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NOW COMPETING WITH SOME



Rashmika Mandanna begins shooting for **SIKANDAR**



QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer

There is nothing to worry about those leaving the party and joining thieves. The BRS will mould new leaders and will remain strong even if some people leave the party. The people were duped by false

propaganda and the BRS was defeated. We should work hard whether ruling or in the opposition. The Jagityal MLA joined thieves. He was also groomed by the party.

K. Chandrashekar Rao, BRS Chief

Special plans for industrial...

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy stated that the State will progress further with the establishment of industrial corridors. He added that the Regional Ring Road being constructed by the R and B department will give a new direction for the State's future and will be a significant gamechanger. Inaugurating the Kala Utsav Exhibition organised by the Hyderabad Regional Chapter of the Indian Institute of Interior Designers at Hitex, the Minister

Centre asks depts to review...

Irked over non-adherence to its directives, the Centre has asked all ministries to timely review the working of the employees so that the non-performers are prematurely retired from service. In an order, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) asked ministries concerned to direct the public sector undertakings (PSUs), banks, autonomous institutions and statutory bodies under their administrative control to undertake the exercise...

India, US extend digital tax...

India and the US have decided to extend a 2 per cent equalisation levy or digital tax on e-commerce supplies until June 30, the finance ministry said on Friday. In a major reform of the international tax system. and the US have joined 134 other members of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework (including Austria, France, Italy, Spain, and the UK) in reaching an agreement on October 8, 2021, on the statement on a two-pillar solution to address the tax...

-PAGE: 8

Last Tango: Possibly final...

This Saturday afternoon in Barbados, no Indian fan would want Rohit Sharma to drag his jaded body towards the dug-out trying to hide a tear welling up at the corner of his eye. No Indian fan would want to revisit Virat Kohli's blank stare towards the podium where the coveted ODI World Cup trophy rested exactly seven months and 10 days back. What they would surely want is to see the two greats do a memorable tango in probably their 'Last Dance' in the game's shortest format...

LS adjourned amid **Oppn ire over NEET**

The proceedings of the Lok Sabha were adjourned for the day on Friday as the opposition demanded a discussion on the alleged irregularities in the conduct of the medical entrance exam NEET.

When the House reassembled at 12 noon, opposition members continued with their demand for a discussion on matters related to the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

Speaker Om Birla and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told opposition members that they can discuss the matter during the course of the Motion of Thanks on the President's

good discussion in youth and their future. Addressing reporters in

Parliament complex, Gandhi said the NEET issue should be discussed before the Motion of Thanks on the President's address is taken up. The NEET issue is the most important issue of the day,

Parl should give message that Govt, Oppn together: Rahul

eader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to hold a "respectful" and Parliament on the issue of alleged irregularities in the conduct of the NEET exam as it concerns the country's

BRS seeks Assembly resolution opposing NEET

BC OR OC?

Race hots up for Telangana

BJP president post

PNS HYDERABAD

Former MP Boinpalli Vinod Kumar criticised the Central and state governments for their indifference towards the growing nationwide protests against NEET. He pointed out the widespread concern over the NEET

question paper leak and the unanimous resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly demanding cancellation of NEET.He urged the Telangana government to convene the Assembly immediately and pass a similar resolution to scrap NEET and to conduct admissions based on EAMCET.

Budget session 2 days after Union Budget: CM Revanth

Govt to frame loan waiver guidelines in 4 days:

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government will release guidelines for waiving agricultural loans within four days, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said on Friday in New Delhi.

The CM said the 'ration card' is not the standard for administering crop loan waiver schemes. The ration card is meant only for identifying families. Loan waiver is available only up to Rs 2 lakh, he

The CM said the government will concentrate on the Rythu Bharosa scheme and other schemes after implementing the loan waiver scheme.

He said the Telangana budget session will be convened within two days after the Centre introduces its budget. The CM said that he had told officials to prepare the budget in tune with actuals without hypothetical calculations.

Revanth said that he had asked officials to ensure that the budget does not exceed estimates. There is no need to follow the policies of the BRS government in budget matters, he said.

The Chief Minister made it



clear that there were no power cuts in the state and that there were only some interruptions in power distribution. The CM said that when the Congress came to power there was a disruption due to maintenance that happens every

The Chief Minister said the government will appoint a commission after discussing the mandals and revenue division issue and that the government will place facts regarding the Kaleshwaram Project in the Assembly.

The government will move forward as per the recommendation

Centre urged to reopen Adilabad cement unit

Telangana IT and Industries Minister Sridhar Babu, Adilabad MP Godam Nagesh and MLA Payal Shankar, met the Union Minister for Heavy Industries, HD Kumaraswamy, to request the reopening of the Adilabad Cement Factory, which has been closed for the last 30 years.

They emphasised the potential economic benefits and employ-

ment opportunities that reopen ing the factory would bring to the region. Sridhar Babu also urged the return of lands allocated to Central PSUs if they are not being used for their intended purpose. He said that during the Congress government's tenure, thousands of acres were allocated to PSUs, and these lands should be returned if the PSUs

of experts and the Dam Safety

The Chief Minister said that

Telangana has around Rs 7 lakh

crore debts and is paying Rs 7,000

crore annually to service these

debts. The United Andhra Pradesh

state used to pay Rs 6,500 crore at

the time the state was divided. The

BRS government took loans at 7 to

11 per cent interest, he said.
"We are trying to get the inter-

est rate on loans reduced.

Authority's report, he said.

Continued on Page 2

Man from Hyd among 193 booked in Five killed, nine hurt in US\$ 2.75 bn health care fraud in US

PNS HYDERABAD

At least one Indian and two Indianorigin persons were among 193 medical professionals charged by the eir alleged parti massive health care fraud schemes involving approximately USD 2.75 billion in intended losses and USD 1.6 billion in actual losses, the Justice Department has said.

National Health Care Fraud

Leaders from all communities in the

BJP are trying to grab the Telangana

BJP President post. However, lead-

ers from BCs and OCs are making

However, the appointment of

Telangana BJP president will take

place only after the appointment of

BJP national president, it is learnt.

may take a decision only after the

Congress appoints the TPCC president. The BJP may select a BC

It is learnt that the BJP leadership

all-out efforts to bag the post.



The Justice Department on Enforcement Action, under which Thursday announced the 2024 criminal charges were filed against 193 defendants, including 76 doc-

> leader as its Telangana unit President if the Congress appoints

a BC leader as the TPCC President.

Eatala Rajender, Nizamabad MP

Dharmapuri Arvind and some others are trying to grab the Telangana President post.Meanwhile, OC lead-

ers like Medak MP M. Raghunandan Rao and former MLC

Ramchander Rao and some others

are also trying to bag the Telangana

BJP President post.

BC leaders like Malkajgiri MP

tors, nurse practitioners, and other licensed medical professionals in 32 districts across the US.

The fraud schemes for which the people were charged involved "approximately USD 2.75 billion in intended losses and USD 1.6 billion in actual losses," the department said in an official statement.

The government seized over USD 231 million in cash, luxury vehicles, gold, and other assets, it said.

'Farmers may have P5 been stopped, but their reps are in Parliament'

Shadnagar reactor blast

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY/ HYDERABAD

sion in the company South Glass Pvt Limited on the outskirts o Chintaguda village in Shadnagar. One person is critical and nine others were severely injured. The explosion which occurred in a reactor injured many workers seriously.

Initial reports said that injured workers were taken to private hospitals in the town and some were later moved to

government hospitals for treat-

and are investigating the cause of the and coordinate relief efforts.

explosion. Eyewitnesses described a horrific scene with body parts scat-Five people were killed in an explo- tered all over the place due to the blast. The authorities are

trying to collect more that the injured get medical attention. The cause of the explosion remains unknown. Details are awaited as an investigation is on.Learning about the incident, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy ordered officials to give medical assistance to the injured.

Chief Minister directed that revenue, police, fire department, labour, industries and medical The police arrived at the scene teams should remain at the scene

Yadaiah joins Cong

Chevella BRS MLA

PNS HYDERABAD

Following the convention set by BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao who inducted Congress MLAs into the BRS when he was in power, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is now hitting back BRS MLAs into the Congress.

On Friday, the BRS's Chevella MLA, Kale Yadaiah, quit the BRS and joined the Congress in the presence of Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge General Secretary Deepa Das Munshi and others in New Delhi.Revanth Reddy and Deepa Das Munshi offered the party kanduva to Kale and welcomed him into the Congress. With Kale Yadaiah joining the Congress, the number of BRS MLAs in the Congress increased to six.



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Friday

and the construction of the Bhadradri and Yadadri Thermal Power Plants during the tenure of the BRS government. A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti, reserved orders after hearing the arguments of Advocate



HC reserves order over KCR's plea on Justice Narasimha panel

reserved its order on the maintainability of a writ petition filed by former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, seeking a stay on the proceedings of the Justice L. Narasimha Reddy Commission investigating the power purchase agreement with Chhattisgarh

Weather models 'fail' to predict

General A. Sudharshan Reddy.



'Amarnath Yatra is symbol of faith, unity



PNS SRINAGAR

Amarnath Yatra is a symbol of faith and unity, and the people of Jammu and Kashmir feel privileged to be part of the holy pilgrimage, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said here on Friday.

Sinha attended an event organised by civil society, trade fraternity and citizens at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) here to welcome pilgrims of Amarnath Yatra.

The first batch of pilgrims reached the valley on Friday.

