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





Allu Sirish: The hero of **Buddy** isn't me but TEDDY BEAR



QUOTE OF THE DAY

#### Hyd set to become an...

Emphasising that Telangana is the only State where most of the Make in India reforms are completed, Special Chief Secretary for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (ITE&C) and Industries & Commerce Departments, Javesh Ranian, delivered the inaugural address on behalf of Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka at the CFO Conclave in the ITC Karthikeya on Wednesday. Jayesh said that Hyderabad is set to become an Al hub

### 50% adults in India insufficiently...

Almost 50 per cent of adults in India engaged in insufficient levels of physical activity in 2022, according to a study published in The Lancet Global Health journal. Far more women in India (57 per cent) were found to be insufficiently physically active, compared to men (42 per cent), in line with trends across the South Asian region, the study found. The insufficient levels of physical activity in women in the region were, on average, 14 per cent higher than those in men, it said. The South Asian...



India's current account surplus in the fourth quarter of the 2023-24 fiscal was aided by narrowing of the merchandise trade deficit, an increase in remittances and a surplus in services trade, according to a CRISIL ren released on Wednesday. The country's current account recorded a surplus of USD 5.7 billion, which is 0.6 per cent of the GDP in the fourth guarter of the last financial year. It was in deficit of USD 8.7 billion, equivalent to one per cent of GDP, in the third quarter of the 2023-24 fiscal, the...

-PAGE: 8

### India look to beat knockout stage...

With a refreshingly aggressive batting approach, India would look to avoid the knockout stage jitters plaguing them for over a decade when they take on defending champions England in the semifinals of the T20 World Cup here on Thursday The last time these two teams met at this stage. it turned out to be a no contest as England outplayed an outdated India in the 2022 edition's semifinal. However, India have finally been able to shed their conservative approach at the top of the order since.

## **'Declare southern RRR** as national highway'

- CM Revanth appeals to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari
- Wants 6-lane NH work started immediately

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy requested the Union Minister for Road Transport and National Highways, Nitin Gadkari, to declare the southern part of the Regional Ring Road (RRR) as a National Highway and widen the Hyderabad-Vijayawada NH to six

The CM called on Nitin Gadkari at New Delhi on Wednesday. The Chief Minister apprised the Union Minister about the widening of NHs, the announcement of new NHs and the commencement of work on roads which have already been declared as NHs.

The CM informed Gadkari that the Sangareddy to Narsapur-Toopran-Gajwel-Jagdevpur-Bhongir-Choutuppal Road's 158.645 km stretch has already been declared a NH and half of its land acquisition cost will be borne by the state government. The state government has already speeded up work in this

The CM asked Nitin Gadkari to declare the road from Choutuppal to Amangal-Shadnagar-Sangareddy



CM Revanth Reddy and Ministers Bhatti, Komatireddy, Sridhar Babu and MLA Vivek with Gadkari

(181.87 km) as a National Highway. The CM requested Gadkari to declare the southern part of the RRR as a National Highway and grant funds for it the NHAI annual plan

The CM told Gadkari that tenders for the sanctioned National Highway from Hyderabad (ORR Gourelli Junction) to Valigonda-Thorrur-Nellikuduru-Mahabubabad-Kothagudem have been called for only a 69 km stretch and work has

The Chief Minister recalled Gadkari's statement at the Warangal public meeting that this road will be called Jai Sriram Road and that it will reduce the distance between Hyderabad and Bhadrachalam by 40

The CM requested Gadkari to start work immediately as tenders have been invited for the remaining three packages (165 km) of this National Highway.



### Birla elected LS Speaker by voice vote

NDA nominee Om Birla was elected as speaker of the Lok Sabha for a second consecutive term by voice vote on Wednesday, capping days of intense battle on the issue with the opposition in a rare move proposing its candidate.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who moved the motion for Birla's election as speaker, lauded the palance he showed in maintaining decorum of the House durtriggering a wave of ing his previous term. Several opposition lead-

Birla too, stressing "impartiality" and hoping he would allow them to raise motion. This is the fifth time a the people's voice and not apply his speaker will serve beyond the tenure restraint orders only to opposition of one Lok Sabha. benches.Pro-tem Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab made the

announcement of Birla's election after the opposition, which had forwarded the the name of eight-term Congress

ers, including Rahul Gandhi name of eight-term Congress and Akhilesh Yadav, congratulated MP Kodikunnil Suresh as its candi-

#### Modi hails Birla for condemning Emergency

rime Minister Narendra Modi lauded Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for his condemnation of the Emergency in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday and said it was a wonderful gesture to stand in silence in honour of all those who suffered during those days. Birla read out a resolution condemning the Emergency in the Lok Sabha, shortly after he was elected speaker, and flaved the then-government headed by prime

minister Indira Gandhi. A large number of MPs stood in silence for a few moments amid protests by Congress MPs and some other opposition members. Modi said in a post on X, "I am glad that the Honourable Speaker strongly condemned the Emergency, highlighted the excesses committed during that time and also mentioned the manner in which democracy was strangled.'



Hope voice of Oppn

being elected Speaker of the Lok Sabha for a second term, Leader of

Opposition Rahul Gandhi and other opposition MPs on Wednesday hoped they would be allowed to raise the "voice of people" in the House and suspension of MPs will not be done again. Gandhi also countered the government over claims of high productivity of the Lok Sabha and said the question is not how efficiently the House is run, but how much of India's voice is being allowed to be heard.

**Continued on Page 2** 

### **Our aim is to get Central** funds due to TG: Venkat

Roads and Buildings (R&B) Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said their objective is to get funds due from the Centre to the

Speaking to the media after meeting Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday in New Delhi, Venkat said the state had witnessed a reduction in funds meant for NHs in the last five years. The BRS gov-

ernment neglected land acquisition and other matters resulting in the stoppage of NH works, he said.

The Centre forgot the Regional Ring Road which was announced in 2016. We also said that we would Gadkari assured that the Centre will bear utility charges. We decided to launch land acquisition on a 50:50 sharing basis," Venkat said.



## Cong brass pacifies Jeevan Reddy

#### Inductions will continue, says Deepa Das Munshi

PNS HYDERABAD

The Congress high command cooled down MLC T. Jeevan Reddy who had said that he would guit

However, the AICC's in-charge General Secretary Deepa Das Munshi made it clear that the party's doors will be kept open for those who want to join it and there would be some more inductions. She said

that discussions are being held Jeevan Reddy was hurt by the inducregarding inductions with the high tion of Jagtial BRS MLA Dr Sanjay command.At the same time, the Kumar. party will ensure that priority is given to leaders and activists who command recognised that Jeevan after the party decided to induct have been working for the party Reddy felt insulted by the induction from the beginning and the high of the Jagtial MLA. However, the

command will take care of this. Speaking to the media after discussing about MLC Jeevan Reddy with AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal in New Delhi, Deepa Das Munshi said that it is true that

tion of Jagtial BRS MLA Dr Sanjay

She said that the Congress high party's intention was not to insult Ĵeevan Reddy. No doubt, Jeevan Reddy is a senior leader of the party. The party has now decided to hold talks with local leaders whenever there are inductions.

### **Prez to address** joint sitting of **Parl today**



### Bid to counter 'Operation Akarsh'

#### BRS boss KCR holds strategic meeting with party MLAs

In a bid to shield BRS legislators from the Congress's aggressive 'Operation Akarsh,' BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) continued his strategic meetings with BRS MLAs for the second consecutive

Determined to prevent an exodus, KCR engaged with six BRS MLAs at his farmhouse in Erravalli on Wednesday, after a similar gathering in the GHMC area on Tuesday. The Reddy MLAs from the GHMC area who skipped the meeting on Tuesday attended the meeting held on Wednesday.

During these meetings, KCR discussed the current political situation

in the state and urged his colleagues to be vigilant, especially regarding defection. The focus is on retaining party unity as speculations about BRS MLAs switching allegiance are growing.



#### BRS complains to Speaker via speed post & email

RS MLA Jagadish Reddy has Recondemned the recent defections of Pocharam Srinivas Reddy and Dr Sanjay Kumar to the Congress and described the move as illegal. Both had won their seats on a BRS ticket. Jagadish stressed that according to

the Anti-Defection Law, the Assembly memberships of both defectors should be cancelled. "We have been waiting for an appointment with the Speaker since Tuesday, but we are not being given an appointment," he said. Continued on Page 2

### 'KCR giving 'farewell' parties to BRS MLAs'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Congress Legislature Party (CLP) said that BRS supremo K. Chandrasekhar Rao is giving 'farewell' parties to BRS MLAs at his Erravalli farmhouse.

Speaking to the media at the CLP office here on Wednesday along with Ramagundam MLA Makkan Singh, Government Whip Adi Srinivas said that KCR is hosting parties for BRS MLAs.

"Why didn't KCR open the gates

when he was in power?" he said. Srinivas said that BRS MLAs are joining the Congress as they are happy with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's schemes.

Rama Rao has been shedding crocodile tears on

Declaring that BRS Working President KT

defections from his party, Srinivas asked KTR to explain why he did not criticise KCR when KCR made TDP MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav of Pragathi Bhavan to BRS MLAs a Minister.KTR should explain what

happened to democracy when KCR inducted 12 Congress MLAs into the BRS in 2019, he said. Srinivas said the BRS will get washed away by the Revanth cyclone. The BRS

> KCR behaved cheaply towards BRS MLAs when he was in power, he pointed out and said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy respects all public representatives.

is a 'sinking boat' and no

one will remain in that.

**Continued on Page 2** 

### **AMARNATH YATRA**

### CCTVs to monitor pilgrims, vehicular traffic

PNS JAMMU

Ahead of the beginning of the annual Amarnath yatra, high-end CCTV cameras have been installed along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway to monitor both pilgrimage and regular vehicular traffic, officials said on Tuesday.

The traffic department has installed 10 360-degree CCTV cameras from Udhampur to Banihal in Ramban district, while the police department has placed 60 cameras along the highway to monitor vehicular movement and identify suspi-

cious individuals, they said. The 52-day pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in south Kashmir is set to start on June 29 and conclude on August 19, as announced by the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB).



"We have installed 10 high-end CCTV cameras at various key points from Udhampur to Banihal to monitor traffic," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic National Highway, Rohit Baskotra, told PTI. These cameras are positioned at

area of Udhampur, Dalwas, Khoni Nallah, Mehar, Battery Cheshma, Nachlana, Banihal Chowk, Tunnel-5, Shaligadi and Cutpoint, he said. A control room has been established in Ramban to oversee traffic movement around the clock, locations, including the Jakhani Baskotra said.

"The control room monitors the highway 24/7, enhancing our efficiency in managing congestion, traffic jams, and other issues," the

The cameras are strategically placed at points where traffic conditions are particularly problematic and accidents are frequent, he added.

The traffic police have also issued an advisory for drivers on the highway during the Amarnath yatra, emphasising lane driving and warning of heavy fines for traffic violations. Contact numbers for technical support are also provided in case of vehicle breakdowns.

"With the CCTV cameras, if a vehicle breaks down or a traffic jam occurs, it will be visible in the control room, allowing a police team to quickly respond," Baskotra said.

#### **EXCISE 'SCAM'**

### Court sends Kejriwal to 3-day CBI custody



PNS NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday sent Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to the CBI's custody for three days after the central agency arrested him in a corruption case related to the alleged excise scam.

Special Judge Amitabh Rawat passed the order on an application moved by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which formally arrested Kejriwal after obtaining permission from the court."The CBI's application is allowed for three days. The accused be produced before 7 pm," the judge said.

#### PHONE-TAPPING CASE

### Police cite terror case to oppose bail for accused

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The advocate for the Panjagutta Police cited the Sanjay Dutt Vs CBI case (TADA) on Wednesday in the 14th Additional CMM's court while demanding not to give default bail to the three accused in the phone

tapping case. The accused are former DSP D. Praneeth Rao and former additional SPs Thirupatanna and Bhujanga Rao.

On material evidence. he said the police have submitted the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report and will file other evidence soon

Due to the police having made some mistakes in the charge sheet, the court had returned it to the police twice. When the court returned the charge sheet a second

time to the police on Saturday, the three accused had filed for default bail before the court on the same

In arguments over the bail plea, on behalf of the accused, the advo-

cate referring to Supreme Court and High Court judgements said, 'Whatever the reason for which the charge sheet is returned, and an

application has been filed by the accused when the charge sheet is not there, then they are entitled to bail."

The counsel for the police said the police had submitted the charge sheet within 90 days. Once the charge sheet is filed there is no objection to filing and also filing the charge sheet strengthens the case.







## **BRS** needs to join NDA to protect its main Oppn tag

■ HYDERABAD

Will BRS President K. Chandrasekhar Rao's attempts to save his party's main opposition status in the Assembly succeed? In the beginning KCR took defections by his party MLAs easy. KCR woke up late and is now trying to control the defections to save the BRS's main opposition sta-

tus in the Assembly.
Some BRS MLAs have already joined the Congress and some others are also likely to join. KCR then stepped in and tried to appease them to stop the defections. In the Assembly elections, the BRS won 39 seats and now it is

Speaking to BRS MLAs at his farmhouse in Erravalli KCR

conditions will come soon. Within a month some important developments are going to happen. It will be better for us

At the same time KCR also tried to warn his MLAs that if they change party they will get disqualified. Whatever may be the outcome, the BRS has filed a petition in the High Court requesting to disqualify MLAs who have defected.

At present, the BRS has 32 MLAs and to protect its main opposition party status in the Assembly it must save at least 12 MLAs. But Congress leaders are claiming that 21 more BRS MLAs are ready to join

If that is true the BRS will lose main its opposition party status in the Assembly and



KCR will lose his opposition leader status. That means KCR will lose some privileges which he is now enjoying as the opposition leader.

The question is whether BRS MLAs believe KCR's words about "important developments" which are likely to happen within a month.

Political observers think that the development favourable

Congress government or Revanth Reddy stepping down from the Chief Minister's post. But there is no chance now for these two things to happen.

The BRS has no strength in the Assembly to topple the Revanth government and no opposition party is ready to support the BRS on this issue. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is facing some dissidence in his party but not among MLAs. The Congress high command also has no reason to change the Chief Minister.

Other than these two possibilities the only option before the BRS leadership is to join the NDA.

The BRS leadership is now struggling to maintain the party's main opposition status

#### SOT sleuths arrest three ganja traders, seize 280 kgs of ganja

PNS HYDERABAD

The sleuths of SOT-LB Nagar Zone, along with Choutuppal Police, Rachakonda, busted an inter-State drug syndicate, apprehended three ganja transporters and seized 280 kgs of dry ganja, two cars and three mobile phones all worth Rs 80,30,000 on Wednesday.

The accused are Bhosale

Aba Machhindra alias Aba (29), Avinash Shivaji Rathod alias Avi (19) and Siddha Rameshwar Pujari alias Sidhu (27). According to the police, three persons, along with their common friend Ajay Rathod, a ganja peddler, jointly hatched a plan to gain easy money by illegal means of procuring and selling ganja. Previously they procured ganja from Alurikota, Alimela téhsil of Malkangiri district, Odisha State and disposed of it for higher price and gained huge money.

### I will fight for ITIR as it means 15 lakh jobs: Jagga Reddy

PNS HYDERABAD

Declaring that he will fight till the ITIR project is sanctioned to Telangana, TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy said that ITIR will create 15 lakh

He said that he will submit a memorandum to the Union Ministers from Telangana, G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, asking them to lobby with the Centre to sanction ITIR.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan Wednesday, Jagga said that he grew politically on his own and not due to the BJP. He said that 15 lakh jobs

would have been created in Telangana if Prime Minister Modi had not scrapped ITIR and that he is not speaking about ITIR with political

Jagga said that he is asking



Jagga Reddy addressing media at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday

the BJP's Medak MP M. Raghunandan Rao about ITIR because the people gave the responsibility to him. He said that the people of Telangana gave eight MPs to the BJP and they have to bring the ITIR to Telangana.

Pulling up Raghunandan for criticising him on ITIR, Jagga said that Raghunandan was in the BRS when the then Congress government sanctioned ITIR.

He said that it is not proper for Raghunandan to criticise him saying that he (Jagga Reddy) had deceived the BJP.

"What is wrong with going to an RSS shakha? Where was Raghunandan when I attended the RSS shakha? Raghunandan came to the BJP directly and he doesn't know about RSS shakhas. Kishan and Bandaru Dattatreya know about Jagga. What does Raghunandan know about the BJP? Raghunandan has less experience in the BJP. I grew as a politician on my own.

### India's nuclear trajectory premised on principle of 'no first use & massive retaliation': CDS Chauhan

PNS NEW DELHI

The uniqueness of India's nuclear trajectory is premised on the principle of "no first use" and "massive retaliation", Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan said on Wednesday.

In an address at a seminar, he highlighted the changing nature and characteristics of conventional warfare and geopolitical turmoil being witnessed in various parts of the

The Chief of Defence Staff also noted that the threat from nuclear weapons has once again occupied centre-stage in the geopolitical landscape,

according to the defence ministry.Gen Chauhan reiterated that the uniqueness of India's nuclear trajectory is premised

and massive retaliation', it said He made the remarks while delivering an address on

Contemporary Developments and Future Possibilities' at the seminar organised by the Centre for Air Power Studies on the principle of 'no first use

He stressed on the need for development of new doctrines as well as importance of deterrence and safeguarding "nuclear C4I2SR" (Command

Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Information, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) infrastruc-

Months after India carried out five nuclear tests in 1998, India came out with a nuclear doctrine.

In the doctrine released in 1999, India declared a "no first use" policy that essentially said the country would not be the first to launch a nuclear weapon.

At the same time, the policy says India retains the right to retaliate in response to any

### Kaushik takes oath at temple

#### Writes Ponnam's name in 'Black Book'

power.The charges exchanged

between the Huzurabad MLA

and Minister Ponnam

Prabhakar has sent shock-

waves through the state's polit-

ical landscape.Matters esca-

lated when the police arrested

MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy

Continued from page 1

The application seeking

Kejriwal's arrest was moved by

the CBI after the Aam Aadmi

Party (AAP) leader was pro-

duced before the court from

the Tihar jail, where he was

lodged in judicial custody in

a money-laundering case

**Court sends Kejriwal to...** 

PNS HYDERABAD

The controversy between Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy over allegations regarding the NTPC fly ash issue intensified on Wednesday.

Padi Kaushik Reddy and his supporters arrived at the Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Filmnagar in Hyderabad at

11 am on Wednesday. He strongly denied the corruption charges hurled at him by Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and challenged the Minister to join him in taking a public oath at the temple to

Kaushik asked why the from his residence in Minister had not accepted the Veenavanka, following allegachallenge if he had nothing to tions and counter-allegations hide, claiming that evidence traded with Congress's had already surfaced implicat-Huzurabad constituency incharge Oditela Pranav. ing him in a scam amounting to Rs 100 crore.He also In a dramatic turn, Kaushik announced the launch of a publicly took an oath drenched in water at the temple holding 'Black Book' and wrote Minister Ponnam Prabhakar's sacred items asserting his innoname promising action against cence. him once the BRS comes to

Meanwhile, there was chaos at Chelpur as Congress activists gathered in large num-

bers to support Pranav, resulting in clashes with the police. BRS District President GV Ramakrishna Rao was among those arrested during the three-hour standoff.

linked to the excise "scam"

being probed by the

Enforcement Directorate

CBI's custody until his custo-

dial interrogation in the cor-

ruption case comes to an end,

which can go on for a maxi-

mum of 15 days.

Kejriwal will remain in the

#### demands Owaisi's disqualification as MP PNS PANAJI

Hindu convention



A convention of Hindu leaders in Goa on Wednesday demanded the

disqualifica-tion of AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi for "hail-Asaduddin Owals for half-ing Palestine" after taking oath as a Member of Parliament (MP).

The Hindu leaders adopted a resolution against the Hyderabad MP at the 12th Edition of Vaishvik Hindu Rashtra Mahotsav, currently underway in Ponda taluka of South Goa.Ramesh Shinde, national spokesperson of Hindu Janajagruti Samiti, which has organised the convention, said Owaisi raised slogans of "Jai Bhim, Jai MIM, Allahu Akbar, and Jai Palestine" after taking oath as the Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

He said that Article 102 D of the Constitution of India states that a person shall be disqualified from being a member of either House of Parliament if he shows allegiance to a foreign State.

