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VD's cameo in Kalki 2898 AD makes FANS GO GAGA



QUOTE OF THE DAY

the pioneer

KCR's intellectual bankruptcy is

evident as he wants to topple a government elected by the people.

- A. Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister

Hyd housing sales decline by...

Housing sales in Hyderabad witnessed a significant decline of 23% in the second quarter of 2024, with approximately 15,085 units sold compared to the previous quarter's 19.660. As per Anarock, this drop is part of a broader trend seen across the top seven cities in India where overall residential sales fell by 8% from approximately 1.30.170 units in Q1 2024 to around 1,20,340 units in Q2 2024. Despite this quarterly drop, there was a 5% year-onyear increase in sales. Among the top seven cities, only NCR recorded a quarterly

RS privileges panel holds 12...

The Privileges Committee of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday held 12 opposition MPs, including the AAP's Sanjay Singh, guilty of misconduct for disrupting House proceedings last August and cautioned them to desist from such behaviour in future. In the report tabled in the Upper House of Parliament on Thursday, the privileges panel held AAP MP Sanjay Singh guilty of disregarding the directions of the Chairman. It has accepted Singh's nconditional apology in the matter and

Majority of Indian employers plans...

The Indian employment market is likely to see an incremental expansion of more than 6 per cent in the first half this fiscal. supported by an upbeat economic climate across 23 industries. Teaml ease Services said or Thursday. According to TeamLease's Employment Outlook Report for H1 FY25 (April 2024 to September 2024), which covered 1,417 employers in 20 cities, 56 per cent said their workforce will likely grow in the coming months. Around 23 per cent of employers anticipate maintaining..

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Bumrah is 1000 times better...

Iconic former India all-rounder Kapil Dev feels Jasprit Bumrah is a "1000 times better" bowler than what he was at his prime. Bumrah who has been doing exceptionally well in the ongoing T20 World Cup, snaring 11 wickets at an outstanding economy of 4.08 in the 23 overs he has bowled so far. "Bumrah is 1000 times better than me. These young boys are far better than us. We had more experience. They are better." Kapil told 'PTI Videos' Bumrah, who is widely regarded as the best pacer...

-SPORTS

KCR has no moral right to criticise defections: CM

Says BRS chief laid foundation for switching parties

PNS HYDERABAD

Declaring that former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has no moral right to criticise 'defections,' Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that it is KCR who laid the foundation for defections.

The CM said that KCR had engineered the defection of 61 MLAs, MLCs and MPs. Doesn't he remember that? he asked. The CM asked KCR to apologise for engineering defections.

"KTR and Harish Rao have been saying again and again that the Congress government will fall within a month. The BJP repeated it. The BRS and the BJP exceeded limits by saying that they would topple the Congress government. KCR's emotional poverty makes him think that he can topple the Congress government. He has not opened his eyes to reality. The BRS's vote share declined to just 16 per cent in the LS polls.



third in Medak which they claimed was their fortress. What does it indicate when the BJP got most of the votes in Sircilla and Siddipet?" the

KCR ensured the BJP's victory to CM said.He said that KCR who did defeat the Congress. The BRS came not allow MLAs to meet him has opened the gates of his farmhouse now. The government invited KCR to State Formation Day celebrations.

CM gave utmost importance to Telangana's interests P2

'Two of my life goals fulfilled in one go'

hief Minister Revanth Reddy said that two of the goals in his life were fulfilled at the same time. They were keeping BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao away from power and becoming the Chief Minister, he said In a chit-chat with journalists in New Delhi on Thursday, the CM said that Telangana was destroyed totally during the 10-year rule of KCR. "My only aim is to reconstruct Telangana," the CM said. He made it clear that he will work with whoever is appointed as the new TPCC President and that he has no special preference for anyone taking up the post. He said that his responsibility is to work with the new TPCC President whoever it may be.

Murmu: Emergency darkest chapter

Says poll results showed people's faith in govt



PNS NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday stressed the government's unwavering faith in the Constitution and efforts to make it a part of "public consciousness", while slamming the Emergency as the "biggest and darkest chapter of direct attack" on the Constitution.

In her first address to a joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha after Prime Minister Narendra Modi began his third term, she described the poll result as an endorsement of his government's policies while ruing attempts to hurt people's faith in electoral process, including EVMs- an apparent swipe at opposition parties.

Govt's script, full of lies: Oppn

pposition leaders on Thursday dubbed the President's address to the joint sitting of both houses of Parliament as a "script given by the government" that was "full of lies" and castigated the government over the repeated mention of the 1975 Emergency. They alleged there is an "undeclared emergency" in the country and the Constitution is being attacked under the Modi government. Congress president and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said after listening to the President's

UNDER CONG GOVERNMENT...

Rythu Bharosa will be a model scheme'

YASHASWINI SCHEME

Sridhar seeks priority for TG

PNS HYDERABAD

Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy, Reddy, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao said that farmers know very well what the gave, how long they gave and how many times it had stopped.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, Tummala said the BRS government gave Rythu Bandhu sops for 128 days in the Kharif season and 161 days in the Rabi season of 2018. In 2019, the BRS government gave Rythu Bandhu for 138 days in the Kharif season. In 2020, it gave Rythu Bandhu for 169 days in the Kharif season. In 2021-22, it gave Bharosa.

On International Micro, Small

and Medium Enterprises (MSME)

Day, the Telangana IT and

Industries Minister Sridhar Babu

met Union Minister Iitan Ram

Manjhi in New Delhi and called

for greater priority for the state

This scheme aims to select and

train one lakh women across tier

under the 'Yashaswini' scheme.

Rythu Bandhu for 84 days. In 2022-Refuting former Agriculture 2023, it gave Rythu Bandhu for 108

He said the BRS government wasted Rs 26,500 crore of public funds in 12 phases by giving Rythu stones, mounds, real estate ventures, national highways and banjar lands.Tummala said the Congress govern-

ment is trying to introduce Rythu Bharosa as a model scheme and that instead of praising the Congress government the BRS is criticising it.He said the Congress is sticking to its assurances and that the government is taking the opinion of farmers regarding Rythu

their production capacities.

During the meeting, Sridhar

also sought the Centre's support for

state MSMEs. He requested addi-

tional funds for providing techni-

cal training to women entrepre-

neurs at the National Institute for

them to meet market needs.

Patancheru BRS MLA **Gudem Mahipal** Reddy may join BJP

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy may join the BJP soon. It is learn't that the BJP has entrusted the responsibility of making Gudem Mahipal Reddy join the BJP to former MP BB Patil.

Gudem Mahipal Reddy and BB Patil worked together in the BRS. Both leaders are close friends and so the BJP handed over the responcontacting Mahinal to BF Patil.Gudem Mahipal Reddy is inclined to join the BJP as he had faced Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids in his residences and the ED said that Mahipal had engaged in irregularities amounting to Rs 300 crore. He thinks that he will get some relief if he joins the BJP.

Meanwhile, M. Raghunandan Rao of the BJP who won in Medak, is also encouraging Gudem Mahipal Reddy to join the BJP as his constituency comes under the Medak LS constituency.

'Will storm back to power like NTR' KCR conducting constituency-wise meetings

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) is conducting constituency- is not far away," he declared wise meetings. In a series of scheduled meetings, KCR will meet BRS leaders and activists from all constituencies to discuss the way forward.

On Thursday, hundreds of BRS supporters from Armoor and Huzurabad came to Erravelli to meet their leader. KCR warmly greeted them and posed tos with them.

KCR assured his supporters that there is no need for any worry. "Our 25-year journey for Telangana is far from over. Just as the people once brought NTR back to power,

they will support the BRS with even greater enthusiasm. The day when we return amidst cheers.





SEEKING STAY ON NARASIMHA COMMISSION

HC adjourns hearing on KCR's plea

to Friday the hearing on a petition filed by former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao seeking a stay on all proceedings of the Justice L Narasimha Reddy Commission

he Telangana High Court adjourned constituted by the Congress government to inquire into the power purchase agreements made by the BRS government and the construction of two thermal power plants.

NEET-UG CASE

SC issues notice to NTA

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the National Testing Agency (NTA) to apprise it whether there is any time limit for raising grievances regarding the OMR sheets provided to the candidates who appeared in NEET-UG 2024.

A vacation bench of Justices Manoj Misra and SVN Bhatti, which issued notice to the NTA on a fresh plea filed by a private coaching centre and few NEET candidates, tagged the petition with the pending matters and listed it for hearing on July 8.

Oppn to raise NEET in Parliament today eaders of the INDIA opposition

bloc have decided to raise the NEET issue in both houses of Parliament on Friday and members will give notices in this regard. sources have said. The decision was taken at a meeting of the INDIA bloc floor leaders on Thursday, they said, adding that opposition members are set to file adjournment notices in the Lok Sabha and under Rule 267 in the Rajya Sabha

Continued on Page 2

PHONE-TAPPING

Court rejects bail pleas of accused

PNS HYDERABAD

In a setback for those facing charges in the phone tapping case namely, Bhujang Rao, Praneeth Rao and Tirupatanna, the

Nampally court rejected their bail petitions.

The court accepted the police argument that the charge sheet was filed within the stipulated 90-day period. The accused had filed a petition saying that no charge sheet had been filed when they had applied for bail.

Continued on Page 2

Grouting, sheet piling done at Medigadda Barrage

PNS HYDERABAD

Grouting and sheet pile works have been completed at the Medigadda Barrage.

As per the NDSA's recommendations, grouting near the 20th and 22nd piers of the seventh block and sheet piling from the 12th pier to the 22nd pier have been successfully executed

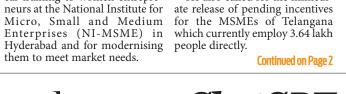
On Wednesday, the barrage received an inflow of 8,790 cusecs of water from the Pranahita River in Maharashtra which is being released downstream.

Of the barrage's 85 gates, 84 gates



it was radially cut. Officials said that the rearrangehave been lifted to release water ment of CC blocks is in its final stage downstream. Work is going on to and is expected to be completed remove parts of the 20th gate after within two days. Meanwhile, a team

of Telangana government officials led by ENC G. Anil Kumar and ENC (O&M) B. Nagender Rao visited IIT Roorkee to study the Medigadda Barrage model.



He also called for the immedi-

ChatGPT answers went 'undetected'; secured better grades than students, finds study

Exam graders could have trouble spotting answers generated by AIbased chatbots, researchers said after their study found that these answers not only went undetected but were also graded better than those written by students.

On behalf of 33 'fake students', the researchers at the University of Reading, UK, submitted answers generated by ChatGPT to the examinations system of the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences of the same university.

The team found that 94 per cent of the AI-written answers went undetected. Further, about 83 per cent of the chatbot's answers secured better scores than real students' submissions.



"We found that within this system, 100 per cent AI-written submissions were virtually undetectable and very consistently gained grades better than real student submissions," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal PLoS ONE. away from traditional exams to

The researchers said their findings should be a "wakeup call" for educators across the world and called for the global education sector to evolve in the face of artificial intelligence.

"Many institutions have moved

students', the researchers at the University of Reading, UK, submitted answers generated by ChatGPT to the examinations system of the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences of the same university.

On behalf of 33 'fake

make assessment more inclusive. Our research shows it is of international importance to understand how AI will affect the integrity of educational assessments," lead researcher Peter Scarfe, an associate professor at the University of Reading, said.

Cop nabbed for sexually assaulting minor

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Rajenndranagar Police on Thursday arrested a constable for sexually assaulting a minor.

The accused was identified as Pradeep, a 2020 batch constable working at police station in Shamshabad, who met the girl two years ago. He befriended her and shot her nude videos using his mobile phone.

The constable previously served at Kukatpally and Rajendranagar police stations in Cyberabad. Similar complaints were also made against him in the past.

The police seized the mobile phone of the accused. The accused threatened the victim using nude videos and sexually assaulted her. Based on a complaint, a case was registered and investigation is

DELHI VISIT

CM gave utmost importance to Telangana's interests

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy visited New Delhi with the primary objective of protecting Telangana's interests.

During his four-day visit, the CM met four Union Ministers and attended the oath-taking of Telangana MPs in the Lok Sabha.

Despite the Congress's rival-ry with the BJP-led Central Government, Revanth demonstrated the spirit of federalism by meeting Union Ministers to address the state's issues.

On the first day of his visit, Revanth met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The CM requested the transfer of Defence lands to the state government for widening roads, constructing skyways and for

He urged the government to

quickly fulfil its promise to recruit 2,00,000 hands within

a year and announce a com-

prehensive job calendar.

Failure to do so, he warned,

would result in protests by the

BRS, underscoring the poten-

tial backlash from the elec-

torate that brought the current

pointment of the unemployed,

noting that despite announce-

ments regarding 10 examina-

tions and their respective dates

no notifications have been

has let down the unemployed,"

stated KTR, referring to the promised increase of 2,000

posts in Group-2 and better prospects in Group-3,

The Congress government

He highlighted the disap-

government to power.

Hyderabad.

Following his earlier success in acquiring Defence lands for elevated corridors, the CM requested an additional 2,450

Later, Revanth met Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

presented 'Indiramma Housing' scheme aimed at providing homes for the poor and requested the sanction of 2.70 lakh houses under the PMAY (Urban) scheme and the release of Rs 784.88 crore dues.

The CM emphasised the need to rejuvenate the Musi River, which had become polluted. He sought Central assistance for the Musi riverfront development and expansion of

particularly through the Old

The CM discussed issues in Warangal and Karimnagar, particularly incomplete projects the Smart City Mission and pleaded for an extension of the mission's time limit to complete pending projects.

Revanth met Union Health Minister JP Nadda and appealed for the release of pending dues amounting to Rs 693.13 crore under the National Health Mission to prevent disruptions in medical

The CM attended the oathtaking of Telangana MPs in the Lok Sabha and urged them to fight for the state's interests regardless of party affiliations. He emphasised the distincand state's interests and asked the MPs to use Parliament as platform for raising Telangana's needs.

Revanth took up the development of the National Highway network in Telangana and met the Union Minister of Road Transport

and Highways, Nitin Gadkari. He requested Gadkari to declare the Choutuppal-Amangal-Shadnagar-Sangareddy Road as a National Highway and to sixlane the Hyderabad-Vijayawada NH.

He also highlighted the delays in implementing NH projects and requested their speedy completion along with widening of the Hyderabad-Kalwakurti Road.

'Complete EHV substations in time bound manner'

PNS HYDERABAD

Energy Secretary Ronald Rose stressed the need for timely completion of the state's EHV substation projects during a review at the Vidyut Soudha on Thursday. As the Chairman and Managing Director of both TGTRANSCO and TGGENCO, Rose examined the performance of the existing 400 KV, 220 KV and 132 KV transmission networks and expressed satisfaction with current operations, noting that all generating stations have sufficient coal.Rose urged the Director of Projects and the Director of Transmission to fast-track EHV substation and associated line works and ensure that all projects are completed within deadlines.

He also instructed all power utilities to maintain high standards of quality and reliability and asked field engineers to remain at their posts to tackle emergencies.

18,942 teachers promoted in TG

CLP challenges Jagdish to

a debate about his assets

After almost two decades of long wait, more than 18,942 government teachers in Telangana got promotions. Among them, 17,072 secondary grade teachers will be promoted to school assistants and 1,870 school assistants will

be promoted to head master. Except for SGT transfers the process for teacher promotions and transfers has been completed, which commenced on June 8. The government announced that those within three years of retirement would be exempt from mandatory transfers. It also

announced the upgrading of Pandit and PET posts.

The School Education department resumed the process from where it had stopped due to previous court cases. The government led by A Revanth Reddy has decided to proceed with promotions regardless of the TET. To avoid further complications during ongoing court cases, the department officials swiftly completed the transfer and promotion process. Considering the vacancies created by these transfers and promotions, the Telangana government has called for DSC.

BRS asks govt to release job calendar, fill 2 lakh posts

PNS HYDERABAD

Government job hopefuls and unemployed youth across Telangana gathered on Thursday seeking the support of the BRS amid mounting frustration over unfulfilled promises by the Congress-led government regarding jobs.

Led by the BRS Working

President KTR, the group voiced their grievances emphasising the government's failure to deliver on pre-election commitments.

Addressing the media after meeting with the unemployed KTR criticised the Congress Government's lack of action despite extensive pre-election campaigning promising job notifications across various

Centre trying to push SCCL into losses: KTR

PNS HYDERABAD

KTR held a meeting at the Telangana Bhavan with former Singareni MLAs, leaders from the Singareni area, senior BRS leaders and leaders of the Coal Mine Workers' Union. During the meeting, KTR made several critical points regarding the future of SCCL and the implications of recent government actions. He highlighted the fact that the Centre had auctioned Telangana's coal mines to privatise SCCL.He expressed concern that the Chief Minister is colluding with the Centre and is acting as per the BJP's directions. He said the Centre is attempting to push the profitable SCCL into losses by not allocating coal mines to it. He indicated that there are preparations to withdraw investments by claiming that SCCL is run-

'Govt firm about waiving farm loans'

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu dismissed the negative propaganda of the opposition regarding the waiver of farm loans and said the Congress admin would prove them wrong by waiving farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh. The opposition earlier went

to town saying that the Cong admin would not give Rythu Bandhu funds. The Congress admin deposited Rs 7,500 crore at one go in farmers' bank accounts, he recalled. Bhatti took part in the

launching of projects connected to drinking water supply and roads in Kothagudem on Thursday.

Later, addressing a local meeting, he said that despite problems, the Congress government would waive farm loans well before August and no one could prevent that. The State admin had announced



earlier that the loans of farmers would be waived in August. On Rythu Bharosa, he said that public opinion would be gathered on who should be the beneficiaries and how to distribute the money. Guidelines would be farmed and tabled in the Assembly for discussion. A legislation would be passed and Rytu Bharosa would be implemented for farmers, he

The Congress admin would be accountable for public money and would not let it be misused, he said.

RSS didn't resist emergency, wanted ban lifted: Owaisi

PNS HYDERABAD

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday took a dig at the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS) for its role during the emergency.

It is to be noted that June

25 marked the 49th anniversary of the emergency imposed by former prime minister Indira Gandhi in order to nullify the Allahabad High Court's order which ruled against her victory during the general elections.

Owaisi took to X and said, "Speaking of #Emergency, what was the Sangh Parivar up to? Following the great tradition of 'Sorryvarkar's' mercy petitions, RSS was eager to please Indira Gandhi. RSS leaders did not resist, they just wanted the ban on RSS to be lifted."

PNS HYDERABAD

The Congress Legislature Party (CLP) challenged former Power Minister G. Jagdish Reddy to a debate on how much Jagdish Reddy's assets were before 2014 and how much it is now.

Speaking to the media at the CLP office on Thursday along with Bhongir MLA Kumbam Anil Kumar Reddy, Nakrekal MLA Vemula Veeresham challenged Jagdish to come forward for an open debate on the latter's assets.

He said that former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and Jagdish were speaking lies for the last two days. He criticised BRS leaders for stating that they had achieved Telangana and declared that it was Sonia Gandhi who gave

Veeresham said that several scams took place during the 10 years of BRS rule. He said that Jagdish sought a judicial inquiry into the power sector saying that there were no irregularities in the power

He said that Jagdish spoke like that in the Assembly as per KCR's direction. KCR and Jagdish are now saying not to conduct an inquiry into the power sector. Did Jagdish seek an inquiry into the power sector without KCR's consent,

The Nakrekal MLA said that KCR and Jagdish are now saying that they will not appear before the inquiry commission as they are afraid of the irregularities they had committed while finalising the power purchasing agreements coming out.

