, Kajal teased her involvement



in *Bharateeyudu 2* and the upcoming *Bharateeyudu 3*, where she promises to showcase a distinct and refreshing portrayal. Additionally, she revealed her commitment to two undisclosed projects, whose details will soon be announced.

In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, 'Queen of Masses' Kajal Aggarwal—who has been receiving high appreciation for her powerful performance in *Satyabhama*—discusses the character's personal relevance and striking a balance between her personal and professional lives.

Dhanush-starrer Raayan to release in July

The Tamil film *Raayan*, starring and directed by Dhanush, is set to hit screens on July 26.

Dhanush has also written the action thriller movie, which marks his second directorial venture and 50th feature film.

The actor-filmmaker shared the release date of *Raayan* on his official X page on Monday. "#Raayan From July 26th," he captioned the new posters for the film.

The film is backed by Kalanithi Maran under the production banner of Sun Pictures. It stars Dhanush in the titular role.

S J Suryah, Prakash Raj, Selvaraghavan, Sundeeep Kishan, Kalidas Jayaram, Dushara Vijayan, Aparna Balamurali, Varalaxmi Sarathkumar and Saravanan also round out the cast of *Raayan*.

The music and background score of the movie are composed by A. R. Rahman. This is the composer's fourth collaboration with Dhanush, following *Raanjhanaa*, *Maryan* and *Atrangi Re*.



Yevam presents a unique thriller experience: Director Sandeep Raj

Director Prakash Dantuluri is all set to unveil his latest film, *Yevam*, in theatres on June 14. Starring Chandini Chowdary, Vasishtha Simha, Bharat Raj, and Aashu Reddy in pivotal roles, the movie is produced by CSpace and Prakash Dantuluri Productions, with Navdeep and Pavan Goparaju as the producers. The pre-release event was attended by Mass Ka Das Vishwak Sen and director Sandeep Raj as chief guests, was held in Hyderabad. Sharing his thoughts, Vishwak Sen expressed his admiration for Navdeep's versatility, highlighting his knack for romance as an actor and his penchant for intensity as a producer. He also praised Chandini Chowdary's dedication to her craft. Reflecting on the collaborative spirit of the team, he expressed his hope for the film's success. Chandini expressed her gratitude to Sandeep Raj and Vishwak Sen for their contributions to her career.



She revealed her unexpected journey of consecutive film releases this year and lauded *Yevam* for offering her a challenging yet fulfilling role.

Sandeep Raj hailed *Yevam* as a standout thriller with impressive storytelling and technical finesse.

He emphasised the emotional depth and engagement the movie offers to viewers, expressing confidence in its universal appeal. He commended Vishwak Sen's commitment to quality content and pledged his support for the project.

Navdeep praised Vishwak Sen's advocacy for content-driven cinema, acknowledging him as a true champion of meaningful storytelling. He expressed confidence in *Yevam* becoming a defining moment in her career!

Director Prakash Dantuluri credited Chandini's faith and Navdeep's support for bringing his vision to life. He appreciated Sandeep Raj's positive feedback and lauded the contributions of the entire cast and crew in creating a compelling thriller.

Rose Audio Visuals enters Telugu market



platforms. With recent expansions into audio storytelling through *RosePod*, featuring 100 original fiction and non-fiction shows, they have solidified their position as an entertainment powerhouse.

Nandini Reddy, known for her directorial prowess with blockbusters like *Oh! Baby* and *Ala Modalaindi*, continues to push boundaries with her recent Netflix anthology film *Pitta Kathalu*. This partnership signifies a shared vision of presenting quality content to Telugu audiences, combining Rose Audio Visuals' expertise with Nandini Reddy's creative brilliance.

Goldie Behl, founder of Rose Audio Visuals, expressed his delight about the collaboration, emphasising their shared passion for storytelling and creative vision. He highlighted their aim to not just entertain but also deeply resonate with the audience through compelling narratives. Nandini Reddy echoed the sentiment, expressing excitement about reaching new frontiers in the Telugu OTT space with Goldie Behl. Their collaboration represents a commitment to enriching Telugu OTT content, marking a significant milestone in their journey.