### 'Declare southern...

Continued from page 1

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, IT and Industry Minister D. Sridhar Babu, Peddapally MP Vamsi and Chennur MLA G. Vivek

were also present.
The CM explained to Nitin Gadkari that the widening of the Hyderabad-Vijayawada (NH 65) lanes was supposed to be completed by April 2024. The CM expressed serious concern over the increasing road accidents and loss of lives due to the fast-growing traffic on this busy National

Around 60,000 vehicles are plying on this particular NH between the capitals of the two states every day. The CM told the Union Minister that despite the heavy traffic on the NH, the contract agency has not taken up the six lane project saying that traffic has declined after bifurcation and the agency was not get-

ting adequate income. The Chief Minister asked Gadkari to resolve the dispute between NHAI and the contract company and take up the six lane road development project on the National Highway immediately.

The ĆM asked the Union Minister for National Highways to declare the Kalwakurthi to Kolhapur-Somasila-Karivena-Nandval (NH-167K) Road as a National Highway and invite tenders to take up work on the 142-km road.

were invited for work on the remaining 32 km and the construction of the iconic bridge and requested him to start work immediately. The distance between Hyderabad and Tirupati will be reduced by 70 km once the proposed National Highway is completed, he said.

The VM requested the Union Minister to upgrade the two-lane road between Hyderabad and Kalwakurthy (NH-765k) to four lanes. The CM said that the Kalwakurthy-Nandyal highway (NH-167K) will start at 67 km (Kalwakurthy) on the Hyderabad-Srisailam route (NH167K) as the National Highway and work for NH 167k highway has started.

### Uttam calls on Sonia Gandhi

PNS HYDERABAD

After the Parliament elections, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy paid a courtesy call on the Chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party, Sonia

Gandhi, at 10 Janpath on Wednesday. He congratulated her on the party's impressive performance in the Lok Sabha elections and expressed happiness at Rahul Gandhi accepting the post of the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.



### Birla elected LS Speaker by...

Continued from page 1

It is also among the few occasions that an election became necessary for a post conventionally decided by consensus.

As he assumed charge, Birla read out a resolution condemning the Emergency imposed by then-prime minister Indira Gandhi in 1975 and asked members to observe a moment's silence, triggering a wave of protests by the

opposition. Democratic values and debate have always been supported in India... Indira Gandhi imposed a dictatorship on such an India. The democratic values of India were crushed and freedom of

expression was strangled," Birla said while reading the resolution.

His first day in the chair saw the House being adjourned. While opposition members vociferously protested inside, BJP members held a demonstration outside Parliament House, raising slogans and demanding an apology from the Congress for the Emergency.

Earlier in the morning, after the election, the prime minister and Leader of the Opposition Gandhi escorted Birla to the speaker's chair. Gandhi also shook hands with Modi before escorting him. In his address, the first in the 18th Lok Sabha, Modi

said Birla's work as a parlia-

BRS complains...

mentarian should be an inspiration for new Lok Sabha members. He said Birla presided over

> tory with a number of historic decisions taken during its previous term. Modi lauded the balance shown by him in maintaining the decorum of the House which also involved taking several tough decisions. He

a golden era in Lok Sabha his-

expressed gratitude towards Birla for choosing to uphold the values of the House while keeping traditions. The prime minister emphasised that the functioning of the house, conduct, and accountability deepen the

foundation of democracy in

the country.

### Hope voice of Oppn...

Continued from page 1

While the opposition pushed a contest for the post of Speaker by pitching K Suresh against Birla, who was announced elected by a voice vote, Gandhi went and congratulated Birla on the floor of the House.

In a democratic spirit and amid clapping from both sides, Gandhi also escorted Birla, soon after he was re-elected as the new Speaker, to the Chair along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju. He also greeted him and wished him for his new innings.Gandhi said the opposition wanted the House

to function "often and well"

and added that it was very important that cooperation happens on the basis of trust.

Gandhi, who is usually seen wearing a white T-shirt and trousers, was clad in white kurta-pyjama on his first day as Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.Countering the government's claim that the previous Lok Sabha clocked high productivity, the Congress leader also said running the House by silencing the opposition is an undemocratic idea.

"I would like to congratulate you for your successful election, for the second time that you have been elected. I would like to congratulate you on behalf of the entire opposition, on behalf of the INDIA

### Our aim is to...

"Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said the Centre will complete Hyderabad-Vijayawada road's six laning within two years with an outlay of Rs 4,000 crore. He also assured that the Centre has been designing the Hyderabad–Vijayawada highway as a Greenfield highway as per the AP Division Act,

Venkat said. "We aim to get funds due to the state from the Centre. We know to work responsibly and so we Telangana Ministers came to New Delhi. We are taking steps to complete the widening of the Uppal-Ghatkesar road soon," Venkat said.

#### TODAY ALMANAC Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha Tithi: Shashthi: Jun 26 08:55 PM to Jun 27 06:39 PM Saptami: Jun 27 06:39 PM to Jun 28 04:27 PM Nakshatram Shatabhisha Jun 26 01:05 PM to Jun 27 11:36 AM Jun 27 11:36 AM Purva Bhadrapada:

Varjyam: 05:37 PM to 07:08 PM Gulika: 9:03 AM to 10:41 AM Amritakalam: 02:39 AM to 04:09 AM Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:53 AM to 12:45 PM

Rahukalam:

to Jun 28 10:10 AM

1:57 PM to 3:34 PM

5:48 AM to 7:26 AM

Humidity: 80% Sunrise: 5:44 AM Sunset: 6:54 PM

**Updated:** June 26, 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Showers

**Temp:** 28°°

### Bid to counter...

Continued from page 1

The prominent attendees at Wednesday's meeting are Siddipet MLA Harish Rao, Medchal MLA Malla Reddy, Janagama MLA Kaleru Venkatesh, LB Nagar MLA Sudhir Reddy, Uppal MLA Bandaru Lakshmareddy, Malkajigiri MLA Marri Rajasékhar Reddy and Balkonda MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy.

BRS leaders Rasamai Balakishan, Jeevan Reddy and Sai Chand's wife Rajini were also present. Notably, many of these MLAs are rumoured to be considering joining the Congress.

After losing power, the BRS has been experiencing internal turmoil. The

results have only intensified uncertainty within the party, with fears of more MLAs defecting to rival parties. This instability has sparked concerns among grassroots cadres about the party's future, potentially driving them towards other political

recent Lok Sabha election

KCR's meetings with BRS MLAs highlight his proactive approach to counter defections. Political analysts are keenly observing these developments, speculating on the confidential messages KCR might be conveying during these sessions. KCR's Whether

attempts to stabilise the

BRS and retain its MLAs

will succeed remains to be

Continued from page 1 The BRS has filed formal

complaints demanding the disqualification of defectors through speed post and email. 'We demand action against them. If not, we will proceed legally," he said. He accused the Congress of encouraging defections despite including the Anti-Defection Law in their Panch Nyay. "Now, the party is promoting defections," he added. "MLC Jeevan Reddy has also spoken against such actions, calling them shameless.Jagadish recalled how during BRS rule, Congress MLAs came to KCR and joined the

According to the law, twothirds of them joined our party.ON BRS MLAs meeting KCŔ, he said, "What is wrong if our MLAs come to meet our leader KCR? People are coming in droves to meet KCR."

### 'KCR giving 'farewell'...

Continued from page 1

He said ultimately only four people will remain in the BRS. MLA Makkan Singh said that KCR is showing fake concern for BRS MLAs by inviting them to his 'gettogether parties' at his farmhouse. KCR failed to show

them the same regard all these days. KCR's 'get together parties' gives the impression that they are conspiring to topple the Congress government, he

He asked KTR to reveal whether he didn't remember the words 'constitution', 'injustice' and 'illegal' all these days.

#### Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha PNS NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla recognised Rahul Gandhi as the leader of opposition on Wednesday, a day after the Congress communicated its decision to name him for the

### position to the Lok Sabha

### Police cite terror case to...

police. The advocate for the

Continued from page 1

The advocate appearing on behalf of the accused said they had found mistakes in the charge sheet and should have crosschecked it before resubmitting it in court.He said that to prevent the accused from being released the police had filed it on the same day

when the court returned it on police said the evidence in the June 18. Material evidence is case is electronic material. The the main evidence in this case, accused erased data before but they submitted grossly they were arrested. The police inadequate evidence when they filed the charge sheet for the second time, he said."Why soon, he said. were proper documents not submitted in court," the coun-

are trying to get the proof and we will file it with evidence After hearing both sides regarding the bail petition, sel for the accused asked the

the court reserved its order for Thursday.

In a notification issued on

Speaker recognises Rahul Gandhi as

Wednesday, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said Gandhi, leader of the Indian National Congress, had officially been recognised as the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha with effect from June 9.

This is the first time after a gap of 10 years that there will be a leader of opposition in the Lower House, as the Congress or other opposition parties did not have the 10 per cent members required to claim the post in the 16th and the 17th Lok Sabha.

The Congress MP from Rai Bareli in Uttar Pradesh, Gandhi has been recognised as the leader of opposition under Section 2 of the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act,

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CII'S CFO CONCLAVE

## Hyd set to become an Al hub: Spl Chief Secretary

Emphasising that Telangana is the only State where most of the Make in India reforms are completed, Special Chief Secretary for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (ITE&C) and Industries & Commerce Departments, Jayesh Ranjan, delivered the inaugur-al address on behalf of Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka at the CFO Conclave in the ITC Karthikeya on Wednesday. Jayesh said that Hyderabad is set to become an AÍ hub, promoting AI throughout the State. He stressed that CFOs play a crucial role in providing inputs for top management decisions.

CII Telangana organised the 6th edition of its flagship fullday CFO Conclave with the theme "Resilience, Reinvention, and Reimagination: The CFO's

Ranjan highlighted the strategic role of CFOs in regional economic development. "From an investment perspective, incen-

Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan addressing the 6th edition of the CFO Conclave of the CII Telangana on Wednesday

broader context in which a business operates often holds greater value," He also emphasised a holistic approach to business incentives and longterm sustainability, highlighting

the non-monetary benefits of

investing in Telangana, such as

improved quality of life and

robust infrastructure. Chairman of CII Telangana and Executive Director of Bharat Biotech International Ltd., D Sai Prasad, highlighted the importance of the CII CFO

tives are important, but the Forum as a platform for finance professionals to exchange strategies and insights. He said, "CFOs incorporate

new strategies, technologies and ethical practices, ensuring sustainable growth across industries." Prasad also emphasised CII Telangana's strategic goal of achieving a \$1 trillion economy by 2047 and the crucial role of CFOs in driving progress. Convenor of CII Telangana Ease of Doing Business Panel and Deputy CFO of Dr Reddy's Laborato ries Ltd., MV

CII Telangana organised the 6th edition of its flagship full-day **CFO Conclave with** the theme Resilience, Reinvention, and Reimagination: The CFO's Role in a New Era'

Narasimham welcomed the attendees and stressed the evolving role of CFOs in navigating economic challenges. He noted, "Resilience

requires a proactive approach to anticipate challenges, mitigate risks and capture opportunities while maintaining integrity and trust." He outlined the conclave's sessions, covering themes from boardroom resilience to financial transformation through AI, emphasising transparency and proactive risk managément.

#### Amrapali takes charge as GHMC Commissioner

PNS HYDERABAD

Amrapali Kata took charge as the Commissioner of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Wednesday.

Ronald Rose has been reassigned as Secretary to the government, Energy Department from GHMC Commissioner and Amrapali has been posted in full additional charge (FAC) as GHMC Commissioner.

On the same day, K Ashok Reddy took charge as Managing Director of HMWSSB. He has already worked in the post for two years in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Pradesh.

He served as the Executive Director (ED) and Finance Director of the Water Board between 2009 and 2011. Later, he worked as Additional Commissioner of the GHMC from 2012 to 2014. He worked as Managing Director of Musi River Development Authority for 9 months in 2019.

The previous MD C Sudarshan Reddy was transferred and posted as Secretary to the government (Services & HRM).

### Kukatpally lake cries for attention, restoration

pipelines adjacent to the lake. think it's not the right way to

do. We demand the HMDA

and GHMC authorities to clean

and renovate the lake immedi-

The residents pointed out

that the previous government

had sanctioned Rs 9.8 crore for

the restoration and beautifica-

tion of the lake thereby driving their hopes up. "The GHMC

authorities proposed to super-vise the lake by taking up ini-

tiatives like cleaning of water

hyacinth and waste material,

biological wetland treatment,

floating wetland and planta-

tion, diversion of sewerage,

strengthening of the bund and

Despite the residents of Kukatpally expressing grievances over the neglected state of the IDL lake for months, the Telangana government continues to be inert over this issue.

The locals reported that though a park near the lake was developed by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), the authorities overlooked the neglected state of the lake. It's really disturbing to see how the lake has turned from a refreshing picturesque spot to a breeding home for mosquitoes and snakes due to the spread of water hyacinth. It has spread over the lake like a green mat.

Due to this, the residents are suffering from various diseases, especially Dengue and Malaria. Apart from that, sewage water is being discharged into the lake making the water dirty.

Sushant, a local resident said, "First, a nala from KPHB Road No 1 is linked to the lake. Due to lack of renovation and cleaning of the pipelines, an unbearable smell spreads in the

air. The lake has become a setting up dustbins. However, breeding spot for mosquitoes our hopes were dashed, when and snakes. Moreover, the things halted after the planning HMDA and GHMC authoriphase," they lamented. ties are trying to lay drainage

"For the past six months, the sewage pipeline has been lying abandoned. According to local GHMC workers, the pipes were intended for drainage purposes, but due to infrastructure errors, the project was scrapped," said Ramesh, a res-

ident of Kukatpally. "Unfortunately, with no progress made, the situation has left the locals sceptical about whether the lake will ever undergo the planned enhancement. Despite multiple complaints, no action has been taken to develop the lake," said Sneha, another local resident.

Meanwhile, the HMDA and the GHMC officials were not available for comment.

#### **SEEKING JUSTICE TO NEET ASPIRANTS**

### Students plan 'Chalo Raj Bhavan'

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Venkat Balmoori, MLC and president of National Students' Union of India, stated during an effigy burning program at Narayanguda Square on Wednesday that students organisations across the city will organise 'Chalo Raj Bhavan' along with Maha Deeksha at Dharna Chowk, if NTA is not cancelled.

Various youth and student unions including NSUI, SFI, AISF, PYC and AIYF burnt the effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Narayanaguda Square and demanded to reconduct NEET exam immediately.

Venkat Balmoori said, "Our fight will not stop until the Centre reconducts NEET exams and cancels the NTA body. Following the irregularities of NEET exam, it is evil for the Central government to remain silent without cancelling the NTA body. We are fighting on behalf of NEET under the auspices of all associations. Over 60,000 students



from Telangana State wrote the NEET exam. Minister Kishan Reddy has the responsibility to speak on this issue.

If he doesn't address the issue, we will raid his house. We organised a student march and a signature campaign, on Tuesday. If the Central governesn't address t we will hold a mass protest at Dharna Chowk under the auspices of all student unions. We will organise Chalo Raj Bhavan programme.

If there is no response by then, we will unite all the student unions across the country and organise a Bharat Bandh on the day of NEET counselling. We will continue ment cancels NTA and NEET

#### Juvenile among six held for welder's murder

PNS HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task Force, in coordination with the Begumpet police on Wednesday arrested six persons, including a juvenile involved in the murder of a welder. The accused were identified as Mohammed Aijaz (26) a cook and resident of old Patigadda, Begumpet; Moha mmed Feroz (24) a mechanic and resident of Begumpet; Sahil Khan (19) a resident of Begumpet; Mohammed Fazal (20) a resident of Begumpet and Mohammed Rashid (18) a resident of Bowenpally. The victim was identified as

Usman, who was a childhood friend of Aijaz. Aijaz and the other accused saw Neha and Usman together on a bike, while they were coming from Patigadda auto stand. As they reached Ganesh Mandapam, Aijaz and his acomplices pushed Usman on the ground. The prime accused then slit pinned the victim to the

### TJUDA calls off strike as Minister addresses demands

PNS HYDFRABAD

The Telangana Junior Doctors Association (TJUDA) on Wednesday called off the indefinite strike after Health Minister Damodar Narasimha issued multiple orders addressing the demands of the asso-In a statement, the TJUDA

said, "We extend gratitude to the Health Minister for his exceptional efforts in resolving several long-standing issues that have been affecting the medical fraternity for years. His dedication and commitment to improving the healthcare infrastructure and addressing our concerns have been nothing short of extraordinary. We are delighted to announce that multiple Government Orders (G.O's) have been issued concerning the enhancement of medical college infrastructure."

The following demands ave been addi government: Implementing a budget release order (GREEN



CHANNEL) for the timely clearance of stipends; ensuring that stipends are disbursed without delay for the financial year 2024-2025; Sanctioning the budget for new hostel buildings at Osmania and Gandhi Medical Colleges; Sanctioning the budget for the road infrastructure improvements at Kakatiya Medical College at the earliest; Amendment to the super-spe-cialty order at the earliest; Moving the proposals for buses in the new medical colleges; Initiating the communication Home department regarding Special Protection

"The T-JUDA sincerely appreciates the Health Minister's tireless efforts and visionary leadership. His remarkable ability to navigate complex challenges and deliver tangible results has earned him our utmost respect and admiration. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Health Ministry under his guidance; confident that together we can achieve even greater milestones for the betterment of healthcare in our State. Herewith we declare that we are calling off the strike and resume all the medical services," the TJUDA

#### Media team from 10 nations visits Hyd

PNS HYDERABAD

A delegation of 21 foreign media representatives reached Hyderabad on Wednesday afternoon to visit the tourist, cultural, industrial and educational centres that bring special identity to Telangana.

The representatives were welcomed at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport by officials of the State Information department and protocol department offi-

Prominent media representatives from East Asia, Eurasia, Middle East region, Georgia, Armenia, Iran, Belarus, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia and Kazakhstan came on a fourday visit.

As part of the tour, the media team will visit Golconda Fort, Shilparamam, Dr Reddy's Labs, Šky Route Indian School of Business and Ramoji Film City.

#### **Patrolling intensified to curb** criminal activities in Old City

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Police has stepped up patrolling during nights in order to curb criminal activities. The police personnel frisked commuters to check for weapons. Intense patrolling is likely to continue for a few days in the Old City, apart from patrolling. Police are ensuring that shops and business establishments close by midnight. Earlier, the cops issued a clarification on shop closing times after misleading claims went viral on the social media. It said, "The recent social media news making rounds that city police are closing shops by 10:30 pm or 11 pm is totally misleading. The shops and establishments will open/close as per the already existing rules only. Hence, the same may be

noted by all.' A video of the police personnel chasing youth in the Old City and using expletives was shared on X by activist Srinivas Kodali. The activist tagged the National Commission for protection of Child Rights and said, "How can you allow Hyderabad Police to misbehave with children this way? Prolonged policing of youngsters will affect their psychological well-being."



### DCA seizes medicine over misleading advertisement

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Drug Control Administration (DCA) conducted raids at multiple locations in the State and sealed a clinic operated by a quack along with a few medicines over misleading claims of curing fever.

In the first case, the DCA seized 'Calgrip tablets' which were falsely manufactured and sold as a food product. It claimed to contain Calcium Citrate 1000mg, Magnesium 100 mg, Zinc mono 4 mg, Vitamin D3 2000IU. These tablets were falsely manufactured under a 'food licence (FSSAI licence)' and falsely claimed to be a food

product/nutraceutical.
The DCA said, " 'Calgrip tablet' must be manufactured only under a 'drug licence' issued under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, adhering strict-

ly to the 'Good Manufacturing Practices' (GMP) outlined in Schedule-M of the Drugs Rules. Additionally, it must meet the quality standards prescribed in the 'Indian Pharmacopoeia' (IP) as mandated."

In a raid conducted in Malkajgiri, the adminbistration seized an overpriced medicines identified as Mupipan 5gm ointment and Zandi-200 capsules (Itraconazole capsules 200

mg) at Kamareddy.
The maximum retail price of the ointment set by the government is Rs 113.62 and it was being sold at Rs 115. Stock worth Rs 64,000 was seized by the administration; For Zandi -200 capsules, the ceiling price set by the government is Rs 22.12 while as the capsules were being sold at Rs 285 per 10 capsules. The capsule was being sold at an excess price of Rs 37.3.