HC adjourns...

Continued from page 1

A division bench comprising Justice Alok Aradhe istice Anil Kumar Jukanti heard the petition on Thursday filed by the BRS chief.

KCR's counsel Aditya Sondhi argued that the commission was acting contrary to law and claimed that Justice Narasimha Reddy acted against Supreme Court orders by unilaterally conducting a press conference to announce details of the

The Commission had issued a notice to KCR seeking details of the power purchase agreements and the construction of power plants. As he was busy campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections he had sought more time to respond.

Sridhar seeks...

Continued from page 1

Highlighting the initiatives launched under Chief Minister Revanth leadership, Sridhar mentioned numerous welfare and development programmes for women's empowerment, including free bus travel that helps small traders and MSME operators. He suggested extending training and incentives to the IT sector as well given the large number of engineering graduates and diploma holders in IT, computer science and Artificial İntelligence.Union Minister Manjhi responded positively to Sridhar Babu's invitation to visit Telangana to see the state's initiatives first-hand and promised to visit within a month.Dharmapuri MLA Lakshman Kumar, the State Government Whip, met the Union Minister and Sridhar.

'Will storm back to...

Continued from page 1

ning up losses.

He said the Congress government is faltering by the lav and likened mance to descending a stair-

KCR emphasised that the BRS's strength lies in its dedicated workers, who are capable of becoming leaders themselves. "The BRS has resilient workers and we aim to groom them into leaders," he announced.In an address to the public at his Erravelli residence, KCR reaffirmed his commitment to the state's development.Addressing the outcome of the recent LS elections, KCR remarked, "The people, misled by the Congress's false promises have unfortunately experienced a setback. It is akin to abandoning a milch buffalo for a barren one as the people in our vil-

He expressed concern over the discontinuation of several key BRS schemes like the CM's Relief Fund, Kalyana Lakshmi, "The people are already missing our schemes and are dissatisfied with the Congress," he said.Reflecting on the 15-year

struggle for Telangana's statehood and the subsequent decade of self-governance, KCR emphasised the remarkable progress made and the goals that lie ahead. "Achieving the lofty goal of Telangana involved numerous sacrifices. The honour of serv-

said. He reminded the audience of the dire state Telangana was in under previous administrations when essential resources like drinking water and electricity were scarce.

ing as Chief Minister pales in comparison to the pride in our state's accomplishments," KCR

SC issues... Continued from page 1

Senior advocate R Basant, appearing for the candidates, submitted that a few students, who have appeared for the examination, have not got the OMR

The bench at the outset pointed out to Basant as how can a private coaching institute file an Article 32 petition in the Supreme Court and what kind of fundamental rights of the institution are affected.

Counsel appearing for the NTA submitted that the OMR sheets have been uploaded on the website and given to the candidates.

The bench asked him whether there is any time limit for raising the grievance of OMR sheets.

CM to remain in Delhi for talks on cabinet expansion, TPCC chief

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will remain in New Delhi on Friday as the selection of the new TPCC president and the discussion on expanding the cabinet is not over. The discussion will continue on Friday with the high command.

With this, the CM's Warangal tour on Friday has been postponed to Saturday. Ôn Thursday night, the CM, Deputy CM Revanth Reddy and Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy held discussions with AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal and the AICC in-charge

General Secretary at Venugopal's residence. They discussed cabinet expansion and appointing the TPCC President, but the

talks were inconclusive. Later, speaking to the media, Bhatti said that they had discussed cabinet expansion and appointing the TPCC President. He said they had told the high command not to give posts to new hands and that posts should be given only to those who have taken part

in strengthening the party. They also appealed to the high command to give priority to leaders who have stayed with the party for a long time.

Oppn to raise **NEET in...**

Continued from page 1

The leaders of various parties have also decided to hold a protest on Monday morning before the parliamentary proceedings start, raising the issue of "political vendetta" against opposition leaders, including Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren and three West Bengal ministers, using agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation Enforcement Directorate (ED) and income-tax department, the sources said.

The leaders of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) met at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence here. Besides Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar, Supriya Sule (both from the NCP-SP), Derek O'Brien (TMC), Sanjay Raut, Priyanka Chaturvedi (Shiv Sena-UBT), Sanjay Singh, Sandeep Pathak (both AAP), N K Premchandran (RSP) and Mahua Majhi (JMM) were present on the occasion.Gandhi later said in a Facebook post that he attended the floor leaders'

TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha Jun 27 06:39 PM Tithi: Saptami: to Jun 28 04:27 PM

Nakshatram: Jun 27 11:36 AM Purva Bhadrapada: to Jun 28 10:10 AM Uttara Bhadrapada: Jun 28 10:10 AM to Jun 29 08:49 AM Rahukalam: 10:41 AM to 12:19 PM 3:34 PM to 5:12 PM Varjyam: 07:14 PM to 08:44 PM Gulika: 7:26 AM to 9:04 AM

to Jun 29 02:20 PM

04:17 AM to 05:48 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:53 AM to 12:45 PM HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Scattered Showers

Amritakalam:

Temp: 29°°

Humidity: 75% Sunrise: 5:45 AM

Sunset: 6:54 PM

Updated: June 27, 2024 5:00 PM

KCR has no moral right...

to waive farm loans as per

the word given by Rahul

Continued from page 1

However, BRS leaders are now saying that the government did not give KCR a chance to speak on Formation Day.

"Is there any convention of the Leader of the Opposition speaking at Formation Day celebrations? There was no invitation for us when we were in the opposition," the CM Making it clear that it was

former Power Minister G. Jagdish Reddy who had sought a probe into power purchasing agreements, the CM said that the same Jagdish is now asking why a probe was ordered when the inquiry commission sent a letter to KCR.

"Our mission is the state's development. We are going Gandhi to the people of Telangana. Sonia Gandhi fulfilled her word to create a Telangana state. Elections were held without any incident. The BRS has no right to criticise the government. We are moving forward upholding law and order. We have no issues with Andhra Pradesh. We have already resolved the Andhra Pradesh Bhavan issue with former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy. Now we will solve the remaining issues with the AP Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. If not we will approach the appel-

CM said. He said that the opposition had tried to make the Jeevan Reddy issue political.

late authority and the

Centre or the courts," the

"They don't understand the commitment Jeevan has towards the Congress. The party will make use of Jeevan Reddy as he is a senior leader," the CM said. He said that his tenure as

TPCC president ended on Thursday. "I have already told the high command to appoint a new TPCC President. Opposition parties are campaigning about cabinet expansion. However, there are efficient Ministers for every department. Education is with me. We conducted all exams well. We are moving forward with a specific plan. The media didn't question KCR when he didn't appoint ministers and took oath alone," the CM said. He said that the admin is trying to get funds due to the state from the Centre.

Govt's script...

Continued from page 1

address it seems Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in a state of perpetual denial, claiming that people of India have rejected him in this election by not giving the BJP a majority.He also said that there was no mention of the NEET issue resolution, price rise, unemployment, violence in Manipur, terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, train accidents and the plight of passengers in trains and atrocities on Dalits, adivasis and minori-

ties in the BJP-ruled states. Listening to the President's address written by the Modi government, it seemed as if Modi ji is in a perpetual state of denial! The mandate was against him because the people of the country rejected his slogan of "400 plus" and kept the BJP away from the figure

Murmu: Emergency...

It is like cutting the very

Continued from page 1

branch on which "we all are sitting", she said. Amid cancellation and deferment of some competitive exams due to suspicion of paper leaks, which have drawn protests from students and the opposition's attack on the government, Murmu said her government is committed to a fair probe and ensuring punishment to culprits.

She said, "My government is working towards major reforms in examination related bodies. This process requires complete transparency and probity."

In her 50-minute address, the President highlighted the government's measures in a range of sectors, from economy, defence and farming to the empowerment of different sec-

tions of society, and laid down its priorities in its third term, amid sporadic protests from opposition benches when she referred to issues such as paper leaks and matters related to the North East region.

Though she touched upon some of the things promised in the BJP's manifesto like bullet trains and health insurance for senior citizens, there was no mention of a few of the major highlights of the party's promises such as the Uniform Civil Code and one-nationone-election. The President's speech to Parliament is essentially a government-approved document which outlines its agenda.Her address kept the heat on the Congress, which is buoyed by its best tally in the last three polls, over the issue of Emergency imposed by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Court rejects...

Continued from page 1

The police argued that they had filed a charge sheet and that the court had returned it due to some mistakes and that it doesn't mean they didn't file a charge sheet.

The court accepted the police argument and rejected the bail applications on Thursday.

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Hyd housing sales decline by 23% in quarter-2, 2024

Housing sales in Hyderabad witnessed a significant decline of 23% in the second quarter of 2024, with approximately 15,085 units sold compared to the previous quarter's 19,660.

As per Anarock, this drop is part of a broader trend seen across the top seven cities in India, where overall residential sales fell by 8% from approximately 1,30,170 units in Q1 2024 to around 1,20,340 units in Q2 2024. Despite this quarterly drop, there was a 5% yearon-year increase in sales. Among the top seven cities, only NCR recorded a quarterly rise in sales, with a 6% increase to approximately 16,550 units in Q2 2024 from 15,650 units in Q1 2024.

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and Pune together accounted for 52% of the total sales in Q2 2024, with



MMR seeing 41,540 units sold and Pune 21,145 units. New launches across the top seven cities continued their upward trend with a 6% quarterly increase, from approximately 1,10,870 units in Q1 2024 to around 1,17,170 units in Q2 2024. MMR and Pune led this growth, contributing 54% of the total new launches. NCR saw the highest quarterly increase in new supply with a

ANAROCK Group, commented on the data, stating that the quarterly decline in housing sales is largely due to the high base of the previous quarter and significant property price hikes over the past year. Average residential prices across the top seven cities saw a 7% quarterly rise and a notable 25% year-on-year

Hyderabad, in particular, experienced the highest annu-Anuj Puri, Chairman of al jump in average residential

Puri suggested that if property prices are kept in check, housing sales may stabilise in the coming quarters. The focus on new launches in luxury and premium segments, which outpaced mid-segment supply for the first time, indicates a shift in market dynamics. The top seven cities recorded significant new launches in Q2 2024, with MMR adding approximately 44,120 units and Pune 18,920 units.

decline of 40% in new supply but an annual increase of 31%, with around 13,750 units added, primarily in the mid and premium price segments. Overall, the data highlights a mixed performance in the real estate market, with some cities like NCR showing resilience and others, including Hyderabad, experiencing

Hyderabad saw a quarterly

Lulu Mall raided; expired milk, seeds seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task Force on Food Safety on Thursday raided the Lulu Mall at Kukatpally and seized a large quantity of expired food items, including milk and seeds.

During the raid, the authority also seized infested items, including atta bread mix (10 kg) loose baguette bread mix (15 kg) in the bakery unit which was found and discarded. Expired food items including sesame seeds (20 kg), toned milk (20 L), biscuit packets, glaze (7.5 kg), gems (5 kg) and fruit juice (2 packets) were found at the establish-

The Commissioner said that a notice will be served to the hypermarket as an updated FSSAI licence copy was not displayed at the entrance of the

Workers in the food section were not wearing caps, gloves, masks and uniforms; Houseflies were seen hovering

Kazipet bypass rail line works taken up at a cost of Rs 125 cr

PNS HYDERABAD

The ongoing works of the Kazipet bypass railway line is one of the major bypass lines planned by the zone to ease the movement of trains. Kazipet is a major junction in the South Central Railway wherein it connects trains between Secunderabad - New Delhi, Secunderabad/New Delhi/Chennai Secunderabad-Howrah.

Over the years, there has been a steady growth in traf-fic leading to saturation of the section. To ease the train movements in this critical section, a bypass line has been taken up to avoid detention of trains and enhance efficiency of train movements. The bypass line stretching for a distance of 21.47 route kms is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 125 crore. The project involves construction of a Rail Under Rail (RUR), three major bridges and 31 minor bridges. Once completed, it will ease the train movements in all directions, particularly between Hasanparthi - Warangal & Hasanparthi Road - Kazipet

SCR General Manager Arun Kumar Jain undertook inspection of ongoing Kazipet bypass line works and inspected Kazipet and Warangal redevelopment works on Thursday. He was accompanied by Bhartesh Kumar Jain, operating the train. Divisional Railway Manager,

The General Manager undertook extensive review of the works with the Divisional and Headquarters team across all branches (construction, overhead equipment, signal & telecommunication works) so as to expedite early commissioning of the project.

Secunderabad Division and

other senior officials from the

headquarters as well as the

Earlier, he started with foot plate inspection from Secunderabad to Kazipet section, wherein he examined the safety aspects pertaining to maintenance of track, bridges and signalling systems. He also examined the duties and alertness of loco staff while

Further Arun Kumar Jain also inspected the station redevelopment works of both Warangal and Kazipet Railway Stations. Both the stations are part of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme and are being redeveloped to provide modern passenger amenities with aesthetic architecture to reinvigorate the stations as local growth centres. He instructed the officials to carry out the station development works with minimum passenger inconvenience and within the stipulated time frame for the benefit of rail passengers.

27% of minority children drop out from school

PNS HYDERABAD

A randomised survey was conducted on the status of education of vulnerable children in over 15 major slums by the Helping Hand Foundation (HHF) in Hakeempet, Md Rajendranagar, Kishanbagh, Shyamnagar, Hasanagar, Kala pather, Errakunta, Shaheen Nagar, Pahadi Sherif, Jalpally, where 2,500 households were interviewed over a period of last three months. It has indicated that 27 per cent of students, of whom almost 50 per cent at primary school level have dropped out of school in the last academic year.

About four per cent of children in school-going age were found out of the education system or haven't attended school vet. Almost 65 per cent of these dropout children's parents are migrants from other states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar and UP. About 75 per cent of parents who resided in urban slums pointed out that financial hardships were the main reason behind the sons. The foundation helped



dropout rates.

With an idea to promote and enrol children for free education in government schools, the foundation mapped 756 government schools in the urban slums and found that the distribution and availability of govt schools was inequitable. Some areas have grossly deficient government schools which are easily accessible to children while some areas have relatively more schools.

However, only 30 per cent of the total 1,050 students who were counselled for enrolment, registered while others did not agree to go government schools for various rea-

these children in obtaining bonafides like birth certificates and Aadhaar cards necessary for admission. Further, 35 per cent of parents pointed out that they cannot enroll their children in government schools due to lack of teaching staff, toilets and other facilities. Apart from that, transportation or accessibility to government schools was another major concern of 55 per cent of the parents interviewed. Government schools which are over 1-2km away are difficult to access as parents are not in a position to spend even Rs 50 to 100 per day for trans-

HHF set up the first free primary-cum-bridge school from nursery to grade 5 for the first generation children in Errakunta, an economically backward slum under Jalpally municipal limits on Thursday. About 400 students enrolled in the school. The school was inaugurated by Mazharuddin Hussaini, Executive Director, SEED-USA, the main partners of HHF in India.



Indonesian envoy visits **UoH** for collaboration

PNS HYDERABAD

Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia, Eddy Wardoyo, along with delegates, paid a visit to the University of Hyderabad (UoH) to explore the possibilities of collaboration with varied universities in Indonesia on Thursday.

Eddy Wardoyo, along with Endy KI Ginting, Consul, Muhammad Syafruddin Akhyar, Visa Officer, accompanied by Filzah Farhanah Hasibuan, Phd student of EFLU, Hyderabad and Farras Chaidar Rahman, BTech student of NIT Warangal, visited the varsity.

Prof. Chetan Srivastava, Director, Office for Affairs, International University of Hyderabad, wel-

comed the Consul General and the delegates, and gave a brief overview of the university and its international collaborations. He spoke on various options which can be explored for collaboration between the UoH and varied universities in Indonesia.

Prof. BJ Rao, Vice-Chancellor, UoH, introduced the university, its courses and research strengths to the del-

He spoke about the cultural similarities between India and Indonesia, which will make it easy for the collaboration as well as exchange of students and faculty. The Consul General felt the need to explore opportunities for specific collaborations which can benefit exchange of students and faculty.

Two arrested over investment fraud involving Rs 3.16 crore

PNS HYDERABAD

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Cyberabad Police on June 26 arrested two persons involved in an investment fraud worth Rs 3.16 crore.

The accused were identified as Kalapatapu Sri Lakshmi Prasad, Managing Director, Subhodayam Infra Private Limited and Mungaluri Venkata Satya Sudheer, accountant at the

Both the accused are natives of Andhra Pradesh. In 2017, Prasad established the firm at Madhpur. Sudheer was the accountant while Kalapatapu Anuradha and Ramana Reddy were directors.

The accused showcased various vacant lands at Quilashapur village of Raghunathpally mandal, Janagaon district, which are not owned by them and hatched a plan to collect huge deposits from the prospective purchasers in the name of Shubhodayam Kakatiya Infra by promising high returns and also promoted buyback scheme to cheat innocent people.

Later, the accused persons, with an attractive

scheme of buyback scheme and promised to return extra 50% appreciation in 13 months, 75% appreciation in 18 months & 100% appreciation in 26 months if customers pay full amount for Phase1 development or else register 1 acre land in Quilashpur village by publishing colourful brochures and conducted meet-

ings at Madhapur office to attract the deposits from various pur-

For this purpose, Kalapatapu Sri Lakshmi Prasad, Chairman & Managing Director, appointed marketing agents to bring in more number of purchasers, for which they offered huge commissions on the

sale of land. The victims Kalluru Praveen Kumar Reddy and 13 others were lured into investing the amount into the buyback scheme.

After collecting the amount from the victims, the accused did not register lands in their name and failed to return the amount.

The accused were arrested under Sections 406, 420 IPC and Section 5 of the Telangana Protection of Depositors of Financial Establishments Act-1999.

Rains lash city due to LPA; **IMD** issues yellow alert

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad witnessed on and off moderate to heavy rains on Thursday due to a Low Pressure Area (LPA) after three days of dry weather.

According to the Telangana Weatherman, after moderate rains lashed the city, rains gradually moved across North and East Telangana, with scattered intense rains spread across Jangaon, Siddipet, Sircilla, Kamareddy, Warangal, Hanmakonda, Karimnagar, Jagitial, Mahabubabad, and Mulugu

on Thursday evening.

The IMD has issued a yellow alert until July 1 for heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph.

These conditions are likely to occur at isolated places in Adilabad, Komaram Bheem\Asifabad, Mancherial, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagital, Rajanna \Sirsilla, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashan kar\Bhupalapally, Mulugu and Bhadradri\Kothagudem districts of Telangana.

Strong surface winds of 30-40 kmph are expected at isolated places in Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanamkonda, Warangai, Hanamkonda, Jangaon, Siddipet, Yadadri\ Bhuva ngiri, Rangareddy, Hydera bad, Medchal\ Malkajgiri, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kama reddy, Maha bubnagar and

Nagarkurnool districts. Hyderabad is expected to have a generally cloudy sky with light to moderate rain or thundershowers, accompanied by strong surface winds of 30-40 kmph until

Student entrepreneurship summit in India hosted in Hyd

PNS HYDERABAD

A three-day Young Entrepreneurs (TYE) Global Conference 2024 was hosted by The Indus Entrepreneurs (ŤiE) at IIIT Hyderabad. Over 300 students from across India participated in the TYE Global Conference 2024.