"Glad to have attended an event organised by civil society, trade fraternity & citizens to welcome pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. People feel privileged to be part of holy pilgrimage and contributing to make the jour-

spiritual experience," the LG said on X.He said the spiritual journey to the holy cave is the

symbol of faith and unity. "For centuries, it has been collective responsibility of the society to make every step of this journey blissful. J-K has glorious heritage of harmony, tolerance and brotherhood. It is the land of almost all religions known to mankind. These values deeply embedded in society are expressed in this yatra and everyone irrespective of religion and caste participates in serving the pilgrims," Sinha said.

Speaking to reporters at the SKICC, the LG said for the past three-four years, a tradition has been established in Jammu and Kashmir to hold discussions with religious leaders, elected representatives, civil society members, and various district

POCSO CASE

HC extends interim order on arrest of Yediyurappa

PNS BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Friday extended by two weeks its interim order restraining Criminal Investigation Department (CID) from arresting former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, in connection with a case registered against the BJP leader under

POCSO Act. The bench of Justice Krishna S Dixit continued its June 14 order, as it permitted the prosecution to file its objections to the petition filed by

The Special Public Prosecutor

Yediyurappa seeking quashing of the

sought time to file objections, and maintained that Yediyurappa's petition may not survive as a chargesheet has already been filed.The court then said: "Call these mat-

ters week after next at request of learned Special Public Prosecutor for filing statement of objections if any. Interim order granted earlier to continue till next date Delhi rains; meteorologists baffled Forecasting models "failed" to predict the extreme weather event that took Delhi residents by surprise early Friday, result-

orologists said. This amount is more than three times the June average of 74.1 mm and the highest for the month since 1936.

ing in a record 228.1 mm of rainfall, mete-

An IMD official explained that the monsoon winds interacted with the remnants of a western disturbance, causing heavy rains in Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Independent scientists suggested that a thunderstorm over North Delhi could have triggered the torrential rains. On June 26, the IMD had predicted only light to moderate rain and thunderstorms with gusty winds for Friday (June 28).



On Thursday afternoon, the Met office noted that a trough extended from a cyclonic circulation over central Gujarat to west Bihar in the lower tropospheric levels. In the weekly weather briefing uploaded on the IMD's YouTube page, scientist Soma Sen Roy said this trough was pumping moisture into north and central India.

"The east-west trough is likely to strengthen during the week and rainfall will increase over north India," she

The IMD's extended range forecast

issued on Thursday night predicted "fairly widespread to widespread light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning over northwest and east India during the next five days". It also suggested "very heavy rainfall"

over Delhi on June 29 and June 30, but no one expected the torrential rain on Friday morning.

At 4:58 am on Friday, the IMD issued an alert, stating "light to moderate intensity rain with heavy intensity rain over a few places and winds of 20-40 kmph would occur over and adjoining areas of entire Delhi and NCR, Gannaur, Sonepat, Kharkhoda, Jhajjar, Sohna, Palwal, Baraut, Baghpat, Khekra, Pilakhua, and Sikandrabad during the next two hours".

Continued on Page 2

ney safe and a truly fulfilling officials before the yatra.

SEETHAKKA'S REVIEW WITH IRRIGATION OFFICIALS

Geotubes for constructing Godavari embankment

The construction of the Godavari River embankment will begin immediately using the new technology of Geotubes, Minister Seethakka

During her visit to Ramanna Gudem and Mangapeta embankments, she conducted a review meeting with Irrigation officials and stressed the need for rapid implementation of the Geotube technology to strengthen the embank-

She noted that the delay was due to the Model Election Code and highlighted the



importance of protecting the embankment from floods caused by upstream rains. Seethakka instructed officials to prevent the submersion of villages and to repair the corroded shutters promptly.

During the review meeting

at the Eturunagaram ITDA office, Seethakka, District Collector Diwakar TS, ITDA Project Officer Chitra Mishra and Additional Collector P. Sreeja discussed various aspects of embankment con-

struction.Seethakka stressed

permanent solution to the embankment issue, stating that temporary fixes had caused problems during monsoons for years. The new Geotube technology will ensure a durable embankment, she said. She directed officials to con-

duct a thorough examination of the Ramanna Gudem and Mangapeta embankments and take steps to prevent flooding in nearby villages. She also ordered the repair of corroded shutters in the irrigation department. The minister emphasised the urgency of starting construction immedi-

Harish meets Kavitha in Tihar jail

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



BRS MLA T. Harish Rao met BRS MLC K. Kavitha in the Tihar Jail Friday. Nearly 105

days ago, Kavitha was arrested in the Delhi Excise policy case on March 15.

Harish inquired about Kavitha's condition during the meeting and asked her to be brave. Recently, former ministers Satyavathi Rathore, Sabita Indra Reddy and KTR met Kavitha.

It is known that the judicial custody of MLC Kavitha, who is on remand in the Delhi liquor policy case, has been extended once again. The Rouse Avenue Court issued an order extending her custody till July 5.

Nothing to worry about those joining thieves, says KCR He reiterated the impor-

Addressing the BRS workers of Jagityal and Kortula former Minister Chandrasekhar Rao declared that the BRS is strong despite defections to the Congress.

He said that there is nothing to worry about those leaving the party and joining thieves. He reassured workers that the party and not individual leaders shape political success. He highlighted the BRS's

role in nurturing leaders and expressed confidence in meeting the hopes of the Telangana people. KCR encouraged workers to continue working diligently for the state's

He acknowledged the recent defections but stressed that the



party would produce even stronger leaders. "The BRS

will create leaders and remain

the party should not be a

cause for concern and stated

that the party has a history of

creating leaders and will con-

tinue to do so, emphasising

that the strength of the party

lies in its collective efforts and

tance of achieving the remaining milestones for Telangana's development, noting that only the BRS understands the hopes of the people.

He called for a united effort to fulfil unachieved goals, emphasizing that the party's ultimate aim is the welfare and development of Telangana.

KCR expressed his appreciation for Korutla MLA Dr K. strong even if some leave the Sanjay Kumar who has been party," he said KCR said that those who left serving people both as a doctor and as an MLA.

"People were duped by false propaganda and the BRS faced defeat. But we should work whether we are ruling or in the opposition. The Jagityal MLA joined thieves. He was also groomed by the party.

Guy prorogues

PNS HYDERABAD

Assembly, Council

Governor of Telangana, has

prorogued the Legislative

Assembly and the Council.

exercise of the powers con-

ferred by sub-clause (a) of

Clause (2) of Article 174 of

the Constitution of India,

the Governor has prorogued

the 20th session of the

Telangana Legislative Council and the second ses-

sion of the third Telangana

As per notification, in

Radhakrishnan,

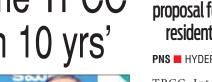
'I will become TPCC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TG Congress party including Chief Minister-cum-TPCC President Revanth Reddy is busy in New Delhi holding talks with the high command on selecting the new TPCC President. However, TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy said that he was confident that he will become the TPCC

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, Jagga Reddy said that nobody had consulted him on the

"Whatever decision Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi take, I will obey. I am ready to become an attender at the Gandhi Bhavan if the Congress high command directs so. However, I will become the TPCC President in the next 10 years and also



TPCC Intellectual Cell Chairman Shyam Mohan Anantula said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's recent initiative to establish Integrated Residential Schools for OCs, BCS, SCS, STs and minorities in all Assembly constituencies is highly commendable."It would surely level up the multi-caste and multi-religious society and lead to several positive socio-economic and political transformational changes," he

TPCC hails CM's

'Adani group to collect electricity bills in old city'

PNS HYDERABAD

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Social Media Convener

Manne Krishank criticised Chief

Minister Revanth Reddy and his

cabinet for making frequent

trips to New Delhi and added

that ministers have become

He pointed out that restric-

tions are being imposed on

Hyderabad shops without the

Home Minister's permission

and that distillery licenses are

being granted without the knowledge of Excise Minister

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in a chit-chat with journalists in Delhi on Thursday indicated that the responsibility for power distribution in the old city of Hyderabad is to be handed over to the Adani Group as a pilot project.

The Chief Minister cited the reasons for this decision, stating that electricity bills in the old city are not being paid properly, and electricity staff are facing assaults when they go to collect dues. The Chief Minister reportedly stated that

Congress Ministers totally ineffective: Krishank

He claimed that TSRTC e-

ticket machines were purchased

without Transport Minister

Ponnam Prabhakar's knowl-

edge, indicating a Tughlaq-type

being awarded without calling

tenders. When questioned about

the TSRTC e-ticket contract

through RTI, the office of the

VC and MD said that it does not

fall under their jurisdiction," he

said.Krishank asked who is

responsible for the crores

"Contracts worth crores are

Jupally Krishna Rao.

rule in the state.

following the pilot project in the old city, the responsibility for power distribution will be gradually handed over to Adani Group across Hyderabad and then throughacross out the state.

According to the Chief

involved in the TSRTC ticket

The Excise Minister says he

doesn't know how the illegal

beer company got permission to

operate in Telangana. The CM

who handles the Home portfo-

lio doesn't know about police

imposing restrictions on Hyderabadis after 10.30 pm. The

Transport Minister doesn't know

about contracts worth crores in

his department. Then who

knows? Is this a government or

"We have a straight question.

contract scam.

collected by the Adani Group will go to the state government, while the remaining 25% will go to the Adani Group. The Chief Minister mentioned that discussions have already been held with the Adani Group, and they have agreed to the

Uninterrupted power

supply to be ensured for Bonalu festival

PNS HYDERABAD

In view of the Bonalu festival to be held from July 7 to August 3, the Southern Distribution Company of Telangana Ltd. (TGSPDCL) is making necessary arrangements to ensure quality and reliable power supply, said Musharraf Faruqui, Chairman & Managing Director.