Rs 22,230. In another case, the administration seized Ayurvedic medicines 'Shri Tulsi drops' and 'Tulsi ginger drops' which falsely claimed to cure 'fever', and pneumonia'. Such claims are in contravention of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954.

The DCA conducted a raid in Wanaparthy district and sealed the premises of a quack identified as Bodhani Naveen Kumar. He claimed to be a rural medical practitioner.

Officials detected stocks of medicines on the premises without any drug licence. 52 varieties of medicines, including Antibiotics, Steroids, Analgesics, Anti-ulcer drugs, etc., were found stocked at the premises. DCA officials seized the stock, worth a total of Rs. 60,000 during the raid.

#### ACB nabs Veldanda SI for taking a bribe of Rs 50,000

PNS HYDERABAD

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) caught M Ravi, subinspector of Veldanda police station in Nagarkurnool district and an ambulance driver named G Vikram for taking a bribe of Rs 50,000 from a complainant named Deranagula Venkatesh.

They have taken the bribe from Venkatesh to do an official favour, which is not to register a case against the complainant as the accused officer seized explosive material from

the house of the complainant. The tainted bribe amount was recovered from Vikram. Right hand fingers of Vikram which came in contact with the bribe amount yielded positive results in the chemical test. "The SI performed his duty improperly and dishonestly to obtain undue advantage," the ACB said.



### MEIL wins contract to build NPCIL's electrical reactors

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad- based Megha Engineering & Infrastructure limited (MEIL) has won a contract by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) to construct two electrical reactors of 700 Mega

Watt each in Karnataka's Kaiga. The construction firm won a bid of Rs 12,799.92 crore. The project marks a groundbreaking moment with the introduction of the Quality cum Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) methodology. This rigorous process ensured a meticulous evaluation of technical expertise and costeffectiveness for all proposals.

The tendering process began in May 2023, with the technical bid opening in October 2023. The highly competitive bidding process saw participation from prominent industry leaders - BHEL, L&T, and MEIL.

MEIL Director Ch Subbaiah said, "This contract represents the most significant project for MEIL and our strategic entry into the nuclear energy sector. MEIL's unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation has been recognised through this landmark achieve-

The company is excited to contribute to India's self-reliance in clean energy solutions."

### No water supply in city areas today due to repair works

Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has proposed a water shutdown on Thursday.

The water board is repairing the NRV valve of the second pump in Kodandapur pump house of Krishna Drinking Water Supply Scheme Phase-II, which supplies water to the

Due to these repair works, drinking water supply would be affected in some places on



Thursday in many areas under the divisions 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10(A), 10(B), 13, 14, 16, 20. The affected areas are Mir NPA, Balapur, Mysaram, Barkas Bhojagutta, Allabanda, Mekalamandi, Bholakpur, Tarnaka, Lalapet, Buddha Nagar, Marredpally,

Control Room, Railways, MES, Cantonment, Prakash Nagar, Patigadda, Hasmat Pate, Ferozguda, Gautam Nagar, Vaishali Nagar, BN Reddy Nagar, Vanasthali puram, Autonagar, Alkapuri Colony, Mahindra Hills, Elugutta, Ramanthapur, Uppal, Nacharam, Habsiguda, Chilka Nagar, Birappagada, Budvel, Shastripuram, Meerpet, Badangpet and Shamshabad.

The water board requested the people in the affected areas to preserve water till restoration works are completed.

### 'TG's fame should spread world-wide with Bonalu'

PNS HYDERABAD

Minister for Endowments Konda Surekha stated that Telangana's fame should spread worldwide with Ashada Bonalu festival and added that the festival works will be completed by July 5. The Minister held a review meeting at Haritha Plaza, Begumpet on the arrangements for Ashada Bonalu on

Wednesday. She said that the Greater Hyderabad Municipal

Corporation (GHMC) plays a vital role in the management of Bonalu festival. Sanitation, fogging, parking spaces, maintenance of roads and provision of special toilets for women should be coordinated and carried out in a planned way by the GHMC. Besides supplying clean drinking water to the devotees visiting the HMWSSB temples, attention should be paid to sewage management. The officials have been directed to set up barricades at a suitable height so that the devotees can have clear darshan.

The Minister ordered to enforce law and order by carrying out constant checks with the bomb squads of the police department. The officials were advised to monitor regularly to avoid technical problems in electricity supply. The fire department should select volunteers along with their staff and provide them with appropriate training and use the weekly services at the temples.

#### ECTORATE OF INSTITUTE OF PREVENTIVE MEDIC PUBLIC HEALTH LABS. & FOOD (HEALTH) ADMN., ARAYANAGUDA, HYDERABAD, TELANGAN SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed Tenders are invited by the Director, Institute of Proventive Medicine, Public Healt Laboratories & Food (Health) Administration, Narayanaguda, Hyderabad-500029 Felangana, on or before 12/07/2024 for the annual maintenance contract for security service readingshits, on or before 120 years of the aminaminant accordance consists of security services and sentration such as cleaning of toilets, comider, stair cases and sweeping of entire premises of Nacharam and Narayanaguda, IPM. The tenderers can visit the website for further details by visiting: http://ipm.telangana.gov.in. The tender forms along with schedule can be obtained from afore said office on payment or

Rs.500/-through challan in the following Head of Account. HEAD OF ACCOUNT: 0210 - Medical & Public Health, 04 - Public Health, 800 - Othe receipts, 81 - Other receipts or other items, 001-The sale of tender forms will be from 01/07/2024 to 09/07/2024 during working hours.

The last date for submission of filled tender forms is 5:00 P.M. on 12/07/2024. The tenders will be opened by the under signed at Institute of Preventive Medicine premises on 18/07/2024 at 12:00 Noon.

I.O.No: 1161-PP/CLIADVT11/2024-25, Dt. 26:06:2024

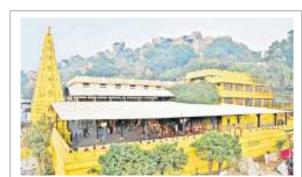
## **Groupism comes to fore at** Komuravelli Mallanna temple

Groupism among the employees of Komuravelli Mallikarjuna Swamy temple has come to the fore. Each group is trying to gain an upper hand over its rival, creating a controversy and bringing bad name to the temple.

Earlier, the groupism was limited to addressing anonymous letters to the officials, but now it grew to the level of resorting to fights against each other. In a clash that happened in

the temple on Sunday, a person was injured and a complaint was lodged with the police. The temple Executive Officer served show-cause

notices on three members calling for explanation from them for the incident. There were allegations that the employees



cial deals since they remain at the same place without transfers for a long period.

Recently, five employees went on a four-day tour of Ganugapur, marking with pencil in the attendance register as CL (Casual Leave). However, upon returning from the tour

**DELETION OF LAND ON DHARANI PORTAL** 

social media platform.
Thousands visit the

Komuravelli temple. But there is a shortage of rooms at the temple. Taking advantage of this, several have allegedly been collecting more money from devotees to allot rooms but not registering it in the The corrupt deal has been

going on for the past several years. The temple has 22 permanent employees, 25 priests, 29 outsourced employees and 62 sanitation workers employed on daily wages. Taking advantage of the GO No.888, the employees have been accused of perpetrating irregularities. The GO allows the person appointed at one place to serve thee till his or her

#### Jilted by girlfriend, youth commits suicide

PNS HYDERABAD

A 20-year-old youth committed suicide as his girlfriend rejected him. His body was found hanging from a tree branch in his agricultural land in Kottapalli village of Doma Mandal of the district, reports reaching here said on Tuesday. The deceased was iden-

tified as Chintu, who was set to join the Indian Army soon, belonging to the village.On being rejected by his girlfriend, Chintu allegedly took the extreme step. He was selected for Indian Army in 2023. He completed relevant training in Bangalore and upon completion of the training, he was posted in Gujarat. His was about to join duty

# TG govt observes Intl Day Against Drug Abuse

Resident Editor of The Pioneer and Swatantra Channel Managing Director B Krishna Prasad cutting a cake on the

occasion of the channel's second anniversary on Wednesday

PNS HYDERABAD

Emphasising that being born as a human is a great gift from God, Minister for Excise and Prohibition, Tourism and Culture Jupally Krishna Rao said that life is one and every-one should live happily till old age. He noted that while saints in the past lived for 100 years, today people are dying as early as 30 due to various issues, including drug abuse.

Jupally participated in the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking conducted by the State government at Shilpakala Vedika, along with the Minister of Women and Child Welfare of Telangana Seethakka, actor Suman, former cricketer Mithali Raj, DGP Ravi Gupta, CP Avinash Mohanty and other police offi-

cers on Wednesday Jupally compared drug trafficking and usage to terrorism, describing drugs as silent killers. He said that while humans can achieve anything they set their minds to, in the same way, moral values are

degrading in the society.

Jupally highlighted that many children are getting into drugs through tactical means, ultimately losing their lives. He also mentioned that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, in just three months into office, made a serious decision to tackle drug trafficking and make Telangana a drug-free State. The government has also decided on imposing life imprisonment for drug traffickers to create fear in traffick-

ers and abusers. Addressing the gathering, Seethakka compared drugs to an unseen pandemic shaking the world and causing families to lose respect. She criticised drug trafficking as being profit-making for businessmen in international trade while addicts lose their lives, health and societal standing, often leading to deaths, rapes, and murders.

Seethakka called for collective action against drug trafficking, urging communities, villages and shops to prevent its spread. She compared drug abusers to weeds and pests, emphasising their harmful

impact on society.
Speaking to students, she warned against surrendering to drug traps for temporary pleasure, urging them to aspire to careers like IAS and IPS officers instead and fight against drug-abuse.

She also mentioned that CM Revanth Reddy reviews reports weekly and implements strict measures against trafficking and drug abuse.

Various college students attended the programme. Jupally and Seethakka launched a drug awareness poster, and played a song aimed at combating drug abuse and trafficking, featuring

### Shamshabad farmers threaten to set themselves alight

PNS RANGAREDDY

In a dramatic protest against alleged deletion of their land from the Dharani portal, farmers from Shamshabad in Rangareddy district, poured petrol on themselves and attempted suicide in front of the Tahsildar's office. Farmers, Chennakesh Kamalamma and Chennakesh Lakshmaiah, a couple, from Shamshabad village, own eight acres of land under Ghansimiyaguda rev-

According to the farmers,

the Dharani portal after its inception. However, on November 6h, Tehsildar Nagmani reportedly deleted their land from Dharani without prior notice. Since then, the farmers had been persistently seeking reinstatement of their land on the portal and issuance of new patta passbooks. The situation escalated when, during a protest by Chandrasekhar and others, police intervention prompted Suri Babu to attempt self-

they possessed the land since immolation by pouring petrol on himself. Immediate community intervention prevented a tragedy, but the incident sparked widespread protests demanding justice outside the Tehsildar's office.

the CL pencil mark was erased

and signatures were made as though they attended duty for

The clash was triggered as

one of the temple employees

noticed the irregularity and got

it clicked with his mobile

phone and circulated among

the four days.

Tehsildar Nagmani said that the removal of the farmers' land from Dharani was due to an ongoing application process initiated by the farmers themselves to update their land records. She clarified that her office was awaiting the completion of inspections before tak-

### Gurukula teacher candidates protest at CM's residence

PNS HYDERABAD

Hundreds of Gurukula teacher candidates protested at Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's residence at Jubilee Hills on Wednesday. They demanded to fill the gurukula teachers' posts and fill the backlog

An aspirant said, "Our demand is to fill the vacancies without any backlogs in the notification. We met every minister including Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, IT Minister Sridhar Babu and other leaders for the last five years. But they are not giving any official release on our

"Around 30 lakh unemployed youth voted for the Congress government as the previous government could not fulfill the aspirations of the youth. But the Congress gov-ernment is also doing the same. It seems that the government doesn't want to fill around 4,000 posts," an aspi-rant said. Meanwhile, former minister Harish Rao has taken social media platform X and declared his support for the protest of gurukula candidates. On behalf of the BRS party, he demanded that the government resolve the candidates' problems immediately.

### Police Commissioner calls for formation of panels in educational institutions

PNS SIDDIPET

City police commissioner B Anuradha has called for form $ing\ of\ anti-drug\ committees\ in$ government and private schools and appealed to teachers and parents to keep an eye on the activities of children.

She said eradication of drugs is everyone's responsibility. "Let us drive away drugs society so that t terity inherits a drugs-free society." She appealed to all to get themselves involved in the fight against the abuse of drugs and smuggling of nar-

Speaking as chief guest after administering oath to students in connection with observing International Day Against Drug Abuse on Wednesday, she observed that some of the youth getting attracted towards drugs abuse and destroying their golden future. The police have been maintaining strict vigil on them.



abuse at a meeting in Siddipet on Wednesday

She distributed merit certificates among the students who won prizes in elocution and painting competition.

Those who consume marijuana and other narcotic substances will lose their mental balance and are likely to commit crimes, she observed. These substances would have adverse impact on human

The youth in rural as well as urban areas should cultivate good habits and follow the guidance of their parents and teachers, paying heed to their advice, so that they will have

bright future, she observed. The police would deal with drug racket sternly, however big position they might be occupying, she said warning them without mincing words.

The narcotic drugs should be kept out of the reach of the students and everyone should strive to achieve the drugs-free

In connection with observing International Day Against Drug Abuse on June 26, she appealed to the Youth and students to become members of anti-drugs' committees and cooperate with the government by becoming anti-drugs

The police team of artistes and Telangana Samskrutika people adverse impact of the

substance abuse through songs.
Additional DCP S Malla Reddy, Armed Reserve DCPs Ramachandra Ra, Subhash Chandra Bose, Siddipet ACP Madhu, excise superintendent Srinivasa Murthy, DWO Sarada, inspectors Lakshmi Babu, Vidyasagar, Upender Ramakrishna and other police personnel, personnel working in the Siddipet police commissioner's office, government, private colleges and schools management and students took part in the event.

### Dalit boy tied up, beaten for plucking pomegranate

PNS HYDERABAD

A 14-year-old Dalit boy was allegedly tied up and beaten by a man on the city outskirts for plucking a pomegranate from his house, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on Shabad mandal. The victim belonging to the SC community, scaled the compound wall of a house to pluck pomegranate from a tree,

The house owner, a retired government school headmaster, caught the boy and tied his hands and legs with a rope and allegedly beat him up, they added. A picture purportedly showing the boy lying on the ground has gone viral.

Based on the complaint lodged by the victim's mother on June 24.

## KTR visits Cong MLA Medipalli Satyam to Offer Condolences

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS working president visited Choppadandi Congress MLA Medipalli Satyam's family to offer his condolences following the tragic death of Satyam's wife.

KTR arrived at MLA Medipalli Satyam's residence in Alwal, where he paid tribute by placing a garland on a portrait of Rupadevi. He prayed to the Almighty for the peace of her

Accompanying KTR were Quthbullapur MLA Vivek, Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy, MLC Shambhipur Raju,



BRS working president KT Rama Rao consoling with MLA Medipalli Satyam who lost his wife

former MLA Balka Suman, and other senior party leaders.

### CPI threatens to organise agitation against coal

PNS HYDERABAD

CPI state secretary and Kothagudem Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao on Wednesday threatened to organise agitation and stage hunger strike in protest against the Centre's move to auction coal mines in Telangana.

Speaking to the media here on Wednesday, he said that former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao Mines and Minerals Bill 2015 in the Parliamen and thus facilitated the Centre to auction coal mines in Telangana.

Noting that BJP was too dangerous, he said that there was a need to be cautious, as one can't imagine Telangana without SCCL, as it provided direct and indirect livelihood to lakhs of people.

Alleging that Union coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy was part of



Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao

the conspiracy being hatched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sambasiva Rao appealed to the state government to be prepared to wage a struggle to pro-tect Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

He expressed the view that KCR has lost moral high ground to speak on the defection of BRS MLAs as he had engineered the defections when he was in

### We will give special attention to education, health sectors: Collector

PNS ■ NALGONDA

District Collector C Narayana Reddy said that special attention would be accorded to education and health sectors in rural areas.

On Wednesday, he reviewed poverty alleviation programmes with members of women self-help groups at the district federation building near Nalgonda.

He said that the State government has been giving a lot of importance to women's groups and as part of this, women's groups have been



Nalgonda District Collector C Narayana Reddy holding a review meetings in Nalgonda on Wednesday

given the responsibility of stitching uniforms for school students as well as managing canteens and other businesses.

He said that based on the resources, especially in Nalgonda district, zonewise units should be set up and grow through business. He stressed the need to encourage individual units.

He said that a business plan should be prepared for the success of the business. He said that though the women's groups of the district are already running programs

through units of agro-based products, dairies, Mee-Seva centers, Difficult Hiring Centers, Textiles, etc., there is a need to increase the quality as well as the targets in these works. He said that every economic programme undertaken should be implemented properly at the field level, he

Additional Collector of Local Bodies T. Purnachandra and RDO Nagi Reddy were

Women representatives par-

### 'Operation Gudumba' to check illicit brewing of arrack yields positive resultes

PNS NALGONDA

A 90-day action plan called, 'Operation Gudumba,' to check illicit brewing of arrack in 700 villages under 26 Excise Police Stations which commenced on June 1, has been yielding positive results.

The district administration chalked out the strategy to check the illicit brewing of arrack.

The illicit brewing of arrack, which was a cottage industry in villages and Agency areas, has been spreading its tentacles and spread from Adilabad and Kothagudem districts to other dis-

tricts like Nirmal, Mahbubnagar and Nalgonda. The smuggling of black jaggery has been taking place from Bidar in Karnataka, Khammam and Mahbubnagar. Since black jaggery is listed among the agricultural products, cases filed against those who smuggle black jaggery are not maintainable in courts. The Prohibition and Excise officials have been destroy-

ing jaggery wash. Besides registering cases against bootleggers, fines up to Rs 1 lakh are being imposed. In some other cases, Preventive Detention Act too is being invoked.

### One held, 19 stolen motorcycles recovered from him

**PNS** SIDDIPET

One town police arrested a vehicle lifter and recovered 19 vehicles and seized Rs 45,000 in cash from him, the police said on Wednesday.

The arrested was identified as Kummari Saikumar, 26, a resident of Dharmaram village in Makloormandal of Nizamabad district.

According to the Police Commissioner B Anuradha, on March 26, V Ravikumar lodged a complaint with the police that his motorcycle bearing registration number AP23G-2455 parked in front of his house was stolen.

The One-Town police investigated the case with the help of a CCS inspector Praveen Kumar. Additioanal DCP Mallareddy directed the teams to monitor vehicle lifting cases on daily basis. The special teams spotted a person moving under suspicious cir-cumstance near old bus station junction in the city and took him into custody and questioned him. He admitted to stealing vehicles.

In 2020, the Nizamabad rural police arrested him in theft cases and arrested him. Upon release from the jails, he resorted to vehicle thefts under Sultan Bazar, Pet Basheer Bagh and Dundigal police station limits and served time in Chanchalguda, Nizamabad

and Charlapalli jails. Upon release from jail in 2022, he resumed the theft of vehicles and stored the stolen vehicles at his house. On March 24, he lifted a vehicle parked in Ganesh Nagar of Siddipet, which was parked in front of a house. The police arrested him while he was proceeding via Siddipet on the stolen bike to sell the motorcycle. The police arrested him and recovred 19 stolen bikes and Rs 45,000 in cash.

The police commissioner complimented one town CI Lakshmi Babu, CCS inspector Praveen Kumar, one town SI Narasimha Rao, CCS staff Yadagiri, Kishan, Siddipet, one twon police staff Kanakaraju, Bhumalingam, Yadagiri, IT core constable Srikant and offered to reward them suitably.

#### Bengaluru court rejects bail plea of **Revanna in sexual harassment case**

Bengaluru court on Wednesday rejected the bail plea of former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing charges of rape and sexual harassment in multiple cases. The Additional City Civil and Sessions Court Judge had reserved his ruling on the plea on Monday and passed the orders today rejecting it. The 33-year-old is presently in the custody of the Special Investigation Team, formed to probe his alleged sex crimes.