The conference was aimed to inspire and instill the spirit of entrepreneurship among students in an era where entrepreneurship is becoming increasingly prominent. With over 582 million entrepre-neurs globally and rapid growth expected in the coming years, this initiative is

more relevant than ever.
It provided students from classes 9 to 12 with unparalleled opportunities to network with accomplished business



leaders and aspiring young entrepreneurs from across

The event featured a rich array of activities, including keynotes from renowned entrepreneurs, masterclasses, competition tracks, a Maker Faire, startup showcases and industry tours. Over 25 teams from around the world competed in the global competition by demonstrating their innovative ideas and entrepreneurial spirit.

Accomplished business



such as Phanindra Sama, Founder of redBus, Murali Bukkapatnam, Global Vice Chairman of TiE Global Board of Trustees, Charan Lakkaraju, Founder/CEO of StudentTribe, attended the event to provide insightful keynotes relating to

entrepreneurship.

A notable achievement by a team from India called V Sign developed gloves that translate sign language into speech and won the runner-up position in the competition.

DCA seizes overpriced medicine in raids

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Drug Control Administration (DCA) on June 26 seized overpriced medicine and drugs with misleading advertisements claiming to cure kidney stones and diabetes.

During a raid in Khammam district, the DCA seized Itralent-200 capsules (Itraconazole Capsules 200 mg) and ITROCIDE-200 Capsules (Itraconazole capsules 200 mg) at Jagtial and Evalet-2.5 tablets (Letrozole tablets IP 2.5 mg) at Sangareddy.

Itraconazole capsules 200 mg sold under the brand names 'Itralent-200 capsules' and 'ITROCIDE-200 capsules' and Letrozole tablets 2.5 mg sold under brand name 'Evalet-2.5 tablets' were under price control as per the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 and the price of the products should be in accordance with the 'ceiling price' fixed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Government of India.

The maximum retail price of Intralent capsules was set at Rs 400 per 10 capsules, while the ceiling price set by the gov-ernment is Rs 22.12. The pharmacy charged an excess amount of Rs 152.26.

Similarly, the Itrocide -200 was being sold at Rs 330 per 10 capsules while the ceiling price set by the government is Rs 22.12; The pharmacy charged an excess amount of charged an excess amount of Rs 83. The Evalet - 2.5 tablets wer being sold at an MRP of Rs 190; while the ceiling price set by the government is Rs 29.32; The pharmacy charged an excess amount of Rs 25.80.

Valve repairs complete, water supply restored

PNS HYDERABAD

NRV valve work of the second pump under repair at Kodandapur Pump House of Krishna Drinking Water Supply Scheme Phase-II, which supplies water to the Greater Hyderabad city, was completed on Thursday.

The officials took up the repair works on war-footing and completed them. Later, water supply was restored. As a result, water is being suppled as usual to all areas under Phase-2. On Wednesday, due to the repair works of the NRV valve, there was an urgent situation of stopping the water supply. There was a complete disruption and partial disruption in some places while in some areas, water was supplied under pressure.

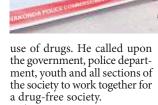
Walkathon to highlight a drug-free society

PNS HYDERABAD

Commissionerate, in collaboration with the Department of Persons with Special Needs, Senior Citizens and Transgenders, organised an Anti-illicit Drugs and Anti-Human Trafficking Walkathon Tukkuguda under Maheshwaram zone in connection with the International

Anti-Narcotics Day on June 26. Ranga Reddy District Collector Shashanka, along with Commissioner Tarun Joshi, police officers and stu-dents from various institu-tions participated in this pro-

Collector Shashanka said that the use of prohibited drugs is like a pest in society and there is a need to eradicate the



Awareness programmes are being conducted under the auspices of the government through the Rachakonda Commissionerate in colleges

and social media to educate the youth about the ill-effects of

The Commissioner said that the common people and stu-dents should consider it as their responsibility to have a drug-free society and should check the use of drugs in their neighborhoods, colleges and

The golden future of the youth is being destroyed due to the influence of drugs as it destroys the physical and mental health of the youth. In the fight against drugs by the police, the youth should play their part responsibly, refrain from drug use and inform the police immediately about the supply and use of drugs that come to their attention.

He pledged to follow and be a partner in the Telangana government's determination towards a drug-free society.

DCP LB Nagar Praveen Kumar, DCP Maheshwaram Sunitha Reddy, DCP Crimes Arvind Babu, DCP Women Safety Usha Vishwanath, ACP Narender Goud, other officials and students of various schools participated in the programme.

FIRST STATUE OF HELEN KELLER UNVEILED

'Govt committed to welfare of disabled'

PNS HYDERABAD

India's first statue of Helen Keller was unveiled by Minister of Women and Child Welfare Seethakka, in the office of the Disabled Welfare department on the occasion of the 144th birth anniversary of Helen Keller on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Seethakka said, "Helen Keller's birthday is the birthday of all disabled people, stating that the previous government ignored the disabled and gave a budget of only RS one crore. The present government has given a budget of Rs 75 crore.

She also said, those who do not see the challenged as a responsibility and those who use them for selfish purposes



are the real disabled. After the Congress govern-

ment was formed, welfare schemes. schemes started one by one, and reservations of 5% in higher education was implanted and age relaxation of 5 years was given to the challenged. This government is committed

to the welfare of the disabled,

implementing 5% in jobs and 4% reservation in all welfare

After launching a speciallyprepared website, mementos were given to disabled people who have shown talent in various fields and a cake was cut

on the occasion. TPCC Handicapped Wing

Veeraiah, said that the moment A Revanth Reddy was sworn in as the CM, he gave a job to disabled woman Rajini and gave 4% reservations to disabled people in court jobs. He said, a special initiative to

make the Sadaram slot was made easy by the Chief Minister. Muthineni also said Revanth Reddy gave a big account to the disabled and said that in the near future, all welfare programmes related to the disabled will be done very well, and the Congress manifesto set up for the dis-abled will be fully implement-

This government is committed to the welfare of the disabled, He added.

TG CM's vision for integrating education and employability

▼n a diverse yet unified country like India, the concept of an integrated residential educational hub represents a forward-thinking approach. Under the leader-ship of Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy, the Congress government in Telangana has taken a decision that is set to revolutionize the education landscape. Many view this initiative as a contemporary solution to the challenges facing our education system today.

Brainchild of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the initiative aims to foster some

initiative aims to foster camaraderie, integrity, and unity among children from all societal strata. It reflects his vision to instil in young minds values, particularly of unity and integrity, right from their forway on pilot projects planned at Kodangal and Madhira. Administrative approvals have already been granted for these educational hubs. These institutions will consolidate schools catering to children from SC, ST, BC, and Minority communities into a single campus. This innovative approach eliminates the need for separate school buildings across different locations.

Each hub will feature shared facilities for sports, recreation, skill development, alongside exclusive classrooms and dormitories for respective groups. This integration not only optimizes government spending on maintenance but also enhances oversight of educational and extracurricular

Currently, work is underway on pilot projects planned at Kodangal and Madhira. Administrative approvals have already been granted for these educational hubs. These institutions will consolidate schools catering to children from SC, ST, BC, and Minority communities into a single campus. This innovative approach eliminates the need for separate school buildings across different locations.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is dedicated to enhancing basic education throughout the state and his primary goal is to lay a strong acade-mic foundation and hone practical skills among young learners. He emphasizes the urgent need for comprehen-

sive improvements across government-run educational institutions.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy envisions Telangana becoming a role model for fostering unity in diversity. This initiative aims to cultivate a sense of belonging among



communities, a cornerstone of a vibrant society. Students from these institutions are expected to embody a true sense of Indian identity.

The integrated educational hub concept in Telangana exemplifies the principles of federalism, promoting equal munities. Though currently in its pilot phase, this initiative is anticipated to yield significant benefits in the future.

Recently, the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister reviewed architectural models for the proposed educational hub structures in a meeting. The project is designed for swift completion, promising to transform the campus into a dynamic learning environment that offers students a fresh educational experience. These campuses will be developed across all constituencies in a phased approach.
Each integrated residential

school complex will occupy 20-25 acres of land, consolidated into 'mini education hubs' at centralized locations. Government sources indicate

development and educational opportunities for all comenhance student talent and foster a competitive spirit while eradicating discrimination on caste and religious

ITIs to boost employability

The efforts and initiatives aimed at skill development among the youth are poised to be the cornerstone for job creation and employability in the state. In a significant move, the Chief Minister has decided to transform ITIs into Advanced Training Centres (ATCs). The goal is to train young people in advanced technologies that meet current industry acquirement. rent industry requirements, enhancing their employability and enabling them to contribute to the state's economic growth.

This significant initiative, estimated to cost Rs 2,324 modern courses. Ân agreement with Tata Technologies Limited (TTL) has been formalized to support this endeavor. Approximately 4.70 lakh youth are expected to be trained in these ATCs over the next 10 years. These initiatives are set to transform the landscape of education, learning, and employment in next-generation Telangana.

The government is simultaneously focusing on enhanc-ing academic standards and improving skill development among the youth. This comprehensive approach aligns with global standards and aims to elevate the capabilities of the youth positioning them. of the youth, positioning them to compete and succeed on an international level.

(The writer is CPRO to Telangana Chief Minister)

SITARAMA PROJECT

Trial run a success

The Trial run of the Sitarama project conducted on the intervening night between Wednesday and Thursday at the pump house-I in Aswapuram of the district was a success.

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, who witnessed the trial run became emotional seeing the Godavari water and folded his hands in reverence to the Mother Earth.

The long-cherished dream of Khammam district people is going to be fulfilled soon. The Godavari water is going to irrigate the soil of the dis-

Described as the boon of Khammam district, the Sitarama project reached the final staged of execution. A wonderful spectacle was unveiled here on Wednesday night with the trial run of the project. Tummala Nageswara Rao has asked irrigation authorities to reservoir.

complete the trial run as early as possible to provide irrigation facility to the

The Officials have been making arrangements for the trial run for the past 20 days. They are working to release the project water to the Nagarjunasagar Project link canal by August 15 and link it further to the Wyra

The Sitarama Project seek to irrigation at least 10 lakh acres in Khammam, Bhadradri-Kothagudem, Mahabubabad districts.

The Minister said that his last wish was to bring Godavari water to Khammam district. His long-cherished dream was to ensure that Godavari waters irrigate the lands in Khammam district as they

would irrigate in Godavari districts. He offered his highest regards to those who have alienated their lands for the project. He appreciated the officials who worked hard day and night. The objective of the state government is to provide irrigation facility to at least 1.5 lakh acres during the current kharif.

During the recent Assembly elections, the minister went on record stating that his life ambition was to complete the Sitarama Project. When he was in the TDP, the project was conceptualized. Because of shortage of funds the project did not see light at the end of the

With the formation of Telangana state, Tummala Cabinet. Therefore, he launched the Sitarama Project. The then CM KCR laid the foundation stone for the project on February

Collector's orders to district officials to inspect govt hospitals trigger protest

PNS NALGONDA

Medical officers, heads of various departments in district headquarters hospital, nurses and hospital staff protested in front of the hospital here on Thursday objecting to district officials questioning them on various issues. They contended that only District Collector or Joint Collector has the authority to Inspect the hospi-

tal.

They wanted the district authorities to withdraw the orders issued by Collector C Narayana Reddy directing the district officials to inspect the hospitals. The protesting hospital staff objected to officials visiting hospitals in the name of inspection.

Responding to the protest, the Collector deputed Additional Collector T Purnachandra to visit the hospital and submit him full report.
The Additional Collector

visited the hospital and spoke to doctors, professors and



Nalgonda District Additional Collector T Purnchandra Rao speaking to reporters after visiting headquarters hospital in Nalgonda on Thursday

other heads of departments and clarified that the district administration has issued orders to inspect the basic amenities in the hospital life sanitation, drinking water, toilets and inform the district authorities but it did not mean to assess the working of doctors, professors and other medical professionals.

Moreover, the district officials were not given any authority to question the doctors. The orders specified that the district officials should only go through the attendance registers of outpatient and special wards. They were prohibited from questioning the doctors regarding their

professional matters.
The district officials inspect the hospital and check their attendance register only.

They would check the san-

itation in all wards and submit the district administration a

They would also inspect the X-ray, ultrasound scanning, CT-scanning, ECG units and enquire how many patients have been benefited find out whether there are any hiccups and submit a report to the Collector.

They would check how many diagnostic tests are conducted in a day. They would never question anyone. They check whether the services are being provided on a firstcome first-served basis or not. The district administration

is keen on ensuring that the government hospital extends best medical services to peo-

ple.
While reviewing the progress of the district headquarters government hospital, n a meeting held on June 21 with medical college principal, DMHO, DCHS, doctors, doctors, professors and heads of medical departments it was decided to depute one district official daily to monitor the activities, besides providing amenities at the hospital, but no doctor or other medical professionals objected to the arrangement at the

BRS places 5 demands ahead of CM's Warangal visit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A tals. ing Warangal and BRS leader Enugula Rakesh Reddy addressed a press meet at Telangana Bhavan, placing five demands.

He criticised the Congress for their attacks, alleging that they have been busy with Delhi tours and foisting cases. Rakesh Reddy questioned the CM's priorities, noting that while it is commendable to start the tour in Warangal, it is peculiar that the visit is for the inauguration of a private hospital.

Rakesh Reddy stated that during the Warangal visit, there are five key demands: the immediate revamp of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial (MGM) Hospital, expediting the construction of the multispecialty hospital for which CM KCR laid the foundation, addressing and resolving the existing problems at AIIMS Hospital, clarifying the position on preserving the historical Kakatiya Arch, and focusing on improving public healthcare facilities instead of inaugurating corporate hospi-

state of government hospitals, emphasizing the long queues due to a shortage of doctors and the dependency on private labs for tests. MGM Hospital lacks sufficient beds and paramedical staff, leading to multiple patients sharing beds and doctors struggling with limited resources.

The recent five-hour power outage at MGM Hospital left patients in distress, showcasing the critical need for better infrastructure. Rakesh Reddy criticized the Congress administration, comparing the state's financial situation to "a coconut falling on a withered tree," indicating the fragile economic condition.

He expressed dismay that even after years of independence, citizens still have to plead for free healthcare in front of the media. He concluded by urging the government to invest in public health instead of wasting on ineffective money schemes. Ends

Ex-MLA calls for preservation of Chaudamma Yadi Temple lands

Bakkani Narsimhulu, former MLA from Shadnagar and a member in the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Politburo, expressed deep concern over the destruction of natural resources at the Chaudamma Yadi temple site.

Accompanied by former MPP Challa Venkateswara Reddy, Bharatiya Janata Party leaders Nelli Srivardhan Reddy and Ande Babaiah, and other party leaders, Narsimhulu visited the disputed lands and hills on Thursday to assess the dam-

Narsimhulu emphasised the importance of preserving nature, stating, "There is life in nature where trees and bushes thrive." He revealed that a complaint regarding the destruction of the Chaudamma Yadi temple destruction lands had been previously submitted to the local Tahsildar, but no action was taken. He criticised the



Former MLA Bakkani Narsimhulu speaking to reporters in Shadnagar on

authorities for their inaction and failure to protect natural resources, arguing that such neglect endangers human sur-

The former MLA highlighted the significance of the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at the site and condemned its demolition. He lamented

the ongoing real estate developments in the region, which threaten the green fields and jeopardize human existence.

Narsimhulu shared that on March 17, he personally filed a complaint at the Tehsildar's office, pointing out the historical evidence present, including stone pillars, an ancient

tank). He condemned the authorities' justification that their actions were based on directives from previous rulers, calling it outrageous.

According to historical accounts, the lands originally belonged to Raja Šawai Venkata Reddy Wanaparthi. Narsimhulu explained that after losing the lands in wars, those who occupied them under Kharij (confiscation) claimed owner-

He demanded that the reconstruction of the ancient Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple on its original site and urged the government to protect the sentiments of the people. Narsimhulu stressed the importance of preserving natural wealth for future generations and called for the cancellation of any permissions that facilitate the destruction of the environment. He emphasized the need to restore the area to its previous state to safeguard its natural resources

Harish: Did Revanth divert Cong votes to BJP in Kodangal?

PNS HYDERABAD

In a heated response to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's accusations in Delhi, former minister and BRS MLA T Harish Rao has called Revanth's comments bizarre and unfounded. Harish criticised Revanth's claim that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had colluded in the parliamentary elections. He emphasised that such statements from a person of Revanth's stature are "irre-

sponsible". Highlighting the political dynamics in Medak, Harish noted that the BRS won the majority in three out of seven Assembly constituencies. He pointed out that even in BJP MLA Raghunandan

Rao's constituen-cy, Dubbak, the BRS secured a majority. Harish further questioned Revanth's integrity, citing that in Revanth's own village, Kondareddy Pally, the BJP had a majority. He rhetorically asked if Revanth himself had diverted Congress votes to the BJP. "Revanth Reddy's own village, Kondareddy Pally, saw a BJP majority. Did Revanth himself divert Congress votes to the BJP there?" Harish questioned. Moreover, Harish highlighted that in Mahbubnagar, Revanth's constituency, the BJP won despite the presence of Congress MLAs in all seven assembly constituencies. He questioned if Revanth had collaborated with BJP to ensure its victory. "In Mahbubnagar, a con-

stituency represented by Revanth, the BJP won. How

did this happen when

Congress MLAs are present in

all seven Assembly constituen-

cies?" Harish asked. "Did all

these Congress members work

together to help the BJP win?"

Harish also mentioned Revanth's victory in Kodangal with a 32,000 majority, contrasting it with the Congress candidate's 21,000 majority in the parliamentary elections. He insinuated that Revanth might have diverted the remaining votes to the BJP. "In Kodangal, Revanth won with a 32,000 majority, but the Congress candidate only managed a 21,000 majority in the parliamentary elections. Did Revanth divert the remaining votes to the BJP?" Harish

inquired. Harish did not stop there.

He pointed out that the BJP's significant win in Malkajgiri, where Revanth had previously represented, raises questions about possible collusion. He accused Revanth

implementing the BJP agenda while being in the Congress party, referencing Revanth's controversial remarks about Prime Minister Modi and alleged attempts to privatise Singareni with Modi's collaboration.

"How did the BJP achieve massive majority in Malkajgiri, an area previously represented by Revanth? Is Congress helping the BJP there?" Harish asked. "Revanth has joined hands with the BJP and Modi, working on their agenda while being in the Congress party. He even referred to Modi as 'Pedanna' (elder brother) in a full assem-

Harish also accused Revanth of colluding with Modi to privatize Singareni and failing to hold the Modi government accountable for unfulfilled promises during the division. He expressed that both national parties, Congress and BJP, are targeting the regional strength of BRS together.

ZP meeting demands release of input subsidy to farmers

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

The last general body meeting of the Zilla Parishad held here on Thursday adopted several resolutions unanimously demanding that the State government immediately credit Rs 15,000 per acre into the accounts of farmers towards input subsidy under Rytu Bharosa, pay arrears of wages to the safai karmacharis in 227 villages and release salaries of the midday meals workers, along with arrears.

The meeting was presided over by the Zilla Parishad Chairperson Roja Radhakrishna Sarma. She thanked former chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao for giving her an opportunity to serve the people, particularly the

Government officials and elected people's representatives were conspicuous by their absence at the meeting. Empty chairs greeted the ZP chairperson and other members.