Rose Audio Visuals is expanding its footprint into the Telugu market by collaborating with acclaimed director Nandini Reddy and Kanakavalli Talkies, aiming to strengthen its content library for Indian audiences.

Renowned for their exceptional content showcase and production partnerships, Rose Audio Visuals has earned acclaim with shows like *Mithiya* and *Duranga*, winning over audiences across

Vijay Deverakonda's America tour gets resounding response

Actor Vijay Deverakonda, along with his family members, is on tour in America. Vijay's father Govardhan, mother Madhavi, and brother Anand Deverakonda also went on this trip. Vijay Deverakonda's US tour is getting a huge response. Telugu people there are expressing happiness that Vijay Deverakonda is coming to America with his family members. Telugu people competed to meet Vijay and take pictures with him.

Vijay Deverakonda participated as a guest in an event organised by the American Telugu Association (ATA). Sreemukhi hosted the event. After that, Vijay Deverakonda also attended a women's organisation meet-

ing as a guest. At the event, posters of movies produced by Vijay, along with movies starring Vijay, were displayed. Vijay Deverakonda said at the ATA event: "I am happy to be a guest at the ATA event. It gives me a happy feeling to meet and talk with our Telugu people here. Thanks for the love and affection they show me. Our Telugu people came to the US for studies and jobs. It's recession time now. Stay strong, everyone. Better days will come again. I want to say 'hi' to aunts and uncles who came to America for their children." Vijay Deverakonda's America tour with family members is going on in full swing. Photos and videos from Vijay's US tour are going viral on social media!



URVASHI SIGNS MEGA TAMIL PROJECT WITH DIRECTOR SHANKAR

Urvashi Rautela has now officially signed a big-ticket blockbuster magnanimous project with director Shankar, who's earlier worked with superstar Rajinikanth and many more. For a long time, fans have been manifesting this and, finally, this update is making fans happy.

If the insider talks are to be believed, she was always the first choice for Shankar for this grand project and the director couldn't imagine any other actress apart from her as the perfect fit for the role. Irrespective of her stardom, Urvashi always pushes herself beyond limits to work hard and here in this film too, the buzz is that she is going to learn Tamil officially to master the film, an extra step. It's a wonderful association, and director Shankar is very excited to join hands with India's pride and global icon, Urvashi Rautela.

He was quoted as saying, "Urvashi Rautela and Aishwarya Rai are my favourite actresses." Regarding the magnanimous collaboration and being the first choice for this movie by leaving aside other actresses, Urvashi too shared her views and we quote, "Shankar Sir is my ultimate favourite director. In fact, when I was invited for *Indian 2*, it was nothing short of phenomenal and the robot costume you all saw on stage was entirely his design; he was the style architect behind it all. He knows it all, basically. His visionary approach and meticulous attention to detail are truly inspiring. He knows exactly what he wants and is incredibly specific with his cast. If I ever have the privilege of becoming a filmmaker, I would aspire to create films with the same brilliance and precision as Shankar Sir. His creativity and dedication to pushing the boundaries of Indian cinema are qualities I deeply admire and wish to emulate. I can't wait to learn Tamil fluently for our project together."

On the work front, apart from her upcoming grand Tamil movie with Shankar, Urvashi Rautela has projects like *Welcome 3* with Akshay Kumar, *NBK109* with Bobby Deol, Dulqueer Salman, Nandamuri Balakrishna, *Baap* (a remake of Hollywood blockbuster *Expendables*) with Sunny Deol and Sanjay Dutt, *Inspector Avinash 2* with Randeep Hooda, and *Black Rose*, a special project alongside Jassie Gill, an international music video, and essaying the role of Parveen Babi in an upcoming biopic. Apart from that, she will be seen playing the role of a college politician in the movie titled *JNU*, a special music video with Jason Derulo and a lot more.



Hitched by love!

ARJUN'S DAUGHTER MARRIES IN GRAND STYLE

Action King Arjun's daughter, Aishwarya, tied the knot with Umapathy, son of renowned Tamil comedian Thambi Ramaiah, on June 10 at Anjanasuta Sri Yoganjaneyaswamy Mandir in Chennai. The celebrations began with the Haldi ceremony on June 7, followed by the Sangeet on June 8. The wedding ceremony took place on June 10 between 9 to 10 am, attended by numerous film celebrities. The reception is set for June 14 at Chennai Leela Palace.