Revanna was on Monday remanded to judicial custody till July 8, but a day later was sent to the SIT custody till June 29 by the Magistrate court judge, after the SIT sought a body warrant through the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP). Four separate cases have been registered against the grandson of former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, all of which are being investigated by the SIT. Revanna had failed in his bid to retain the Hassan parliamentary constituency in the recent polls



#### **Gender-neutral toilets at Kerala** college trigger social media debate

ender-friendly toilets that can be used irrespective of sex in a state-run college in Kerala have triggered a raging debate on social media platforms. The gender-neutral Kerala have triggered a raging debate on social literia places. The well-known toilets, which have been present for years on the campus of the well-known between the campus of debate, we have suddenly become a topic of debate, we Government Maharaja's College here, have suddenly become a topic of debate, with some netizens expressing support for the idea and others opposed. A recent Facebook

post by writer-columnist Ram Mohan Paliyath about his experience using the gender-friendly toilet during his visit to the campus initiated the debate on social media platforms. In the FB post, the writer, also an alumnus of the college, was all praise for the initiative and said it was the first time in the past 57 years that he was using such a facility. A large number of persons commented below his Facebook post, both supporting and opposing the gender-friendly toilets



#### **6 Assam Police personnel sentenced** to life imprisonment for murder

ix police personnel were on Wednesday awarded life imprisonment by a local court in Tinsukia district of Assam for heating one activities in the court in the cou Finsukia district of Assam for beating one person to death in an open market 11 years ago. Tinsukia District and Sessions Judge Dipankar Bora sentenced the six policemen to life term under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code. The incident dates back to October 7, 2013, when a person named Ajit Sonowal was beaten at Ambikapur market.

Subsequently, he was transferred to the Assam Medical College and Hospital in Dibrugarh for treatment. However, he had succumbed to his injuries. Sonowal's fathe filed an FIR at Sadiya Police Station on October 9, 2013. After a thorough investigation, the chargesheet was filed and the trial began in the Tinsukia District and Sessions Court. The court, considering the evidence, witness testimonies and the arguments presented by government advocate Ashok Chaudhary, found the six police personnel quilty.jk



## **EAM flags concern over impact** of Myanmar violence on India

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday conveyed to his Myanmarese counterpart U Than Shwe India's deep concern over the impact of violence and instability in Myanmar on Indian border and sought cooperation for early return of Indians trapped in Myawaddy town.

Jaishankar met Shwe, also Myanmar's deputy prime minister, as he transited New Delhi as part of a visit.

In a post on 'X' following the meeting, the external affairs minister said he pressed for "credible security" to India's ongoing projects in Myanmar and called for early return to the path of democratic transition in that country.

Jaishankar particularly pointed out the impact of continuing violence and instability in that country on the



Indo-Myanmar border.

Several parts of Myanmar have been witnessing intense fighting between the military junta and resistance forces. The resistance forces have already captured several towns.

The anti-junta forces seized control of several military bases and a command centre at Myawaddy in April.

In the meeting, Jaishankar also told Shwe that India is open to engaging all stakeholdMyanmar.

"Met with Deputy PM and FM of Myanmar U Than Shwe as he transited New Delhi today. Discussed our deep concern at the impact of continuing violence and instability in Myanmar on our border. India is open to engaging all stakeholders in addressing this situation," Jaishankar said on 'X'.

"Particularly flagged illegal narcotics, arms smuggling and trafficking in persons as priority challenges. Sought cooper-

trapped in Myawaddy," he said.

"Pressed for credible security protection for our ongoing projects in the country. Urged early return to the path of democratic transition in Myanmar. India stands ready to help in any manner," he added.

The resistance forces have already captured many key trading points along the borders with India, China and Bangladesh.

Myanmar has been witnessing wide-spread violent protests demanding restoration of democracy since the military seized power in the coup on February 1, 2021.

Rakhine state and many other regions have reported severe fighting between armed ethnic groups and the Myanmarese military since October last year.

Assam: Village panchayat secretary shot dead

PNS GUWAHATI

A village panchayat secretary was shot dead in Assam's Bongaigaon district on Wednesday, police said.

According to a police officer, two motorcycle-borne assailants fired at the village panchayat secretary from point-blank range in front of a tea stall at Kashidoba market in the afternoon.

"The victim had tea and was about to leave the shop. At that moment, the two attackers who were waiting there fired at him, killing him on the spot," the officer said.

He was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead, he added.

The deceased has been identified as Chandrakanta Das (55) and he was the secretary of Chipansila 'gaon' (village) panchayat, police said. Bongaigaon's District Commissioner Superintendent of Police have visited the site and taken stock of the situation.

### 'India won't see Emergency again in any circumstances'

PNS LUCKNOW

Remembering the Emergency imposed in the country in 1975, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Wednesday that in any circumstances such a day will not be witnessed in the country now.

Addressing the golden jubilee celebrations of Central Electronics Limited (CEL) in Ghaziabad district, Dhankhar said, "The country has never seen dense black clouds, which this day saw (in 1975). The biggest democracy of the world had gone in the dark in 1975. In any circumstances, India will not see such a day.

"We are strong. The foundation of Indian democracy has become so strong that there is democracy in villages, Nagar Palika and districts," he said.

On June 25, 1975, at midnight, the then President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed declared a state of Emergency in India following advice from



The country has never seen dense which this day saw (in 1975). The biggest democracy of the world had gone in the dark in 1975. In any circumstances, India will not see such a day

the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Dhankhar, who reached the CEL campus and planted a sapling first, said as Rajya Sabha Chairperson he has asked the MPs to plant 100

saplings.
"I follow this. I remember the prime minister on an occasion when I was planting a sapling here that 'Ma ke naam ek ped' (A sapling in the name of mother) should be

our mission because it will impact our lives," he said.

Hailing the work of CEL officials and employees, he said, "The world is changing very fast. We are on the cusp of another industrial revolu-

"It is required of us to focus incrementally on technological innovations. You are part of it and will move ahead in this regard," the vice president

### Not enough internal demand for satellite launch market in India yet: ISRO chairman

PNS NEW DELHI

ISRO Chairman S Somanath on Wednesday said there is not enough internal demand for the satellite launch market in India but it can be created through more work on the application of satellite technol-

Addressing the India Space Congress 2024, he said big companies are willing to enter the space sector but they are

concerned about the timeline for breaking even and securing orders. "When I talk

to many of those

industries who are willing to come and set up facilities, they are all very ready to do it. But they are asking when they are going to break

even and where the orders are so that they can safely invest in this. I think this is a big question "It is the bigger challenge of convincing investors to come

in a big way in big state pro-

jects," the leading space scien-

tist said. At a press conference on the sidelines of the Space Congress, he said, "We need to create more internal demand. That implies internal demand is not enough. All of us are working towards that. The demand will come from the

user side, from the communication segment, which, of course, includes big satellite builders.'

"We would like to find orbital slots and frequencies which can be given to indus-try to build satellites and launchers. This is the first demand. InSpace has already announced a funding plan to create a new earth observation constellation. That's again

another step towards creating nternal demand."

Somanath although the cost of accessing space decreased signifcantly globally,

largely due to SpaceX, India's rocket costs have not seen similar reduc-

Reducing costs could boost small satellite launches and attract new participants in the space sector, he said.

Somanath mentioned that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for Amrit Kaal includes extending human space activity beyond the Gaganyaan mission, with the goal of landing on the moon

However, he said India's current rockets are not sufficient for round trips to the

#### 3 suspected JeM terrorists killed in gunfight

PNS ■ BHADERWAH/JAMMU

Three terrorists, suspected to be affiliated with the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit, were killed in a gunfight that lasted for more than six hours in a forest area in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Wednesday, police office

A policeman was also injured in the gunfight that broke out in Bajaad village in the Gandoh area around 9:50 am amid an intensified cordon-and-search operation launched by the police, Army and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), following twin terrorist attacks in the hill district on June 11 and 12, the officials added.

Six security personnel were injured when terrorists attacked a joint check post at Chattargalla on June 11, while a policeman was hurt in a gunfight with terrorists at the Kota top in Gandoh the next

After the twin attacks, the security forces intensified their anti-terrorist operations and announced a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh each on information about four Pakistani terrorists believed to have infiltrated into the district.

During an operation in a village in Sinoo panchayat, the forces came under heavy fire from the terrorists hiding in a "dhok" (mud house) on a slope, the officials said.

### **NEET-UG IRREGULARITIES**

### JNU students detained for protesting at Jantar Mantar

PNS NEW DELHI

Over a dozen students were detained when the Jawaharlal Nehru University's students' union along with other outfits staged a protest at the Jantar re on Wednesday against the NEET-UG fiasco, police officials said.

The students demanded the scrapping of the NTA and the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan against the alleged irregularities in the medical qualifying examination. Scores of students belonging

to different outfits, including the Left-backed All India Students Association (AlSA)



and Delhi University's Krantikari Yuva Sangathan participated in the protest.

The students carried posters and placards, with slogans such as "Dharmendra Pradhan istifa do (Dharmendra Pradhan resign)" and "Scrap

NTA" written over them. They also demanded reexamination for the NEET-UG examination and ending the centralisation of exams. The protestors were detained because they were

protest for the entire night. However, according to a court's order, protests are not allowed at the Jantar Mantar beyond 5 pm, a police officer said.
"The students started

putting tents at the site to continue their protest for the entire night.

We had to detain them as it is not allowed to sit there (at Jantar Mantar) beyond 5 pm,

### Child trafficking racket busted in Karnataka with arrest of seven; five children rescued

PNS TUMAKURU (KARNATAKA)

The Karnataka Police busted a child trafficking racket, arresting seven persons and rescuing five children who were allegedly sold by the accused to child-Wednesday.

The matter came to light after a complaint was filed by a couple on June 9

alleging that their 11-month-old infant was allegedly kidnapped by some miscreants at night while they were asleep at their home in Gubbi taluk here, they

A special team was constituted to

rescue the kidnapped child and, acting on a tip off, accused Ramakrishna (53) and his accomplice Hanamantha Raju (45) who allegedly kidnapped the infant were arrested.

Based on information provided by them, a third accused Mahesh UD (39) who was previously working as a staff nurse at a government hospital in Kunigal was arrested. The accused allegedly sold the kidnapped infant to another accused, Mubarak, for Rs 1.75 lakh, a senior police officer said. Mubarak was also arrested and

Subsequently, 44-year-old the kidnapped 11-month-old

infant was rescued by the police,

Investigation has revealed that Mahesh used to find women who got pregnant out of wedlock and illicit relationships. He then got the children from such women and sold price of Rs two-three lakh per child, he added.

Another accused Mehboob

Sharif (52) who was also involved in the racket used to run a medical facility in the name of his wife at Huliyar worked as a pharmacist at a Primary Health Centre, the police

official said. 'Out of the nine children sold by the accused, five children have been rescued and one was found dead. Out of the rescued, one of them has been reunited with his family while the remaining four rescued children are currently at an adoption centre on the orders of the Child Welfare

(Tumakuru), said. Another accused, Poornima (39), who was a contract worker at a Primary Health Centre, and Soujanya (48), who was a staff nurse at a hospital, allegedly cooperated in selling the

Committee," Ashok K V, Superintendent of Police

### **Prez to address joint sitting of Parl today**

PNS NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu will address the joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, where she is expected to unveil the priorities of the newly-elected government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Murmu's address to the joint sitting of Parliament will also be the first after the constitution of the 18th Lok Sabha. The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha began on Monday and the 264th session of the Rajya Sabha will begin on June 27. The President will reach the Parliament in a

procession from the Rashtrapati Bhawan, escorted by the horse-mounted presidential bodyguards.

She will be received by Prime Minister Modi and the presiding officers of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha at the Gaja Dwar of the Parliament building from where she will be escorted to the Lower

House chamber with the traditional sceptre 'Sengol' in the lead.

According to Article 87 of the Constitution, the President is required to address a joint session of Parliament at the beginning of the session after each Lok Sabha election.

## 50% adults in India insufficiently physically active

PNS NEW DELHI

Almost 50 per cent of adults in India engaged in insufficient levels of physical activity in 2022, according to a study published in The Lancet Global Health journal.

Far more women in India (57 per cent) were found to be insufficiently physically active, compared to men (42 per cent), in line with trends across the South Asian region, the study found.

physical activity in women in the region were, on average, 14 per cent higher than those in men, it said.

The insufficient levels of

The South Asian region also ranked the second highest in terms of adults being insuffi-

ciently physically active after high-income Asia Pacific region, an international team of researchers, including those from the World Health Organization (WHO), said.

Globally, the authors found that about a third of the adults (31.3 per cent) were insufficiently physically active -defined as not performing at least 150 minutes of moderateintensity physical activity per week or 75 minutes of vigourous-intensity physical

ing in physical activity in 2010,

they found, and if the 2010-

2022 trends continued, the

authors said that the global tar-

get of improving physical activity engagement by 15 per cent activity per week. would not be met. This was up by five per cent from 26.4 per cent of the adults worldwide insufficiently engag-

In India, a little over 22 per cent of the adults engaged in insufficient physical activity in the year 2000, while in 2010, close to 34 per cent of the adults were insufficiently physically active, the researchers The team also found that

non-communicable diseases, They projected that in 2030,

trends continue. For the study, the researchers analysed data of physical activity reported by adults (aged at least 18 years) in population-

60 per cent of the adults could

be insufficiently engaging in

physical activity, should current

found.

based surveys to estimate the number of adults performing insufficient physical activity for 197 countries and territories from 2000 to 2022.

around the world, older adults, both men and women, aged 60 years and above, were increasingly engaging in insufficient physical activity. Physical inactivity is known to heighten risk of developing

the Constitution. including diabetes and heart disease. Rising levels of physical activity, along with an increasingly sedentary lifestyle, are contributing to increase in cases of these diseases and burdening healthcare systems around the world, according to the WHO.

### BJP-led NDA MPs, ministers protest against Congress over Emergency

PNS NEW DELHI

BJP MPs, including Union ministers, held a protest in the Parliament Complex on Wednesday, targeting the Congress over the imposition of Emergency in 1975 and demanding the opposition party's apology for violating

With the Congress and its allies in the INDIA bloc persistently targeting the Narendra Modi government for its alleged attack on constitutional values, the ruling alliance has sought to turn the tables by launching a frontal counterattack over the



Emergency issue against the backdrop of its 49th anniversary on June 25.

Soon after Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House after reading out a resolution condemning the imposition of Emergency and flaying then prime minister Indira Gandhi for her attack on the Constitution, a large number of BJP-led NDA MPs

assembled outside, carrying placards and raising slogans.

"Emergency ke liye Congress sharm karo" and 'emergency ke liye maafi mango" were among the slogans raised by them. Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Pralhad Joshi, Kiren Rijiju and Lalan Singh joined other MPs

in attacking the Congress.

BJP MP and the party's national spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "It is necessary to show the mirror to those who are talking about saving the Constitution and holding its copies in their hands. They were those who tried to erase the Constitution.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

### **Optimistic outlook**

Indian economy continues to grow despite facing hurdles like inflation and unemployment

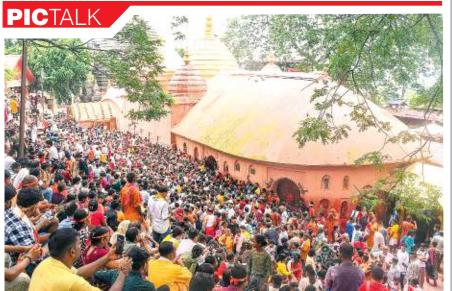
n his second term, Prime Minister Modi had given a call to make India a 'five trillion economy.' Though the dream is still to be realised, it gave a sense of direction and hope to India's entrepreneurs and stakeholders. But every goal has a meandering path one must negotiate to reach it. Indeed, as the world's fifth-largest economy, India continues to capture the attention of global investors and economists alike. It is a key player in the global economic landscape. However, several impediments need to be done away with to reach the goal. Recently, Shaktikanta Das, the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), expressed confidence in India achieving a 7.2 per cent GDP growth rate for the current fiscal year. This assertion is significant from the policy point of view and needs scrutiny of the factors contributing to this optimistic outlook. No doubt, India's economy has shown resilience in the face of various challenges, including the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and global geopolitical tensions. Several economic



indicators reveal a mixed yet promising picture. In recent years, the Indian economy has been touted as the fastest-growing economy in the world. The Indian economy has demonstrated robust growth in recent years, recovering from the pandemic. Its GDP grew by 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of FY 2023-24, indicating a strong economic momentum.

But on the downside, price rise and Inflation are a big cause of concern. Right now, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation stood at 4.6 per cent in May 2024, within the RBI's comfort zone of 4% ±2% which could be counted as a positive indication for the growth. Another grey area of the economy has been unem-

ployment. The unemployment rate remains a critical issue, with urban unemployment at 7.8 per cent and rural unemployment at 7.4 per cent in June 2024. Despite improvements, job creation in key sectors like manufacturing and services remains low. Jobs are essential for sustaining growth which is a red flag for growth right now. Sincere efforts need to be made to tackle this menace as it can mitigate all the positive indicators. On positive side, India continues to attract significant FDI, which totalled \$55.3 billion in the first half of 2024. Besides, the growth of the digital economy has had a good impact on the ease of doing business. India's digital economy is booming, with a projected value of \$1 trillion by 2025. Not to forget the contribution of India's young population which presents a significant demographic advantage. With over 50 per cent of its population under the age of 25, India has a large and dynamic workforce that can drive consumption and innovation. The confidence expressed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das in achieving a 7.2 per cent growth rate this year highlights the resilience and potential of the Indian economy. However, addressing the challenges of inflation, global economic uncertainties, and climate change will be crucial in ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth.



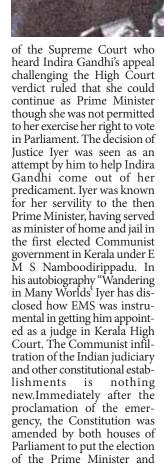
Devotees visit the Kamakhya temple that opened for prayers after the four days of Ambubachi Mela, in Guwahati

# The dark days of India's Emergency



This period saw the suspension of civil liberties and the censoring of the press leaving an indelible mark on the nation's political landscape

inashakale Viparith Budhi (Sanskrit for 'as doom approaches mind reverses') is what Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan told his friends when he was arrested and was being led off by the cops on 25th June 1975 after the proclamation of internal emergency across the nation by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Even members of her cabinet came to know about the proclamation of emergency from the next day's newspapers and the Akashwani bulletins.Jagmohan Lal Sinha, a judge of Allahabad High Court heard the election petition filed by socialist party leader Raj Narayan against Indira Gandhi alleging that she had violated all rules specified in the statute book while fighting the 1971 Lok Sabha election from Rae Barelli. There was a nationwide belief among the leaders of the opposition parties that chemically treated ballot papers were used in the election. These ballot papers were supplied by the then USSR and they bore the symbol of Congress(Indira) but remained invisible at the time of voting. It vas said that the voter's original mark would disappear after voting, and the Congress mark would appear. (Ref: Courting Destiny, A Memoir by Shanti Bhushan, who appeared for Raj Narayan in the case). But Shanti Bhushan decided not to go ahead with the charge of the fake ballot paper and preferred the allegation that Indira had misused government machinery in fighting the poll. The court was convinced of the charge that she had misused her position and power while fighting the poll. Justice Sinha set aside Indira's election and disqualified her for six years. But Sinha stayed his judgment to enable Indira Gandhi to appeal to the Supreme Court. Shanti Bhushan says in his memoirs that there had been several precedents before in which the election of sitting chief



This was the infamous 39th Amendment of the Constitution (which was later declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court). What happened during the Emergency is known to most of the literate people. State Governments not friendly to

President of India beyond the

powers of Courts with retro-

spective effect.

the Constitution. Press Censorship was imposed which made newspapers get prior sanction from censoring officers to publish news. To date, India has not experienced the kind of dictatorship that was in force during the days of internal emergency. The Constitution was distorted and misinterpreted while Courts of law were sterilized. The Preamble of the Constitution itself was amended unconstitutionally and

the Centre were summarily

dismissed making use of the

provisions under Article 356 of

terms like Socialism, secular-TO DATE, INDIA HAS ism and unity of the Nation NOT EXPERIENCED were inserted in it. This was done after putting all THE KIND OF opposition members of parlia-DICTATORSHIP THAT WAS IN FORCE **DURING THE DAYS** OF INTERNAL EMERGENCY. THE **CONSTITUTION WAS** DISTORTED AND MISINTERPRETED WHILE COURTS OF

LAW WERE

STERILISED

ment in prison under the DIR (Defense of India Rule 1962) and the Maintenance of Internal Security Act 1974, the statutes that gave power to the government to jail anyone daring to question Indira Gandhi's superiority. Lalu Prasad Yadav named his daughter Misa Bharati to commemorate his arrest under the said Act during the emer-

members are singing a paean the Nehru-Gandhi clan!Indira Gandhi and the Congress failed to learn anything from the drubbing they got for subverting the Constitution. In 1984, the Congress again derailed people's mandate by getting the N T Rama Rao-led TDP government in Andhra Pradesh dismissed and anointing a faction led by Bhaskara Rao as chief minister. But NTR succeeded in getting his chair back thanks to the initiative by the opposition parties that included Janata Party, BJP and anti-Indira forces. Rajiv Gandhi during his tenure as Prime Minister tried in vain to muzzle the media by attempting to enact a legislation "Defamation Bill" to curb any kind of reports against the Government. This had to be dropped midway through due to massive protests against

One has lost count of the number of times State governments were dismissed by the Congress-led Government at the Centre misusing the provisions of the Constitutions. B R Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution, was against the terms socialism and secularism for obvious reasons. Though we claim in the preamble of the Constitution that it was adopted on 26th November 1949, what we cover-up is the date on which Now Lalu and his family it was amended by including the terms socialism and secu larism in 1976. Congress pontificating the Constitution could be described as the devil

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

quoting the scripture.