Former Minister T Harish Rao expressed his impatience over the absence of the officials who were supposed to inform the meeting the release of funds to various government departments.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar congratulated the ZP chairperson, vice-chairman, MPPs, MPTCs and others who have completed their five-year term in service of the public. He wished them to occupy higher positions in future. He offered to work his bit to implement the promises made by the new Congress government like Indiramma Houses, issue of new ration cards, loan waiver for the farmers and resolve the problems of farmers, students and other medical related issues.

Former Minister T Harish Rao highlighted the omissions and commissions of the sixmonth Congress rule in the state. He questioned the government when is it going to deposit Rytu Bandhu amount into bank accounts of farmers

Walkthon held to mark International Day against Drug Abuse

PNS RANGAREDDY

A walkthon event was held at Fab City under the Tukkuguda Municipality in connection with International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The event was presided over by District Collector K Shashanka and Rachakonda Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi, and organised by the District Police Department, Excise Department, Women and Child Welfare Child Department, and Medical Department.

In his address, District Collector Shashanka emphasised the importance of combating drug trafficking and abuse. He highlighted the severe impacts of drug use on

individuals. He called upon the public to actively participate in creating a drug-free community. He urged residents to report any drugrelated activities to the police and ensure a drug-free lifestyle, aligning with the Telangana government's

vision for a drug-free society. Rachakonda Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi echoed similar sentiments, urging citizens and students to take responsibility for creating a drug-free society. He stressed the role of the youth in this fight, noting how drug addiction is destroying the future and health of young people. Joshi called for vigilance in neighborhoods, colleges, and schools and encouraged immediate reporting of any drug-related activities to the police. The event commenced with

Collector Shashanka and Commissioner Tarun Joshi flagging off the walkthon. The rally included cultural program's performed by students, adding an element of entertainment to the event.

The programme saw participation from notable figures including DCP Maheshwaram Sunitha Reddy, Kandukur RDO Suraj Kumar, Women and Child Welfare Department Officer Padmaja Ramana, DCP Crimes Arvind Babu, DCP Women Safety Usha Vishwanath, ACP Narender Goud, and various officials, students, and members of the community

Himachal to rope in entrepreneurs for developing tourism: Bali

he pioneer

imachal Pradesh government is taking effective steps to develop sustainable tourism infrastructure in the state in association with the private sector on public-private partnership (PPP) mode, Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) Chairman R S Bali said. Presiding over a conference on business opportunities in the state in Chandigarh, he said that Himachal was a peaceful and safe destination in the

country with vast potential for the tourism sector, a statement issued here on Thursday said. The state government was committed to exploiting this potential for strengthening the state economy besides generating employment and selfemployment avenues for the youth, he added. Bali said the main purpose of the conference was to partner with the private sector for development. management and operation of the properties being developed under the new Asian Development Bank (ADB) project.



'Indian airports need to review their pricing strategies'

ndian airports need to review their pricing strategies and can substantially increase their profitability by garnering more non-aeronautical revenues, according to aviation consultancy firm CAPA India. India is the world's third largest domestic civil aviation market and air traffic is on the rise. Airlines are increasing their fleet, operating more routes while airports are also expanding their capacities. Airports

Partnership (PPP) mode generate more non-aero revenues compared to those operated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the consultancy said during a webinar on Thursday. Just five PPP airports --Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Cochin -- accounted for 71 per cent of the total non-aeronautical revenue in India in FY2020, while handling 53 per cent of the total traffic, CAPA India said.



Aamir Khan buys apartment in Pali Hill in Mumbai for nearly Rs 10 cr

ollywood actor Aamir Khan has bought an apartment in a upscale residential building at Pali Hills in Bandra West, Mumbai for nearly Rs 10 crore. According to property registration documents accessed and analyzed by real estate consultant SquareYards.com, Khan has executed the deed of transfer of a residential property in his name in Mumbai's Bandra suburb. The actor acquired this prestigious

property for Rs 9.75 crore. The property is ready-to-move-in and approximately 1,027 square feet (carpet area) in size. The transfer deed, which was finalised on June 25th, incurred a stamp duty of Rs 58.5 lakh and a registration fee of Rs 30,000. The property is located in Bella Vista Apartments, an upscale residential building situated in Pali Hills area. Pali Hills is one of Mumbai's most prestigious and sought-after residential areas.



IMEC will prove to be one of 'biggest game-changers'

PNS NEW DELHI

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) will prove to be one of the "biggest game-changers" of the 21st century, President Droupadi Murmu said in Parliament on Thursday.

She also said the global order is taking a "new shape" and that the government's efforts are resulting in "Bharat" giving a new confidence to the world as a "Vishwa-Bandhu" (friend of the

In her address to a joint sitting of the Parliament, Murmu said India today is the first responder in any crisis and has become a strong voice of the Global South in view of its human-centric approach.

Outlining priorities of the Modi government in the foreign policy domain, the president said Îndia is giving great emphasis on



connectivity.

"Be it East Asia or Middle-East and Europe, my government is giving great emphasis on connectivity. It is India's vision that has given shape to the India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor," she said.

"This corridor will prove to be one of the biggest game-changers of the 21st century," Murmu

Billed as a pathbreaking ini-

the corridor.

'Today's India is known not for adding to the challenges the world is facing, but for providing solutions to the world. As a Vishwa-Bandhu, India has taken initiatives in providing solutions to many global problems," Murmu said.

European Union, the United

Arab Emirates (UAE), the US

and some other G20 partners for

"We are providing various solutions for issues ranging from climate change to food security and from nutrition to sustainable agriculture," she said.

The president also delved into various aspects of India's foreign policy priorities.

integration among Asia, Middle "The global order is taking a The IMEC initiative was new shape in this third decade firmed up on the sidelines of the of 21st century. Due to the G20 Summit in Delhi in efforts of my Government, Bharat is giving a new confi-An agreement was signed by dence to the world as a Vishwa-India, Saudi Arabia, the Bandhu," she said.

Section of people creating disturbances in Assam: CM

PNS NALBARI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday accused a section of people of creating distur-bances in the state following the recent Lok Sabha election results, directing police to handle such forces firmly.

"We have observed that certain people are trying to disrupt peace in the state through serious criminal activities," Sarma told reporters after a cabinet meeting here.

The CM highlighted five incidents, including recent rape cases in Mazbat, Dĥekiajuli, and Dudhnoi, along with mob violence in Barpeta and Kokrajhar villages. "While such crimes had significantly reduced over the past three years, there has been a troubling spike in incidents over the last

Let us all work towards blossoming of democracy: Dhankhar in RS

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday welcomed the 61 newly-elected and nominated members of the House and urged them to exploit their potential to contribute towards fulfilling the aspirations of people.

"Let us all in togetherness work towards the blossoming of democracy," he said while welcoming the members at the start of the 264th session of the Upper House.

He said this is the first session after the recent general elections and the assembly polls in four

"While exercising their fran-chise, the people of Bharat, the largest democracy in the world, have expressed their faith in our democratic polity and the values that underpin our Republic. The successful completion of this 'festival of democracy' is a matter of great pride and admiration for all of us," he noted.

Dhankhar also said that the some manner for dialogue, dis-



Upper House has got re-constituted partially after its recent biennial elections.

"Congratulations to all the 61 newly elected/nominated Members of the House. During the 263rd session of the Rajva Sabha, we bid farewell to the retiring members. The members would surely fully exploit their potential and contribute towards fulfilling aspirations of the people," he said.

'Let us all in togetherness work towards the blossoming of

Let us contribute in a whole-

debate all being the essence of democracy," the Rajya Sabha chairman said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present in the Rajya Sabha and he later introduced the council of ministers in the House.

"I have great pleasure to introduce Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, who has been sworn in as the Prime Minister for the third consecutive term after a gap of six decades," Dhankhar said amid thumping of desks and

CID files charge sheet against **Yediyurappa in POCSO case**

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The Crime Investigation Department probing molestation charges against former Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Thursday filed a charge sheet in the special court dealing with POCSO

After the Sadashivanagar police here registered a case of year against the BJP stalwart, the Karnataka Director General of Police Alok Mohan had issued an order transferring it to the CID for further investigation.

The case was registered based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old girl who alleged that he molested

her daughter during a meeting on February two this year, at his residence in Dollars Colony here.

Yediyurappa has denied the charge, and said "people would teach a lesson to those indulging in conspiracies against me. The 54-year-old woman,

who had leveled the charge against Yediyurappa, died at a month, due to lung cancer. The CID questioned

Yediyurappa for about three hours on June 17 in connection with the case. The Karnataka High Court

had earlier passed orders restraining the CID from arresting Yediyurappa in the

CBI makes its first arrests in NEET-UG case, nabs 2 from Patna

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

September last year.

East and West.

tiative, the IMEC envisages a vast

road, railroad and shipping net-

works among Saudi Arabia,

India, the United States and

Europe with an aim to ensure

The CBI on Thursday made its first arrests in the NEET-UG paper leak case, taking two people in custody in Patna, officials said.

Manish Kumar and Ashutosh Kumar allegedly provided safe accommodation to the medical entrance exam aspirants before the examination where they were given leaked question papers and answer keys, the officials said

Both were produced before a special cial custody, they said.

The CBI will now seek their remand from the court to question them, they

Ashutosh Kumar had allegedly taken 'Learn Boys Hostel and Play School' in Patna on rent from where the Economic Offence Unit of Bihar Police had recovered half-burnt question papers of National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test



(Undergraduate), they said.

The CBI has found that Ashutosh Kumar knew that the premises was being used for providing question papers to NEET aspirants, they said.

About Manish Kumar, they said, that he allegedly struck deals with candidates who were ready to pay money for getting the question papers in advance. He then brought these candidates to

the hostel where they were provided with the paper and the answer key, they The aspirants remained in the hostel

till the examination and prepared for the paper held on May 5, they said.

The CBI has registered six FIRs in the NEET paper leak case.

The NEET-UG is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the coun-

This year's examination was conducted on May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 abroad. Over 23 lakh candidates appeared for the test.

The first CBI FIR was registered on Sunday, a day after the ministry announced it would hand over the probe into the alleged irregularities in the conduct of the exam to the central

NEET aspirant hangs self in Kota, 12th suicide by coaching student since Jan

PNS ■ KOTA

A17-year-old medical aspirant allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan in his rented accommodation here, police said on Thursday. This is the suicide by a coaching student in Kota since January. The number of student suicides in Kota stood at 26 in 2023. Bihar native Hrishit Kumar Agrawal, a student of Class 12, was preparing for NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) at a coaching institute here,

Dadabari ASI Shambhu Dayal said. He lived in a rented room in a building in Chota Chaurahin Dadabari area where some other coaching students also resided, he said. At around 1 nm on Thursday, the other students informed police after Agrawal did not open his door when they knocked, he said. When a police team broke open the door, they found Agarwal hanging from a ceiling fan inside his room, he said, adding that no suicide note was recovered from the room. The body was in a decomposing state.

PM lauds Indian universities for making strides on global stage

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday lauded Indian universities for making strides on the global stage and said the government's commitment to quality education is yielding encouraging results.

In a post on 'X', Modi wrote, "Great to see India's universities making strides on the global stage! Our commitment to quality education is yielding encourag-

ing results.
"We will continue to support our educational institutions and provide opportunities for growth and

innovation. This will help our youth

greatly," he said The prime minister was responding to a post by Phil Baty, Chief Global Affairs Officer at Londonbased Times Higher

Education Ranking.
"India's rising visibility in the @timeshighered world rankings is remarkable, driven by @narendamodi's internationalisation reforms.

A record 133 Indian universities have submitted to the 2025 rankings -- up from 42 in 2017 -- making India the fourth best represented in the world," Baty

'No rule of law left in UP in 7 years of BJP regime'

PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said on Thursday that in the past seven years, there is no rule of law left in Uttar Pradesh in the BJP regime.

The Chief Minister may claim to modernise the police force, but in reality it is nothing more than a sham. How can the BJP gov

ernment, which destroyed the state-of-the-art police response system setup durthe Samajwadi government out of vengeance, be expected to make

the police force technically smart, efficient and capable?

The chief minister's claim of crime control has been proven false. The BJP government has failed on every front," Yadav said in a state-

ment issued here. He said there is no rule of law left in UP in the BJP

regime.
Yadav's reaction came on Minister Yogi Aditvanath's statement earlier in the day that the rule of law is fundamental to good governance and the state police has

excelled in maintaining it. Adityanath said this while flagging off the upgraded police response vehicles (PRVs) in the second phase of UP-112 from his official resi-

dence here. Yadav said the law and order situation in the state is in shambles, criminals are running amok, bullets are being fired in broad daylight and murders are being com-

"Anarchy is at its peak. The BJP government has failed to maintain law and order. The

BJP workers and leaders are hell bent on anarchy. Recently, bullets were fired openly between two factions Bareilly. "The public is

troubled by the

injustice and atrocities of the BJP government. There is anger among the people," the Lok Sabha MP

Alleging that after the defeat in the Lok Sabha elections, the BJP is hell bent on taking revenge from the people, he said the government has no

control over the police. Yadav said in the Samajwadi government, the police was modernised to improve the law and order situation.

The police was equipped with new technology. Dial 100 service was started on the lines of New York Police. Thousands of modern vehicles were given to the police department, the former chief minister claimed

Bengal Governor has no right to disallow oath-taking of MLAs: Mamata

Amid the row over the venue for the swearing in ceremony of the two newly elected TMC MLAs, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said Governor CV Ananda Bose has no right to prevent the process. Banerjee alleged that she has

received complaints from

women who claimed that they

felt unsafe going to the Raj

Bhavan after reports of certain

activities were reported from



"Nearly a month has passed but my MLAs — Sayantika Bandyopadhyay and Rayat Hossain Sarkar — are unable to take oath. The Governor is

obstructing them from doing so. It is the people who have elected them, not the Governor. He cannot deny them the right to take oath," Banerjee said at the state sec-

"Why must everyone go to Raj Bhavan? The Governor can authorise the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, or attend the Assembly himself. Women have informed me they are afraid to visit Raj Bhavan due to recent incidents reported there," she added.

Shivakumar mocks demand for 3 more DCMs in K'taka

PNS BENGALURU

Karnataka Congress chief D K Shivakumar on Thursday mocked demand from some Ministers to create three more posts of Deputy

Chief Minister, saying they will get no "solution" by discussing it before the media. Some

Chief Minister.

Ministers have been pitch-

ing for leaders from

Veerashaiva-Lingayat, SC/ST

and minority communities to

be given the post of Deputy

Currently, Shivakumar, a member of the Vokkaliga community, is only the Deputy Chief Minister in the Siddaramaiah-led govern-

"Let those speaking

to papers (newspa-per or media) go and speak to high command, get a solution and come. Let them go and get whatever solution they want. There is no need to discuss before the media. I will also not discuss

anything before the media,"

Shivakumar said, making no

their performance in the

House," the panel said in its

The committee's report also

secret of his displeasure.

RS privileges panel holds 12 MPs guilty of misconduct

PNS NEW DELHI

The Privileges Committee of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday held 12 opposition MPs, including the AAP's Sanjay Singh, guilty of misconduct for disrupting House proceedings last August and cautioned them to desist from such

behaviour in future. In the report tabled in the Upper House of Parliament on Thursday, the privileges panel held AAP MP Sanjay Singh guilty of disregarding the directions of the Chairman.

It has accepted Singh's

unconditional apology in the

matter and recommended

revocation of his suspension

after considering that the pun-

ishment suffered by him was

The AAP MP was suspended from the Rajya Sabĥa on July 24, 2023, through a motion, for the breach of privilege on account of wilfully disregarding the directions of the chair, repeatedly violating rules of the house and casting aspersions on the leader of the

House. "The committee concludes that the 12 members, namely Sanjay Singh, Shaktisinh Gohil, Sushil Kumar Gupta, Sandeep Kumar Pathak, Ñaranbhai J Rathwa, L Hanumanthaiah, Syed Nasir Hussain, Kumar Ketkar, Phulo Devi Netam, Jebi Mather Hisham, Ranjeet Ranjan and Imran Pratapgarhi are held guilty of serious trans-

gression of privileges and com-



mission of contempt of the Council of States.

"The committee, accordingly, recommends that no action is warranted against Kumar Ketkar, Naranbhai J Rathwa and L Hanumanthaiah who have since retired from mem-

bership of the council. Sanjay Singh, "That

stated that in view of the motion adopted by the Council on August 11 last year, "the suspension suffered by Sanjay Singh be treated as sufficient punishment and his suspension may be revoked with Shaktisinh Gohil, Sushil Kumar Gupta, Sandeep Kumar Pathak,

misconduct in future and

scrupulously adhere to exem-

plary conduct and optimize

immediate effect with the hope and expectation that there will be scrupulous adherence to the accepted conduct regime in the Syed Nasir Hussain, Phulo Devi Netam, Jebi Mather Hisham, Ranjeet Ranjan and Imran Pratapgarhi should desist from indulging in such

House by him in future". "The Committee requests the Chairman of Rajya Ŝabha

to consider discontinuance of the suspension of Sanjay Singh without waiting for the Council to re-assemble for the ensuing www.dailypioneer.com

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Steady leadership

Om Birla's re-election as Speaker of Lok Sabha reveals his calibre and his faith in democracy

m Birla has been re-elected as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. This marks a significant chapter in parliamentary history. Birla's leadership has been characterised by impartiality, a deep commitment to democratic principles, and a steady hand in navigating the complexities of parliamentary proceedings. "Parliament is the temple of democracy. It is our duty to ensure that it functions efficiently and reflects the aspirations of the people," Birla stated. "I am committed to working with all members to ensure that the Lok Sabha continues to be a vibrant and effective forum for democratic deliberation." Om Birla, a seasoned politician from Rajasthan and a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), first assumed the role of Lok Sabha Speaker in June 2019. His re-election signifies a continuity of leadership essential for maintaining the stability and decorum of the lower house. It was indeed heartening to observe that his election was met with widespread support, not only from



his party but also from various opposition factions. This cross-party endorsement reflects Birla's ability to maintain neutrality and manage the house with a balanced approach, fostering an environment where diverse viewpoints can be expressed and debated constructively.

Om Birla's political journey began in the early 1990s, rooted in a commitment to public service and grassroots development. Representing the Kota-Bundi constituency in Rajasthan, Birla has held various significant roles in both state and central politics. As Speaker, Birla has championed initiatives to improve the transparency and efficiency of parliamentary pro-

cedures. He has been instrumental in modernising the Lok Sabha's functioning, introducing digital tools and processes to streamline legislative activities and enhance accessibility for the public. Birla's tenure as Speaker has not been without challenges. Birla has had his fair share of controversies. Om Birla has faced allegations of bias, with critics accusing him of partiality in parliamentary proceedings, favouring the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) by selectively allowing or disallowing debates on critical issues. Controversies have also arisen from his suspension of opposition MPs for disruptions, which critics argue is a harsh and selectively enforced tactic to suppress dissent. Additionally, Birla has been accused of adopting a high-handed approach toward opposition leaders, often curtailing their speaking time and limiting their opportunities to present viewpoints. Birla has also encouraged greater participation of women and young MPs, fostering a more inclusive and representative parliamentary process. Birla's re-election as Speaker of the Lok Sabha is a reflection of the trust and confidence that the members of the house have in his leadership. His ability to maintain neutrality, coupled with his dedication to upholding the dignity and decorum of the house, has earned him respect across party lines.



Tourists enjoy during rains, at the Taj Mahal, in Agra

Will British Indians back Rishi Sunak?