In a review meeting held at the Corporate Office with all Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers, CMD Faruqui provided the following instructions: All arrangements for the Bonalu festival are to be completed before the start of the festival by July 2. All concerned Chief Engineers (CEs) and Superintending Engineers (SEs) should visit and inspect the temples and their premises prior to the festival days to nodal officer/Assistant Engineer (AE) is to be allocated to each of the temples for coordination and seamless power supply. Any negligence in duties may be taken seriously.

Legislative Assembly, with effect from June 27. Both sessions had commenced on February 8. Haritha Haram

renamed

Vanamahotsavam PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has decided to change the name of 'Haritaharam' to 'Vana Mahotsavam' and the Chief Minister has approved

the new logo.
During BRS rule, this programme was named 'Telanganaku Haritaharam.' The name was changed after the Congress came to power.

When the Congress was in power in United Andhra Pradesh, a programme to 'Vana Mahotsavam' was launched. Although the programme was started in 1950, the TG government has given the new name 'Vajrotsava Vana Mahotsavam' to it as it has completed 75 years.

chief, CM in 10 yrs'

President and Chief Minister in the next 10 years.

TPCC President issue.

the Chief Minister," he said.



Jagga Reddy criticised Prime Minister Modi for speaking about Emergency

He said that Modi has authority as the Prime Minister as the BJP-led NDA is in power. However, Modi will not have any power if he steps down. But Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have permanent authority in the Congress, he stressed. Modi's authority is temporary and he will not have any power if he

steps down, he pointed out. Jagga Reddy said that people expected Modi to talk about issues that would be useful to the people after coming

Continued from page 1

We are talking to the (

Even if there is a one per

cent decrease in the interest

rate Rs 700 crore can be saved

by the government every year.

regarding this. We are also try-

ing to get more funds from the

Centre by considering issues

much before the budget intro-

duction. Our ministers have

met Union ministers once," the

takes made by KCR. There are

no power cuts in Telangana.

With the women's free bus

travel scheme, the TSRTC has

been saved. Revenue increased

due to the free travel scheme

for women and the RTC

received more than Rs 350

crore every month from the

government. The occupancy

ratio increased from 30 per cent to 80 per cent. The gov-

ernment is giving priority to welfare even though it is a bur-

den on the exchequer," the CM

"We will not make the mis-

CM said.

Budget session 2...

entre

proposal for integrated residential schools

PNS HYDERABAD

He said that Revanth Reddy had announced that pilot projects of Integrated Residential Schools would be started in his own constituency, Kodangal, and in Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka constituency, Madhira, and 20 acres have been allotted in both places. The next step is to launch this scheme all over the

He said a caste census

would be taken up only after

will decide the TPCC

President after considering

social equations. The Chief

Minister said it would be good

if the TPCC chief's post is

of journalists to the notice of

the high command. Anyone

can join the TPCC prez race.

Defections are happening

everywhere. MLAs defected in

Karnataka, Maharashtra and

Madhya Pradesh. Earlier, the

BJP inducted four TDP MPs.

It is not right to blame free

"I will bring the suggestion

ending in August

join the Cabinet.

given to a woman.

schemes.

Centre urged to reopen..

Continued from page 1

appointing new members to He highlighted that the Adilabad CCI cement factothe BC Commission. The current BC commission's tenure is The Chief Minister said lakh tonnes per year, was given 2290 acres, including that only leaders who contest-2100 acres of limestone quared elections with a Congress B-form will get a chance to ries free of cost. He urged the Centre to revoke the decision to privatise the unit. He said the high command

He also pointed out that Telangana offers favourable conditions for new industries like land, water and electricity and emphasized the state's strong performance in Ease of Doing Business. He highlighted the availability of skilled manpower in Telangana, with ITI, diplomas

and engineering degrees. Minister Union Kumaraswamy responded positively and assured that he would visit Hyderabad soon to discuss these matters with

LS adjourned...

Continued from page 1

Birla said there are certain norms of Parliament that have to be followed and committees have to be formed to which MP Gauray Gogo said students are not aware of it. They are only demanding justice.As members from the Congress, TMC and DMK parties stormed the Well, Rijiju said it is for the first time that the opposition is seen demanding a

discussion on an issue before the House takes up the Motion of Thanks on the President's address.

"I assure the opposition we will answer any issue that you raise during the Motion Thanks discussion," Rijiju said.As members continued with sloganeering, Birla said the people have elected members to this House so that they can raise and discuss issues, and not disrupt the proceedings.

Weather models...

Continued from page 1

Later, it reported that the Safdarjung Observatory recorded 148.5 mm of rainfall between 2:30 am and 5:30 am, indicating that much of the rain had already occurred before the IMD issued the

Parl should give...

Continued from page 1

and the opposition parties have agreed that it should be taken up for discussion before anything else, the Congress leader told

reporters.
"The youth are worried and they do not know what is going to happen. A message and assurance should go to the youth from Parliament that India's government and the opposition are together in raising the concerns of students," he said.

Gandhi said the INDIA bloc thinks this is the most important matter.

Also, it declared the arrival of the monsoon in Delhi on Friday noon, less than 15 hours after it had projected that the primary rain-bearing system would reach Delhi within two to three days.

"Not much rainfall was happening due to the eastern arm of the monsoon in West Bengal, Bihar, and up to Uttar Pradesh. The eastern arm monsoon moved slowly. But one pulse suddenly arrived from the Madhya Pradesh side. Nobody expected this massive amount of moisture," an IMD official

said, requesting anonymity. "The models could not capture it.

HC extends interim...

Continued from page 1

The CID on Thursday filed a chargesheet at the Fast Track Court 1 for POCSO Act cases here against Yediyurappa and three of his aides in connection with the case based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old girl who alleged that he sexually assaulted her daughter during a meeting on February two this year, at his residence in Dollars Colony here.A Bengaluru court on June 13 issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Yediyurappa in the case registered against him on March 14

The High Court on June 14 Indian Penal Code (IPC).

restrained the CID from arresting Yediyurappa, while directing him to appear before

it for probe. Yediyurappa was questioned for over three hours by the CID on June 17.The 81-year-old Yediyurappa has been charged under Section 8 (punishment for sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Sections 354A (sexual harassment), 204 (destruction of document or electronic record to prevent its production as evidence) and 214 (offering gift or restoration of property in consideration of screening offender) of the

Continued from page 1

The BRS chief requested mer HC Judge.

The court, which heard the arguments of KCR's counsel on Thursday, heard the matter again on Friday.

petitioner's counsel that the Commission unilaterally.

istry had declined to allot a number to the petition, objecting to the impleading of the retired High Court Judge personally. KCR's counsel Aditya

Earlier, the High Court reg-

Sondhi argued that it was necessary to name Justice Narasimha Reddy as a respondent.

the BRS government had committed irregularities causing a

loss of Rs 250 crore to Rs 300 crore to the exchequer without allowing KCR to present his case before the Commission. Sondhi argued that Justice

Narasimha holding a press conference was inappropriate as the Commission's sole duty was to submit the report to the government.

The High Court overruled the Registry's objections and directed it to allot a number to the petition. The Bench later heard whether KCR's petition

Continued from page 1

Chevella BRS ...

Earlier, BRS MLAs Danam Nagender, Kadiam Srihari, Tellam Venkatrao, Pocharam Srinivas Reddy and Dr Sanjay Kumar had joined the making opposition MLAs join the ruling party was intro-duced by KCR in 2019. Now, the Congress CM, Revanth Reddy, is following the same practice.In 2019, the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) tried a lot to protect its MLAs. However, Congress MLAs joined the then ruling BRS one after the other, giving shocks one after the other to the CLP. In the end, KCR succeeded in stripping the Congress of its main opposition party tag. This practice will weaken opposition parties as they do not know who will quit. Now, the ruling Congress is also trying to strip the BRS of its main opposition party tag by inducting BRS MLAs one after the other.

TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha Jun 28 04:27 PM Tithi: Ashtami: to Jun 29 02:20 PM Jun 29 02:20 PM to Jun 30 12:19 PM Nakshatram: Jun 28 10:10 AM Uttara Bhadrapada: to Jun 29 08:49 AM Jun 29 08:49 AM Revati to Jun 30 07:34 AM

Rahukalam: 9:04 AM to 10:41 AM 1:57 PM to 3:35 PM Varjyam: 08:11 PM to 09:42 PM Gulika: 5:48 AM to 7:26 AM Amritakalam: None

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:53 AM to 12:45 PM HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Mostly Cloudy

Temp: 31[∞]

Humidity: 68% Sunrise: 5:45 AM

Sunset: 6:54 PM

Updated: June 28, 2024 5:00 PM

Race hots...

Continued from page 1

It is learnt that the main contest is between Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender (BC) and former MLC N. Ramchander Rao (OC). However, Raghunandan is backing Eatala Rajender in case the high command does not consider his name.

In the melee, Goshamahal MLA T. Raja Singh said the party should give a chance to a leader who is aggressive and who has an understanding of the nation, society and dharma. However, making his intentions of becoming the Telangana BJP President clear, Eatala Rajender countered Raja Singh's comments sharply saying that he had faced five CMs and is ready to face Revanth Reddy also. He said that he is not a street fighter but is a state fighter and will hit the bull's eye.

Man from Hyd...

Continued from page 1

Dr Vijil Rahulan, 52, of Hyderabad, was charged with conspiracy to commit health care fraud and health care fraud in connection with an alleged scheme to fraudulently obtain over USD 82 million in Medicare funds.