### India will be a true welfare state when it eliminates discrimination



ministers had been set aside and

they stood disqualified for the

commission of corrupt practices

and the Courts had never grant-

ed a stay to them during the pendency of their appeals.V R

Krishna Iyer, the vacation judge

India's genuine progress will be reflected in its dedication to inclusivity, especially in upholding the dignity of individuals with disabilities

n the vibrant tapestry of India's democracy, the concept of a welfare state has been a cornerstone since its establishment. Embedded in the Constitution, the commitment to justice, equality, and the promotion of general welfare forms the foundation of India's identity. However, within this grand vision lies a harsh truth often neglected - the challenges faced by persons with disabil-

Despite the existence of legal frameworks like the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and international obligations such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the everyday experiences of disabled individuals paint a different pic-

In India, disability is not merely a physical or mental condition; it is a complex barrier that impedes access to basic rights and opportunities. From systemic discrimination to inadequate infrastructure, persons with disabilities face obstacles in every aspect of life. Essential areas like edu-



healthcare - the pillars of a welfare state - often remain inaccessible dreams for them. Education is frequently highlighted as a key to progress and empowerment. However, for many disabled students in India, quality education is an elusive reality. Despite the National Education Policy and the Right to Education Act, educational institutions often lack the necessary support systems and infrastructure to accommodate diverse needs. The disparity in the national enrolment average between disabled and nondisabled students is stark, with the national average for non-disabled students at 28.4% and less than 2% for disabled students. Government data from UDISE+ shows a dropout rate exceeding 75% for students with disabilities in high-

er education.

scenario for persons with disabilities is bleak. Despite efforts to promote inclusivity, the private sector remains ing concerns about productivity, costs, and a perceived lack Consequently, unemployment rates among the disabled population are disproportionately high, exacerbating their economic vulnerability and reliance on social welfare schemes.

Healthcare, another critical aspect of a welfare state, presents its own set of challenges for persons with disabilities. Limited access to specialized care, the high cost of assistive devices, and stigma within healthcare settings contribute to their marginalized status. Amidst these challenges, the notion of India as a welfare state falls short for millions of disabled citizens. The true measure of a welfare state lies not in lofty ideals or legislative frameworks alone but in tangible improvements in the lives of its most vulnerable members. It is crucial for the government, civil society, and the private sector to bridge the gap between rhetoric and

Similarly, the employment reality and ensure the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities. Firstly, disability should be viewed not as a deficit but as largely indifferent, often cit- a diversity that enriches the social fabric. Secondly, significant investment is needed in of talented resources. accessible infrastructure and services across sectors. From barrier-free buildings to inclusive technology, creating an environment that accommodates diverse abilities is essential for fostering equal participation. Proactive measures such as affirmative action policies, vocational training programs, and sensitization initiatives for employers are necessary.

To achieve a truly inclusive society, concerted efforts are needed on multiple fronts. India's journey towards becoming a welfare state must prioritize the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. Disability should not be an afterthought but an integral part of policy and decision-making processes.

(The writer is the assistant program manager at the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People; views are personal)

#### **SUBSTANCE OVER SPECTACLE**

Madam — The Prime Minister's call for consensus underscores his commitment to respecting the people's mandate. It is now imperative for the Opposition, especially the INDIA bloc, to collaborate with the Prime Minister. In the previous Lok Sabha, minimal opposition hindered effective governance due to disarray among opposing parties. The unity demonstrated by the INDIA alliance resonated with voters, who expect them to serve as a robust check-and-balance in Parliament. Despite ideological differences and occasional conflicts, their parliamentary performance should mirror the electorate's expectations. The Prime Minister rightly stresses the need for decisive actions over theatrics, aligning with the public's demand for effective governance amidst concerns like unemployment and inflation. Despite ambitious promises such as curbing black money and promoting initiatives like Make-in-India and Viksit Bharat, tangible improvements in people's lives remain scarce. The central government must prioritize substance over spectacle to effectively address these pressing chal-

Vijaykumar H K | Raichur

#### THE MENACE OF DRUG ABUSE

Madam — Drug abuse and the illegal drug trade have grown into serious, intractable problems. Substance use disorder affects all age groups, but it is particularly prevalent among the youth. The United Nations observes the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (IDADAIT) on June 26 to highlight the grave dangers posed by drugs. Drug awareness campaigns are central to addressing these issues. A society's socioeconomic status cannot be improved with unhealthy and unproductive members, which is why the dangers of drug abuse are numer-

### **Record crop but prices rising**

HE EDITO



very year, food grain production in India reaches new record levels, yet retail prices continue to climb. In the 2023-24 period, rice production reached a record high of 1.367 lakh tonnes, and wheat production also hit a record

with 1,129 lakh tonnes. Despite these increases. the government's Department of Consumer Affairs reports that retail wheat prices have risen by about 6%, with rice prices increasing even more sharply. Additionally, the prices of pulses have seen a significant spike over the past year. This paradox of high production and rising prices is largely due to low procurement. As of June 2024, the wheat stock in the central pool stood at 299.05 lakh tonnes, a 5% decrease from June 2023, when it was 313.88 lakh tonnes. This year, the wheat procurement target was set at 310 lakh tonnes, but only 260.71 lakh tonnes were procured. This shortfall threatens to destabilize the entire government-run procurement system, which could lead to cascading effects on the Public Distribution System (PDS) and ultimately cause further

escalation in market prices of food items. **SK Khosla** | *Chandigarh* 

often linked to crime. The United tioned that the temple's roof lacks ade-Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) monitors global drug addiction trends. Making healthy choices and valuing oneself can significantly reduce the risk of drug abuse, which has been recurring theme of the UN on IDADAIT. Unfortunately, substances like cannabis, cocaine, and heroin are easily accessible in many countries due to lax laws, and their medicinal and recreational benefits are often overstated, overshadowing the harmful consequences of their use. A strong bond between parents and children can help mitigate the risk of drug abuse in the younger generation.

Ganpathi Bhat | Akola

#### **ROOF LEAKAGE AT RAM TEMPLE**

Madam — It's disheartening to note that just five months after the inauguration of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya, the newly constructed Ram Mandir experienced leaking from ous. its roof following heavy rainfall. Head priest Acharya Satyendra Das men-

quate drainage, exacerbating the issue.It raises questions about the rush to inaugurate the temple before completion, possibly driven by electoral considera-

This incident echoes a trend where everything, from examination papers to infrastructure like the Pragati Maidan underpass, seems to suffer under the Modi-led NDA government. Unlike ancient Indian temples that stood for centuries due to devotion rather than political expediency, the Modi government's haste in inaugurating the temple without ensuring its readiness for the monsoon season is evident. The leaking roof of a globally renowned temple raises serious concerns. Fortunately, after senior officials were alerted, Nripendra Mishra, chairman of the temple construction committee, promptly instructed repairs

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

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### **FIRST COLUMN**

### **BENEFITS OF REMAINING** IN SHELTER OF GOD

By seeking refuge in the divine, we can navigate the complexities of life with ease



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Il of us wish for a pleasant life ('theek chale'). But we don't know how. We try different unings, but something of calc. My wrong. Is it an impossible dream? No, it is not. God, being very how. We try different things, but something or other keeps on going merciful, has indicated how this can be alone. Lord Krishna guides, "This 'maya' (illusory energy) of Mine is divine and very difficult to overcome. Only those, who take shelter in Me, they are able to transcend this maya." (7.14) We get in trouble repeatedly because we are naturally attracted to harmful sense objects. Useful sense objections are fine but how do you know which these are? God gives this intelligence if we remain in His shelter, just like a mother stops her little child from harming himself.God is that eternal mother for us.

Lord Krishna informs, "After efforts of many births, a yogi in the end becomes wise, and he takes My shelter. A great soul, who considers Lord Vasudeva thus everything is very rare." (7.19) We can get started on this journey beginning from now and God will begin to protect us. We must allow some time for it as instructed by Lord Krishna, "Steadfast in yoga, such people while always glorifying Me and endeavouring, having firm vows worship Me with devotion, offering obeisance." (9.17) Then, what happens? God promises, "These people, who worship Me with undivided attention, meditating on Me, for these practitioners of yoga, I help in getting what one does not have and provide security of what one has." (9.22) We get started and God gets started. It is that simple. Then, what happens? Lord Krishna states, "Fix your mind in Me only; engage your intelligence in Me; thus hereafter you will remain in Me only; there is no doubt about this." (12.8) We get to live in God.

What does this mean? God takes care of us as our mother. Our lives will be micromanaged. One will benefit like one can never imagine, because, as indicated earlier, God is everything, not helpless like our bio-



logical mother. Over some time our consciousness will change, as detailed by Lord Krishna, "Through consciousness offering all activities to Me; practising buddhi-yoga, having taken My shelter be always in My consciousness." (18.57) Our consciousness, which otherwise is essentially material will change to God consciousness; it will turn spiritual. When this happens, a big change will take place in our lives, as explained by Lord Krishna, "Having My consciousness, you will cross all impediments by My 'kripa' (grace)." (18.58) In the same verse, Lord Krishna warns, "If you will not heed on account of feeling of being the doer, you will

This is what normally happens to us human beings. We must curb our egos; God and ego do not go together. Can you imagine what privileged status we would have achieved if we heed God's instructions? Life will become smooth (theek chalegi). We will wholeheartedly take shelter in God, as instructed by God. In all respects take shelter of God only. We neither get any peace nor liberation at some stage in our eternal journey due to our refusal to surrender to God. We will do so now. What will we do then? We will follow God's instructions as detailed in verse #18.65, which is, "Develop My consciousness; become My devotee; make sacrifices for Me; and offer obeisance to Me. You will attain Me only. This I truly promise to you, because you are dear to Me."

The last verse sheds light on the biggest benefit of all, in which the Lord promises, "Take My shelter only; I shall release you from all sins. Do not worry." (18.66) Why do we get repeatedly in trouble? Why are we always worried? Because our bad karmaphalas keep on manifesting. Now what will happen? They will make their appearance and God will forgive us, and we will not be troubled much. This is like being liberated while still in our material bodies. This is simply unbelievable to even think about. I won't stop trying to remain in the shelter of God as much as possible as fast as convenient.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

# A young mother becomes a symbol of hope



SWAPNA MAJMUDAR

Arti, a child bride whose education was cut short, now shines as a local hero, transitioning from e-rickshaw driver to Amal Clooney Award winner, embodying resilience and empowerment



er face is bathed in sweat and her hair is dishevelled. But neither the scorching June heat nor the humidity can wear down the wide smile on Arti's face. Even the power cut at the Aga Khan Foundation's Project Lehar Centre, where she has been coming for entrepreneurial training, cannot dim her joy. She has just admitted her young daughter to one of the top English medium schools in Bahraich district in Uttar Pradesh.

This is a dream come true for the 19year-old single mother whose own education came to an end after being married off as a child. What has made this feat even more special for her is that it was the school that expressed keenness to admit her four-year-old daughter. The telephone call from its founder inviting her to fill out the form came soon after Arti was returning from the school having been told admissions for the session were closed. While the call and offer to waive all tuition fees came as a big surprise to Arti, it was not totally unexpect-

Ever since Arti, an e-rickshaw driver, hit the national headlines for winning the prestigious Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award in May this year, she has become a celebrity in Bahraich. Given to young women around the world in recognition of their determination and ability to overcome challenges and make a difference, the international award has catapulted Arti from being just another pink e-rickshaw driver to the official brand ambassador for women's empowerment in Bahraich, an aspirational district with low socio-

economic indicators. The buzz around her has been non-stop since her return from London where she went to receive the award from the King's Trust International founded by King Charles. There has been unrelenting attention by local and national media to know more about her remarkable jour-



WHEN THE TEAM MET ARTI, SHE WAS LIVING WITH HER MOTHER IN RISIA BLOCK HAVING LEFT AN ABUSIVE MARRIAGE, ARTI DIRECTIONLESS. MARRIED AT 13 AND A MOTHER AT 14, ARTI LACKED **BOTH SKILLS AND** CONFIDENCE

ney, including her ride in a pickrickshaw to meet King Charles at the award reception in Buckingham Palace. She has also been publicly felicitated by top leaders and officials of the district. But all this would have never been possible had Arti not met the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) Project Lehar team. Instituted to provide vocational training, entrepreneurship, and life skills courses to marginalised young women, Project Lehar run by AKF in partnership with The King's Trust International, enables girls and young women from disadvantaged backgrounds to learn, earn, and thrive. When the team met Arti, she was living with her BAHARAICH'S mother in Baharaich's Risia block Having left an abusive marriage, Arti was directionless. Married at 13 and a mother at 14, Arti lacked both skills and confidence. On her mother's insistence, she agreed to join Project Lehar. Little did she know that her life was about to change.Not far away, in Lauki, another village in the same block a young widow with three children was struggling to make two ends meet after the death of her husband. She was only 20 when she came in touch with the Lehar team.

Left to fend for her children alone, Bitti wanted to do something other than supporting her family as a daily wager and registered for the project. Here she would meet Megha, Saira Bano and Bhagyalakshmi, all young widows with similar backgrounds and living in difficult circumstances. Fate was about to give these four and Arti a collective second chance at life.In June 2023, when Seema Shukla Project

Coordinator, state programme

manager Sudhir and the AKF team were mulling over the possibility of teaching them to drive and using this skill as a means of livelihood on the lines of the popular Sakha cabs driven by only women, it was Monika Rani, the dynamic Bahraich district magistrate, who turned this idea into

"We were considering how to make the girls economically self sufficient and hit upon the idea of launching the pink e-rickshaw initiative under the government Mission Shakti scheme to empower women and expand their income earning opportunities. We wanted to give single mothers, widows and women separated from their husbands the first chance to come out of the house, increase their mobility and regain their confidence," says Monika Rani. So on October 2, 2023, these five girls were chosen as the first recipients of a batch of 10 girls from Project Lehar to be given the pink e-rickshaws under this innovative scheme.

A loan of Rs 1.66 lakh was provided and repayable in 38 months at an EMI of Rs 4500. Since then, there has been no looking back. Not only have the women paid eight instalments already, but they are also transforming their lives. From eating just one meal a day, Saira Bano can now give her children proper nutritious food. "I have seen days where my two children and I ate just namak

and roti. Now I earn enough to fulfill every need of my children. I want to do better so that I can build my own house and get an electric connection so that my children don't have to study under a lamp and I don't have to pay to charge

confidence Bitti has gained has given her the courage to demand her right to the family land. She has filed a case in the civil court and wants her father-in-law to put her deceased husband's share in her son's name. "I am paying the fees for the lawyer from the money I earn as a e-rickshaw driver. I never thought I would be able to take such a big step," reveals Bitti. Bhagyalakshmihas opened a tiny kiosk selling biscuits, sweets and pencils for her mother from her earnings. "I want to expand my business. My dream is to make my elder daughter a doctor and the younger one a policewoman. When my income increases I will shift them to an English medium school. I want my children to have a bright future,' she says. For Megha too, the e-rickshaw has been life-changing. "I am happy because my economic situation has changed for the better. Now I can give my children better food. I have admitted the two children to private English medium school and can the monthly fee of Rs 250 for both of them Education will ensure they never have to live on charity like I did." While association with Project Lehar and the opportunity to become self-reliant thanks to the pink e-rickshaws has turned their lives around, it has been their confidence that has helped them hold their heads high in a maledominated profession.

my e-rickshaw," shares Saira. The

This is inspiring other village women to step out of their homes and fulfil their dreams.

(Swapna Majumdar is a journalist writing on development and gender. The views are expressed are personal)

### Battling the heat and hatred: The ongoing fight for LGBTQIA+ rights

There is widespread violence against women and LGBTQIA+ individuals, fueled by a deeply ingrained prejudices against 'transgressive' love

Be-Loved - Celebrating Pride Month through TheatreKhushi Pahuja In the scorching heat of June 2024, I, along with a lesbian couple, have been shuttling from police station to police station, all to protect their fundamental rights to life and equality. The constant torment for the three of us stems from society's disdain for 'transgressive' love and an unquestioned acceptance of violence against women by family members. Familial and domestic violence is perpetuated and reinforced each time someone scrutinizes and polices one's queerness through one's body. Hope often dwindles with seemingly unending cycles of individ-



KHUSHI PAHUJA

community members like Prerna (name changed), a 23year-old lesbian woman says, We are investing so much money, time, and energy for protecting my rights, is it even worth it? Will things ever change?" In the face of such questions, social workers not only provide a safe listening space and support in bureaucratic procedures; but also hope, and perseverance lay the foundational stones for advocacy, action, and change. One history of hope is that of Pride Month. Each Year, June is celebrated as pride month around the globe, commemorating the Stonewall Uprising.

On June 28, 1969, like many other days in New York City, the police raided a small bar called the Stonewall Inn. Taking advantage of the laws against crossdressing, the police would raid bars to arrest queer and transgender persons. When the same happened at Stonewall Inn, the people protested. Days of riots against police brutality acted as a catalyst for the LGBTQIA+ rights movement. Following ual, systemic, and systematic share the responsibility of this, the movement for Loved is a musical and satiri- Maya Sharma and Saleem violence. Especially, when holding on to the beacon of LGBTQIA+ rights has cal drama directed by Sapan Kidwai. Recalling the journey this, the movement for

hope. History reminds us that expanded, bringing relief to many within the community. Various events like theatre, music, poetry, sensitisation programs, etc. happen during June all over the world, including India.

Such programs are particularly important as they present possibilities for intersectional dialogue through non-conventional sensitisation methods. An example of this approach is 'Be-Loved', a theatre play by Mumbai-based Theatre Group 'Tamaasha', which was recently co-organized by Nazariya Foundation and SAATHII (Solidarity and Action Against The HIV Infection in India) on June 9 at the Bipin Chandra Pal Auditorium in Delhi. Be-



Saran and penned by 17 prominent writers, including artist Bhupen Khakhar, poet Josh Malihabadi, and LGBTQIA+ rights activists Maya Sharma and Saleem

of making this play, Sapan shares, "Be-Loved is a collaborative effort. It took us about three months to put it together. We opened the play last year in June after rigorous rehearsal

for 45 days." "The play dealt with a very sensitive issue with a lot of care, especially in a context where talking about sex and sexuality is a taboo. They emphasize, You cannot forget about the issue once you have seen this play. It forces you to think and reflect when you come out of the theater hall." Resonating with this perspective, Urvashi Butalia, feminist publisher and writer says, "The play took stories on queerness by many writers and connected them with real life cases. People can dismiss stories, but it is difficult to dismiss lived realities."

Rituparna Borah (she/they), Director, Nazariya Foundation pens, "Events like this are the best ways to show to the world that advocacy can be done in various ways either through UN mechanisms, through the government, or plays like this. With collective power we can challenge any hate, discrimination, and violence against the queer-trans community." Such events help us to reach an audience that is generally not approachable for training sessions, or for whom training sessions are not accessible. Therefore, when we engage with allies through well-accepted mediums like theater, music, etc., the muchneeded information gets conveyed to a huge audience," adds Randhoni Lairikyengbam, Assistant Director, SAATHII.