With the July 4 general election approaching, the key question is whether British Indians will rally behind Sunak and the Conservative Party

Britain's first Hindu Prime Minister, remain in office after the upcoming general election on July 4th? Will Sunak's Conservative Party receive the votes of British Indians? Will the Labour Party also receive votes from the Indian diaspora? These are important questions indeed. According to the 2011 British census, there are approximately 1.5 million people of Indian origin in Britain, representing 2.5% of the country's total population. Indians are the largest immigrant group in Britain. They are relatively welleducated compared to other immigrant groups and are considered to be among the wealthiest in Britain.

Hinduja, Lakshmi Mittal, and Swaraj Paul are some prominent Indian-origin individuals who feature in the list of Britain's richest people. Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murthy, daughter of Infosys founder N.R. Narayan Murthy, were ranked 245th in the Sunday Times list of Britain's wealthiest individuals released in May. Historically, Indian immigrants in Britain have leaned towards the Labour Party. It was during the Labour government that India gained independence from British rule. However, recent surveys suggest a growing inclination towards the Conservative Party, the main rival to the Labour Party.

Vinod Chavan, a writer residing in London since the 1970s, believes that Hindu voters in Britain may vote en masse for the Conservative Party in the upcoming elections. This news could be a relief for

Sunak and his Conservative Party.It's important to understand that when we talk about Indians in Britain, we also include those who have settled in the country from East Africa, the Caribbean Islands, and other places. Sunak's family settled in Britain from Kenya in the 1960s, although his ancestors originally hailed from Punjab. There is also a belief that a large number of Indian residents in Britain Caribbean Islands. These combecame supporters of the munities viewed Labour as Conservative Party after sympathetic to immigrants.



Hindus comprise the majority of these supporters. The total Hindu population among Indians in Britain is over a million. Modi addressed over 60,000 people of Indian origin at a packed Wembley Stadium in London during his 2015 visit to Britain. Gujarati and Punjabi people were in the majority at that time. Boris Johnson, the then British Prime Minister, was known to proudly call himself "India's son-in-law". He was a unique son-in-law. His (second divorced) wife Marina Wheeler's mother, Deep Singh Kaur, was previously married to Sardar Daljit Singh, son of renowned contractor Sir Sobha Singh from New Delhi. Now, let's understand another subtle point. Not all Indian immigrants in Britain think alike politically or support any specific party. It is believed that most Indian Muslims and Sikhs may vote for the Labour

They are not fond of the close ties between the Conservative Party and Modi.From the 1960s to the 1980s, a significant number of Indian immigrants settled in Britain from Uganda, Kenya, and the

OM BIRLA RE-ELECTED AS LS SPEAKER

Madam — The re-election of NDA nominee Om Birla as Lok Sabha Speaker, following a voice vote, comes as no sur-

IN THE PAST 20-25 YEARS, A NEW WAVE OF IMMIGRANTS FROM INDIA HAS ARRIVED IN BRITAIN. THESE ARE DOCTORS, ENGINEERS, IT PROFESSIONALS, ETC. THEY ALL IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS CONSERVATIVE

PARTY VOTERS

They were particularly attracted to Labour's commitment to immigrants' rights, especially following the introduction of the Race Relations Act in 1965 by Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson. Thousands of Indian immigrants came to Britain from Uganda after Uganda's cannibalistic president Idi Amin ordered the expulsion of all Indians from his country within 90 days in August 1972.

A deeper analysis reveals that British Hindus have been leaning towards the Conservative Party since 2010. This trend includes wealthy and educated second and third-generation Hindus. In the past 20-25 years, a new wave of immigrants from India has arrived in Britain. These are doctors, engineers, IT professionals,

They all identify themselves as Conservative Party voters. The Indian diaspora's disaffection with the Labour Party did not happen overnight. It was trig-gered by Labour's 2019 resolution calling for "the right of self-determination" for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This resolution led a large section of the Indian diaspora in Britain to distance themselves from the Labour Party. They saw it as direct interference in India's internal affairs.Meanwhile, Rishi Sunak

became Britain's first Hindu Prime Minister in 2022. This development deepened the bond between Hindus and the Conservative Party. It is still too early to say whether Hindus will vote en masse for the Conservative Party in the upcoming British general election.

However, for the first time, British Hindus have released a manifesto outlining their aspirations and expectations from the next government. They say they will only support those who endorse demands. Hindus are the thirdlargest religious group in Britain. 29 Hindu organizations have so far endorsed this manifesto.

According to the manifesto, "Hindus are the backbone of the British economy. Our contribution to the country's economy is disproportionately high. We are one of the most law-abiding communities. Yet, anti-Hindu hate is on the rise in the country." One of their key demands is for their safety. Will the Hindu votes be split or go to the Conservative Party? Will the Labour and Conservative parties consider the manifesto of the Hindu organizations?

(The writer is Columnist and ex-Information Officer, UAE Embassy, New Delhi; views

India's assertive foreign policy and global aspirations



From bolstering defence capabilities to fostering regional cooperation, India under Modi's leadership navigates a complex geopolitical landscape

Prime Minister Modi's foreign policy initiatives have consistently underscored India's assertiveness and strategic clarity from his first term in 2014 to his current third term in 2024. This period has seen India take decisive actions such as the Balakot Airstrike in 2019 and the banning of TikTok, aimed at countering China and safeguarding national interests. These measures have not been welcomed by neighboring states like China and Pakistan, particularly in light of incidents such as the Galwan clash in 2020, which resulted in the loss of Indian soldiers and prompted a bolstering of border security and a significant increase in the defense budget from approximately Rs 4,73,378 crores in 2020 to Rs 6,21,540 crores presently.

This heightened defense spending underscores India's unwavering commitment to national development and security. Underpinning Modi's governance is the vision of a 'Vikasit Bharat 2047' (Developed India), with ambitions to elevate India to the rank of the world's thirdlargest economy. Since 2014,

India has advanced from being the 10th largest economy to the 5th largest, show-casing potential for further

The Vikasit Bharat agenda prioritizes boosting manufacturing industries, evidenced by substantial subsidies totaling \$28 billion across 14 sectors and an additional \$10 billion allocated to the semiconductor industry. This economic expansion surpasses historical parallels, outstripping even Britain's colonial economic hegemony.India's aspirations extend to securing a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, a move contested primarily by China. Despite these challenges, India is forging independent diplomatic pathways, exem-

plified by the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) involving India, Japan, the United States, and Australia. While debates on the Quad's efficacy persist, its role in ensuring Indo-Pacific security and countering Chinese influence remains pivotal. Additionally, India is strengthening regional ties through initiatives like BIM-STEC and expanding BRICS to include UAE and Saudi Arabia, key oil suppliers, thereby enhancing its global stature and influence. Modi's foreign policy approach is characterized by a nuanced engagement in global politics, leveraging soft power to augment India's international standing. The 'Neighbourhood First'

Modi's third term inaugura-tion, exemplifies India's commitment to fostering regional cooperation. High-profile visits and agreements, such as those with Bangladesh, underscore the policy's success in enhancing regional connectivity and economic collaboration. Beyond tangible policy actions, Modi's government champions India as a 'Vishwaguru' (World Teacher), invoking the country's ancient heritage and cultural legacy. This narrative not only promotes India's soft power but also influences global discourse on geopolitics, art, culture, and values originating from India's ancient civilization. India's advocacy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family) at international forums like the G20 reinforces its role as a leading soft power and positions it closer to superpower status.

Modi's third term inauguration signifies a continued assertiveness in foreign policy, aimed at securing India's strategic interests while fostering global partnerships. (The writer is a researcher;

views are personal)

prise. Unlike his first term in 2019, where he was elected unopposed, this time, elections were necessary. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to retain familiar faces in key ministries during his third term underscores his administration's commitment to continuity. Om Birla's reappointment makes him the policy, emphasized during

first leader of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party to be re-elected as Lok Sabha Speaker twice in over two decades.In a democracy, elections are essential and should be welcomed. The position of Lok Sabha Speaker traditionally requires broad support to ensure the smooth functioning of the House. When a Speaker is elected with bipartisan support, it significantly enhances the role's prestige. Opposition in an election does not necessarily indicate a lack of trust. As Om Birla embarks on his second term, he faces the challenge of surpassing his previous performance, which saw a record number of MP suspensions. While no single party can be blamed, it is evident that all parties will need to exhibit greater maturity and understanding this

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

AFGHANISTAN REACH SEMIFINALS! Madam — Giant Australia is out of the T20 World Cup 2024 semifinals, while Afghanistan has secured a place, demonstrating the unpredictable nature of cricket and sports. No one can foresee the winner or loser; sometimes, luck plays a significant role. If Bangladesh had won, Australia might have advanced to the semifinals.We often hear quotes like 'well-coordinated team effort,' try and try again, you will win at last,' rise from the ashes like a phoenix' and 'focus on the issue and proceed in an organized and scientific manner.'

Today, we witnessed these principles in action by Afghanistan's well-coordinat-

Dynamic Opposition in Parliament

THE EDIT



he swearing-in ceremony for Members of Parliament at the 18th Lok Sabha was noteworthy, with the opposition members promied cricket team.

violence, and negative activities. The world can learn about peaceful coexistence from two sources: Mahatma Gandhi's India and friendly, cooperative sports teams like Afghanistan's. Yes,

Their success is a beacon of hope in a

world often characterized by substandard

and duplicitous behaviors such as wars,

indeed! PVS Sreelekha | Secundrabad

SEDENTARY LIFESTYLE

Madam — 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 region also ranked the second highnently holding mini copies of the Constitution while taking their oaths. Leaders like Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yaday, Dimple Yaday, Ayadesh Prasand, and Rakibul Hussain were seen holding these mini constitutions as they swore in as elected MPs. This gesture underscores the opposition's commitment to active governance and to reminding the government of its constitutional responsibil-

By swearing with the Constitution in hand, the opposition members are enhancing their personal commitment to the nation. Their duty is now twofold: to fulfill their roles as MPs and to safequard constitutional values, reminding the government of its duties. Time will tell who upholds these values. Meanwhile, it is encouraging to see a dynamic opposition in the Indian Parliament to provide a robust counterbalance to those in power.Kirti Wadhawan, Kanpur

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

est in terms of adults being insufficiently physically active after high-income Asia Pacific region, an international team of researchers, including those from the World Health Organization (WHO),

This was up by 5 per cent, from 26.4 per cent of adults worldwide insufficiently engaged in physical activity in 2010, 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 found. They projected that in 2030, 60 per cent of the adults could be insufficiently engaging in physical activity, should current trends continue. This is indeed a cause of concern.

India had 101 million diabetics, 315 million people with hypertension, 254 million with obesity, and 185 million with

high levels of LDL cholesterol. Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN

TOWARDS BETTER TIES WITH BANGLADESH

Sheikh Hasina's visit highlights Bangladesh's pivotal role as a strategic partner for India



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The new Indian Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is back to its foreign policy agenda, which it has carefully curated in the past decade. Mr Modi was in Italy to attend the G7 meetings as a special invitee, within days of his swearing-in. His swearing-in ceremony was in itself a statement of the stated policy focus of Neighbourhood First.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by leaders from almost all Southeast Asian countries and, some from the Indian Ocean region. Significantly Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was back in India, within a month of her attending the swearing-in ceremony, to further strengthen the bilateral relations. The focus of the meeting as highlighted by Prime Minister Modi during the joint briefing with Sheikh Hasina was "Today we have prepared a futuristic vision for cooperation in new areas. Youth of both countries will benefit from the agreement reached on cooperation in a lot of areas such as Green Partnership, Digital Partnership, Blue Economy, Space. India Bangladesh "Maitri Satellite" will give new heights to our partnership. We have kept in our focus-Connectivity, Commerce and Collaboration." Bangladesh is an important strategic partner for India, not just due to the intimate geographical boundaries, and the shared culture and language, but also as an important corridor connecting India's Northeast to the Bay of Bengal. Prime Ministers of both countries Sheikh Hasina and Narendra Modi have been at the top job for more than a decade now.

They have developed a working relationship, that is hard to match, underscored by the ten meetings these leaders had in the last five years. Both Prime Ministers jointly inaugurated the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline on 18 March in a virtual format. PM Sheikh Hasina also participated in the Inaugural Session of the Voice of the Global South Summit on 11 January 2023 and the second Virtual Voice of the Global South Summit on 17 November 2023. Bangladesh and India share nearly 4000 km of the international border, security of which is an important pillar of the relationship for keeping a check on the drug trade, smuggling, fake cur-



As an upgrade to the security partnership, India and Bangladesh have over the years worked on a defence cooperation framework. The recent visit of Bangladesh's PM saw both countries put a special focus on enhancing the defence partnership. In his statement PM Modi highlighted "...on further strengthening our defence cooperation, from defence production to modernisation of armed forces. In the Indian Ocean region, we have a common perspective. We welcome Bangladesh's decision to join the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. We will continue our cooperation in other regional and international forums, including BIMSTEC.

The strongest pillar of the India-Bangladesh relationship is economics. Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia and India is the biggest trade partner for Bangladesh in Asia. The bilateral trade between the two countries is nearly \$16bn. Besides the much sought-after Illish fish from Padma River, Bangladesh exports nearly \$2 billion in goods to India, which is the highest in Asia. In the past few years, an aggressive China has tried to take over some of the traditional space, reserved for India in bilateral relationships, through its opaque infrastructure projects. This has been resisted by India by upping the infrastructure partnership and bringing Bangladesh closer towards the Indo-Pacific geopolitical worldview, than a South East Asian outlook. It helps to align Bangladesh with India's multilateral partners such as Australia, Japan, South Korea and beyond in the Middle East. PM Sheikh Hasina's visit as the first state guest of India, under Modi 3.0 is an important reinforcement of the strong bonds between the two neighbours.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Macron's calls for snap polls to thwart ultra right-



This strategic manoeuvre aims to disrupt the growing momentum of the far-right National Rally and prevent further erosion of his political standing

acron's Election Gambitby N i l a n t h a IlangamuwaEmmanuel Macron, the youngest president in French history, is known for taking risks, as evidenced by his recent call for snap elections to avoid further humiliation after a significant defeat in the European Union Parliamentary Elections, where his main contender garnered over 50% of the votes. This move, the first since 1997, invokes Article 12 of the French Constitution, allowing the president to end the Assemblée Nationale's term early, thus advancing the end of the current fiveyear term from 2027 to 2024. The new parliamentary elections are set for June 30 and July 7, catching many of Macron's allies off guard. France is at a crossroads. As former Prime Minister Lionel Jospin once mentioned, "Politics is not about morality, it's about efficiency."Throughout French history, there have been five notable instances

In 1962 and 1968, Charles de Gaulle dissolved the Assemblée Nationale following a motion of no confidence and widespread protests, respectively, securing significant victories both times. François Mitterrand used snap elections in 1981 to secure a Socialist majority and again in 1988 to address political "cohabitation." Jacques Chirac's 1997 snap election gamble backfired, leading to a left-wing coalition victory. Currently, Macron faces low approval ratings and a paralyzed parliament, with the National Rally (Rassemblement National or RN) capitalizing on the situation. By calling for snap elections, Macron aims to confront the populist movement and disrupt their momentum, leveraging the more challenging two-round system of French national elections compared to the single-round European elections. Marine Le Pen and RN president Jordan Bardella, the party's candidate for PM, are gearing up for the snap elections, which will have higher stakes compared to the European elections. Macron, aiming to dramatize the choice facing the French, challenged voters in a televised address, asking if they truly want to be governed by the far right. What exactly is the 'far right,' a term fre-

quently echoed in European politics? Often, it's a convenient label used to obscure the significant failures of so-called neo-liberals. When individuals dare to address real societal issues on the ground, rather than fabricating crises to vilify "designated enemies" like Vladimir Putin, they are often hastily labelled as "far-right" or conservative. Instead of accurate representation, this knee-jerk reaction by warmongers, fueled by Western media, reflects bias. Recent events in France, where President Macron's centrist coalition faced electoral setbacks, highlight this skewed narrative. The term "far right" is wielded without nuance, disregarding the diverse ideological spectrum and legitimate concerns championed by these movements. The shifting landscape of French politics challenges outdated perceptions. Parties like Marine Le Pen's National Rally are not accurately depicted as "far-right"; instead, they signify a redefinition of mainstream conservatism. Their platforms, focusing on issues such as controlled migration and national defence, resonate with many voters disenchanted with traditional leadership. Understanding these complexities demands a departure from simplistic labels and a recognition of Europe's evolving political dynamics. While Marine Le Pen may not



In this context, polarized politics in France are teaching a new lesson about the deceptive nature of labelling certain movements as "far right" to deflect attention from the failures of neoliberalism. Unlike the European elections with a 50% turnout, local watchdogs asserted that the national elections could see 70% voter participation, potentially mobilizing moderates and reviving the anti-populist front. Macron's team believes voters will scrutinize RN's policy proposals, particularly as the autumn session promised THIS MATTER censure motions likely to collapse Prime Minister Gabriel Attal's gov-HIGHLIGHTS HIS ernment. As per the London

DEDICATION TO

Guardian,
Macron's gamble may yield three outcomes. First, he might recover his majority, although this seems unlikely given his unpopularity and the normalization of the "far right" across Europe. Second, the National Rally could win a majority, leading to an unprecedented cohabitation with a populist rightwing parliament, which Macron might see as a chance to highlight their governance shortcomings. This scenario poses significant risks as an RN-controlled parliament would handle crucial domestic policies, potentially clashing with Macron on issues like immigration CHALLENGES and national security, while creating tensions with Brussels due to RN's nation-first policies. The third scenario, considered most probable by analysts, is that RN increases its seats but fails to gain an absolute majority, resulting in a splintered parliament and potential deadlock. Macron may seek alliances with the mainstream centre-right or centreleft, but success is uncertain. This fragmented parliament could lead to increased political instability.

However, one cannot forget that it was Macron who stood firm against NATO's proposal to establish a liaison office in Japan, marking a significant division within the alliance on the eve of a crucial summit. Macron's decisive opposition reflects his insistence that NATO should not stray from its original North Atlantic focus, particularly amid escalating tensions with

His resolute stance accentuates France's commitment to maintaining the alliance's core principles, despite pressure to expand its reach

Macron's leadership in this matter highlights his dedication to upholding NATO's foundational principles and preserving its strategic direction in the face of evolving global challenges. Macron's recent interview with Le Parisien sheds light on evolving European attitudes towards Ukraine, acknowledging the potential necessity for ground operations in the future. This represents a significant policy shift amidst rising tensions between NATO and Russia. Macron's acknowledgement of the need to prepare for all scenarios, including ground interventions, signals a departure from previous official denials and underscores the increasing seriousness of the situation in Ukraine. Additionally, France's plan to send Mirage 2000-5 fighter jets adds a tangible dimension to the discussion, indicating a more assertive stance from France and its European allies in response to the ongoing conflict.

This regional tension exacerbated France's already unstable domestic political situation, leading to a humiliating defeat for Macron and bolstering Le Pen's populist narrative. According to local media outlets, the political parties in France held emergency talks to explore potential alliances at the beginning of this week following the announcement of a snap legislative election. The unexpected and risky decision to hold elections soon could potentially shift major political power, undermining Macron's presidency three years before its scheduled end. Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire emphasized the high stakes, calling it the most consequential parliamentary election in

This could potentially impact on warmongering President of the European Commission, and France would sooner lose its interest in involving in the Ukraine War, while more focus on domestic issues.RN leaders, including Jordan Bardella, the party's candidate for prime minister, and Marine Le Pen, the party's parliamentary leader, are strategizing to capitalize on their recent success. Bardella expressed his readiness to build a large major-ity, while the divided French left, comprising hard-left LFI, Communists, Socialists, and Greens, also held talks to forge a united front against the populist right.