'Rahulan caused the submission of false and fraudulent claims for durable medical equipment and genetic testing that were medically unnecessary or otherwise ineligible reimbursement through Medicare because they were not the product of a doctor-patient relationship and examination," according to the case sum-

The indictment further

alleged that his fraudulent

mary

conduct resulted in over USD 28.7 million being paid by Medicare. Jaspreet Jagpal, the

owner of One World Therapy, was charged with insurance fraud and an enhancement for aggravated white-collar crime in connection with billing for behavioural analysis services not rendered to five minor children. The 34-year-old's fraud-

ulent scheme caused a loss

of approximately USD

166,755.50 over ten

months, the case summary said. As alleged in the complaint through which he was charged, the California resident claimed that behavioural analysis services were provided to minor children that never occurred.

"I request the prime minister that since this is an issue concerning the youth, there should be a good and respectful discussion on the issue concerning the youth," he said, urging them to join the discussion.

HC reserves order over...

the HC to quash the GO constituting a one-man Commission headed by a for-

The Advocate General dismissed the contention of the

acted

He said that Justice Narasimha had held a press conference and had said that

should be admitted.

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Special plans for industrial development: Minister

PNS HYDERABAD

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy stated that the State will progress further with the establishment of industrial corridors. He added that the Regional Ring Road being constructed by the R and B department will give a new direction for the State's future and will be a significant game-

Inaugurating the Kala Utsav Exhibition organised by the Hyderabad Regional Chapter of the Indian Institute of Interior Designers at Hitex, the Minister mentioned that exhibitions pave the way for the State's industrial progress.

Minister Venkat Reddy emphasised that events like Kala Utsav contribute to the State's development and reiterated the Telangana government's commitment to industrial growth. He mentioned that the State, led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, is progressing well with a well-devised plan, including the Musi river cleansing.



The Minister visited each stall at the exhibition and congratulated the artists of Cheriyal Nakashi paintings, noting that Cheriyal art enlivens Telangana's culture. He interacted with students from the Tribal Welfare College in Sircilla district, who crafted artworks and won the second prize at the exhibition and took photos with them, encouraging them with a promise to meet again after the exhibition. The Minister was also impressed by the tribal art from South Africa displayed at

the event.

In the subsequent meeting, the Minister praised the artistic and exquisite interior designs showcased at the Kala Utsav. He remarked that these are not just design products but significant symbols of our culture. Congratulating Pallavi Anchuri, Chairperson of IIID and architect, for organising such a splendid event, the Minister highlighted the increasing demand for interior design as it has become an integral part of daily life. He advised students to study dili-

The Minister said the Regional Ring Road being constructed by the R and B department will give a new direction for the State's future and will be a significant gamechanger

gently and reach greater heights in response to the growing demand for this

In a special interaction with the organisers and architecture students, the Minister assured that the Telangana government would support more such beneficial events in

The event was attended by R and B Secretary Dasari Harichandana, Talwar Studio head Siddharth and National President of IIID Sarosh Wadia, among others.

Rs 2 cr investment fraudster arrested

PNS HYDERABAD

In a Rs 2 crore investment fraud in which around 200 people were duped, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Cyberabad Police arrested Gadiraju Guruprasad Raju (32) on Thursday at Noida, Úttar Pradesh. The police brought the accused on a transit warrant to Hyderabad.

The accused BN Sathish and Avalakondappa Venkata Chalapathi had floated XITO Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd in 2015 with a registered office at Bengaluru. Later, they opened a branch office at KPHB in collusion with other accused Gadiraju Rajendra Prasad Raju, Gadiraju Guru Prasad Raju, Pasam Venkat Prasad and Baireddy Jyothi and lured innocent depositors by promising huge returns on investments.

The accused created a website WWW.XCSPL.Com to enroll the innocent depositors by offering to give 1:1 return in 3 months and 1:4 returns in 1 year and the locking period of 3 months. When the depositors requested to return their money, the accused failed to do so and closed the office.

PRAJA VANI

Land-related complaints remain unresolved

It's really distressing when problems get complicated instead of being solved, especially land-related cases. A majority of people who attended the Praja Vani programme raised issues of not being given proper receipts or messages by the officials after registering land-related issues. Over 494 people have submitted their applications at Mahatma Jyothiba Phule Praja Bhavan on Friday. Prakash (name changed) of

Kamareddy district said, "Earlier, I have registered my land-related case at Praja Vani. But when I went to the Praja Vani again with regards to updates on the land case, the officials are asking for messages or receipts. They haven't given or sent any reciepts or messages to me. But the officials stated that they won't proceed my case unless there is a reciept or message. There is no proof for me as I registered my case here. We demand the government to offer proper reciept or messages to the people, especially those who



lack basic facilities like cell phones.'

Another person from Suryapet said, "I have previously registered my land enroachment case here. But I haven't received any message or receipt from the officials. When I went to the Praja Vani, the officials stated that without any receipt or message, they can't process the case. It's really disheartening for me."

Some of the people lost their hope as their cases were not solved for months unlike first-timers who registered their case at Praja Vani to try their luck of getting their problems solved.

Dr Peddem Krishna from

Survapet submitted an application on land enroachment issue. He said, "I have suffered a lot during the regime of the BRS government, as the officials didn't try to solve my land issue. But now, I have some hope that the Congress government would solve my issue

Another person from Kondapet said, "I have come to Praja Vani for getting my land enroachment case solved. In our village, some higher officials have seized my land which is in my father's name. I have come here with hope that the officials will look into the matter and solve the issue as earliest as possible."

Construction of highways must be speeded up: Min

PNS HYDERABAD

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy emphasised the need to speed up the construction of

National Highways. He expressed disappointment over the minimal Central funds allotted to TG due to the BRS government's negligence and urged officials to avoid delays in future.

Speaking at a review meeting in Hytec City, he directed NH and NHAI officials to work diligently on the Regional Ring Road (RRR) and prepare thoroughly for the visit of NHAI officials in the first week of July.

He stressed the importance of avoiding errors in the RRR project and called for a meticulous study of all aspects.

He ordered the closure of

NH-65 existing (Hyderabad-Vijayawada) contract and invitation of new tencould be started by September. been acquired while the



that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is ready and

urged quick action on RRR.
The Minister questioned officials about delays in the Manneguda Road project and suggested finding alternative routes without trees and

resolving issues promptly.

He said the State government would handle the relocation of 330 trees and complete related matters within a week. For the Armoor-Mancherial National Highway, 530 out of Regarding NH-645, he said remaining will be acquired

He directed officials to carefully select the contractor for constructing the Uppal-Ghatkesar flyover to ensure

speedy completion.
The LB Nagar-Malkapur Road project was discussed and he promised to resolve problems at the dangerous Manneguda turn.

Venkat emphasised the importance of constructing roads that can save lives and urged speedy completion of projects to prevent accidents. He expressed concern over the loss of lives due to accidents, emphasising that no amount of money can replace a lost life.

He directed closure of the NH-65 contract and invitation of new tenders by next month so that work can be started by September.

The meeting was attended bv R&B Secretary Dasari Harichandana, Joint Secretary MoRTH Regional Officer Kushwaha and other officials.

FedEx parcel

fraud busted

Biggest vet hospital to be set up in Hyd

PNS HYDERABAD

Maa Saraswathi, one of the biggest veterinary hospitals in India will be set up at Satya Shivam Sundaram Gau Shala at Gaganpahad in Hyderabad. The facility is likely to be inaugurated in the first week

The 5,100 sqft facility will possess an operation theatre, intensive care unit, a host of diagnostic facilities, an ambulance and a medical dispensary with specialised doctors, surgeons and paramedical

It will also be equipped with modern diagnostics, an X-ray machine, an endoscope, a blood-insulin analyser and many other

The hospital will not only take care of 6,000 cows sheltered at Satya Shivam Sundaram Gau Shala in Gaganpahad and at Burujugadda, but would also goats, dogs and other animals of the surrounding areas.

4,846 COLONIES TO BE COVERED

GHMC to implement anti-larval measures

PNS HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Friday announced that it has identified 4,846 colonies where regular anti-larval measures will be implemented in all dengue-identified areas of Hyderabad.

The officials also stated that one Entomology worker has to cover three colonies in six days, so that 4,846 colonies are covered in a week. They also issued worker-wise proceedings to each worker at zonal level. Weekly anti-larval operations will be taken up as per the pin-point programme. They will also conduct fogging activities in all needed localities and Pyrethrum spraying. They have prepared month-wise health calendar activities as per seasons in coordination with all line departments.

Furthermore, fever surveys and health camps will be conducted in hotspot colonies in coordination with medical and health department. The officials also established ward-level stems to streamline ALO activities, fogging, IRS & Pyrethrum spraying from house to house in all wards.

Vigilance



Removal of water hyacinth and maintenance of 175 lakes in the GHMC will be taken up. To reduce the mosquito menace in lakes and Musi river, drones will be used in all identified 4,846 colonies. One Entomology Field Assistant (EFA) will be allocated per one ward. Six Floating Trash Collectors (FTCs) were procured, one for each each zone.

For any grievances in regards to mosquito menace, people can send them through GI GHMC App, e-mails, Twitter, general public and corporators.

ducted a surprise field

Čommi

inspection for the first

time. With the city

experiencing heavy

ssioner Ranganath

focused on more

than 140 water-log-

ging points to prevent

Call to clear manholes on a war-footing

effort, he conducted a sur-

contractors.

During

prise inspection of

water-logging points

in Madhapur along

with officials and

inspection, the

Commissioner exam-

TGSRTC to start new route to FAB City from July 1

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad zone of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) is introducing a new route from Secunderabad to FAB City from July 1.

On Friday, the corporation released a press note, where it mentioned that these buses would run under the route number 90/253T and four city ordinary buses would be run by Rangareddy depot.