PIC TALK



INDIA VS MINI INDIA: ROHIT & CO EYE BETTER BATTING SHOW AGAINST USA

PTI ■ NEW YORK

India's batting prima donnas would want to unchain themselves from the vagaries of a much-maligned drop-in track and chance their arms freely against an impressive-but-inexperienced USA in their group league game of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

India, who are classified as A1 (irrespective of points), need just one more win to ensure their Super Eight berth and despite the two-paced nature of the Nassau County track, they wouldn't like a repeat of the match against Pakistan where they lost their last seven wickets for 28 runs.

Against USA, the approach could be a high-risk one like Pakistan but perhaps with higher dividends.

Their dreams of wearing the India blues remained unfulfilled but when a sprightly bunch of Indian Americans take the field against their country of birth, the likes of Saurabh

Netravalkars and Harmeet Singh would once again like to be the proverbial David against the Goliaths of the game.

Even though the track has significantly bridged the gap between teams, the USA, which is an eclectic mix of eight Indians, two Pakistanis, a West Indian, one New Zealander, a South African and a Dutch might just find the gulf with India too much to bridge.

Neither have they grabbed air time on American channels nor the famous broadsheets have been devoting any newsprint on them even after the Super Over win over Pakistan but Wednesday could just be the day when the country of their choice takes note of their performance.

Monank Patel, Harmeet, Netravalkar, Jessy Singh and Noshutsh Kenjige all have their little Indian story to tell and if the opposition has Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Rishabh Pant in its ranks, it would be a touch more endearing.

It's not everyday that one gets a

chance to bowl at Kohli and Sharma and face Bumrah even if it's far from being a sweet experience. But its experience nevertheless and that too of a lifetime.

For India, it will be their last match in the 'Big Apple' extension and the one where they wouldn't mind batting first.

If India bowl first, there could be a high chance that USA might not be able to touch the three-figure mark against Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Ravindra Jadeja.

There will be some beautiful and emotional sub-plots as well if Netravalkar gets a chance to bowl to his former Mumbai teammate Suryakumar Yadav with whom he played in Mumbai U-15, Ranji and Vijay Hazare Trophy.

"It will be an emotional moment to play against India and especially Surya as we go back a long way," Netravalkar told PTI recently.

For the two left-arm spinners Harmeet and Kenjige, the challenge of trying to keep



Rishabh Pant quiet will be of accuracy but that could well be dismantled by Pant, who is sure to use his feet. For Ali Khan, his extra pace and the bounce that he extracts from even benign surfaces would certainly provoke Rohit to use his pull shot frequently.

There would be Nitish Kumar, who could be cheeky with his shot selection and prove to be a thorn in India's flesh.

SHIVAM DUBE AND AN EXTRA SPINNER: In the first game, India's weakest link was Shivam Dube. The Chennai Super Kings' most valued 'Impact Player' is finding it tough on two-paced tracks where the ball is gripping and coming late onto the bat.

But unlike tactician-par excellence Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who could bench him during CSK's bowling in the IPL, national skipper Rohit Sharma doesn't have such luxury and needs to hide him in areas of the field where the ball is expected to travel less.

Dube is a monstrous hitter of spinners on good flat decks and his military medium seam-up stuff does give the Indian skipper cushion to manoeuvre with the bowling combination.

But in a format like T20, the team management, which asked for Dube at the expense of Rinku Singh, would want

him to come good.

Else, there is Yashasvi Jaiswal in the 15, who is a way more rounded batter than the big-bodied Mumbaier.

Two wrist spinners, Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav, should be given some game time or else they might just enter the Super Eights a bit undercooked in the Caribbean where the pitches will be more spin-friendly.

SQUADS:

India: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj.

United States: Monank Patel (c), Aaron Jones, Andries Gous, Corey Anderson, Ali Khan, Harmeet Singh, Jessy Singh, Milind Kumar, Nisarg Patel, Nitish Kumar, Noshutsh Kenjige, Saurabh Nathralvkar, Shadley Van Schalkwyk, Steven Taylor, Shayan Jahangi

Australia face Namibia with an eye on Super Eight; SL in must win situation against Nepal

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Living up to the favourites tag with two consecutive wins, a confident Australia will aim to secure a Super Eight berth when they face lower-ranked Namibia in their Group B T20 World Cup clash here on Wednesday.