Despite the populist right's strong performance in the European elections, analysts suggest that an outright RN majority in the parliamen tary elections is unlikely, as voters often use European elections to express dissatisfaction with the incumbent government. The president aims to rally these voters in response to the populist right surge, despite concerns from within his party and criticisms from other political figures. Macron described his decision as an act of confidence in the French people's ability to make the best choice for the country, emphasizing the need for a clear majority to govern effectively. His previous successes in presiden-

tial elections were aided by a "Republican front" that unified various political groups against the populist right, a strategy that was not extended to parliamentary elections, costing him a majority. The upcoming elections will test whether he can restore this principle and rally other political groups to prevent the Le Pen clan from gaining control.

(The writer is a Sri Lankan journalist and author; Views are personal)



MACRON'S LEADERSHIP IN UPHOLDING NATO'S FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES AND PRESERVING ITS STRATEGIC DIRECTION IN THE FACE OF EVOLVING GLOBAL

India-Arab green strategic partnership: Pioneering sustainable development

This initiative highlights the shared commitment of the two countries to foster a greener and more resilient future

he India-Arab Green Strategic Partnership represents a collaborative initiative aimed at enhancing sustainable development and combating climate change. In today's world, where environmental concerns hold significant global importance, Green Strategic Partnership between India and Arab countries stands out as a beacon of collaboration and innovation.

Historical and Cultural **Context:** India's historical ties with Arab countries stretch back centuries, rooted in cultural exchanges, ancient trade routes, and shared values. Today, this relationship goes beyond cultural affinity to geopolitical interests. The energy solutions, water man-



PADMALOCHAN DASH

Green Strategic Partnership builds on this foundation by integrating environmental sustainability into the bilateral agenda, reflecting a modern approach to diplomacy in our changing world.

Objectives and Strategic **Imperatives:** At its core, the partnership seeks to harness the strengths of both India and encompass strategic econom- Arab countries in advancing ic partnerships and mutual green technologies, renewable

mate resilience strategies. India, as a rising global player in renewable energy deployment and innovation, offers practical solutions to the challenges faced:

Renewable

Energy Leadership: India excels in renewable energy technologies like solar photovoltaic and wind power. This aligns well with Arab countries' goals to diversify their energy mix away from fossil fuels. For example, India's collaboration with the UAE has seen investments in solar parks and wind energy projects, demonstrating tangible outcomes of this part-

n e r s h i p . Water Security and Management: Water scarcity poses a critical challenge for both regions, exacerbated by

climate change and rapid urbanisation. India contributes practical solutions through its expertise in sustainable water management practices. Initiatives like communitydriven water conservation and wastewater treatment can be adapted and shared with Arab countries facing similar chal-

Climate Change Mitigation: The impacts of climate change require urgent mitigation efforts. India has committed to ambitious targets under the Paris Agreement, focusing on renewable energy deployment and emissions reduction. Collaborative projects with Arab countries aim to implement climate-resilient infrastructure.

Sustainable Urbanisation and **Biodiversity Conservation:**

As urban populations grow, sustainable urban planning becomes crucial to reduce environmental footprints and improve quality of life. India promotes green building standards, urban green spaces, and effective waste management practices through initiatives like the Smart Cities Mission. Collaborative projects with the UAE in sustainable urban development integrate renewable energy solutions and eco-friendly infra-

Energy Efficiency: Improving energy efficiency is key to reducing carbon footprints and enhancing energy security. India's initiatives like the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme for industrial energy efficiency offer practical models for collaboration.

Through knowledge exchange and technology transfer, India supports efforts to optimise energy consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emis-

Finance and Green Investment: India's experience in issuing green bonds and establishing green funds, alongside initiatives like the National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF), provides pathways for financing renewable energy, energy storage, and sustainable infrastructure projects.

Technological Innovation: Collaboration in research and development (R&D) is crucial for advancing green technologies. India's vibrant start-up ecosystem and research institutions contribute to innovations in areas such as green hydrogen production and bat-

tery storage technologies. Joint innovation hubs and technology parks facilitate technology transfer and accelerate the adoption of sustainable innovations. Despite its potential, the Green Strategic Partnership faces several chal-

Geopolitical Dynamics: Diverse geopolitical interests and regional conflicts among Arab countries and India may impact the partnership's cohesion and operational effectiveness. India's role as a neutral mediator and advocate for collaborative solutions helps navigate geopolitical complexities and build trust among partner countries.

Technological and Financial **Barriers:** Scaling up renewable energy projects and adopting advanced environmental tech-

nologies demand substantial investments and technological advancements.

Alignment: **Policy** Harmonising national policies, regulatory frameworks, and institutional capacities is crucial for seamless collaboration and effective implementation of joint initiatives across

India advocates for policy coherence through dialogue platforms such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and bilateral strategic dialogues, facilitating alignment on climate goals and regulatory standards.

(The author is an ICSSR-Post Doctoral Fellow, School of National Security Studies, Central University of Gujarat. *The views expressed are*

Rupee rises 13 paise to close at 83.44 against US dollar

he rupee appreciated 13 paise to settle at 83.44 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, supported by a positive trend in equity markets and favourable domestic macroeconomic profile. Forex traders said the strength of the American currency in the overseas market and US dollar demand from oil marketing companies capped sharp gains for the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at

83.56 and hit the intraday high of 83.43 against the greenback during the session. It finally settled at 83.44 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a gain of 13 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee depreciated 14 paise against the US dollar and settled at 83.57. The Indian rupee appreciated on bond-related foreign inflows ahead of their inclusion in the JP Morgan debt index, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Domestic markets touched fresh record highs with the Nifty breaching the 24,000-mark for the first time. supporting the domestic currency



Sebi amends FPIs' registration rules

ebi has tweaked the guidelines for registration of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) pertaining to non-resident Indians, overseas citizens of India and resident Indians as participant of such foreign investors. Under the new rule, FPIs applying for registration need to ensure that the contribution of a single NRI or overseas citizen of India (OCI) or resident Indian in its corpus is below 25 per cent, according to a notification. Further, at an aggregate

level, the applicant FPI needs to ensure that their contribution in its corpus is below 50 per cent. The new rule requires that NRIs overseas citizens of India and resident Indians should not be in control of the applicant FPI. "The contribution of resident Indian individuals shall be made through the Liberalised Remittance Scheme notified by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and shall be in global funds whose Indian exposure is less than 50 per cent,"



Gold falls Rs 120; silver remains flat at Rs 90,600 per kg

Gin line with weak trends in the global markets, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had settled at Rs 72,300 per 10 grams in the previous session. However, silver prices remained flat at Rs 90,600 per kg. "In Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) quoted at Rs 72,180 per 10 grams, down by Rs 120 from the previous close," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC

Securities, said. In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,305 per ounce, down USD 11 from the previous close. Gold traded lower in the early trade due to stronger rupee and risk-on sentiments, Parmai said. However, silver remained flat at USD 28.94 per ounce. "Commodities remain in a corrective mode, weighed by a stronger US dollar and elevated Treasury yields as recent comments from a couple of the Fed officials suggests that rate cuts are unlikely to come anytime soon, Pranav Mer, VP - Research (Commodity & Currency) at BlinkX and JM Financial, said



Assign highest priority to governance: Shaktikanta

With studies showing gains in asset quality and resilience to withstand stress scenarios, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday asked financial system stakeholders to assign "highest priority" to governance.

"The highest priority must be assigned to governance - strong governance is at the core of resilience of stakeholders in the financial system," the governor said in his foreword to the halfyearly Financial Stability Report published by the central bank.

The report highlights the strengthening of balance sheets of financial institutions with low levels of impairments, robust earnings and strong buffers, he said, adding that RBI stress tests show that even under severe stress scenarios, banks' and nonbanks' buffers will remain above minimum regulatory capital levels. "Today, the matrix of financial stability is perhaps at its best, but the real challenge is to maintain it and improve upon it further," he noted.

In the "stable environment", the RBI is watchful of emerging risks from cyber hazards, climate change and global spillovers, Das said. He also asked banks to



"The highest priority must be assigned to governance - strong governance is at the core of resilience of stakeholders in the financial system," the governor said in his foreword to the half-yearly Financial Stability Report published by the central bank.

invest adequately on the technology front and affirmed the central bank's commitment to promote innovation.

"New technologies offer gains in efficiency and customer experience, but they can also bring with them sudden and widespread disruptions to the financial system. This requires that all stakeholders not only invest adequately to take full advantage of technological advancements but

also take steps to safeguard the security and soundness of their systems," he said. He also asked for customers' interests to be put at the forefront, pointing out that preserving the trust of the customer is the cornerstone of safeguarding systemic stability.

Amid global headwinds, the Indian economy is exhibiting strength and resilience with strong macroeconomic fundamentals and buffers, Das noted.

expanding at a steady pace with the financial system being stronger and more vibrant than what it was before the onset of the recent period of crises.

The RBI's approach of balancing growth and stability with a willingness to take proactive and prudent actions to prevent the accumulation of risks is promoting "long-term resilience and stability of the financial system", the governor added.

"It is vital that we consolidate these gains and nurture a financial system that is future-ready and supports the needs of India's growing economy," Das said, adding that with India's contribution to global growth rising, there is a need for the financial system to deepen and modernise. He said the risks of a hard landing for the global economy have abated, even though progress in disinflation has been

In the foreword, the governor reiterated some of his concerns, stating that the "alarming levels" of public debt pose a major risk to the global financial system, along with frequent geopolitical conflicts, climate change and risks emanating from the adoption of financial technolo-

Telecom spectrum auctions done, all eyes now on imminent tariff hikes: Analysts

Telcos' payout in the muted spectrum auction is expected to be manageable, and with bidding process wrapped-up, all eyes are now on tariff hikes which seem to be imminent, a cross-section of analysts said on Thursday.

Multiple analyst reports expressed surprise at Vodafone Idea (VIL's) purchase of Rs 3,510.4 crore worth of spectrum, and highlighted in equal measure that Jio's "muted" spends (Rs 973.62 crore) was in contrast to its earnest money deposit (EMD) that was highest among operators.



"With spectrum auctions behind, all eyes are now on tariff hikes which appear to be imminent," IIFL said.

Kotak too believes that focus will now likely shift to tariff hikes. "With the spectrum auction behind us, we believe the focus

will now shift toward tariff hikes in the coming days," Kotak said. JP Morgan said the runway to tariff actions is cleared.

"With the conclusion of the auctions (delayed from June 6) without any surprises, ability to take tariff actions should resume. We believe this is likely to have contributed to the sharp stock reactions yesterday. We have baked in tariff hikes of 25 per cent spread over 2Q/3QFY25,"

IIFL Securities went on to say that VIL's spend was "surprisingly high" as it went after small chunks in the 900 MHz band.

Based on the most-relaxed payment option, the government will see annual receipts of Rs 1,100 crore for 20 years, starting from FY25.

Crunching the numbers on the estimated payout by companies, it said that if all telcos opt for the most relaxed payment option (20 equal annual instalments), the annual payout works to 10 per cent of total bid value for NPV preservation at 8.65 per cent interest rate.

Mcap of BSE-listed firms hit all-time high of Rs 438.41 lakh cr

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms hit an all-time high of Rs 438.41 lakh crore on Thursday fuelled by a recordbreaking rally in equities where the Sensex breached the historic 79,000 mark for the first time.

Rallying for the fourth day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 568.93 points or 0.72 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 79,243.18 on

During the day, it zoomed 721.78 points or 0.91 per cent to

hit the new lifetime peak of 79,396.03. In the past four trading days, the BSE benchmark jumped 2,033.28 points or 2.63 per cent. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies hit a lifetime high of Rs 4,38,41,960.73 crore (USD 5.25 trillion). Investors' wealth has

Remarkably, the BSE benchmark took just two trading sessions to cover the journey from the 78,000 level hit on June 25 to breach the 79,000 mark on

gone up by Rs 3.93 lakh crore in four trading sessions.

Network Planning Group evaluates eight infra projects

PNS NEW DELHI

ment of Rs 8,175 crore.

PNS NEW DELHI

Thursday.

The Network Planning Group (NPG) met on June 21 and evaluated eight infrastructure projects from railways and

National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC), an official statement said on The railways project, from Manmad to Jalgaon, involved an estimated investment of Rs 2,594

(from Bhusawal to Burhanpur) involve investments of Rs 3,285 crore. Both projects are part of the Energy Mineral Cement Corridor (EMCC) programme, the commerce and industry ministry said. It added that the four projects from NICDC pertains to development of integrated manufacturing clusters in Agra and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, Hisar in Haryana and Gaya in Bihar with an estimated invest-

More Taiwanese ICT suppliers

may relocate to India in near

Sensex breaches 79,000 level, Nifty 24,000 peak for 1st time



Benchmark Sensex breached the historic 79,000 mark while Nifty scaled the 24,000 peak for the first time on Thursday as buying in blue-chip stocks like Infosys, Reliance and TCS helped markets extend gains to the fourth straight day and close at lifetime high levels.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 568.93 points or 0.72 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 79,243.18 amid the expiry of monthly contracts in the derivatives segment. During the day, it zoomed 721.78 points or 0.91 per cent to hit the new lifetime peak of 79,396.03.

The Nifty ended at a fresh record high of 24,044.50, rising 175.70 points or 0.74 per cent. Intra-day, it soared 218.65 points or 0.91 per cent to hit the alltime peak of 24,087.45. Among the 30 Sensex com-

panies, UltraTech Cement jumped over 5 per cent after the country's leading cement maker said it will acquire a 23 per cent stake in its Chennai-based rival India Cements Ltd, in a deal estimated to be around Rs 1,885 crore. Gains in Infosys, TCS and Reliance Industries drove the benchmark indices to recordhigh levels. The benchmark indices

exhibited bullish momentum. buoyed by expected revival in the IT sector and consolidation in the cement industry. However, the broader market remained sideways due to valuation concerns and FII selling owing to rising US bond Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial

UltraTech Cement to acquire 23 pc stake in India Cements

PNS NEW DELHI

The country's leading cement maker UltraTech on Thursday said it will acquire a 23 per cent stake in its Chennai-based rival India Cements Ltd for over Rs 1,900 crore in two

As part of the transaction, Ultra Tech Cement has acquired 6,02,48,983 equity shares of India Cements, aggregating to 19.44 per cent stake at a price of up to Rs 267 per share, the Aditya Birla Group flagship firm said in a regula-

tory filing.
The value of the first transaction at the share price of Rs 267 per share is pegged at Rs 1,608.64 crore.

The board of directors at a separate meeting approved acquiring up to 3.4 per cent equity shares at a price up to Rs 285 per share, it added. The value of the second transaction is Rs 295 crore at a price of up to Rs 285 per share.

Sebi proposes to ease disclosure requirement for listed firms

PNS NEW DELHI

Sebi on Thursday proposed providing additional time for disclosure of litigations or disputes involving claims against the listed firms and allowing companies to conduct virtual or hybrid shareholder meetings on a permanent basis.

The markets watchdog has also suggested additional time for disclosure of the outcome of the board meeting that concludes after trading hours.

Additionally, the securities markets regulator has recommended combining pre-issue advertisement and price band advertisement as a single advertisement, proposed disclosing certain information with a quick response (QR) code link and proposed disclosure of pre-issue shareholding and post-issue shareholding for promoter, promoter group and additional top 10 shareholders.

The proposals, based on the recommendations of an expert committee chaired by SK Mohanty, former Whole-Time Member of Sebi, aimed at facilitating ease of doing business,



bringing in clarity and reduc-ing the overall compliance burden, including the cost of compliance while effectively balancing investor protection.

The committee has submitted its recommendations on the LODR (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) rule and ICDR (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirement) norms and on harmonisation of the provisions of the ICDR and LODR norms.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has sought comments from the public till July 17 on the recommendations made by the com-

In its consultation paper, Sebi proposed that the filing done on one stock exchange be automatically disseminated to other stock exchanges using an API-based integration that is being jointly developed by stock exchanges.

future, says official In February, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime With India poised to become the Minister Narendra Modi next original manufacturing approved the establishment of three semiconductor units hub, more Taiwanese ICT suppliers may relocate to the counincluding one in Dholera, Gujarat involving an investtry in the near future, Taiwan External Trade Development ment of Rs 91,000 crore, where Council's Deputy Executive

Notably, there is a huge scope for collaboration between New Delhi and Taipei in areas of emerging and critical technologies including manufacturing of semiconductors and electronics equipment.

Director Keven Cheng said on

Speaking with reporters on the sidelines of an event, Cheng said, "We think India would be the new original manufacturing hub ... The PSMC just cooperated with Tata Electronics so we see more and more Taiwan ICT (information and communication technology) suppliers move into India

Tata Electronics Private Limited will set up a semiconductor fab in partnership with Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp (PSMC), Taiwan.

crore. The other project

e-Procurement Tender Notice NIT No. HD/Tender/59-97(2024-25, Dt. 27.06.2024

Total (39) works: Recalling Bridges and Roads under PMGSY-III, Health Sub center Buildings under NHM, XV finance, SDF and other works. ECV Rs. 45.30 crores. Tender schedules from 28.06.2024 till 30.07.2024 & other details @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer R.O. No.: 51-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25

Banks' gross NPAs at 12-yr low, may fall further to 2.5 pc: RBI report

PNS MUMBAI

The bad assets or gross NPAs of commercial banks fell to a 12-year low of 2.8 per cent in March 2024 and may go down further to 2.5 per cent by the end of the current fiscal, said the RBI's Financial Stability Report (FSR) released on

Thursday. Scheduled Commercial Banks' (SCBs) gross non-per-forming assets (GNPA) ratio fell to 2.8 per cent, and the net non-performing assets (NNPA) ratio to 0.6 per cent at the end of March 2024.

"The asset quality of SCBs



ment, and their GNPA ratio moderated to a 12-year low in March 2024. Their NNPA ratio too improved to a record low," said the June FSR.

Among bank groups, public sector banks (PSBs) recorded a substantial reduction (76 bps) in their GNPA ratio during H2 2023-24. While the GNPA stock decreased across all bank groups, active and deep provisioning by PSBs and foreign banks (FBs) resulted in an improved provisioning coverage ratio (PCR) in March 2024, the report said.

The half-yearly slippage ratio (viz, new NPA accretions as a share of standard advances) decreased across bank groups.
Though the amount of

write-offs declined during the year, the write-off ratio remained almost at the same level a year ago due to a reduction in GNPA stock, the FSR

Majority of Indian employers plans to add staff

PNS NEW DELHI

The Indian employment market is likely to see an incremental expansion of more than 6 per cent in the first half this fiscal, supported by an upbeat economic climate across 23 industries, TeamLease Services said on Thursday.

According to TeamLease's Employment Outlook Report for H1 FY25 (April 2024 to September 2024), which covered 1,417 employers in 20 cities, 56 per cent said their workforce will likely grow in the coming

Around 23 per cent of employers anticipate maintaining their current workforce levels. In comparison, 21 per cent foresee declining staff num-



The positive employment outlook was largely supported by prevalent economic conditions, including the near 7 per cent GDP growth forecast for India in 2024 by most global rating agencies, which would make it the fastest-growing G-20 nation.

Additionally, strong investment demand and peaking out of headline inflation, coupled with the greater emphasis employers place on technology and skills, make for a resilient job market in the face of hostile geopolitical conditions.