The buses would be introduced for the convenience of the employees working in newly established industrial area and for the people residing in and around FAB City and Tukkuguda, Maheshwaram mandal via Allugaddabavi, Tarnaka, NGRI, Survey of India, Nagole Metro Station, Nagole, Alkapuri, Sagar X Roads, Gayathri Nagar, Champapet X Roads, Pisalbanda, Phoolbagh, Barkas, Sadat Nagar, Jalpally X Roads, Pahadishareef, Sardar Nagar, Thukkuguda, Imamguda and FAB

Buses would be plied between 6 am and 7.45 pm from the Secunderabad bus depot.

bus at 9.35 pm with a frequency of 50 minutes from the FAB City.

> Upon identifying the debris in the catch pits and manholes

> that was slowing down the flow

of rainwater, the Commissi

oner ordered the engineers

and contractors concerned to

remove the debris and accu-

mulated sand within two days

Medical students stage protest against anomalies in syllabus

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

First year medical students staged a protest at Gandhi Medical College on Thursday after 715 out of 740 students failed in the BSc Allied Health Sciences first year examination conducted by the Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS). The course was introduced in 2023 and is available at nine government medical colleges in the State with 860 seats.

According to a medical student, "We are protesting on the issues we are facing since last year, after the university declared first year results. It shocked all the students after knowing that just 25 students

Telangana government is mak-

ing all necessary arrangements

for the Muharram observance,

stated Transport and BC Welfare

During a review meeting at

the Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana

State Secretariat on Friday, the

Minister, along with govern-

ment Advisor Mohammed

Shabbir Ali, various depart-

mental officials, and Shia com-

munity leaders, discussed the

Prabhakar instructed all depart-

ment officials to work in coor-

dination. He emphasised the

Minister

preparations.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar.

PNS HYDERABAD

700+ students.

Apart from that, the students were not given access to academic year calendar, teaching facilities and basic facilities in hostels.

Though we belong to 2022-2023 batch, our exams were held in April 2024 for first year students. We don't have any syllabus

books. We are just following

MBBS books. Unlike other medical colleges, we have eight subjects in our first year itself." Uday Goud wrote a letter to Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha asking to resolve the pressing issue of

inadequate hostel facilities in

drainage and road repair works

around these areas. He also

ordered the installation of high-

mast lights at all relevant loca-

On the day of the main ele-

phant procession, special light-

ing arrangements should be

made by the electricity depart-

ment along the procession route.

Telangana medical colleges.

Govt to ensure arrangements for Muharram

The Hyderabad Cyber Crime police station saved Rs18 lakh within 11 minutes in a FedEx parcel fraud case. According to the Police, a

PNS HYDERABAD

31-year-old software employee from Amberpet lost Rs 18 lakh from his ICICI Bank account after receiving a call from someone impersonating as a FedEx agent. The caller claimed that the victim's Aadhaar card was used to transport illegal drugs from Mumbai to Iran and asked him to contact Mumbai cybercrime via Skype. The fraudsters sent forged documents and convinced the victim to take a personal loan and transfer the money for verification

purposes, promising it would

instructed to oversee sanitation

efforts and set up mobile toilets

and other essential facilities.

Traffic authorities were advised

to take precautions to avoid dis-

ruptions during the Muharram

procession, particularly around

Bibi-Ka-Alam, where robust

security measures will be imple-

mented.



be reversed later. The victim transferred Rs 18 lakh but did not receive a refund.

Suspicious, the victim contacted the Cyber Crime police station on Thursday evening at 6:58 pm and met duty constable N Srikanth Naik. The constable registered the complaint online on the NCRP portal and escalated it to ICICI Bank and the suspect bank. By 7:09 pm, the fransaction was blocked, saving the entire Rs

facilities for visitors to Ashur

Khanas, including the provision

of mini-buses, medical camps

and ambulances. The meeting

was attended by MLCs Mirza

Riyaz ul Hassan Effendi, Mirza

Rahmat Beg, Balmuri Venkat,

MLAs Jafar Hussain Meraj,

Kauser Mohiuddin, Mir Zulfiqar Ali, Minority Welfare

department Secretary Tafeer

Igbal, Wakf Board Chairman

Syed Azmatullah Hussaini,

Minority Finance Corporation

Chairman Obaidullah Kotwal,

Vice-Chairman & President of

TMREIS Faheem Qureshi,

Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal

Vijayalakshmi,

ly appointed as the GHMC rainwater from stagnat-. Vigilance Commissioner, coning on the roads. As part of this manholes at the water-logging Endless possibilities in

rains,

blue economy outlined

PNS HYDERABAD

PNS HYDERABAD

within two days.

Commissioner AV Ranganath

has directed the officials to

clear the debris accumulated in

manholes on a war-footing

Ranganath, who was recent-

GHMC

The Young FICCI Ladies Organisation (YFLO) organised a session on endless possibilities in the blue economy on Friday. The session, titled "Beyond horizons: A marine odyssey to endless possibilities," explored economic activities associated with oceans and

Three eminent speakers spoke on the subject including Praful Talera, G o v e r n i n g Council member of the Maritime Research Centre, with expertise in

the blue economy. The Maritime Research Centre (MRC) is a not-forprofit foundation set up for Underwater Domain Awareness;

Captain Dilip Donde, the first Indian to complete a solo, unassisted circumnavigation of the globe under sail and Aishwarya Boddapati, a Telugu woman from Hyderabad who was part of the first military crew to circumnavigate the globe on INSV Tarini, with 10 years of service in the Indian Navy.

Addressing the 150-plus YFLO

economy and understanding India's waters, highlighting the use of underwater drones

India needs a blue economic policy. Several policies have been launched to boost blue economy efforts, he said. In 2021, the Draft National Policy for Blue Economy aimed to enhance GDP, improve coastal community

lives, and preserve marine biodiversity was released. The Ministry of Earth Sciences is finalizing the National Policy

Economy, which the Prime Minister is likely to launch soon, he added.

Praful Talera also spoke about global commons, which are part of the planet that fall outside national jurisdictions and to which all nations have

These include the high seas, the atmosphere, Antarctica, and outer He noted that blue waters is the

most neglected and emphasized that innovation in the maritime sector isn't just about technology but about sus-

ined the catch pits and to ensure the smooth flow of rainwater in the city. **GOVERNMENT OF TELENGANA** REVENUE DEPARTMENT

> (See Sub-rule(1) of rule-25 and Section -19(1) of the Act, 38/2013)
> (The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land
> Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act, 2013) COLLECTOR/ADDITIONAL COLLECTOR/LAND ACQUISITION

DECLARATION G1/5497/2022

Date: 03.04.2024

No.E/4221/2019 Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana / Collecto hat a total of Ac. 2.22 gts of land is required in the Chityala Village of Adavidevulapally Mandal in Nalgonda District for Public purpose namely, acquisition of land under Submergence of Nagarjuna Saga

Therefore declaration is made that a piece of land measuring more or less Ac. 2.22 gts of standard measurement, under acquisition for the above said project in the Chityala Village of Adavidevulapally Mandal in Nalgonda District whose detailed description is as following under acquisition.

_	SCHEDULE										
Village: Chityala; Mandal: Adavidevulapally; District: Nalgonda											
		Туре	Day /	Ano under	Name of the person interested						
No	No.	of Land	Wet	acquisition (Acgts)	Pattedar	Enjoyer	tres				
1	2	3	4	- 5	6	7	8				
1	19	Patta	Dry	2.22	Jalleda Thirapathalah Sio Narsalah	Jalloda Thirapathalah S/o Narsalah Kurakula Venkateshwartu S/o Koteshwanao					

Total 2.22 This declaration is made after hearing of objections of persons interested and due enquiry as provided u/s 15 of the Act No. 30/2013. The area for acquisition would have no displacement of people and no disturbance to the infrastructure in the vicinity, ecology and minimum adverse impact is foreseen on the effected individual's livelihood Hence, there is no need to pass a separate R&R award in terms of Section

31 and second schedule of the RFCT LARRAct, 2013 (Act 30 of 2013). Mines of coal, iron stone, slate or other materials lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the nines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed o used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of

which the land is being acquired, are not neede Aplan of the land may be inspected in the office of the land acquisitio officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Miryalguda on any working day.

Land Acquisition Officer & Addl. Collector, Dist. Collecto

Advisor need for police picketing at Water Board officials were Government Commissioner Amrapali and Mohammed Shabbir Ali Ashur Khanas and the immedidirected to provide drinking Hyderabad Police Commiss gathering, Praful Talera emphasised tainable progress for generations to DIPR No.87/LA/PP-Pub/2024-2 water and GHMC officials were ate completion of pending emphasised the need for all basic ioner Srinivas Reddy. the importance of exploring the blue

GHMC

Revanth plays musical chairs with bureaucracy

evanth effects massive transfers of IAS and IPS officers'. This has become a frequent headline in Telangana media since the Congress government took over the state's reins last December. Repeated transfers and postings of senior bureaucrats, from Principal Secretaries to district-level officers like Collectors and Superintendents of Police, have become the highlight of Revanth Reddy's Chief Ministership. The only other activity that came even remotely close in priority for the Chief Minister over his sixmonth tenure was luring Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS)

legislators into Congress. It is common practice to effect some changes in the senior bureaucracy when governments change: it happens in any organisation, not just in the government. However, these frequent changes in the postings of senior bureaucrats bring to light a disturb-

ing pattern. The Revanth government transferred some officers repeatedly over the past six months. Take, for example, the case of Ronald Rose, an IAS officer. Early this month, Revanth chose to post him as the Commissioner of GHMC. Less than three weeks later, the government transferred him again and posted him as the Secretary of Energy.
Another example is that of