The echoing sentiments of audience members about how the play moved them to highlight the importance of collective efforts toward sensitization using multiple advocacy mediums. It restores hope that change is possible when we create spaces where people can critically reflect on their actions, thoughts, and behaviour, and feel part of the collective. Pride Month, therefore, is not only a time to celebrate queerness and advocate for LGBTQ+ rights but also an opportunity to look back into history and remind ourselves of the perseverance of those who fought for the rights and then move into the future with hope, care, and kindness. (The author is a social worker and a sexuality educator; views are personal. Charkha Features)

### **Vedanta Resources to sell** 2.6 % stake in Indian unit

edanta Resources will sell a 2.6 per cent stake in its Mumbai-listed mining conglomerate to cut debt and support growth plans, the firm said on Wednesday. Vedanta Resources will Sell the stake through its unit Finsider International, which held a 2.63 per cent stake in Vedanta Ltd. "Finsider International Company Ltd, a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Ltd (VRL), has accepted a proposal from one of its banks yesterday evening to sell 2.6 per cent shareholding in Vedanta Limited to a

group of reputed Institutional inves tors," a company spokesperson said. Post the repayments made from money garnered from this transaction. Vedanta Resources would have reduced its debt by over USD 650 million since the start of the current fiscal year in April. Stock exchange data showed 18.5 crore shares of Vedanta Ltd changing hands in a block deal. The number of shares that changed hands in the block deal amount may be worth Rs 7,967.8 crore



### **Zee Media board approves** fundraise of up to Rs 200 cr

rivate news broadcaster Zee Media on Wednesday said it has plans to raise up rivate news proadcaster Zee Media on Wednesday said it has plans to rais to Rs 200 crore from an issue of equity shares or other eligible securities through various modes. The company's board in its meeting held on through various modes. The company's board in its meeting held on Wednesday "granted its approval for exploring available options for raising of funds" through all permitted instruments, according to a regulatory filing from Zee

Media. The approval is "for an amount not exceeding Rs 200 crore, in one or more tranches" which will be subject to approvals from shareholders/ regulatory and statutory approvals, it added. The company will explore the issuance of equity shares or preference shares. It will also explore other eligible securities, including by way of private placement or qualified institutions placement or preferential issue



### Gold down Rs 250; silver tumbles Rs 900

Gold prices declined Rs 250 to Rs 72,300 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid fall in precious metal rates globally, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had settled at Rs 72,550 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver also tumbled Rs 900 to Rs 90,600 per kg. It had closed at Rs 91,500 per kg on Tuesday. "In Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) are trading at Rs 72,300 per 10

grams, down by Rs 250 from the previous close," Saumil Gandhi, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities, said. In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,316 per ounce, down USD 8 from the previous close. Gold came under pressure following the latest hawkish comments from a Federal Reserve policymaker, which dashed investors' hopes of an impending shift to monetary



## India's spectrum auction fetches over Rs 11,300 cr

PNS NEW DELHI

India's spectrum auction concluded within a few hours of bidding on day-2, with telcos buying over Rs 11,300 crore worth of radio waves in all, which is just 12 per cent of the Rs 96,238 crore minimum value that government had estimated for the spectrum on

The auction, where a total of 10 GHz of spectrum ranging between 800 MHz to 26 GHz was placed on the block, fetched total bids worth Rs 11,340 crore, sources with knowledge of the matter said. In all, only 140-150 MHz are estimated to have been sold in seven rounds. Five rounds of bidding hap-

pened on the opening day on June 25, but Wednesday did not see much action, leading to officials declaring the end of the auction at around 1130 hrs. The 2024 auction - that was



The auction, where a total of 10 GHz of spectrum ranging between 800 MHz to 26 GHz was placed on the block, fetched total bids worth Rs 11,340 crore, sources with knowledge of the matter said. In all, only 140-150 MHz are estimated to have been sold in seven rounds

held after a gap of nearly two years - saw radio waves in 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz,

2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300 MHz and 26 GHz

On expected lines, the auction this time around has been low-key as market watchers had anticipated limited bidding, with telcos primarily focusing on spectrum renewals, and selective sprucing up on radio waves for boosting their coverage.

Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea (VIL) are vying for the radio waves that support high-speed mobile services, in these auctions.

The operator-wise breakup of the bids, or exact amount that telcos dished out individually, is not immediately clear and will be known once an

official announcement comes. As per the day-one spectrum auction report issued by the Department of Telecom on Tuesday evening, bidding took place mainly in the 900 and 1800 MHz bands. The operator also placed bids for the 2100 Mhz band spectrum in



#### SBI General Insurance appoints Naveen as MD & CEO

PNS NEW DELHI

SBI General Insurance Company on Wednesday announced the appointment of Naveen Chandra Jha as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.

He was nominated by the parent company, State Bank of India, for the position. He succeeds Kishore Kumar Poludasu. Jha has been associated with the State Bank of India since 1994 and has held several key positions during his tenure. Prior to his current role at SBI General Insurance, Jha served as Deputy Managing Director of SBI.



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will require an additional 1.7-3.6 GW data centre capacity by 2028, over and above 2.32 GW capacity already under construction and planning stage, to meet growing demand, according to Cushman & Wakefield.

Real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield on Wednesday released a report 'Is India Building Enough to Power Digital Transformation?'

The report conservatively estimates the potential data centre capacity India will require to align with other major economies. There will be a requirement of an additional 1.7-3.6 GW data centre capacity, over and above the planned development of 2.32

GW Colo capacity.
At the end of 2023, India's installed colocation (Colo) data centre capacity stood at 977 MW (IT load). About 258 MW came in 2023 across its top seven Indian cities.



This is a formidable number and surpassed the capacity addition in 2022, which stood at 126 MW, the report said.

The consultant noted that at over 19GB, Indians have been the highest consumers of data per month among comparable

Despite this, India today lags in internet and smartphone penetration, reflecting the scale and extent that the data centre segment is headed

India's current under-construction Colo capacity addition stands at 1.03 GW for 2024-2028, with an additional 1.29 GW being planned, taking the total projected capac-

ity to 3.29 GW by 2028. This exponential growth is propelled by a confluence of factors, including a significant increase in data consumption fueled by rising digital penetration and adoption of data-intensive technologies, the consultant said.



### Unleashing AI for next wave of enterprises' productivity is a big challenge: Nilekani

PNS NEW DELHI

Unlike AI uses for consumers, the next generation technology for enterprises will unfold over several years and the biggest challenge is to unleash AI for next wave of productivity for businesses, Infosys chairman Nandan M Nilekani said on Wednesday.

While speaking at 43rd annual general meeting (AGM) of Infosys, Nilekani said the initial AI doomerism has quietened down and people have accepted that, like any other general-purpose technology -- electricity, nuclear energy, the internet etc, gen AI (generative artificial intelligence) has enormous potential for good when advanced within the guardrails of respon-

"World is at very early stage of AI development. Unlike consumer Al which will roll out quickly...enterprise AI will take several years to unfold. Infosys is well positioned for that. The pace at which

everything around us is evolving is dizzying. A big challenge of our time is to unleash AI for the next wave of productivity for enterprises. We have had a head start on that journey and are keen to share the learning and value with our clients," Nilekani said.

He said that the rise of powerful open-source AI models has also accelerated the deployment of AI to solve tough business and societal challenges.

### Markets on record rally; Sensex, Nifty settle at new all-time high levels Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata

PNS MUMBAI

Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for the third straight session and ended at their fresh alltime high levels on Wednesday and buying in Reliance Industries.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 620.73 points or 0.80 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 78,674.25. During the day, it rallied 705.88 points or 0.90 per cent to hit a fresh all-time high of 78,759.40.

Nifty went up by 147.50 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at a record closing peak of 23,868.80. Intra-day, it surged 168.6 points or 0.71 per cent to



hit the fresh lifetime high of 23,889.90.

In the past three days of rally, investors' wealth have risen by Rs 2.53 lakh crore. Among the 30 Sensex companies, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma, Adani Ports, Axis Bank, NTPC and Bajaj Finance were the biggest

Steel, Tech Mahindra and JSW Steel were among the laggards.

"The domestic market hit a new peak, bolstered by a rally in large-cap stocks, where the contrast, mid and smallcap stocks saw profit-taking due to valuation concerns. Currently, the financials & consumption stocks are catching up driven by improved balance sheets, a strong GDP growth forecast, and softening inflation.

"Global market sentiments reflected similar trends, with a consensus on imminent rate cuts," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial



### Economy expected to achieve higher than 7 per cent growth: NCAER

PNS NEW DELHI

India's economy will grow higher than 7 per cent, even closer to 7.5 per cent, in the current fiscal on the back of expectations of above normal monsoon and absence of any known global risks so far, economic think tank NCAER said in its monthly review.

It said high-frequency indicators reveal that the domestic economy has remained resilient and growth projections for 2024-25 have also been revised upward by all the agencies.

The range of projections for India for the current fiscal year is between 7.2 and

6.2 per cent, NCAER said. NCAER director general Poonam Gupta said, "GDP growth during 2024-25 may turn out to be higher than 7 per cent and even closer to 7.5 per cent." This outlook is under-

pinned by the buoyancy in economic activity witnessed in the first quarter, a keen policy focus on investment, growth, and macroeconomic stability and the expecta-tions of normal monsoon, Gupta added.

With inflation seemingly having peaked, monetary policy is unlikely to be tightened any further, she

### **SEZ** developers can install solar power panels under existing norms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry has asked development commissioners of SEZs to consider requests of developers of these special economic zones for installation of solar power panels under the existing SEZ guidelines for power generation, transmission and distribution norms.

In a communication to the Development Commissioners (DCs) of all special economic zones (SEZs), the Department of Commerce said that various requests have been received from EPCES (Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs)

as well as SEZ developers for installation of solar power panels as capital goods in



these zones for solar power generation for captive use. "The matter has been exam-

ined in consultation with DGEP, CBIC. Accordingly, the DCs are requested to consider such requests from developers/codevelopers" under the power guidelines issued on February 16, 2016 by the department, the communication said.

The Directorate General of Export Promotion (DGEP) is an extended arm of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). Under those guidelines, a power plant, including non-conventional energy power plant, to be set up by developer/codeveloper in an SEZ as part of an infrastructure facility will be in the non-processing area of the SEZ only.

### Narrowing trade deficit, rise in remittances aid current account surplus: CRISIL

PNS KOLKATA

India's current account surplus in the fourth quarter of the 2023-24 fiscal was aided by narrowing of the merchandise trade deficit, an increase in remittances and a surplus in services trade, according to a CRISIL report released on Wednesday.

The country's current account recorded a surplus of USD 5.7 billion, which is 0.6 per cent of the GDP, in the fourth quarter of the last financial year.

It was in deficit of USD 8.7 ter of the 2023-24 fiscal, the billion, equivalent to one per cent of GDP, in the third quar-



In the corresponding fourth

quarter of 2022-23, the country's current account was also in deficit of USD 1.3 billion, which was 0.2 per cent of the

The improvement in current account balance to 0.6 per cent of GDP surplus in Q4 fiscal 2024, from a deficit of 0.2 per cent of GDP a year ago reflects improvement on all three fronts i.e. merchandise trade deficit narrowed, services trade surplus increased and remittances rose," the

CRISIL report said.
Financial flows also increased leading to accretion in foreign exchange reserves during the fourth quarter amounting to USD 30.8 billion, it said. The country's foreign reserves, as of June 14, 2024,

stood at USD 652.9 billion.

The report said even though the FDI inflows continued, there has also been a rise in outward FDI, leading to a reduction in net flows, the report said

Healthy momentum in goods exports and expected moderation in imports suggest that the current account deficit (CAD) is likely to remain manageable this financial year (2024-25) as well.

Strong external buffers are crucial at this juncture because of global risks stemming from geopolitical uncertainties, tariff and trade wars have heightened, the report added.

#### Participatorynote investment surges to Rs 1.49 L cr

PNS NEW DELHI

Investments through participatory notes in the Indian capital markets rose to Rs 1.49 lakh crore at the end of March from the previous year's level driven by a strong domestic macroeconomic outlook.

The latest data includes the value of P-note investments in Indian equity, debt, and hybrid securities. Participatory notes (P-notes) are issued by registered foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly.

### GREATER TYPE AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATION "E" PROCUREMENT SHORT TENDER NOTICE NIT No. 62 / DDIVET) CR2/GHVC/2624-35. Dt. 26.06.2024 Name of the Work: Lifting and safe disposal of dead animals including small & large from the Charminer Zone, GHWC to the CUC., Estimated Amount: Rs. 21,18,641.00, Start date/ Last date & time for recorpts of Bids: 27.06.2024 @ 10.00 A.M. to 01.07.2024 upto 10.00 A.M. Name & Address Officer Cell No. : Depote Director Veteriores Section Objection 10.30 A.M., Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Deputy Director, Veterinary Section, Old Zonal Commissioner, Phoologh, Charminar Zone, G.H.M.C., Ph. No. 998990397 Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Deputy Director (Ver R.O.No: 1172-PP/CL/ADV1/1/2824-25, Dt. 26-06-2924

is' Procurement Notice No.035EPH/TUPIDC/Unit-NWIMCNIT/0034-25/247 Dt-25.06.2924 effective for the Committee of the Committee Bird Down Load Start Date: 28.06.2824 and End Date: 06.07.2024 (Package 1 8-4) Bid Devn Load Start Date: 28.08.200 and Date: 12.87.3004(Package 28.5) white details can be seen @ e-procurement market place i.e. www.tender.te any further chartforcher required, please contact office of the superintending IFIDC, UNIT -IV Warongal DIPR No. 44-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
WOMEN DEVELOPMENT AND CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT
E-TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT Note No. 1460/ICDS-ECCE/2024,

E-Tenders are invited for procurement and supply of Chowkis, Book Rack and Play Mats to the Anganwadi Centres for during 2024-25 from 27.06.2024 to 08.07.2024 from the reputed manufacturers and recognized concerned companies. For other details you can visit the following website: https://tender.telangana.gov.in Phone No.: 040-23733848, Mail ID: comm-wdcw@telangana.gov.in R.O.No. 1181-PPICLIADVT11/2024-25, Dt. 26:86:2024

# the pioneer erabad

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> Thursday June 27, 2024



SHRADDHA NEWARE

ith an aim to protect the interest and welfare of the hospitality industry, Hotels and Restaurant Association of Telangana State, takes lead role as a single voice organisation representing the hotel and restaurant industry of the Telangana state. Originally, it was founded by a group of

hoteliers who wanted to combine various hotels for their mutual advantage and to safeguard their interests. The association was founded as a joint body that included the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, according to Pankaj Sampat, who is the president of the association currrently. The executive committee

member Pradeep Kumar Dutt, who has been involved with the association for a long time, then talks to us about the goal: "It was started by a group of seven hotels to address concerns related to the hospitality industry. Issues pertaining to various hotels were deliberated upon and escalated to the government's level of power. The problems were resolved more quickly back then as many hotels involved."

The organisation has around 106 members includ-

**HRATS**, which represents **Telangana's hotel and** restaurant sector, has been promoting the sector's advancement. The Pioneer engages in conversation with association members, offering insights into their objectives and undertakings.

> ing, earlier seven. Members are from various restaurants, three-star, fourstar, five-star and five-star deluxe hotels and resorts, as of now and has exponentially grown. Stating the need to start this organisation, he further says, "The city was growing and hotels were coming hotels were coming up. Business travelling was increasing. People who were travelling to Hyderabad from outstation, they wanted a place within their budget to stay. Hotels came up and the need to ct their interests through the organisation

was of importance." He shares that there is a constant participation in terms of the way forward as



to how they keep on improving the overall tourism footprint in Telangana. Executive Committee members also meet regularly to understand what is happening around and discuss burning issues.

Meanwhile the president in the same call shares, "It is not just the members' issues, but industry issues that we take up with the local government here. As the president of HRATS, you are also on the governing council of two national colleges Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) Hyderabad as well as National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management."
The organisation is in a bid to attain industry status for the state of Telangana. The president talks to us about the organisation's struggles in this regard, "There are already eleven states that have granted industry status to the hospitality industry. We had pre-pared a paper on this as to why the government of Telangana predominantly needs to give industry status to the hospitality industry."

states, understand what the governments are doing there, benchmark some of the good initiatives taken by the government to promote tourism in those states, identify those good decisions that they have taken, benchmark them and then start looking at implementing them in Telangana.
Going ahead, according to the

executive committee member, there needs to be a proper infra-structure set up before they think about the tourism aspect. Therefore, they are actively looking at what the government does in terms of investing in places in need

of infrastructure, creating a public-private partnership and getting investments from corporations to invest in such places. HRATS also organises training programs for employees working in smaller hotels.

According to area director of Taj Krishna Hyderabad, most governments today realise the power of tourism because it predominantly creates a lot of jobs and improves the overall GDP of the state. Talking about their vision going ahead, the president shares, "It is to have a proper tourism policy for Telangana, due for quite some time now. Having an industry status for the hospitality industry is also overdue. While many states have done that, it's something that w are working hard towards. Along with the development of tourism in the state, it's also equally important to look at new skilling centers, which is extremely important to support the growth of tourism in the state."

### Prioritising ovarian health

omen's reproductive health is a crucial aspect of their overall well-being. It encompasses various aspects such as men-strual health, fertility, pregnancy, childbirth and menopause.
Maintaining good ovarian health
involves adopting healthy lifestyle
habits, regular gynaecological checkups and prompt medical attention for
any unusual symptoms or changes in menstrual cycle. It is also essential to have access to comprehensive sexual education, family planning services and safe abortion care. Women's reproductive health plays a significant role in their social, economic, and political empowerment.

Ovarian tumours are growths that originate from the cells of the ovaries. This growth can be cancerous or noncancerous. The tumours vary in size, symptoms and impact on health. Various factors like genetics, age, reproductive history and lifestyle choices can affect their occurrence. Symptoms can be similar to many less severe conditions like abdominal bloating, pelvic pain and changes in bowel or bladder habits.

According to recent data ovarian cancer is rated as the third most common type of cancer among Indian women, approximately 6.8 per 100,000 women. Unfortunately, it is detected in the later stages because of its asymptomatic nature, due to which early detection and effective treatment are delayed and complicated. Some common factors are changes in lifestyle, delayed childbearing and genetics. Every year, approximately 25,000 new cases rise in India, which highlights the need to improve screening & prevention to manage the increasing healthcare burden.

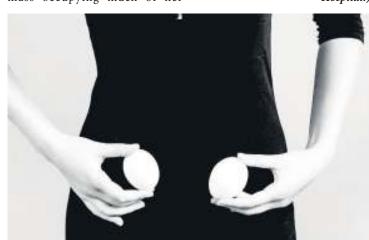
A unique case of a 13-year-old girl

experienced significant abdominal distention and mild discomfort, that had been ongoing for approximately three months. Despite these symptoms, the patient was able to maintain a good appetite and perform her daily activities normally. Upon evaluation, an initial ultrasound revealed a large mass occupying much of her

abdomen. To further evaluate the situation, a CT scan was conducted, which confirmed the presence of large mass. Decision to proceed with surgery was taken. Exploratory laparotomy was performed, to successfully remove 8.5 kg mass from her ovary. This surgical procedure was essential for directly examining the abdominal organs and to determine the extent and spread of the disease. During the operation, a specific procedure called Salpingo-oophorectomy was performed on the left side, which involved the removal of the ovary and fallopian tube. This step was critical in addressing the underlying cause of the distention and ensuring that any pathological tissues were effectively managed. Thus alleviating the symptoms and preventing further complications related to the mass. Remarkably, the other ovary and fallopian tube, as well as her liver and rest of the abdominal cavity, were found to be normal. This case highlights the critical importance of imaging in diagnosing significant ovarian masses and underscores the effectiveness of timely surgical intervention.

Maintaining ovarian health is crucial for women's overall well-being, fertility and hormonal balance. To promote healthy ovaries, women can adopt practical tips such as consuming a balanced diet rich in antioxidants, vitamins and minerals, engag-ing in regular physical activity, avoiding smoking and excessive alcohol consumption, managing stress levels, and getting adequate sleep. Additionally, women should undergo regular gynaecological check-ups to detect any potential issues early on and seek medical attention promptly or if they experience any unusual symptoms or changes in their menstrual cycle. By prioritising ovarian health, women can enhance their quality of life and prevent various reproductive and hormonal disorders.

(The author, Dr. Sharmila Solanki, is a Consultant, Obstetrics & Gynecology, at Manipal Hospital.)