"With India forecasted to be the fastest-growing G-20 economy in 2024, coupled with strong investment demand and easing inflation, the job market remains resilient in the face of global headwinds.

"Nearly two out of five organisations are prioritising skills development, equipping their workforce for the technological advancements that lie ahead. The findings of our report shed light on the dynamic and optimistic hiring landscape," Kartik Narayan, CEO of TeamLease

Staffing, said. According to the survey, industries with the most employers indicating plans to increase their workforce are healthcare, pharma, automotive, manufacturing, engineering, and infrastructure.

Office of the Notified Area Committee Hyderabad International Airport Area Shamshabad-Hyderabad, Telangana State. TELEFAX No. 040-24008258

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST EOI No. 53/NAC/DPR/2023, Date: 27.06.2024

Expression of Interest (EOI), is invited from the reputed registered Firms/Companies/Agencles having inline experience, Provident Fund Registration Certificate, Service Tax Registration Certificate, valid Income Tax PAN for providing services for the following work

from R-2 pond Rotary to VVIP terminal Road rotary including the detailed studies for designing the Road alignment duly incorporating Reinforced Earth (RE) walls Retaining walls with proper structures and connected roads and service roads

Interested parties are requested to submit their EOI in the Prescribed Format along with all supporting documents/ credentials. Detailed Prescribed Format document can be collected from the address mentioned below or can be downloaded from

Engineering Services for preparation of Detailed Project Report for the proposed road

The parties who are pre-qualified based on the conditions mentioned in the Prescribed

Format will be given the detailed RFP. The Contractor shall be finalized through a two-Part Bidding - Technical bid Commercial bid from among the shortlisted agencies, who participated in the EOI. Issue of EOI Prescribed Document 28.06.2024 10.30 AM to 05.07, 2024 fill 11.00 AM

Last date for submission of EOI Prescribed Document: 05.07.2024 till 04.00 PM. R.O. No.: 129-PP/CL-AGENICY/ADVT/1/2024-25

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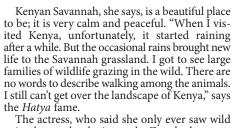
Friday June 28, 2024

FELT UNEASY,

SHRADDHA NEWARE

nouth Indian cinema actress Komica Anchal was seen sporting exotic looks in her recent social media posts, enjoying the picturesque beauty of Kenya. She got to explore all that nature had to offer and also spotted a wide array of wildlife roaming in their natural habitat. Her travels involved an immersive cultural experience, with unique dining and more. She found Kenyan people interesting; they were nice and friendly during her travels.

In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, she speaks of the thrilling journey, "Kenya is an amazing destination for people who love to explore wildlife and the coastal area. It has stunning natural beauty, including Savannahs, snow-capped mountains, lush forests, golden beaches and massive wilderness areas.'



animals on school trips to the Zoo, had a once-in-a-lifetime experience! "Kenya is one of the best safari destinations. Safari is an adventurous place where people in a caged vehicle are mov-ing around the animals, and during the drive, you are not allowed to go out of the car. I have never experienced viewing massive groups of animals. I visited Nairobi's Giraffe Center as well. I loved the big, googly eyes of little giraffes and enjoyed feeding them too. That was a priceless moment of my life!"

As a model, Komica is also revered for elegant fashion. As she continues to make perfect fashion statements during her travels, she is more than thoughtful about her style. "I always dress respectfully wherever I go and respect the culture of that place. For me being comfortable in ture of that place. For me, being comfortable in any outfit is the most important thing, but I also

Komica Anchal, the South Indian beauty, was spotted taking in Kenya's breathtaking scenery. This week, *Pioneer* will be Traveloque column, where she will share some special insights from her

want to look classy at the same time. People who reside in tropical areas have brighter clothing styles. I wore vibrant coloured comfy and classy outfits with beaded jewellery. If it was a sunny day, I wore elegant hats."

Enriching herself in authentic Kenyan culture and tribal people, she shares, "Kenya has a rich cultural heritage. I loved interacting with local communities and experiencing traditional dances. I was staying in Nairobi, so I went for a village museum tour at Bomas, Kenya." The actress mentioned seeing a variety of tribal groups and also rocking while performing dances and singing along! The locals welcomed her and hosted her for an authentic meal of traditional staple food

Ugali alongside greens and proteins.

For her, it's always about staying in quality hotels. She says taking luxurious baths or even booking a relaxing spa session, chilling by the pool, and drinking cocktails is always good for the soul. While on vacation, she also keeps up with her fitness regime with her fitness regime.

She danced her heart away in the middle of a Kenyan song to Bollywood song! However, "People around me were making my video without my consent and hooting! I felt uncomfortout my consent and hooting! I telt uncomfortable because of all the eyes on me in an unfamiliar country. I stopped dancing, and could not enjoy the rest of my night. Later, when I put my selfie up, tagging the location, people started sending me unwelcomed texts. There was no end to it!"

it!"

While flying back to India, a man approached her, saying, 'Oh! You are Komica Anchal, right? I saw you dancing in the pub. You were impressive!' Speaking of the horrifying experience, she shares, "After a couple of days, I wanted to watch TV and rest in flight. And this person was bothering me with unwanted attention. I felt uneasy, disturbed and violated, like I didn't deserve to travel alone. I was stalked, stared at and approached by people in an inappropriate way. I can handle such things, but I could see my courage slipping away that time."

Having studied in Mussorie, she's always been a mountain lover too. She personally feels, "Mountains are prettier than beaches and lakes. They are calm and soothing. I have studied in Mussorie, Dehradun. They are known for their alluring mountain views and greenery. So, mountains make me happy. I feel refreshed amidst the mountains."

Her go-to place for rejuvenation has always

amidst the mountains."

Her go-to place for rejuvenation has always been Dubai. "If I am stressed, then planning a trip to Dubai with friends sounds like a fun idea. It has endless fun, the best shopping destinations, and the best nightlife!"

However, on the other hand, she feels,

"Andaman and Nicobar Islands are the perfect destinations for sightseeing, water sports and various activities. It's a stunning land of white sand beaches, tropical rain forests, mangroves and exciting adventure activities. The island has delicious local cuisine and great shopping destinations. I can't wait to travel there again!"

As we head towards the end of the interview, she brings in an exclusive revelation: "I would like to go on vacation with Kartik Aaryan. I find him cute to be my travel buddy."

Celebrating working moms

he Inspire Beyond Motherhood Awards were started in 2019 to recognise mothers across different fields who had reestablished their careers or completely changed tracks. Some of them went on to become entre-preneurs, bloggers, or chefs, as they found their passion after becoming mothers. Starting out in Mumbai in its first year, the awards are now being held across the nation. In a novel approach, Namrata Sadhvani partnered

with Rohini Deepthi Natti to run a community,

'Oye Hyderabad', that is the community partner for the second year in a row for these awards. Speaking about what these awards are supposed to signify to these women, 'Oye Hyderabad's co-

founder Namrata Sadhvani shares, "Beyond motherhood means your life doesn't have to come to a standstill once you become a mother. You can choose to excel in whichever field vou want to and motherhood should not be

a limiting factor for you."

The event was organised to create buzz around the actual awards, reportedly being held in September. Shezi M, radio presenter, Radio Mirchi, who earlier received this award shares, "After I won an award with them, I realised it's such an amazing platform for a bunch of women who are doing fabulous work! But in true mommy style, they go unnoticed and underappreciated."

According to sources, the award partners with a cause each year. This year's cause is the

financial literacy of mothers. Aiming to educate mothers so that they too are able to

become financially literate and have a say in the financials of their household. Women with a variety of backgrounds and working sectors were seen actively participating in the event. Some are coming from a corporate background, some are content creators, some are wellness experts and a few are journalists and authors

Under the guidance of the event's guest speaker, Deepika Choudhary, char-tered accountant, participants learned the importance of being financially secured. "SIP is Systematic

Investment Plan, but it is Save, Invest, Prosper!"

During the talk many participants had a few burning questions, answered promptly by the financial expert. Krishna Madhuri, content creator, shares her views on the events theme of financial literacy, "We usually speak about financial independence for women. Along with independence, we need to know more about being financially literate."

Announcement of nominations opening on July 1, was followed by a lively session discussing each other's field of work and motherhood. As the event neared its end, they emphasised participation and nomination. Rohini Deepthi Natti, another content creator and co-founder 'Oye Hyderabad', mentions wanting a lot more nominations for the award, "The awards are not dependent on how many followers you have on social media, just to be clear. It's purely based on work and the impact that women are creating in our world, irrespective of their presence on social media.'



Sharmajee Ki Beti: United by surnames, divided by challenges

TEJAL SINHA

ahira Kashyap Khurrana makes her directorial debut with Sharmajee Ki Beti. In addition to directing, Tahira wrote the narrative for this endearing movie, contributing a new and perceptive viewpoint. The slice-of-life film is now streaming on Amazon Prime Video.

Sharmajee Ki Beti captures middle-class life through three different stories of the Sharmas. Basically, the film is about the lives of the Sharmas—not one, but three Sharma families (Jyoti Sharma, Kiran Sharma and Tanvi Sharma).

The film begins with Swathi Sharma (played by Vanshika Taparia), who visits a gynaec with her mother, Jyoti Sharma (played by Sakshi Tanwar). Swathi, just like any other growing teen, is concerned about her body and feels insecure about not getting her period yet. She shares her concern with her best friend, Gurveen Sharma (played by Arista Mehta). Jyoti is a teacher at a coaching center who worries about her payment being cut due to the half-day she had to take just so she could take Swathi to the doctor. She instructs her husband, Sudhir Sharma (played by Sharib Hashmi), to get their daughter ready for school, while Swathi often feels she's always looking messy.

The story then unfolds around Kiran Sharma (played by Divya Dutta), a housewife who is often forced to settle for less. Hailing from Patiala, she desires to enjoy the poise but figures out how the city dwellers are perennially on the run. She asks her husband, Vinod Sharma (played by Parvin Dabas), to go to London for a trip. With no







response, she shifts her desire to Goa and then to a local zoo. And Vinod says, 'Dekhte Hai' (we'll see). Then comes Tanvi Sharma (played by Saiyami Kher), a budding cricketer who plays for the Mumbai Women's Cricket team. However, her boyfriend Rohan (played by Ravjeet Singh) constantly refrains from playing the sport and asks her to choose between him and her game.





THE HIGHLIGHTS

Sharmajee Ki Beti offers a stunning depiction of life's highs and lows from the multigenerational perspectives of its five female leads. Because it features universal themes of family dynamics, women's empowerment and personal growth, it will appeal to audiences of all ages. The important subjects covered in the movie include self-dis-

covery, women's empowerment and overcoming adversity with resilience. It offers a complex depiction of the challenges and victories faced by contemporary metropolitan women that is destined to stick with audiences long after the credits have

While Jyoti is constantly hurt by Swathi's tantrums about her not worrying about her daughter and questioning her for things like 'what do you even know about me?' This perfectly sums up the struggles of making things right and respecting the love between a mother and her daughter. The blend of humour and themes wins a cookie point. For instance, when Kiran's house help Chotu (played by Sushant Ghadge) humorously taunts her, saying, '5 minute main London se Byculla zoo'. The scene very well highlights how a middle-class housewife has to give up on her dreams, being dependent on her husband to take her out. And as the voiceover says, 'Udaan hai London waali, but land hoti hai balcony mai', that perfectly blends the emotions pretty well.

Tanvi being constantly confused about her relationship with her boyfriend sums up many current relationships, where one wants their partner to act according to them. Just like in one of the scenes, her boyfriend taunts Tanvi for behaving and dressing up like a girl, while she, on the other hand, is simply comfortable. Featuring powerhouse performances by Sakshi Tanwar, Divya Dutta and Saiyami Kher, the impressive talents of young actors Arista Mehta and Vanshika Taparia highlight how teens dealing with body image issues strive to be conventionally attractive, and so well!

Their authentic performances infuse depth into the narrative, making the film simply unmissable for a wide and diverse group of audiences. A special mention: Sushant Ghadge, who portrays Chotu, Kiran's housekeeper, has the best lines in the movie, without a doubt.

THE DRAWBACKS

DIRECTOR AND WRITER: Tahira Kashyap Khurrana **PRODUCED BY:** Ellipsis Entertainment production

CAST: Sakshi Tanwar, Divya Dutta, Saiyami Kher, Vanshika Taparia, Arista Mehta, Sharib Hashmi and Parvin Dabas

PRESENTED BY: Applause Entertainment

STREAMING ON: Amazon Prime Video

RATING : 3.2

While Sharmajee Ki Beti excels in its narrative depth, the growth of the actors and the situations. some viewers may get slightly bored mid-way.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Tahira's ability to blend satirical humour with heartfelt moments creates a balanced and engaging narrative that will appeal to viewers of all ages.
Written by Tahira, the movie is packed with

humour that pops out of the most unexpected places; you'll be laughing before the punches are delivered. There are also charming moments that make you feel choked up. Not to give too much away, but be prepared for two very important scenes starring Divya and Sakshi, respectively, that will leave you feeling very overwhelmed. The movie presents a variety of viewpoints without disparaging anything or anyone, from appreciating one's body to having no regrets about personal decisions. Antara Lahiri's deft editing enhances the story, even though the film has a runtime of less than two hours. Rakesh Haridas's cinematography makes sure that the entire movie has a fun vibe to it. The soundtrack wonderfully complements

VERDICT

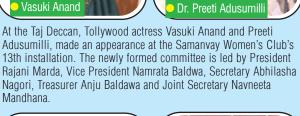
Sharmajee Ki Beti skillfully conveys the essence and principles of Indian middle-class households. It's a celebration of their goals and desires, as well as the little but important events that shape their lives. As a family, seeing it together can lead to insightful discussions and thoughtful insights. The twists and turns that the narrative brings out for the viewers make them hooked till the end, especially after the mid-way scenes.

what's brewing?













The first premium café in Hyderabad, Coimbatore Filter Coffee (CFC) opened at Vasavi MPM Grand, next to Ameerpet metro. Actress Ananya Nagalla opened this café, which aims to provide coffee lovers with an upscale experience.



Sowgandhi, an aviation scientist. congratulated Dr. Hypno Kamalakar's daughter Saroja Roy on her successful completion of a PhD program in human factors psychology in













During an event conducted at Taj Krishna, Udaya Bhaskar, the Director General of Pharmexcil, shared views with the media on Indian Pharma Exports: Futuristic Opportunities and Challenges. He further mentioned that a recent EY FICCI analysis indicated that the Indian pharmaceutical business is expected to reach a valuation of \$ 130 billion by the end of 2030 due to the rising consensus around the provision of new and innovative medications to patients.



The first-ever 100% free Primary/Bridge school has been established by the Helping Hand Foundation, primarily for children from first-generation families who work in the severely vulnerable slum of Errakunta, which is located inside the municipal limits of Jalpally.

ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES









GARFIELD





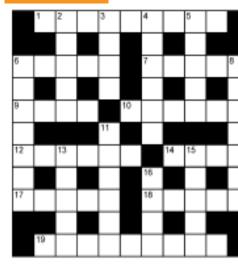




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The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS A pain in your mouth

- 6 Smash 7 A huge person
- 9 One quarter of thirty-six
- 10 Boil water in this
- 12 Scared 14 Lost blood
- 17 Cut into two equal parts
- 18 Sooner than expected

19 Completely tired out DOWN

- 2 Sea
- 3 Carry away 4 Quarrelled
- 5 This beats rhythmically inside your chest



6 Under

15 Big

8 A weekday

11 Film theatre

13 Rest from work

16 Tame animals

kept at home

and take it easy







tollywood



Hyderabad | Friday June 28, 2024

Siva Karthikeyan to collab with Cibi Chakaravarthi for his next

urrently, Siva Karthikeyan is busy working on a huge action thriller helmed by director A.R. Murugadoss. The main female character is portrayed by Rukmini Vasanth. The antagonist in the movie is portrayed by Bollywood actor Vidyut Jammal. According to the most recent rumours, Siva Karthikeyan would probably collaborate with the young director Cibi Chakaravarthi after finishing the movie with A.R. Murugadoss. They have previously worked together on the critically acclaimed box office hit Don film. There are talks for Rashmika Mandanna to fill the major female role. It's possible that well-known actor SJ Survah may play a big part in the movie. The team's official confirmation is keenly anticipated by fans.

In the meantime, September is when Sivakarthikeyan's movie Amaran is supposed to be released. He's portraying a formidable army officer in this film. The audience's reaction to the teaser has been ADAH SHARMA TO PLAY 'BADASS' IN

RAPCHICK REETA

character in the upcoming show titled Rapchick Reeta. A source

Close to the development shared, "Many actresses were

considered, but the team unanimously zeroed in on Adah. She has excellent comic timing and a huge youth fan following. She is also

very versatile, so she's perfect for the part of Reeta. Reeta is badass

witty, kind and a lot of fun. After Sunflower, The Kerala Story and Bastar: The Naxal Story, she has proved that she is one of the

When contacted, Adah was tight-lipped and said: "Yes, I'm doing something exciting, but the team will make an announcement

soon." The show will air on Disney+ Hotstar. Adah will also be making her singing debut next month with her first single, which is a rendition of the *Shiv Tandav Stotram*. The actress has also starred in South Indian films,

including the Telugu movies Heart Attack, S/O

appeared in the Kannada movie Rana

Satyamurthy, Kshanam, Subramanyam for Sale

. Vikrama, Tamil films like *Idhu Namma Aalu*

and Charlie Chaplin 2 and had a special

Waiting from the movie Idhu

The actress next has The

Game of Girgit in the

appearance in the song Maaman

best among the young actresses.

amazing. The leading lady is played by the stunning Sai

Kalki 2898 AD on par with H'wood superhero franchises

SHRADDHA NEWARE

nder Nag Ashwin's direction, this massive project, *Kalki 2898 AD*, takes place in a post-apocalyptic world where the city of 'Kashi' is the lone bastion of hope. It is unlike any other Indian film because of its distinctive fusion of science fic-

tion and mythology.

PLOT: Based on the epic of Hindu mythology Mahabharata, Kalki 2898 AD takes place in a dystopian future known as *Kalyug*. The story revolves around Kalki's expected birth, which is meant to restore God's presence and put an end to the world's suffering.

HIGHLIGHTS: Kalki 2898 AD has a lot of intricate action scenes and is extremely stunning. It is on par with Hollywood superhero franchises thanks to its superior visual effects. The employment of several ethnic groups in a post-apocalyptic world, rather than only Indians, was one of the intricate aspects that helped to keep the viewers

because of its U/A rating. Actors and film-makers make noticeable cameos that add their unique flair to the narrative. It's fun to see Bhairava and Bujji joke around with each

DRAWBACKS: Despite the story's attempt to depict each character's development concurrently, there were moments when it was challenging to follow up. Prolonged and drawn-out action scenes tried their hardest to elicit oohs and aahs from the audience, but they couldn't hold their attention for very long. Although the addition of the AI droid/vehicle was performed fairly successfully, it did not explain to the audience why or how Bhairava even possessed this technology.

PERFORMANCES: Above all, Kalki 2898

AD is the tale of Ashwatthama's self-redemption following his effort to break the Pandava dynasty by sending his Brahmastra in the direction of Uttara's (Malvika Nair) womb. Krishna grants him a second opportunity at

interested in the story. It will appeal to those who prefer epics and action-packed films salvation even as he curses him to spend all of eternity realising his foolishness. And as Ashwatthama, Amitabh steals the show.