AV Ranganath, an IPS officer. Revanth initially posted him Additional the Commissioner of Police-Crimes and SIT, then as the Inspector General of Hyderabad's Multi-Zone-I. This week, he was transferred again and posted as the Commissioner Enforcement, Vigilance and Disaster Management of the

Municipal Corporation). While Ronald Rose and AV Ranganath are only two examples, many more officers

GHMC (Greater Hyderabad

More importantly, senior Congress leaders, including Ministers, have publicly accused many bureaucrats of working contrary to the government's agenda. The Chief Minister, too, had warned senior bureaucrats that he would not suffer lazy officials. The repeated transfers could also be an attempt to warn bureaucrats that they better acknowledge there is a new boss in town.

were transferred repeatedly over the past six months. And there is no guarantee that this week's mass transfers will be the last in the series for at least some time. It is evident that these rapid and repeated changes disrupt the functioning of crucial departments and raise questions about the government's decision-making process. One can only sur-

It could be that Revanth

Reddy, who has never had any experience as an administrator, is fumbling at the job. Though he has enough experience as a legislator-as a Member of Parliament (MP), Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), and Member of Legislative Council (MLC)-the current Chief Minister has no prior experience in an executive role in administration, be at the central, state or district



Additionally, the Chief Minister, surrounded by heavyweight cabinet ministers, could be under constant pressure to honour the ministers' personal preferences. The Chief Minister might have initially thought that it was his prerogative to restructure his administration the way he wanted and made the postings accordingly. Given the role of group politics and

command in Congress, the constant shuffling of bureaucrats could be the result of his senior colleagues asserting

Given the state exchequer's financial condition and the Congress' inability to deliver on either the Six Guarantees it promised to come to power or on development, it is even plausible that Revanth sees repeated bureaucratic shuffling as a shrewd tactic to divert the media's and public's attention from his government's failures. If that were the case, the Chief Minister should realise it is not working anymore.

More importantly, senior Congress leaders, including Ministers, have publicly accused many bureaucrats of working contrary to the government's agenda. The Chief Minister, too, had warned senior bureaucrats that he would not suffer lazy officials. The repeated transfers could also be an attempt to warn bureaucrats that they better acknowledge there is a new boss in town. Again, if this is the case, it reflects inexperience and lack of gravitas and will only add to the bureaucrats' distrust, making the problem even more acute.

Another notable and vital explanation could be that the new government is adversely affected by the ear-Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao's (KCR's) disastrous approach to bureaucracy and is struggling to come to terms with it. It is indisputable that Rao did his best to destroy the impartiality of the state's steel frame. The Kaleswaram disaster, mass-scale illegal phone tapping, and tens of thousands of contempt of court cases pending in the Telangana High Court against senior officers are all examples of bureaucracy turning unprofessional and doing things at his bidding. His methods included manipulating cadre allocations, large-scale appointments of retired officers to critical positions and giving preferred officers long tenures in plum positions. He erased the healthy separation between bureaucracy and politics, even guaranteeing favourite officials a political future if needed.

Whatever the reason, the constant shuffling of officials, especially senior officers who are the lynchpins of effective governance, does irreparable damage to law and order, development, and welfare administration. Ineffective, inefficient, and rudderless governance will aggravate the sufferings and frustration of the people who already feel they have been taken for a ride by Congress with its false poll promises. The CM should take note.

> (The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

Five die, five injured as lorry hits truck

PNS MEDAK

Five persons were killed and five others suffered injuries when a speeding lorry, carrying goats, rammed into another lorry from behind at Vadiyaram crossroads under Chegunta mandal in the

early hours of Friday.
The deceased and injured hailed from Madhya Pradesh. The goats also died in the died.

The deceased persons were: Md Ibrahim (21), Chikwa Raju (57), Chikwa Manish Kumar (30), Md Shabbeer Khan (48) and Md Jisan (21).

The injured were Ramesh (40), his brother Mahesh (35), Shuklal (45) Butta Singh (45) and Lalmani.

Expedite PRLIS and KLI: Jupally

PNS HYDERABAD

State Excise and Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao emphasised the government's commitment to providing irrigation water to every acre, as directed by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. During a review meeting with irrigation officials at Kollapur, the minister urged the rapid completion of the Palamuru-Rangareddy project and Mahatma Gandhi Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation (KLI) scheme to ensure water supply for the Kharif season.

The Minister inspected the project work at Narlapur and stressed the importance of efficient project management to avoid delays. He directed engineering officials to prepare detailed reports on canal maintenance, desilting, and the removal of weeds. Farmers were



Minister for Excise Jupally Krishna Rao reviewing the progress of Palamuru-Rangareddy project at Narlapur village on Friday

encouraged to cooperate with field channel maintenance, and actions were to be taken against those obstructing feeder canals. Additionally, a feasibility

study for the Bacharam canal

was ordered for the Jildhar

He also instructed officials to expedite the construction of pump houses under the Mission Bhagiratha and to utilise Krishna river water fully. He reviewed the progress of control rooms and issued directives to complete Narlapur works promptly. Moreover, Minister Rao highlighted the need for basic facilities in resettlement villages affected by the project, including Bodabanda, Sunnapu Tanda, Anjana Giri Tanda, Odde Gudisela, and Dulyanayak Tanda.

The review included discussions on proposals for road constructions from Ellur to Narlapur and from Ellur to Mol Chintalapalli. The Minister instructed the preparation of proposals and the swift completion of road construction works. CE Vijay Bhaskar Reddy, SE Satyanarayana Reddy, EEs Srinivas Reddy, Ravinder, Murali, Srikant, Parthasaradhi were among the

No change in Modi's style, people disappointed: Niranjan

PNS HYDERABAD

As the BJP did not get a majority in the Lok Sabha elections, the people expected a change in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's style of functioning. But their hopes have been shattered, TPCC Senior Vice-President G. Niranjan said.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhayan on Friday, Niranjan said that everyone expected that the Deputy Speaker post would be offered to the opposition to create a harmonious atmosphere but Modi is reluctant to do that.

On the first day after the Lok Sabha Speaker election, Speaker Om Birla read the resolution on the 1975 Emergency and tried to target the Congress, he said. President Draupadi Murmu



TPCC senior working president G Niranjan addressing a media conference at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday

also referred to the Emergency in her speech in Parliament on Thursday. This indicates how Modi and the BJP would function in future, he said.

He said that even though Indira Gandhi lost the election in 1977 after the Emergency, she won the 1980 LS election and became the Prime Minister.

They are not uttering a single word on this event, he pointed out. Welcoming the President with the Sengol in Parliament on Thursday signals monarchy, Niranjan said and added that Lord Mountbatten presented the Sengol to Nehru as a sign of change when the British left the country.

The British had a monarchy and it might be appropriate for them, but, unfortunately, this tradition is being adopted by Modi in a democratic country like India, he said.

Niranjan criticised the Centre saying that even in the President's speech there was no solace for NEET candidates. Prime Minister Modi has not expressed concern over the NÊET question paper leak, he

KCR adopting double standard on defections: TDP

PNS RANGAREDDY

Former Shadnagar MLA Bakkani Narsimhulu has lashed out at Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, accusstandards on party defections.

Speaking at a TDP meeting at Lingareddyguda village under Farooq Nagar mandal, Narsimhulu pointed to the inconsistency in KCR's stance on the issue.

He recalled that KCR, when he was chief minister, had lured 15 TDP MLAs into his party. He questioned why KCR did not consider it as wrong at

Addressing the media, Narsimhulu condemned KCR's action in suppressing opposition voices. He stated that KCR is now facing the consequences of his actions. "Those who work for their own selfishness in politics will never improve, but only those who work for the people will



Narsimhulu addressing the media at a TDP meeting at Lingareddyguda village in Ranga Reddy district on Friday

stand," he asserted. Narsimhulu praised the TDP for its discipline and dedication to public service. He recalled the legacy of Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR) and how Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu continues to follow in his footsteps. Narsimhulu recounted various development projects undertaken during the TDP's rule, including the construction of ITIs, CC roads, concrete buildings, schools, and welfare pro-



Former Shadnagar MLA Bakkani

grams for SC communities in Lingareddyguda village.

KTR hails former PM PV's 'multilingual prowess'

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President KT Rama Rao and senior party leaders participated in the birth anniversary celebraarat Ratna and former Prime Minister PV Narasimha

KTR praised PV Narasimha Rao as an intellectual who drew the world's attention with his extraordinary intelligence and multilingual prowess. He emphasised that PV, as a poet, storyteller, intellectual, and reformist, will always be remembered in history and by the nation. He noted that as long as India exists, the people will remember his name. He highlighted that PV was the first person from South India to lead the country as Prime Minister, taking charge when the country was on the brink of economic collapse and transforming the economic landscape of India, marking a clear before-and-after in India's eco-

nomic history. KTR also mentioned that PV



BRS working president KT Rama Raop paying tributes to former prime minister PV asimha Rao on his birth anniversary in Hyderabad on Friday

Narasimha Rao brought in a nonpolitical economist as the Finance Minister and initiated remarkable economic reforms. Despite his proficiency in 16 languages, he sometimes governed with silence as his language. PV began crucial land reforms by donating his 800acre family land to the government and made invaluable contributions to education by establishing Navodaya and Gurukula schools.