Australia fired in unison to become the first team in this edition of the tournament to score 200-plus runs in a one-sided 36-run win over arch-rivals England in their last group league match.

It was their second win from as many matches, having started off with a 39-run triumph over Oman. Beating Namibia will be enough for them to make the cut before they take on Scotland in their concluding Group B league fixture.

Scotland lead the table with five points and along with Australia, are firmly ahead in the race to make the Super Eight at the expense of defending champions England who have one point from two matches. Their opening game against Scotland was a washout.

Australia defeated Namibia by seven wickets after restricting their opponents to 119/9 in their only T20 meeting, albeit in a warm-up game two weeks back.

Playing his last World Cup for Australia, David Warner has been in splendid form with one half century and it was his 16-ball 39 that set the tone for their 201/7 against England.

Warner incidentally scored a fifty in the warm-up against Namibia as well. He has 97 runs in the tournament at a fine strike rate of 141.79.

Warner's opening partner Travis Head has also been at his explosive best and the duo will look to give the team a fiery start.

Namibia will expect their veteran all-rounder David Wiese to step up after he starred in their Super-Over



win against Oman.

The globe-trotting all-rounder has the experience of facing Australia four times in T20is during his stint with South Africa.

Left-arm spinner Bernard Scholtz, who has been tidy conceding just one four and one six in his eight overs, will also look to make an impact.

TEAMS (FROM)

Australia: Mitchell Marsh (c), Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, David Warner and Adam Zampa.

Namibia: Gerhard Erasmus (c), Zane Green, Michael Van Lingen, Dylan Leicher, Ruben Truempelmann, Jack Brassell, Ben Shikongo, Tangeni Lungameni, Niko Davin, JJ Smit, Jan Frylinck, JP Kotze, David Wiese, Bernard Scholtz, Malan Kruger and PD Blignaut.

Match starts: 6am IST.

SL IN MUST WIN CLASH VS NEPAL

Former champion Sri Lanka's campaign has gone terribly haywire after defeats to South Africa and they are now faced with a do-or-die clash against

Nepal in a group D fixture in Lauderdale, Florida. Nepal, on the other hand, lost to the Netherlands by six wickets in their only match so far.

South Africa have already qualified to Super Eight following their nervy win over Bangladesh.

A win for the Wanindu Hasaranga-led side will further heat up the race for the second spot with Bangladesh, Netherlands, and Nepal also in the reckoning. For that to happen, the onus will be on the batters.

A loss, on the other hand, would mean curtains for Sri Lanka.

TEAMS (FROM):

Nepal: Rohit Paudel (c), Aasif Sheikh, Anil Kumar Sah, Kushal Bhurtel, Kushal Malla, Dipendra Singh Airee, Lalit Rajbanshi, Karan KC, Gulshan Jha, Sompal Kami, Pratis GC, Sundeeb Jora, Abinash Bohara, Sagar Dhakal and Kamal Singh Airee

Sri Lanka: Wanindu Hasaranga (c), Charith Asalanka, Kusal Mendis, Pathum Nissanka, Kamindu Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Angelo Mathews, Dasun Shanaka, Dhananjaya De Silva, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage, Dushmanth

I am truly sorry: Akmal apologises for inappropriate comments against Arshdeep

PTI ■ LAHORE

A day after being called out for making disrespectful comments against India pacer Arshdeep Singh, former Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Kamran Akmal apologised for his "inappropriate" remarks while analysing the recent T20 World Cup clash between the two sides in New York.

In a viral video, Akmal was seen making fun of Arshdeep's Sikh religion, prompting a furious response from ace Indian cricketer-turned-commentator Harbhajan.

"I deeply regret my recent comments and sincerely apologise to Harbhajan Singh and the Sikh community. My words were inappropriate and disrespectful. I have the utmost respect for Sikhs all over the world and never intended to hurt anyone. I am truly sorry. #Respect #Apology," Akmal



wrote on X, tagging Harbhajan. Akmal's remarks came during the tense penultimate over of the clash, when Pakistan needed 17 runs in the last over in their chase of 120.