> **TECHNICALITIES:** The fight scenes in Kalki 2898 AD are a little strangely staged, especially the ones that call for a lot of visual effects or occur in close quarters. The impression that everything is taking place on a sound stage is unavoidable. That being said, the battle scenes in Ashwatthama are not in the same league. Even while he is cutting the adversary to shreds, his entire eight feet move in what appears to be a synchroised dance. Even though he is hurling concrete at Bhairava's head, he exudes grace. He and Bhairava-Bujji engaged in a specific combat scenario that highlights the fabled figure's level

of fighting proficiency.

VERDICT: Overall, it's a great experience that is visually spectacular, entertaining and occasionally musically agreeable. It maintained the promise of action in a typical Tollywood manner.



ECTOR AND WRITER: Nag Ashwin RODUCED BY: Ellipsis Entertainment production ALOGUES BY: Nag Ashwin, Sai Madhav Burra **NEMATOGRAPHY:** Djordje Stojiljkovic

CAST : Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, Deepika Padukone, Disha Patani, and Keerthy Suresh (Voice-over) MUSIC BY: Santhosh Narayanan

DITED BY: Kotagiri Venkateshwara Rao

makes fans go gaga VD's cameo in *l*



vays captured hearts with his charming appearance. Whenever this lsome hunk appears on

fans couldn't help but talk about it endlessly. It has indeed come as a big surprise nda's cameo in VijayDeverakonda s ca <u>Kalki 2898 AD</u> is truly causing a stir among fans.

media as well. With the film having just been released, fans are raving about Vijay's Well, this is indeed an

never leaves a chance to surprise his fans and steal the hearts of the people. He is not only the lover boy on screen

production works after *Indian 2* release

Shankar to complete Game Changer's

ans have been eagerly awaiting the announcement of the release date for Ram Charan and Shankar's political action drama *Game Changer*, which has been in development for some time. With *Indian 2's* release the next month, Shankar is occupied with its promotion right now. Shankar was asked to discuss *Game Changer* in an interview. "The movie is almost done. There are ten more days left to shoot. I will complete the production portion following the release of *Indian 2*. After that, I'll lock the finished video and focus on the post-production

tasks. We'll make a choice after all the work is finished," he revealed. The film will be released as soon as it can. The film stars Kiara Advani as the lead role; other

actors include SJ Surya, Srikanth, Anjali, Jayaram and others in vital roles. The film is being bankrolled by Dil Raju under the banner of Sri Venkateshwara Creations. SS Thaman is composing the tunes.

Vyjayanthi Movies' next with Pavan Sadineni

Dutt's Tollywood

Vyjayanthi Movies, is presently preoccupied with the release of Kalki 2898 AD. the much awaited film that

stars Prabhas and Deepika Padukone in the key parts. The newest rumour has it that Vyjayanthi Movies has given the go-ahead for a new story told by the gifted and driven director Pavan Sadineni, whose web series Paruvu on ZEE5 has been an enormous hit lately. It is anticipated that an official announcement would follow the release of Kalki 2898 AD. There are rumours that Dulquer Salmaan will be the star of this upcoming, highly anticipated film.

Double Ismart title track shoot underway in Hyd

staad Ram Pothineni and director Puri Jagannadh are back with *Double* Ismart, which marks another thrilling collaboration between them after the blockbuster iSmart Shankar. This new venture promises to elevate the excitement and entertainment quotient to a new level



with a gripping storyline and high-octane action sequences. The addition of Sanjay Dutt as the antagonist to the cast adds a significant layer of intrigue and star power, making this project one of the most eagerly awaited films in Indian cinema. The film has Kavya Thapar as the female lead. This mass action entertainer is announced

for relase on August 15th for Independence Day Eve. The title song shoot is currently underway in Hyderabad, with the entire team putting their best foot forward to ensure it becomes a visual and auditory treat for the audience. The song, which is expected to be a chartbuster, features Ram Pothineni in his signature energetic style, promising electrifying dance moves and captivating visuals. Jani Master is choreographing this song with some terrific mass moves for the energetic mass tune composed by Mani Sharma and the official announcement about the song release will be made soon.

Produced by Puri Jagannadh and Charmme Kaur. Sam K Naidu and Gianni Gianneli are the cinematographers.

Arjun Ambati Aishwarya Pisse in Agnisakshi



announced the launch of s first long-format show in Telugu, Agnisakshi, which will premiere on July 12. Starring the popular television couple Arjun Ambati and Aishwarya Pisse, this riveting drama promises to captivate audiences with its intense storyline and powerful performances Agnisakshi delves into the emotional journey of Shankar,

a dedicated police officer

haunted by the untimely loss

of a beloved family member.

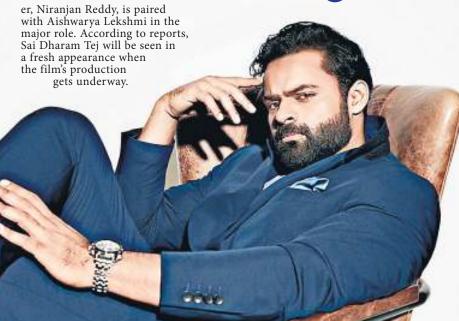
His life takes an unexpected

Gowri, a young woman grappling with her own grief Gowri dreams of becoming a police officer like her father but faces the crushing disappointment of failing her

As fate intertwines their lives, Shankar and Gowri find themselves connected by a mysterious murder, setting the stage for a gripping narrative. Agnisakshi is filled with suspense, emotion and unexpected twists that will keep you on the edge of your

SDT's next tentatively titled Sambarala Yeti Gattu

ai Dharam Tej carefully chooses his projects and is certainly not in a rush to work on consecutive movies. He is currently working on a movie that Rohit KP, a rookie director, is directing. According to the latest updates, Sambarala Yeti Gattu is the intended title for the movie. For the film's filming, an enormous set is being constructed for the historical drama action The film's produc-



Nikhita Gandhi is all set to strike a chord with *Naadu Vittu*

he extremely talented Nikhita Gandhi after delivering massive chartbusters like Gore Gore Mukhde Pe and Isha Vishk rebound title track is all geared up to enchant her audiences with a tamil track titled *Naadu* Vittu. The energetic electronic pop song is the perfect party number and Nikhita adds her extra glam to the track making it special for her fans. Kickstarting her journey as a musician with

Tamil track Kalyana Samayal Saadham, Nikhita has sung many popular Tamil songs and has a massive fan hase there. With Naadu Vittu, Nikhita is all set to yet again surprise her audiences and we

are convinced even

this track is going to be a blast. Talking about the track Nikhita shares, "Naadu Vittu is a track where I have worked with Manoi Krishna for the very first time and it was such a bliss. I have started my journey with Tamil movies and hence this song is extremely special to me. I can't wait for the audience to hear it and I'm sure they would love it as



SOUTH AFRICA BANISH AFGHANISTAN, ENTER MAIDEN T20 WC FINAL

South Africa exorcised their agonising semifinal jinx through an exceptional spell of pace bowling as they walloped an emotionally drained Afghanistan by nine wickets to enter their first-ever T20 World Cun final here

World Cup final here.
They will face the winners of the second semifinal between India and England in the title clash, but the Afghans will go home with their heads held high after a stirring run in the

tournament. tournament.
Marco Jansen (3/16) Kagiso
Rabada (2/14) and Anrich
Nortje (2/7) ripped the soul
out of the Afghanistan toporder while bundling them out
for a paltry 56 in just 11.5 overs
after being invited to bowl.

Despite the early departure of Quinton de Kock, bowled through the gate by impressive pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi, the Proteas had little trouble in reaching 60 for one in 8.5

overs.
Reeza Hendricks (29 not out),
who put up his highest score in
this event, and skipper Aiden
Markram (23 not out)
navigated them safely to the shores of victory as they have finally freed themselves from the painful tag of chokers in global events.

Afghanistan have given their

everything to reach the World Cup semifinal, and in the crucial clash they were left with no energy, and produced a nothing effort that belied their

doughtiness until now.
It affected their batting as they looked unusually edgy against the South African pacers, who

summoned a spell from hell.
They reduced the Afghans to
28 for five inside the Powerplay
and there was no coming back
from that depth as they
crashed to their lowest total in

Their 56 was also the lowest total in a T20 International.

Their 56 was also the lowest total in a T20 World Cup semifinal clash.

Once reduced to 28 for six, Afghanistan could not even Afghanistan could not even offer a smidgeon of fight as their dream of reaching a maiden World Cup final was squashed even before it began. While the South Africa pacers were on the money, the Afghan batters too should cope some blame for being edgy on a pitch that hid no evils apart from those deliveries that kicked up from a length.

from a length.
Opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz was the first to perish, chasing Jansen's delivery outside the off-stump to give Reeza Hendricks an easy catch at slip. The dismissal of in-form Gurbaz seemed to inject doses of panic in the Afghanistan line-up, and Gulbadin Naib was consumed by a lovely in-



coming delivery by Jansen. But the next two dismissals were a combination of bowler's brilliance and irrationality.

Ibrahim Zadran, on whom a lot was riding for the Afghans, did not move his feet at all against a Rabada delivery that came back a bit. There was enough room for the ball to sneak past the bat and pad to

rattle Zadran's leg-stump.
Three balls later in the fourth
over, Mohammad Nabi's dismissal was along similar lines and the only difference was that Rabada disturbed the

was that Rabada disturbed the off-stump this time.
Nortje joined the party with the scalp of Azmatullah Omarzai, whose slash found Tristan Stubbs in the deep.

Gurbaz, Zadran and Omarzai have been the leading runmakers for Afghanistan in this ICC showpiece, but on the crucial day all they could manage was a paltry 12 runs between them.

Skipper Rashid Khan, who could have made some valuable runs, chose to expose valuable runs, chose to expose all his stumps to Nortje to see the one close to his legs getting cartwheeled across the field. Leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (3/6) applied the coupe de grace on Afghanistan batting line with two wickets in one over, jettisoning Karim Jannat and Noor Ahmad.



Sri Lanka head coach Chris Silverwood steps down

Sri Lanka's head coach Chris Silverwood on Thursday stepped down from the role following the team's dismal outing in the ongoing T20 World Cup, the SLC announced.

Former captain Mahela Jayawardene had resigned from the post of the consultant coach on Wednesday.

"Being an international coach

means long periods away from loved ones. After lengthy conversations with my family and with a heavy heart, I feel it is now time for me to return home (England) and spend some quality time together," Silverwood, who played six Tests and seven ODIs for England as a pacer, said in his

statement. "It has been a real honour for me to be part of Sri Lanka Cricket and I will be taking away many fond memories,

Sri Lanka crashed out of the T20 WC in the group stages itself with two losses, a no result and a solitary win, and it was the former champions' worst performance in the ICC

showpiece.

During Silverwood's tenure, Lanka won the T20 Asia Cup in 2022 and also reached the final of the 50-over Asia Cup last year where they lost to India.

They also secured a slew of bilateral series wins both at home and overseas, including one against Australia in the 50over format and two away Test series wins over Bangladesh. The SLC has already started

the process of finding a new head coach ahead the team's next international outing against India in a white ball series next month.

The Lankans will then head to England for a two-match Test

South Africa skipper Laura Wolvaardt has called for more Tests in women's cricket more Tests in women's cricket calendar and inclusion of red-ball tournaments in the rainbow nation's domestic structure, ahead of their one-off Test against India starting here on Friday. India and South Africa will face off here at Chepauk for only their third Test in history and first in nearly 10 years, a contest for which Wolvaardt conceded her side is not fully prepared for.

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prepared for. While a multi-day red-ball

women's competition was resumed in India last season, South Africa have no such

"Most of us don't have any preparation in the format, since we don't play domestic four-day cricket. It's difficult, since I have to leave the balls since I have to leave the balls that I have been cover-driving my whole life, and I still tend to play it by instinct," Wolvaardt said during a press conference here on Thursday. Citing the lack of preparation for red-ball cricket fixtures which are few and far between, the star batter even suggested.

the star batter even suggested scrapping the format.
"We either need to play more Tests and incorporate it into

the domestic level, or we can just leave it because playing one or three Tests is very hard to adapt to," she said. "But I want to have more of it," Wolvaardt added.



Laura calls for more red-ball cricket in women's cricket calendar

South Africa's last outing in the format was earlier this year in February when they were trounced by Australia by an innings and 284 runs in Perth. England in December. "Getting the opportunity to

play more red-ball cricket is awesome. Having three scheduled in a calendar year is pretty cool," she added.
"I personally really enjoy the format. So, this Test will be a huge challenge for us, and hopefully, we will adapt to the conditions well."

"Women's Tests, in general, is a bit unknown as neither teams have too much experience in it. have too much experience in it. India does have a good home advantage and winning here will be a tough challenge, but we are up for it," she added. The pitch is expected to be spin-friendly while there is also forecast of win. forecast of rain.

Preparation-wise, we have been facing a lot of spin in the nets lately since it will be the biggest threat here. The balls

were staying low at the nets yesterday," Wolvaardt said.
"Batting-wise, it's going to be a big challenge. But thankfully, we have a few top spinners in our squad who are licking their lips and getting ready for the game tomorrow. Hopefully, they are going to put on a great they are going to put on a great show," she added. With the South African men's

team making it to the final of the T20 World Cup, Wolvaardt said her side would also be keeping an eye on Saturday's

"Most of us woke up early to watch the game, but only to watch them chase 57. It was absolutely amazing to watch and felt incredible. We will definitely watch the final and cheer them on," she said.

Rahane joins Leicestershire, to play County Championship and One Day Cupg

PTI LEICESTER

Former India skipper Ajinkya Rahane has signed with English county side Leicestershire for the second half of the ongoing season, the club announced on Thursday. As per the deal, he will be featuring in the team's final five games of the ongoing County Championship, besides playing in the One Day Cup, where the Foxes are the defending champions.

The 36-year-old joins Leicestershire in place of Wiaan Mulder, who is expected to travel to the West Indies with South Africa in August. Rahane has accumulated over 26,000

runs across formats (First-Class, List-A and T20), having struck 51 hundreds with a top score of an unbeaten 265.

Playing for the 'Men in Blue', he has collected more than 8,000 runs, including 15 centuries, along with a best knock of 188 in the New



Zealand Test in 2016. "I'm really excited to have another opportunity to come Leicestershire. I've built a strong rapport with Claude (Henderson) and Alfonso (Thomas), and I'm looking forward to playing for the Club this summer," Rahane said in a club statement.

"I followed the team's results last year and was very impressed with what I saw. I'm hoping to enjoy my cricket and contribute to more success for the Club this season."

Rahane is expected to arrive in mid-July, with his first contest being away to Notts Outlaws in the One Day

Cup on July 24.
"We are thrilled to welcome someone of Ajinkya's quality to Leicestershire. It was unfortunate that Ajinkya's schedule didn't quite work with ours last year. But, it's a massive boost to have secured his services for the business end of this season," commented Leicestershire's Director of Cricket, Claude Henderson.

"He holds immense experience and vital leadership qualities, which will be hugely beneficial to the team alongside his run-scoring ability. Ajinkya's arrival also presents a fantastic opportunity for our batters to learn from one of the game's best."





Bumrah is 1000 times better than me: Kapil Dev has played 26 Tests for India, picking up

Iconic former India all-rounder Kapil Dev feels Jasprit Bumrah is a "1000 times better" bowler than what he was at his prime. Bumrah, who has been doing exceptionally well in the ongoing T20 World Cup, snaring 11 wickets at an outstanding economy of 4.08 in the 23 overs he has bowled so far.

"Bumrah is 1000 times better than me. These young boys are far better than us. We had more experience. They are better," Kapil told 'PTI Videos'.

Bumrah, who is widely regarded as the best pacer in international cricket now,

159 wickets and an economy of under three. His 89 ODI appearances have yielded 149 wickets while his T20I wicket count stands at 85 from 68 matches. Kapil ended his career with a then world record 434 Test wickets and is considered one the best all-rounders of all time who also claimed 253 ODI scalps.

The 65-year-old, who led India to their maiden World Cup title in 1983, also lauded the overall fitness levels of the current national team.

They are very good. Outstanding. They are fitter. They are much more hardworking. They are fantastic," he said.

Debutantes in focus as India Women take on South Africa in one-off Test

PTI CHENNAI

 $T^{\text{he focus will be on young talent,}}_{\text{especially the debutantes, when}}$ the Indian women's cricket team squares off against South Africa in a one-off Test starting here on Friday, a decade after the two teams last clashed in a five-day game.
With Test cricket not being a

regular affair for women, as many as five in the Indian squad could get a debut in the longest format, after having established themselves and proved their mettle in the limitedovers circuit.

Also, with India coming off a 3-0 clean sweep in the preceding ODI series against the same side, the momentum is surely with the hosts although this will be a different format altogether.

The likes of Uma Chetry, Priya Punia, Saika Ishaque, Arundhati Reddy and Shabnam Shakil will be the ones to watch as they prepare for their Test debut.

The last time India competed in a red-ball match was December 2023, which was their first Test outing in Playing back-to-back home Tests

against England and Australia (one each), the hosts were successful in both instances. The Indians last played South Africa in a Test back in 2014 in Mysore, winning it by a comprehensive innings and 34-run

Although the focus has generally been on white-ball cricket for the Indian women, head coach Amol Muzumdar has mentioned that there will be more red-ball cricket

going forward. He has said that having a Women's Test Championship will add more value to the bilateral Tests.

"It's not a bad idea to have a (Women's) Test Championship, something we can look forward to. But that is for the Board (BCCI and ICC) to decide. If it happens, it's indeed better for the game," he had said on Wednesday.

While Harmanpreet Kaur will lead the side with five Tests under her belt, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana is the most experienced of the lot, having played a Test more that her

skipper. Both Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues were in good form against England and Australia.



They would once again back themselves to come up with a solid show with the bat against the South Africans here.

The likes of Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma will also be expected to come good as they are currently the team's second and third-highest run-scorers respectively in the format.

As for bowling, Deepti Sharma and Pooja Vastrakar were lethal forces that gave the England and Australia a hard time in December.

Also, Sneh Rana's off-breaks could be a nightmare for the Proteas, especially on the Chennai track, which is traditionally known to assist spinners.

As for South Africa, the women have played just one Test in two years, against Australia in Perth this February, which the latter won comprehensively.

Even the South African side has five names in line for Test debuts. However, the team led by Laura Wolvaardt will continue to rely heavily on all-rounders Sune Luus and Delmi Tucker along with

With the ball, Masabata Klaas and

Tazmin Brits

Anneke Bosch are their top wickettakers, while spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba can be tricky to face on this track.

Chepauk has hosted only one women's Test to date, back in 1976 when India drew against the West Indies.

However, Muzumdar asserted that the team is aware of the demands here and will play accordingly.

SQUADS:

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Jemimah Rodrigues, Priya Punia, Shafali Verma, Shubha Satheesh, Deepti Sharma, Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Richa Ghosh (wk), Uma Chetri (wk), Sneh Rana, Saika Ishaque, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Arundhati Reddy and Renuka Thakur Singh.

South Africa: Laura Wolvaardt (c), Anneke Bosch, Tazmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Annerie Dercksen, Mieke de Ridder (wk), Sinalo Jafta (wk), Marizanne Kapp, Masabata Klaas, Suné Luus, Eliz-Mari Marz, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tumi Sekhukune, Nondumiso Shangase and Delmi Tucker.