KTR remarked that there are not enough words to describe PV, who was a perpetual student,

learning computer skills even at the age of 80. He is an inspiration to all our lives. The Telangana people's aspiration and the BRS government's request for the Bharat Ratna award for PV Narasimha Rao was fulfilled, and KTR thanked the central government for this recognition. He added that PV led a government successfully for five years and that, on behalf of the party, they celebrated his centenary with great respect, organizing grand celebrations not only in the country but also with the Indian

diaspora abroad. The Necklace Road at Tank Bund has been renamed in his honor, and a magnificent statue has been installed. KTR demanded that the central government include Narasimha Rao's life in the na al curriculum. Surabhi Vani Devi, in her comments, extended best wishes on the birth anniversary of PV Narasimha Rao. She acknowledged that even in times when Telangana was considered backward, PV emerged as a great intellectual, political strategist, and remarkable leader who steered the country through crises. She emphasized that the Bharat Ratna award to PV Narasimha Rao and the nation's recognition of his services is an honor for all of Telangana. Surabhi Vani Devi also noted that at a time when society might forget such a great man, KCR organized grand centenary celebrations, highlighting PV's greatness and fame once again to the world. On behalf of PV's family, she extended heartfelt thanks to

Officials told to monitor functioning of welfare hostels

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI

District Collector Hanumanth K Zendage on Friday directed the officials to constantly monitor the functioning of welfare hostels. He stressed the need to ensure the safety of students in welfare hostels.

various welfare departments, principals of welfare hostels and Gurukul Vidyalayas in the con-

ference hall and reviewed their functioning.

With the start of the academic year and the arrival of new students, it is advised not to allow the students' trunk boxes to be cluttered in the dormitories. He instructed the officials and principals to ensure the hostel premises are cleaned and bleaching power sprayed.

He asked the principals and hostel staff to use fresh stock of rice, pulses, cooking oil, groceries, etc. The District Medical and Health Officer has been directed to conduct medical camps at hostel. He asked the District Medical Officer to ensure that doctors visit hostels regularly.

He directed the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad to coordinate with all the welfare departments and prepare periodic reports on the function of hostels. Zilla Parishad CEO Shobharani and District Rural Development Officer M.A. Krishnan, District Health Officer Dr. Subhash Kumar were present among others.

SLBC AMR PROJECT

Engineers told to speed up works

PNS NALGONDA

Nalgonda District Collector C Narayana Reddy on Friday directed the engineering officials to complete the works of Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) AMRP1st Tunnel Outlet at the earliest

On Friday, he visited the SLBC AMRP1st tunnel outlet along with Superintendent of Police Sharat Chandra Pawar.

Earlier, the District Collector reviewed the construction work of the tunnel with the project engineers at the tunnel project office and representatives of Jayaprakash Associates Limited, the company that took up the construction of the project.

Ánil Kumar, president of the Agency. explaining the salient features of the project, he said that it is the fifth longest tunnel in the world with a total length of 43.93 km.

The tunnel is designed to carry 4,000 cusecs of water and



Nalgonda District Collector C Narayana Reddy visiging SLBC ARM project in

has a maximum capacity of construction of the tunnel to 5,570 cusecs. Explaining the the District Collector, he said reasons for the delay in the that the construction of the

tunnel was delayed due to the division of the state and Corona. On the occasion, he briefed the District Collector and SP about the tunnel capacity, tunnel dia and other tech-

Later, the District Collector and the SP visited the first outlet of SLBC Tunnel at Mannevaripalli Nagarkurnool district.

The District Collector asked the Project Engineering officials and representatives of Jayaprakash Associates to take steps to complete the project at the earliest as it is a very important project. Devarakonda Revenue

Divisional Officer Sriramulu, Tunnel Executive Engineer GJV Satyanarayana, DE Chakrapani, Lalitha, Assistant Executive Engineers Mahender and Raviraj, Project Agency AGMs Deepak Jain, Virender Singh, Chandampet Tahsildar Srinivas, Chandampet MPP Parvathi and others were pre-

26 KGBV students ill after taking iron tables

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Twenty six girl students of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) School at Naskal under Parigi Mandal took ill on Friday after taking iron and folic acid tables.

The students were admitted to hospital after they complained of breathlessness, abdominal pain, vomiting and nausea. The doctors who treated



KGBV students under medical treatment in government hospital in Ranga Reddy district on

them said the students' health condition was stable.

The students were initially treated at the Parigi Government Hospital. Iron tablets were distributed to children as part of the driver to eliminate

This distribution was part of a special district-wide drive aimed at eliminating anemia, following the orders of the district collector.

In addition to the tablets, the school staff provided peanuts as part of the evening snacks which may have contributed to the students' taking ill. Initially, four students fell ill and were immediately taken to Parigi Government Hospital. Subsequently, the number of affected students rose

All the students are currently under medical supervision at govern-ment hospitals. Doctors said that four students have been asthmatic and are experiencing breathing difficulties.

Upon hearing the news, concerned parents rushed to the government hospital. District Collector Prateek Jain also visited the hospital to enquire about the students' health and ensure they received appropriate care.

FORM VII (See Sub-Rule (1) of Rule - 25 and Section - 19(1) of the Act 30/2013) **GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA** OF Collecton/Addl. Collector/Special Collector (LA)/Special Dy.Collector (LA) Lr. No. A4221(2017

University of the Covernment of Talengana' District Whereas it appears to the Covernment of Talengana' District Collector that a total of As. 2.96 Gts Endowment land i.e., Gettupeth Verkateshwara Swamy Patta land is required in the Christhapally Village and Mandal of Nalgonda District for public purpose, namely Chinthapally Reservoir under SRVR DUS. Therefore, Declaration is made that a piece of land measuring mon

or less Ac 2.06 gts of standard measurement under acquisition for the above said project in Chinthopally Village and Manda Nalgonda Distric whose detailed description is as following SCHEDÜLE Village: Chinthapally

81. Sy. No No.,		Description of land i.e. petta/ lnam/ Govt.	Acqui- altion (in sore)	Enjoyer & Father/W/o.	such as structure wells siz.	
1		2		3 4	- 5	
1	6	Patta/Dry	0.17	Gattupathi Venkateshwa- raswamy (Endowment)	-	
2	268	Patta/Dry	1.01	Gattupathi Venkateshwa- raswamy (Endowment)		
3	413	Patta/Dry	0.28	Gattupathi Venkateshwa- raswamy (Endowment)		
		Total	2.06			

nterested and due enquiry as provided UIs15 of the Act No. 30/2013 The area for acquisition would have no displacement of people and no disturbance to the infrastructure in the vicinity, ecology and minimum iverse impact is foresee on the effected individual's livelihood. Hence here is no need to pass a separate R & R award in terms of Section 3: and second schedule of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 (Act 30 of 2013).

Nines of easi, iron-slate or other minerals lying under the said land or ny perticular portion of the said land except such parts of the mines and sinerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the estruction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land it

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Specia Collector (LA)* Land Acquisition officer & SDC, CBR & DMC, Nalgonda & EE Division No. X, Chinthepally on any working day.

Sci-P.A to Spi. Colix (LA), Sci-Spi. Collector(LA) Sci-Addi. Collector, Sci-Diet Colle SDC, CSR & DMC AMRP, Nalgonda Nalgonda. Nalgonda.

Elderly man injured as Railway safety wall collapses near Thane station

portion of a Railway safety wall collapsed near a platform at Thane station on Friday morning amid rains, injuring a 62-year-old man, civic officials said. The A60x20 feet wall caved in near Platform No. 2 at the busy train station on the Central Railway route at around 11.45 am, said Yasin Tadvi, chief of the Disaster

Municipal Corporation (TMC). The wall fell on a pedestrian who was passing by on an adjacent road, injuring him, he said. The man, Narendra Koli (62), was rushed to the Kalwa Civic Hospital where he is undergoing treatment, said Tadvi. Thane Fire Brigade and Regional Disaster Management Cell (RDMC) personnel later cleared the debris, he said



UP: Three children drown while bathing in Gomti river

hree children drowned in the Gomti river here while bathing, police said on Friday. The incident happened in the Barua area on Thursday when Farhan (12), Abid (10), Hasnain (13) and some other friends went to the river, they said. The three boys got trapped in the waves while bathing. Seeing this, their friends started calling for help and passersby rushed to the spot, they said. District and police officials also reached

information. Local divers searched for the boys till 11 pm but failed to trace them, Inspector Sriram Pandey said. A team of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) from Ayodhya was on Friday morning deployed for the rescue operation and the bodies were fished out from the river after an hour-long effort, he said. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem, he added



Ex-Jharkhand CM Soren released after HC grants bail in money laundering case

ormer Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren was released from Birsa Munda Jail here on Friday after the high court granted bail to him in a money laundering case linked to a land scam, an official said. As Soren stepped out of the jail, a large number of JMM supporters cheered and raised slogans in favour of him. Soren's wife Kalpana Soren, a JMM legislator, thanked the judiciary and people for their support. "Heman Soren was

released from the jail after completion of legal formalities," the official said. Soren, on his release from the jail, was seen waving at people and seeking blessings from his father and JMM supremo Shibu Soren. A single bench of Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay granted bail to the former chief minister of Jharkhand earlier in the day. "...The petitioner is directed to be released on bail on furnishing bail bond of Rs 50,000 with two sureties of the like amount each," said the order passed by Justice Mukhopadhyay.



COMMUNITY LOBBING FOR CM & DCM POSTS

Veershaiva-Lingayat seer pitches for positions now

A prominent Veearashaiva Lingayat seer on Friday said Ministers from his community should be considered for the Chief Minister's post in case there is a leadership change, a day after a Vokkaliga one pub-licly urged Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah to give up his position in favour of his deputy D K Shivakumar.

Also pitching for Veershaiva-Lingayat ministers to be considered in the event of creation of additional deputy chief minister post, Srisaila Channa Jagadguru Siddharama Panditaradhya Swamiji claimed that his community's votes were "decisive" for Congress to come to power in the state.