Left-arm pacer Arshdeep performed the task to perfection, sealing a six-run win over the arch-rivals. Akmal, while

analysing the match on ARY News, made the controversial comments on Arshdeep before he came in to bowl.

"Kuch bhi ho sakta hai... Dekhe last over karna Arshdeep Singh ne hai. Waise uska rhythm nahi laga. 12 baj gaye hai (Anything can happen. The last over will be bowled by Arshdeep Singh; he hasn't looked in a great rhythm. And it is already 12)," he said.

In the video reposted by Harbhajan, Akmal was also seen laughing with other panellists on the show. The Indian off-spinner lashed out at Akmal. "...You should know the history of Sikhs before u open ur filthy mouth. We Sikhs saved ur mothers and sisters when they were abducted by invaders, the time invariably was 12 o'clock. Shame on you guys.. Have some Gratitude."

The win at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York put India at the top of Group A with four points from two wins.

Chennaiyin FC rope in Colombian star Wilmar Jordan Gil

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Chennaiyin FC have signed Colombian striker Wilmar Jordan Gil ahead of the 2024-25 season, the Indian Super League club announced on Tuesday.

The Colombian striker brings a wealth of experience and skill to the club, having been part of ISL for two seasons.

Wilmar made his ISL debut with NorthEast United FC in 2022. He then continued his impressive journey with ISL debutants Punjab FC the following season, scoring eight goals in 15 appearances.

Joining Chennaiyin on a one-year deal, Jordan's arrival marks the club's fifth signing for the 2024-25 season and their third foreign acquisition, following Elsinho Dias and Chima Chukwu. The club had earlier announced an extension for captain Ryan Edwards.



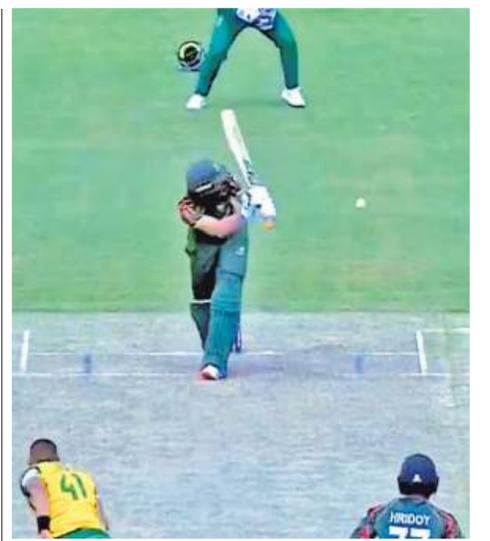
"Wilmar has had a fantastic career and scored goals everywhere he has been. Scoring 24 goals in 33 appearances between NorthEast and Punjab is a great ratio for a striker. We are delighted to add that kind of firepower to our attack," coach Owen Coyle said. Throughout his career, Wilmar has excelled on various stages,

including domestic leagues and international competitions. He began his senior career with Monagas in Venezuela, where he made 35 appearances and emerged as the top scorer with 20 goals.

"I am very happy to be part of this great club and team, and very grateful for this great opportunity they have given me. With a lot of work, humility, and sacrifice, we can fulfill all the objectives we set for ourselves and win the title," Wilmar said.

In 2011, he joined Gyeongnam FC in South Korea before heading to Bulgarian side Litex Lovech in 2013, where he once again topped the scoring charts with 20 goals.

He has also had stints with Chinese Super League club Tianjin Teda, U.A.E. Side Emirates Club on loan, Portuguese club Chaves, and Colombian side Atletico Huila.



It was not a good call for us: Hridoy on Bangladesh losing 4 leg byes due to DRS rule

PTI ■ NEW YORK

The on-field umpire's decision to adjudge veteran batter Mahmudullah Riyad LBW, which was subsequently overturned in a review, was a bad call that cost Bangladesh the match against South Africa, their young batter Towhid Hridoy has said.

Bangladesh ended at 109/7 while chasing a target of 114 against South Africa. A contentious ICC rule saw them lose four leg byes runs when Mahmudullah was given out leg before by on-field umpire Sam Nogajski off an Otneil Baartman delivery. The ball had crossed the boundary ropes but it was deemed dead as Mahmudullah opted for DRS and got the decision overturned.