### **MAKING WAVES WITH UNIQUE** 'FOLKTRONICA' MUSIC

ollowing the tremendous popularity of their hit song Dilbar, which went viral on YouTube and Instagram and won over hearts all over India, the dynamic musical duo Rusha and Blizza have reached a major milestone by appearing on the famous Times Square Billboard in New York. With their avant-garde 'folktronica' music, they are making waves in the middle of the commercial sounds that are taking over the music landscape. Their most recent album, Gal Mukdi, conveys a deep message about the search for inner peace and the truth, highlighting the elimination of ego as a means of achieving these spiritual objectives. The 'folktronica' pioneers have always taken a risk-taking approach to their music! Their initial sound went viral, bringing about a radical change in the music industry and positioning them as cutting-edge trendsetters. Their unconventional approach to music creation has brought in a new wave of sounds, breaking conventions and changing the Indian music scene's sonic landscape. Rusha and Blizza are a unique ten-year journey that began in 2010 with an accidental meeting in a gym. They flawlessly merge experimental soundscapes with the rich fabric of Indian musical traditions. A few snippets from an exclusive interview with them are provided here:

### le ago, you guys were featured o Square billboard! What was the

A: For us, appearing on the Times Square billboard was a huge accomplishment and a dream come true. It was a noteworthy accomplishment that shows how far we've come from our modest origins. This international recognition encouraged us to reminder of the global influence that our music

ve genre known as "Folktro

BLIZZA: Seeing musicians all around the world fusing folk and electronic music inspired us to start experimenting with 'folktronica'. By fusing sound design with folk components, we aimed to expand on this idea and give this genre a new direction. Our intention is to always develop our sound by constantly experimenting and pushing the envelope. We believe that by taking a fresh perspective, we can motivate other musicians and further the continuous development of music.

### Gal Mukdi, your most latest release, explores deep subjects. What gave you the

Gal Mukdi's message is that eradicating ego from our hearts is the only way to pursue inner peace and the truth. The song highlights how crucial it is to move past individualistic viewpoints in order to promote a community's connection to the cosmos. It is based on poems by Bulleh Shah and questions conventional ideas of religious devotion by emphasising the need to give up ego in order to find true peace. In order to foster harmony inside and unification outside of oneself, this message invites listeners to embrace a more accepting and altruistic viewpoint.

### What kind of creative process did you go through when working with Mitika?

BLIZZA: The process of working with Mitika Kanwar on Gal Mukdi flowed naturally. Her skill as a vocalist and capacity to emote effectively made her the ideal candidate for this keep aiming for greatness while also song. It was motivating to work with her honouring our previous accomplishments. It because she gave the song a certain depth and was really motivating and it served as a vitality that improved its overall impression.



HAVE BEEN MAKING WAVES WITH THEIR UNIQUE FOLKTRONICA MUSIC. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE PIONEER, THEY DISCUSSED BEING FEATURED ON A BILLBOARD IN TIMES SQUARE, THEIR 'FOLKTRONICA' SOUND AND THEIR MOST RECENT SONG, GAL MUKDI.

There was a lot of back-and-forth during the creative process as we all contributed ideas to make our styles combine together.

The lessons of Bulleh Shah stress the value of selflessness and inner serenity, which strongly align with our own values and aesthetic vision. His poetry encourages us to write music that goes beyond individualism and fosters a sense of oneness with the cosmos. We work hard to infuse these deep ideas into our music, inspiring listeners to see beyond themselves and adopt a more accepting viewpoint.

### ulties did you have in g this genre in a mark

BLIZZA: It has been difficult to introduce and popularise folktronica in a market where commercial sounds predominate. Audiences and industry insiders used to conventional or mainstream music initially opposed our efforts. But listeners eventually came to appreciate our commitment to originality and genuineness. In order to become known and accepted, we concentrated on developing a strong online presence and interacting with our audience directly on social media

HA: 'Folktronica' appears to have a bright future as more musicians investigate this genre and contribute new sounds and viewpoints. The combination of traditional and electronic music is becoming more and more appreciated in India. 'Folktronica' is becoming more and more popular around the world as people look for distinctive and avant-garde musical experiences. We think that this genre will keep developing and influencing upcoming audiences and performers.

### orate on how your n came to be as

SHA: In 2010, our partnership started out of the blue. We've created a distinctive sound over the last ten years by fusing Indian musical traditions with experimental components. Some of the highlights of our journey have included working on the dance theatre music video series album Vision One, which will be released in 2024 and taking on major business endeavours. Our friendship has grown stronger with time and our joint endeavours have continuously pushed the limits of

### at tactics do you use in an ustry where convention is

BLIZZA: By always experimenting with new sounds and concepts, we stay faithful to our unconventional approach while making sure that our music is still approachable and relatable. Our goal is to establish a deep bond with our audience by using thought-provoking content and important messaging. We keep our distinctive style while appealing to a wide audience by striking a balance between creativity and relatability

ISHA: Social media channels are essential to our approach to connecting with and interacting with our audience. We can distribute our music, interact with fans and reach a worldwide audience thanks to these platforms. We utilise Instagram for updates and behind-the-scenes information, reels for quick, interesting videos and YouTube for music videos. By allowing us to interact with our listeners directly and have a strong online presence, social media promotes a feeling of connection and community

#### Could you take us through Sanson Ki

BLIZZA: Sanson Ki Mala's artistic journey started with an exploration of the rich tradition of Indian devotional music. We wanted to transfer the spiritual essence of traditional bhajans into a modern setting since we were moved by their ageless charm. The idea changed as we experimented with fusing these classic tunes with cuttingelectronic components to produce a unique and emotive atmosphere. We made a conscious effort to keep the song true to its original form while including fresh rhythms and textures that would appeal to a modern listenership. The last track, which reflects our dedication to upholding tradition while pushing musical frontiers, is a tasteful fusion of the old and the new.

HA: Sanson Ki Mala was inspired during a period of self-examination and spiritual contemplation. The concept of commitment and how it transcends geography and time struck a chord with us. The song's trajectory was determined by this epiphany, which brought us to themes of love, spirituality and inner calm. With the intention of crafting a song that connects with our listeners deeply on an emotional level, the inspiration enabled us to imbue the track with a sense of reverence and tranquility.

The duo is currently working on *Vision One*, their future dance theatre music video series album, which will be released in 2024. They are working on big business projects that will have a big influence on the music industry in addition to this enormous initiative. The inventiveness and distinctive synthesis of musical elements that characterize Rusha & Blizza's journey bear witness to their constant commitment to pushing artistic limits

and making a lasting impression on

the world music landscape.

# what's brewing?



A number of socialites, including Anika, Bindu, Deepkshika and Ankita, made an appearance during the opening of Celebrity Secrets Clinic in Hyderabad. The clinic, which is run by Dr. Madhavi Chowdary, combines science and art in the fields of cosmetology and aesthetic











#### **Rohit Sharma invests in** edu-fintech startup

LEO1, a leading Edu-fintech company (Formerly known as Financepeer) announced a strategic investment from the Indian cricket captain. Rohit Sharma. This marks as Rohit Sharma's first ever investment in a fintech start-up. This represents a significant step forward for LEO1 in its goal to resolve long pending cashflow issue in the educational institutes along with providing innovative solutions for students across India.

#### **IVAS launches** *Ghar* **Dhadakne Do** campaign

Infra.Market, India's leading construction materials company, is thrilled to announce the launch of the Ghar Dhadakne Do campaign by its direct-to-consumer (D2C) brand IVAS. Rooted in the essence of acknowledging the deep connection between homemakers and their homes, the campaign celebrates the fact that our homes breathe and live, just as we do. It is aimed at the idea of nurturing our homes with the same care and devotion we give to our beloved family members.

#### realme unveils Al **Flagship Killer**

realme announced the global launch of two groundbreaking products, the newest addition to its flagship GT Series and AIOT segment realme GT 6, the Al Flagship Killer and the realme Buds Air6 Pro. Both devices, equipped with state-of-the-art features and intelligent design, are set to elevate user experience significantly. Since its inception, the realme GT Series has been the flagship of cutting-edge technological innovation and stands as a testament to realme's relentless pursuit of technological excellence. Offering a blend of power, performance, and intelligent design, the realme GT 6 is available in two stunning colors: Fluid Silver and Razor Greenand three storage variants: 8GB+256GB priced at INR 35,999, 12GB+256GB priced at INR 38,999 and 16GB+512GB priced at INR 39,999.

#### **Stanley Lifestyles IPO receives strong** support from leading brokerages

Home-grown super-premium and luxury furniture brand Stanley Lifestyles received a "subscribe" rating from leading brokerages for its initial public offering (IPO), leading to the issue getting fully subscribed on the first day of bidding, indicating strong investor confidence in the company's brand and growth potential in the luxury furniture market. One of the key strengths highlighted by analysts is Stanley Lifestyles' robust business model and diversified product portfolio. The company offers a wide range of luxury furniture items, that provide a wide range of home solutions offerings, such as sofas, arm chairs, kitchen cabinets, beds, mattresses and pillows, amongst others. Its customers can select from 10 different types of leathers and fabrics that it has in over 300 colours.

#### **ICICI Prudential Life** discounts for women

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance today announced a lifetime discount of 15% exclusively for women on all the premiums to be paid, for its best-selling term insurance product, iProtect Smart. Additionally, salaried women will be eligible for an extra 15% discount on the first year's premium, empowering them to provide financial security to themselves and their loved ones. iProtect Smart combined with the critical illness benefit, provides cover against 34 critical illnesses including ailments such as breast, ovarian, uterine and cervical cancers. This combination offers benefits of both health and life insurance. Importantly, the critical illness cover amount is paid out

on diagnosis, providing the requisite financial resources for seeking immediate medical treatment, without disrupting the family's savings.

#### **HDFC Securities caution against** fraudulent WhatsApp groups

HDFC Securities Limited, subsidiary of HDFC Bank and leading stock broking company, caution the customers against a rise in fraudulent activities involving fake WhatsApp groups impersonating the company and its officials. HDFC Securities urges all investors to exercise extreme caution and avoid subscribing to any scheme or product offered by individuals or entities claiming to provide indicative, assured, or guaranteed returns in the stock market, as this is illegal. These groups may deceive customers to share sensitive information and transfer funds by promising high returns. HDFC Securities want to caution its customers that do not ask for trading credentials, such as user

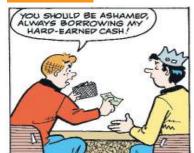
#### **IMT Hyd launches industry track PGDM** programs

Institute of Management Technology – Hyderabad inaugurated ABHYUDAY 2024 – Management Orientation Program (Batch of 2024-26). Guests who graced the occasion included Dr. Satakarni Makkapati, CEO CuraTeQ and Director, Aurobindo Pharma, Dr. Ravi Prakash Mathur, Vice President Supply Chain Management and Global Head of Logistics at Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. Swastik Bihani, MD and Country Head, GHX India, and KV Mahidhar, Executive Director and Head, CII -Institute of Logistics. The highlight of this year's inauguration was the launch of two new ambitious Industry track PGDM programs in Logistics and Supply Chain Management in collaboration with CII-Institute of Logistics and PGDM in Information Technology in collaboration with HCL Technologies. Other programs offered by the 13-year-old NIRFranked B-school include PGDM (General), PGDM (Finance), and PGDM (Marketing).

#### vivo expands its Y- series portfolio

vivo expanded its Y-series portfolio with the launch of Y58 5G in India. The smartphone embodies a stylish premium watch style design with appealing colors, segment's brightest sunlight display amongst all LCD displays, and an attractive camera panel featuring a 50 MP Al portrait camera and a powerful 6000 mAh battery, vivo Y58 flaunts an elegant design and will be available in two colors- Himalayan Blue and Sundarbans Green, which reveal the essence of nature with utmost precision, making it stand out amongst all other look-alikes in its segment. Priced at INR19,499, the Y58 5G will have a single 8GB+128GB storage variant and will be available for purchase starting today across Flipkart, vivo India e-Store, and all partner retail stores. Consumers purchasing the smartphone can avail exciting offers including an instant cashback of INR 1500 using SBI card, Yes Bank, Bank of Baroda, IDFC First, and IndusInd bank among others. vivo is also giving users an opportunity to own the Y58 at a mere price of INR 35 per day, along with offers on V Shield protection.

#### **ARCHIE**









#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**

REALITY CHECK

EARTH



WE NEED TO

SPREAD OUR

MESSAGE ALL OVER THIS

BIG ROUND

WORLD



SPEED BUMP

IF I MOVE JON'S ORTHO TO FRIDAY.

IT CONFLICTS WITH SAMS CLARINGT BUT I CAN'T MOVE THAT TO MONDAY

Because Tina has soccer!

UGH, HOW DO I LINE

THIS THING UP?



**CROSSWORD** 



#### GARFIELD

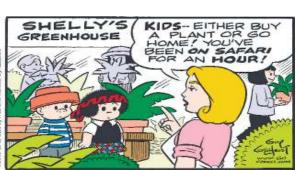




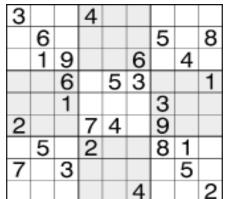
LOOK OUT FOR LIONS, TIGERS AND CROCODILES

SAFARI SLUGGO





#### SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Yesterday's solution								
9	8	1	3	6	4	7	5	2
6	5	2	7	1	8	4	3	9
7	3	4	9	5	2	8	6	1
1	6	7	2	4	9	3	8	5
4	9	3	5	8	1	2	7	6
8	2	5	6	3	7	1	9	4
2	7	8	1	9	5	6	4	3
3	4	9	8	2	6	5	1	7
5	1	6	4	7	3	9	2	8

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

### 1 Similar

ACROSS

Replied

9 Required

17 By yourself

12 Iranians live here

18 Liked very much

14 A horse's fastest pace

19 Someone who writes

news for a newspaper

10 Closed

7 A tool for boring holes

8 Part of a poem or song

- 2 Worked out the solution to 3 Jealousy



4 One of the planets

5 Exactly the same

many legs

13 Higher than

15 A body organ

6 A small creature with

11 Carry your money in this

#### **GINGER MEGGS**

THIS JUNGLE
IS SO THICK WE
CAN BARELY GET
THROUGH,"JUNGLE
NANCY"









#### DOWN

Actor Allu Sirish's upcoming film *Buddy* has been in

talks ever since its inception. As the makers released

the trailer, the lead actor reflected on the journey of

the incident was not the fan's

the incident was not the fan's fault. After posing with other fans, he approached the fan again, offering a reassuring hug and saying, "It's not your fault," before proceeding indoors.

Currently, Nagarjuna is busy shooting for Sekhar Kammula's bilingual film *Kubera* alongside Dhanush, Rashmika Mandanna and Jim Sarbh. The team recently

Sarbh. The team recently

wrapped up a schedule in Mumbai.

debut in Telugu cinema and

Nagarjuna's first look, unveiled

in May, portrays him in a com-posed yet intense demeanour, dressed in a blue shirt, dark

trousers and glasses.

This film marks Dhanush's

the project and shared insights on the

unconventional protagonist.

agarjuna recently found himself in the spotlight for an unfortunate inci-dent involving his bodyguard's

overzealous actions towards a differently abled fan in

Mumbai. Apologising promptly on social media, he later met

the fan at the airport to person-

In a video captured by

paparazzi, Nagarjuna was seen

paparazzi, Nagarjuna was seen engaging with fans at Mumbai airport, posing for photographs. During one interaction, photographers pointed out that the fan he was posing with had been unintentional-

ly pushed earlier by his secu-

rity personnel. Nagarjuna, visibly empathetic, acknowledged

ally address the issue.

Nagarjuna makes

amends after airport

incident, meets fan

# tollywood

### ism." He also acknowledged the significant investment made by the producers in bringing this vision to life. "Gnanavel Raja spared no expense in making a big action-adventure film, which is a rare opportunity." When asked about the speculation surrounding his involvement in *Pushpa 2*, Allu Sirish chose to focus on *Buddy* and invited audiences to judge for themselves. "I won't talk about Pushpa 2 now. Let the teaser and trailer speak for themselves," he concluded.

# Nikhil's *Swayambhu* resumes filming in Maredumilli

aredumilli, renowned for its picturesque landscapes, has become the latest backdrop for the ambitious pan-India project *Swayambhu*, featuring Nikhil in the lead role.

entered a crucial phase with its entered a crucial phase with its latest shooting schedule set amidst the dense forests of Maredumilli. This phase promises to capture pivotal moments essential to the narrative, leveraging natural beauty and challenging terrain to enhance the film's authentici-

icant milestone as Nikhil's 20th film, portraying him in the role of a legendary warextensive preparation and Nikhil's dedication and rigorJoining Nikhil are talented

with Tagore Madhu serving as presenter, Swayambhu upholds high production values and technical standards, promising audiences a cinematic spectacle of epic proportions.

experience.

into the realm of vampires.

According to a report, Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna have been finalised to headline this unique horror comedy, helmed by Dinesh Vijan and

time and plans to commence filming by the end of this year. "The film is set to kick off in November this year," quoted a source. If these reports hold true, this project will mark the first on-screen collaboration between Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna. The source also on Vampires of Vijay Nagar, will wrap up filming for Karan Johar's

slated to complete her commitments for *Pushpa 2: The Rule* with Allu Arjun, recently rescheduled for

# compelling and dynamic per-

Directed by Bharat Krishnamachari, the film has

minds. And the best time

to change our minds is during elections! These are just reminders of how cor-

rupt we have become.

to corruption. Everything will change thanks to the collective

conscience," he added.
The actor-filmmaker said that while

he is a fan of Mahatma Gandhi, he

doesn't subscribe to the ideology of

tolerance. Kamal also directed and

starred in the 2000 film Hey Ram,

of Gandhi.

which was set against the assassination

"I am a great fan of Gandhiji. They

say he taught you tolerance: 'What do you think about tolerance?' I say I am

not a great fan of that tolerance business. Gandhi Ji is my hero, but who do you tolerate? Not a friend. I want friend

ship to grow in the world. What you tolerate is a headache. Anything that's a

cine; put it out," he said. Also starring Kajal Aggarwal, Siddharth and Rakul

Preet Singh in key

roles, Hindustani 2

will hit the screens

on July 12.

Nothing has changed thanks

ty and intensity.

Swayambhu marks a signif-

formance on screen. actresses Samyuktha and

Nabha Natesh, portraying pivotal roles in the narrative. The film's music is composed by Ravi Basrur, known for his impactful compositions, while KK Senthil Kumar, renowned for his expertise in cinematography, captures the grandeur of the project on camera. M Prabhakaran's intricate production design further enriches the visual experience.

Produced by Bhuvan and Sreekar under Pixel Studios,

As filming progresses amidst the lush surroundings of Maredumilli, anticipation builds for Swayambhu to

Aditya Satpodar (Munjya). The duo, known for their creative synergy from their collaboration on Bala, has been discussing Vampires of Vijay Nagar for some

untitled spy-thriller and the Anurag Singh-directed *Border 2*, alongside Sunny Deol. Meanwhile, Rashmika Mandanna is

release on December 6, 2024.



deliver a

rior. The character demands ous training are expected to

deliver an unforgettable cinematic

# headache for society, you must have zero tolerance for. Find a medi-

Dinesh Vijan's horror comedy universe might soon expand with the addition of *Vampires of Vijay Nagar*, featuring Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna in lead roles. As the title suggests, the film will delve

revealed, "Both actors will portray very distinct characters that will surprise audiences. The script is currently in development and will soon progress to the pre-production phase." Ayushmann Khurrana, prior to beginning work

### S.S. Rajamouli & Rama Rajamouli among 487 new invitees to the Academy

S Rajamouli and Rama Rajamouli are among the 487 members who will be part of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. They have been counted among the distinguished artists and executives. Rajamouli has been chosen for his directorials RRR and Eega. On the other hand, his wife has been chosen from the costume designers category for her works in RRR and Baahubali: The Beginning. "Membership selection is based on professional qualifications, with an ongoing commitment to representation, inclusion and equity. This year, there are 71 Oscar nominees, including 19

winners, among the invitees," the Academy's

Rajamouli will direct Mahesh Babu's next film, which is yet to be launched. MM Keeravani is going to compose its music.

rtists are citizens of the coun-Atry who have every right to hold the authorities to account, said veteran star Kamal Haasan, admitting there is a risk in making films that question the gov-

to the Indian cinema landscape.