As per ICC rules, no extra runs (leg-byes or byes) can be given if on-field umpire gives a batter out LBW even if the decision is overturned by the third umpire. However, leg-bye runs can be awarded if the on-field umpire's decision of not out stays after a review.

"Actually, to be honest, that wasn't a good call. It was a

tight match. So, I think in my point of view, umpire gave out, but it's bit hard for us because those four runs would have changed the match scenario.

"So, I don't have anything to say about it," Hridoy said when asked about the four runs that Bangladesh didn't get.

The 23-year-old Hridoy, however, chose to side-step the query when asked whether he agrees with the rule.

"See, the rule, what the ICC has done is not in my hands but at that time those four runs were very important for us. I think the umpire has given the call and the umpire can give a call. They are also human beings and they could have made a mistake.

"But we had two-three more wickets which were not given. So, in a match like this, where hardly a run is being made in a low-scoring match, one or two runs are a big factor.

"So, I think those four runs or two wide runs were close calls. Even my out (dismissal) was the umpire's call. So, I think there is room for improvement in these areas. And we have nothing to do with rules that the ICC made."

If you showcase this to world, it is not great selling product: Klaassen on New York pitch

PTI ■ NEW YORK

If the ICC wants to market T20 cricket in the USA, the pitch and outfield at the Nassau County Cricket Ground isn't a "great selling product", South Africa's flamboyant batter Heinrich Klaassen said joining the chorus of criticism against the venue.

The new drop-in pitch at the ground located in the Long Islands has been dual-paced with uneven bounce, making batting very difficult. India and South Africa have been able to defend totals as low as 119 and 113 respectively on back-to-back days on this track.

"Obviously, if you have to showcase it to the world and sell it, I don't think it's a great selling product, but for cricket, it's tight competition. It brings the other teams and the higher teams very close to each other," Klaassen, who scored 46 off 44 balls in team's four-run win said at the post-match press conference.

The power-hitter said that all premier batters across teams would love to just get out of New York while the bowlers would love to stay put forever.

The ICC has already acknowledged that the pitches here have not played as consistently as was desired.

"I think all the batters are keen to get out of this place, to be fair. The bowlers would love to stay here but - no we've done our job that was the goal to win three out of three here. Obviously, it was a little bit harder than what we thought," he said.

"For us, it's very nerve-racking, because every game becomes a really big game. There's no easy games for us especially in our group. So, it's still good entertaining cricket. Everyone is on the edge of their seats and any team can beat any team on the down this on this field."

Klaassen was a part of the inaugural edition of Major League Cricket last year and when asked if he has enjoyed this ICC project of trying to



market cricket in a new city with a temporary stadium, his answer was a mixed one. "Yes and No," he said before elaborately explaining his take.

"I played in Dallas and in North Carolina where I think there's a little bit more cricket there. The wickets (pitches) are better so it's easier to sell cricket in that aspect," he said.

"It's fantastic what they've done with the stadium here and I think as the wicket matures, but obviously I think they're taking it out in two - three days' time so that doesn't help," Klaassen explained.

"The more the wicket matures, the better these conditions will get and I think it will be a better showcase for the people. This wicket is I think, four months old, so there's a lot of maturity that needs to go into the wicket that will produce bigger scores."

Klaassen was an integral part of a very successful Sunrisers Hyderabad batting unit which redefined Powerplay in this

year's IPL with the help of an Impact Player and flat batting decks. The towering batter said that one month is ancient history now.

"Yeah, it's a big change you see scores there - well it was a month and a half ago we were part of a score that's 270 - 260 so it's well off, but it's part of the game.

"It doesn't look like the Caribbean wickets are too much better. So, we have to play smart cricket and use our cricket brain a little bit more." He feels that once the Super Eight starts in the West Indies, the par-score will be 160 plus.

"Out of us all, the thing on stats that are out of 18 games, it's only been one score above 200. So normally in the Caribbean, it's about 160 as par. If you get to 160-170, you're in a good shot and you have to bowl well.

"So, I reckon that's normally the good scores there, or power scores. Depending where you play, the wickets are very different around the Caribbean."