Directed by Sam Anton and

produced by KE Gnanavel Raja,

Adhana Gnanavel Raja under the Green Films banner, Buddy stars Allu Sirish alongside talented

actresses Gayatri Bharadwaj and

producer, ensuring a seamless

sions and eventual excitement

Reflecting on the journey, Allu Sirish shared his initial apprehen-

Prisha Rajesh Singh. Neha Gnanavel Raja serves as the co-

production process.

ernment. The trailer for *Indian 2* was launched on Tuesday night amidst much fanfare. It kicks off with Siddharth, a young man battling against the systemic corruption plaguing the nation. Facing over-whelming odds, Siddharth seeks a solution to the problems of unemployment, corruption and lack of development that plague society. This is where Senapathy, the legendary freedom fighter from the original

Indian, steps in.

Kamal Haasan, embodying the spirit of Senapathy, declares a "second war of independence" and embraces a "Netaji" approach, in contrast to the "Gandhian" approach of the past. His return is a powerful reminder that the fight for jus-tice is a continuous battle and sometimes extreme measures are necessary to

combat the forces of evil. Shankar, the director, has once again delivered a visual spectacle, showcasing breathtaking action sequences and grand production values. Kamal Haasan's performance is nothing short of mesmerising, seamlessly shifting between the roles of Siddharth and Senapathy with his signature intensity and charisma. The actor was speaking at the trailer launch of his upcoming film Hindustani 2: Zero Tolerance. Titled Indian 2: Zero Tolerance in Tamil, the uncoming movie is a seguel to Kamal hit 1996 film *Indian*, which featured him in a dual role. Shankar is returning to the corruption plaguing the country. "We are all responsible for the cordirect the second part of the franchise.

Kamal Haasan says 'there's risk in making films that question govt'

about the project. "When the poster for *Buddy* was released last

year, there were speculations about it being a remake or similar to an OTT film," Allu Sirish explained.

"I let people assume, but I also had

my doubts, especially about how an adventure-action film featuring

a teddy bear would be received." However, after watching the

trailer, Allu Sirish expressed newfound confidence in the film's

always embraced new and different

movie is not conventional; it's fresh and unique. My collaboration with Sam Anton, whose previous works I admired, solidified my decision

I admired, solidified my decision to be a part of *Buddy*."

Highlighting the unconventional protagonist of the film, Allu Sirish emphasised, "The hero of *Buddy* isn't me but the teddy bear. This

film is about showcasing that char-

acter rather than traditional hero-

potential. "Our audience has

narratives," he remarked. "This

Asked whether it's tough to make films that question the government today, the actor said this problem has persisted since the British era.

"People were making films even then. We will continue to make those kinds of films; it doesn't matter who is at the top of the establishment. That's not just the filmmaker; that's the citizen's right to ask those questions.

We, as artists, represent so many of you. Thanks to the applause, we believe that we are your representatives; hence, we talk boldly without thinking of the guillotine. Yes, there is a risk; the government can get angry, but your

applause puts out that fire, so make it louder," Kamal told reporters. The 69-year-old said not only politi-

ans but also citizens are to b ruption and we must all change our



### **VARUN TEJ'S MATKA SETS** STAGE FOR FILMING AT RFC

 $R^{\rm amoji}$  Film City (RFC) has become the canvas for the ambitious pan-India film Matka, featuring Mega Prince Varun Tej in a pivotal role. Currently in its third schedule, this elaborate production boasts a staggering budget of 15 crores allocated for a comprehensive 35-day shooting stint. Directed by Karuna Kumar and produced under the banners of Vyra Entertainments and SRT Entertainments, Matka is not just a film but a visual spectacle meticulously crafted to transport audiences to vintage Vizag. The production team at RFC has spared no expense

in recreating authentic sets that mirror the essence and allure of Vizag from a bygone era. The decision to invest significantly in these vintage sets underscores the filmmakers' commitment to delivering a cinematic experience that blends authenticity with grandeur. The making video showcases the meticulous pre-production efforts and the scale of production, offering glimpses of Varun Tej immersed in his

Varun Tej, celebrated for his versatile performances, is set to embody a character pivotal to Matka's narrative. His portrayal is poised to resonate across diverse audiences, cementing his reputation as a versatile actor capable of delivering memorable performances. Adding to the film's allure is Meenakshi Chaudhry as the leading lady and the inclusion of Bollywood actress Nora Fatehi in a crucial role, promising a compelling ensemble cast. The makers of *Matka* are confident that their unique narrative, combined with lavish production values and intricate set design, will captivate audiences nationwide. Beyond entertainment, their goal is to create a cinematic milestone that leaves a lasting impression on Indian cinema. As Matka continues its journey at the RFC, anticipation mounts for its release, marking a significant chapter

in Varun Tej's illustrious career and setting new benchmarks in

Indian filmmaking.



Atlee, Jio Studios, A for Apple Studios and Cine1 Studios next big action entertainer, *Baby John* starring Varun Dhawan, is one of the most highly anticipated films of the year. The makers have now announced a new worldwide release date of December 25, 2024, this Christmas, adding to the festive cheer. The movie is pushed to a later date given its heavy reliance on visual effects and action sequences.

> release makes it a perfect time for this outand-out massy entertainer. The film marks the Hindi film debut of Keerthy Suresh and also features Wamiga Gabbi, who is making her silver screen debut. The electrifying starcast also includes Jackie Shroff and Rajpal Yadav as action entertainers. Baby John is an S Thaman musical. Jio Studios presents Baby John in association with Atlee and Cine1 Studios. For Apple Studios and Cine1 Studios Production, the film

is produced by Murad Khetani, Priya Atlee and Jyoti Deshpande. Directed by Kalees, Baby John is set to theatrically release on



December 25.

# INDIA LOOK TO BEAT KNOCKOUT STAGE NERVES

ith a refreshingly aggressive batting approach, India would look to avoid the knockout stage jitters plaguing them for over a decade when they take on defending champions England in the semifinals of the T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

The last time these two teams met at this stage, it turned out to be a no contest as England outplayed an outdated India in the 2022 edition's semifinal.

However, India have finally been able to shed their conservative approach at the top of the order since that 10wicket hammering in Adelaide and have become the team to beat in this competition.

On paper, Rohit Sharma and his men look the stronger bunch for the conditions expected at the Providence Stadium and look primed for

revenge. The spinners have enjoyed bowling here since the opening game and the likes of India's Kuldeep Yadav and England's Adil Rashid would be itching to flaunt their skills in the knock-out fixture.

producing a match-winning spell against New Zealand at the start of the competition.

Interestingly, no match has been staged here since June 8 when the West Indies breezed past Uganda in a day game, giving the curators extra time to prepare a suitable pitch for the high-profile game.

India were clinical in the Super 8 stage but the extreme pressure of a semi-final tends to produce unforced errors. At the top of the order, India

will be hoping for runs from the bat of Virat Kohli, who has had an underwhelming tournament by his high standards.

On the contrary, his opening partner and skipper Rohit has set the benchmark for other batters when it comes to fearless cricket.

His blazing 41-ball 92 against Australia is the sort of knock that won't be easily forgotten for some time to come.

For both Rohit and Kohli, it is probably their last shot at winning the T20 world title in India colours and the two would be desperate to leave a mark.

Rohit has already made it clear Spinners are not the only ones who will come into play, the pacers too have got success at the venue with Afghanistan

Ront has already made it clear that he intends to go ballistic in the powerplays without a care for personal milestones, which was evident in the game EYE REVENGE AGAINST ENGLAND IN T20WC SEMIS

against Australia. Shivam Dube has not batted as

per expectations in the middleorder and it will be interesting to see how he fares against wily leg-spinner Rashid. India are likely

unchanged into the game even though they have Yuzvendra Chahal in the squad who can come in handy against England's right-handers including Phil Salt, Jos Buttler, Harry Brook and Jonny

Chahal is yet to get a game in this competition and it is set to remain that way with India expected to continue the trio of Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Kuldeep, who was the

team's trump card in Super 8s. Jasprit Bumrah is in a league of his own and England will need to do something special to score off him.

Hardik Pandya's all-round show has helped India

management will be hoping it stays that way.

England, on the other hand, have not had the smoothest of campaigns. They stuttered into Super 8s where they lost to South Africa before turning things around.

things around.
Skipper Buttler was back among the runs against USA in England's final Super 8 game and considering the familiarity with the Indian attack, he is well-placed to come up with a game changing broads.

well-placed to come up with a game-changing knock.
His opening partner Phil Salt can take the game away from opposition very quickly and India will need to dismiss him in the powerplay.

More runs are expected from Bairstow and Moeen Ali, whose off-spin could be useful against India's left-handers. Liam Livingstone, who bowls both leg and off spin, too can bowl his full quota of overs like he did against USA the other

Rashid's four overs can also prove decisive in the allimportant fixture.

In his first high-profile event since returning from injury, pacer Jofra Archer has done well in the seven games so far and would be backing himself to trouble Rohit and Kohli with the new ball.

Having taken a hat-trick in the

Chris Jordan too will be sky

"Obviously, when we left England a few weeks ago, we left to come and obviously try and defend the title. There's been a few bumps in the road along the way, but I think you kind of described them as good bumps because they've really narrowed down our focus and really made our direction really clear," said Jordan after the win over USA. There is also a likelihood of rain impacting the game with chances of showers in the lead up to the semi-final and also on match day.

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

**England:** Jos Buttler (c), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonathan Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Tom Hartley, Will Jacks, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Reece Topley, Mark Wood.

### SA, Afghanistan look to rise above deep scars to seal T20 WC final berth

**PTI** ■ TAROUBA (TRINIDAD)

Tournament story-makers Afghanistan will be up against perennial dark horses South Africa in the first semifinal of the T20 World Cup here, a much-anticipated showdown that will be historic irrespective of the outcome.

Without belittling the poised run of the Proteas, Afghanistan have been the revelation of this ICC showpiece.

They found life and fighting spirit to rise above the ravages of war back in their country, best exemplified by an astounding win over 2021 winners Australia, whom they had never beaten before.

There were multiple heroes -- skipper Rashid Khan has been immense throughout, pacers Fazalhaq Farooqi and Naveenul-Haq have given early breakthroughs, Gulbadin Naib conjured a miraculous spell against the Aussies while Mohammad Nabi remained perseverant.

Opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz leads the batting chart with 281 runs, while Farooqi is on top of the bowling list with 16 scalps. It is a story in itself as how two Afghanistan players have raced past some marquee names to the top of the stats table.

But all of it can come to nothing if they fal-ter at the Brian Lara Academy, a venue named after the West Indian legend who has supported Afghanistan to the hilt.

The Afghans are a skilled set of cricketers, on whose back the team rose brilliantly from the low-tier obscurity of the early 2000s. So, they are not unfamiliar to intense competition and T20, more than any other format, offers them the chance to challenge the big brothers.

But they have never competed in the semi-final of a World Cup, and the Afghans now need to control their nerves to overcome a

fancied opponent. Head coach Jonathan Trott affirmed his side was not perturbed by the big occasion.
"We go into the semifinal with no scarring

or no history. This is uncharted territory for us. But, by no means, do we feel like we're going into the semifinal just to compete.
"We're there to win the semifinal. We've beaten some major teams," Trott said after the win over Bangladesh.

South Africa's scars also run deep but they are purely of cricketing nature.



In the past, the Proteas have assembled some high-velocity squads but never managed to enter the title round of a T20 or 50-over World Cup after their re-admission into world cricket in 1991.

To change that long-running show of misfortune, South Africa need to tame not just Afghanistan but also the demons in their own minds.

The signs have so far have given hope.

In this event, they have shown a propensity to win the clutch moments, their Achilles Heel in previous global tournaments, that often prop up without any warning.

But here, they have notched up victories as close as one-run (vs Nepal), four-run (vs Bangladesh) and three wickets (vs West Indies). South Africa of old could have bungled in those situations, but Aiden Markram's side has displayed remarkable fortitude. They seem to have escaped the hackneyed C-Word.

Experienced left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj explained his team's run in this

World Cup.
"If you look at previous World Cups, the small moments, we haven't really won. It's good to see that all the games have come really close and we've found a way, so it's building the character within the team.

"It prepares us for certain opportunities that we could get and cross over the line in those small moments. These are things that we've never done before. So, it's good to see us get-

ting into that," said Maharaj. His words offer a true reflection of the col-

lective effort South Africa have made here. There is only one South African player in top-10 batters' list. Quinton de Kock is placed sixth with 199 runs from seven matches, while none of their bowlers feature inside the first 10.

But here they are, playing in the semifinal and they will have to negate those small, key moments against Afghanistan, perhaps in the next match too.

For once, South Africa might not feel overwhelmed by that thought.

If Afghanistan too can keep their heartbeats in check, a classic for the ages seems well on the cards.

SQUADS:
Afghanistan: Rashid Khan (c),
Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran,
Azmatullah Omarzai, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Ishaq, Mohammad Nabi, Gulbadin Naib, Karim Janat, Nangyal Kharoti, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Noor Ahmad, Naveen-ul-Haq, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Fareed Ahmad Malik. Reserves: Sediq Atal, Hazratullah Zazai, Saleem Safi.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (c), Ottniel Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Quinton de Kock, Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs.

### I was in tears laughing, Australia skipper Marsh sees the funny side of Naib's theatrics

A ustralia captain Mitchell Marsh saw the funny side of Afghanistan all-rounder Gulbadin Naib's theatrical complaining of cramps in a T20 World Cup match against Bangladesh, terming it as "one of the funniest things" he has ever seen on a cricket

Naib, who was fielding in the slip, fell on his back while clutching his thighs during the 12th over, just after coach Jonathan Trott signalled to slow down the proceedings as rain was imminent with Afghanistan ahead in the proceedings in the must-win Super Eights game.

"I was almost in tears laughing and at the end of the day it had no bearing on the game. So, we can laugh about it now - but, gee, it was funny. It was outstanding," Marsh told cricket.Com.Au.

Bangladesh were chasing 115 for a win then, and fell behind the DLS par score of 83 at the end of the 12th over at 81 for seven.



However, Naib later bowled two overs and participated with vigour in Afghanistan's victory celebrations without showing any hint of 'cramps.

The ICC's playing conditions stipulate that a player can get up to two-match ban for 'deliberate or repetitive" time wasting tactics, but that Naib might just escape with a first and final warning by the match refer-

With the win, Afghanistan knocked Australia out of the T20 World Cup, and

Marsh said the 2021 champions have only themselves to blame for the exit.

'We watched it (the match) as a group. It was obviously a pretty amazing game, wasn't it? A lot of twists and turns.

"Obviously, you want to keep playing this tournament and that was our only way of doing it. But there's also the element that it was completely out of our control and we only had ourselves to blame for that," said Marsh. The all-rounder said the team was dejected after the fall of the final Bangladesh

Pacer Naveen-ul-Haq trapped Mustafizur Rahman in front of the wicket to signal a famous win for the Afghans.

We were all flat (when the final wicket fell). We were desperate to continue on in the tournament. But fair play to Afghanistan they beat us and they beat Bangladesh and they deserve to be in the semifinals," added Marsh. Afghanistan will face South Africa in the first semifinal of the T20 World Cup at Trinidad on Thursday.

### I can't see India losing this time, England will need something extraordinary: Collingwood

England will have to come up with an extraordinary performance to beat an an inform India in the T20 World Cup semifinal, according to former all-rounder Paul Collingwood, who feels that the 'More in Plus' are unlikely the 'Men in Blue' are unlikely to lose the grudge match against the defending champions.

India and England are set to clash on Thursday in a repeat of the 2022 last four stage match in Adelaide which Jos Buttler and his men won by 10

"Honestly, I can't see India losing this time. England will need something extraordinary to beat them," Collingwood

said on Star Sports Press Room.

Jasprit Bumrah has been in sensational form with teams including the likes of former champions Australia and Pakistan struggling to score against him. Collingwood reckons the pacer's four overs would decide the complexion of the game.

"India, with their well-rounded squad, stands out particularly for Jasprit Bumrah's current form. He's fit, accurate, fast, and highly skilled. No team seems to have an answer for

"In a 120-ball game, having someone like Bumrah with his pace for 24 balls makes a huge difference. India has looked confident even in tough



situations and on difficult pitches in America.

"Their batters, like Rohit Sharma who played a magnificent innings against Australia, seem to be back in form," he added.

The pitch in Guyana has

favoured the bowlers in the past by slowing down as the game goes on.

Spinners have dominated at this venue, and the pacers get some help early on but teams have reached scores of 170-180

in the ongoing World Cup.
"The match-up will be magnificent, with both sides adopting an ultra-aggressive approach. The surface in Guyana will be crucial. On a flat pitch, England has the upper hand with their ability to overpower teams. However, a slow, turning pitch would favour India.'

Collingwood feels India have moved on from their conservative approach, which led to their downfall at the

### We still haven't played our best game yet: SA coach Rob Walter

PTI ■ TAROUBA (TRINIDAD)

sserting that their best is yet Asserting that then see Rob Walter said the team is not bogged down by near misses of the past and will "take confidence" from its performance in crunch moments on way to the ongoing T20 World Cup semifinals.

In the first semifinal of the tournament here on Thursday, perennial dark horses South Africa will take on an Afghanistan team that has caused a flutter with its heroics in the tournament, the highlight of which has been the sensational

heavyweights Australia. In the press-match press conference, Walter was asked if this could be South Africa's time after having battled their way past tricky opponents in testing conditions over the last few

"Definitely it's always great to dream and I think everyone in South Africa dreams of the time when a trophy gets lifted. No doubt that will happen. Whether it's going to be this week, that remains to be seen.

the best game of cricket that we can. And we still haven't played our best game yet," Walter told reporters. South Africa's success in

prevailing in tricky situations, their Achilles Heel in the past, bodes well for the side chasing a maiden World Cup title triumph. "From the closeness point of view, yeah, we've managed to get over the line in quite a number of close games in the lead up to the semifinal, which for a team has

been great for us. "We've potentially missed out on a few of those moments in the past, and this time around we managed to get over the line. So, we certainly take confidence out of

that. "We still want to play our best cricket in the key moments of the

game tomorrow." Right from the 1992 World Cup, their first since readmission into international cricket after the apartheid ban, South Africa have either chocked in those big semifinals of ICC tournaments or luck deserted them.

Needless to say, the subject was broached during the interaction. "Look, I said, the near misses in "We're just going to try and play



the past, they belong to the people who missed them. To be honest, this team is a different team. We own whatever is ours to own. And

this tournament where we've managed to get over the line. So that's what we think about."

so, our nearest reflection point is Walter made no effort to play down the pressure and excitement of playing in a World Cup semifinal.

"It's never just another game. I think that sort of rhetoric around semifinals is always untrue, or people trying to downplay the occasion. Certainly, we don't do that. It is a semifinal of a World Cup, and we appreciate that and we're looking forward to it."

Instead, he played down the luck

factor.
"I don't think you can win a cricket game because of luck. I think potentially a few things can go your way but there's a few things that might not. So, skill will always trump luck, that's for sure. So, I'd like to think that."

He lavished praise on Afghanistan's incredible run to the semifinals, the war-rayaged

the semifinals, the war-ravaged nation's first in a World Cup. "We're seeing Afghanistan in a T20 semifinal. It's awesome for the game of cricket. I love the way they play the game and the way semi-final if that was the case. they play the game and the way they support it." How well does he

know the Afghanistan team? Walter said, it's not difficult to study teams in modern cricket, with plenty of technology at its disposal.

"Look, I mean, a number of their players play in a number of the leagues around the world. In this

day and age, there's not too many players where there's no footage or no information about.

"So, from an Afghanistan player point of view, we do have that sort of information. We've also got an entire World Cup, which they've also played seven games in. "So, from that point of view, we've

had the opportunity to watch games of cricket as near as last night and then also in the different leagues that the guys have played and played together. So, we're comfortable with our knowledge in it." Walter is wary of the threats Afghanistan could pose in the semifinal.

"I think you, yeah, you would have seen it all in the last two days. I think they are a well-rounded team. Gone are the days where there is an area of the team that is 'You're talking about some world-

class spinners. Everyone knows about the world-class spinners led by Rashid Khan. I mean, he's a top-class T20 spinner anywhere in the world. So, we know about that. But as I said, it's not a one-man show anymore. That's for sure," Walter said.