"Karnataka state political developments and news that is emerging are in discussion. In case there is a change in the chief minister post and if additional deputy CM posts are created -- in such a situation, I urge the party (Congress) and government to give priority to ministers from Veerashaiva-Lingayat commu-

Speaking to reporters here, he said: "The reason is, during the government formation, Veerashaiva-Lingayat votes were decisive.

nity," the seer said.

So Veerashaiva-Lingayat ministers should be given pri-

There are ministers like --

Eshwar Khandre, M B Patil, S S Mallikarjun -- such people should be considered and their experience should be utilised.

> an opportunity.' Reacting to this in New Delhi, CM Siddaramaiah said there is no "relationship between swamiji and politics."

I urge that they should be given

"There is no need to give much importance to swamiji's statement. What is the relationship between swamiji and a

Minister? It has to be done by legislators in a democracy and the high command," he said.

Vokkaliga Mahasamastana Math seer Kumara Chandrashekaranatha Swamiji on Thursday had raised the pitch for Shivakumar at the Kempegowda Jayanti event here to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bengaluru's founder, in the presence of both Siddaramaiah and the deputy chief minister on the dais

Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress President, is a Vokkaliga -- a dominant community in the southern parts of the state. Currently, he is the only deputy chief minister.

The comments of the seers come amid demand by a few ministers, believed to be close to Siddaramaiah, to have three more deputy chief ministers from Veerashaiva-Lingayat, SC/ST and minority commu-

Bengal CM flayed over comment on women feeling unsafe

PNS KOLKATA

Amid an impasse over the oath-taking of two newly elected TMC MLAs, the office of West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose on Friday criticised Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her remarks suggesting women allegedly felt unsafe going to Raj Bhavan, stating it is expected of public representatives not to create "erroneous and slanderous impressions.'

Baranagar MLA Sayantika Bandyopadhyay Bhagabangola legislator Rayat Hossain Sarkar have refused to take oath at Raj Bhavan as requested by Bose, instead staging a dharna in the assembly complex since Thursday, insisting that the swearing in take place in the Vidhan Sabha.

"It is expected of public representatives to uphold Constitution and refrain from creating erroneous and slanderous impressions that may cast aspersions on the Governor," the Raj Bhavan

Bhujbal fomenting communal tension, alleges Jarange

Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange on Friday accused Maharashtra minister and OBC leader Chhagan Bhujbal of fomenting communal tension, and urged Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to rein him in.

He was speaking to media persons at Mahakala village in Jalna district in the wake of sloganeering and stone-pelting in his native Matori village in neighbouring Beed district.

The incident took place on Thursday night when some people from nearby villages were passing through Matori to take part in a rally of OBC quota agitators Laxman Hake and Navnath Waghmare.

Jarange claimed that Bhujbal had orchestrated the attack to wrongly blame the Maratha youths.

"Bhujbal himself asked his men to hurl stones on their (OBC activists') vehicles and then blamed the Maratha youths. The chief minister and the home minister should



communal discord," he said. Jarange also claimed that the police were harassing the Maratha youths and also accusing them of being

involved in the stone-pelting incident. The police are harassing

the Maratha youths and blaming them for the stone-pelting. This injustice must stop," he said. He warned the government that the Maratha community would not remain quiet if such "targeted harassment" continued.

Jarange claimed that on earlier occasions as well, Bhujbal had tried to disrupt peace in his Antarwali Sarati village, but his efforts were foiled.

"Bhujbal incited people and created a communal rift, but we foiled his plan," he asserted. OBC activists Hake and Waghmare's fast was a government-sponsored protest, Jarange said, adding that Bhujbal himself accepted that

both were their activists. Jarange, who has brought the Maratha quota issue to the centre stage in the state, has been demanding the implementation of the draft notification that recognises Kunbis as 'sage soyare' (blood relatives) of Maratha community members.

Kunbi, an agrarian group, falls under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category, and Jarange has been demanding that Kunbi certificates be issued to all Marathas, thus making them eligible for quota benefits.

However, OBC activists Hake and Waghmare have opposed Jarange's demand for the issuance of Kunbi certificates to the Maratha community, asserting that the state government must not take any decision that affects OBCs.

'J-K police like sword, war against terror cannot be won without it'

PNS KATHUA/JAMMU

Describing the Jammu and Kashmir Police as a sword in the fight against terror, its chief R R Swain on Friday said tem can be won without the

Pointing to a series of recent terror attacks in the Union Territory, the DGP said terrorists can neither defeat the force nor diminish its resolve.

He made the remarks at an event to regularise nine special police officers to the rank of constables, recognizing their contributions in eliminating two terrorists in the Hiranagar border belt of Kathua district.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Police is like a sword against is working to support them

he Centre's quest to address

security concerns in Jammu

and Kashmir should not

come at the cost of "trampling

the very rule of law, PDP

constitutional rights and eroding"

president Mehbooba Mufti said

on Friday. Her remarks came

Director General of Police RR

after Jammu and Kashmir

PNS SRINAGAR



the terror ecosystem. If this sword, which belongs to the people, is not properly maintained, victory in this war against terrorism cannot be achieved," Swain said.

He said the Union government has also realized the importance of the police and

Govt's quest to address security concerns should

not be at cost of 'trampling' rights: Mehbooba

Swain on Sunday said that

foreign terrorists will be dealt

with under the Enemy Agents

Ordinance, which is much

harsher than the Unlawful

Activities (Prevention) Act.

decision of invoking the

its own citizens on mere

"Jammu Kashmir police's recent

draconian Enemy Ordinance Act

from the Maharaja's era against

locals, who are found supporting

accordingly.

Two terrorists and a CRPF jawan were killed while a civilian was injured in an encounter between security forces and militants in Saida khal village in Kathua district's Hiranagar area near the International Border on June

The DGP said while terror-

ists may inflict some harm, they cannot defeat the police forces and their resolve. "Rest assured, we will defeat them. It is our resolve," Swain said. He also said the police are

well-equipped with advanced weaponry, including arms from Israel and Germany.

We have no weaknesses as far as arms are concerned," the

suspicion of abetting & aiding militants isnt only deeply

concerning but a major breach

minister of the erstwhile state of

of justice " the former chief

She said these archaic laws

"violate" human rights and the

punishments accompanying it

are "grossly incompatible with

principles and values of justice

enshrined in the Constitution"

J-K, said in a post on X.

DELHI AIRPORT'S T-1 One killed, six hurt after portion of roof collapses

PNS NEW DELHI

A cab driver died and six people were injured after a portion of a canopy at Delhi airport's Terminal-1 collapsed on cars amid heavy rain early Friday, leading to suspension of flight

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu visited Terminal-1 (T1) to take stock of the situation. He said he was monitoring the situation and the injured had been hospi-



Delhi Fire Services (DFS) officials said three fire tenders were rushed to Terminal-1 (T1) of the airport after a call about the incident was received around 5:30 am.

Besides the roof sheet, the support beams collapsed, damaging the cars parked in the pick-up and drop area of the terminal. A search operation was conducted to make sure no one was trapped inside the damaged vehicles, they said.

injured have admitted to Medanta Hospital near the airport. One of them was rescued from a car on which an iron beam had fallen. He was later identified as Ramesh Kumar, they added.

Work was underway to clear the debris.

AAP demands Rs 1 crore compensation for Delhi airport incident victim's kin

PNS NEW DELHI

The AAP on Friday demanded for the kin of the person killed in the airport roof collapse incident. Addressing a press conference, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Jasmine Shah said the BJP-led central government should come in forefront and

explain the reasons for the incident. "A very sad incident happened today," he said. Shah investigation into the matter. "We demand that the kin of the deceased be awarded compensation of Rs 1 crore for the kin of the deceased and Rs 50 lakh for those who were injured in the incident," he said.

'Farmers may have been stopped, but their reps are in Parliament'

Farmers may have been stopped from entering Delhi during the 2020-21 protests, but their chosen representatives cannot be stopped from entering Parliament and their issues will be raised strongly in the 18th Lok Sabha, according to CPI-M MP Amra Ram.

The farmer leader, who has been with the All India Kisan Sabha and was also involved with the 2020-21 farmers' protests, said people have taught a lesson to the ruling BJP in the recent elections.

In an interview with PTI, Amra Ram, who won from



Sikar in Rajasthan as a candidate backed by the INDIA bloc, said the agrarian crisis looming over the country and the farmers' protests, as well as issues like Âgniveer scheme, led to the reduction of BJP's numbers in Lok Sabha. Amra Ram, who chose a tractor to reach Parliament on his first day but was not allowed to take it inside, said he did so to send out a message that the government may have stopped farmers from entering the national capital, but they have elected and sent him to Parliament.

Asked about the Lok Sabha elections, Amra Ram said, "It is the result of the struggles that have been going on for the last 10 years against the BJP's poor governance, whether farmers, youths or labourers.'

"BJP was at 303 in 2019, and they are at 240 today.

departments and organisa-

tions have been asked "to

strictly adhere" to the time-

line mentioned in DoPT's

order issued in this regard in

2020 "for undertaking the

exercise of review of perfor-

MeT issues 'orange warning' for seven districts in Himachal for next two days

PNS SHIMLA

Heavy rains lashed Shimla and surrounding areas on Friday and the MeT department issued an 'orange warning' indicating "very heavy rain", thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places in seven of the 12 districts in the state over the weekend.

The MeT also issued a 'yellow warning' of heavy rain,

thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places on July 1 and 2 and predicted a wet spell in the state till July 4. Delayed by five days, the southwest monsoon had hit several parts of

Himachal Pradesh on Thursday.

It issued an orange warning for the Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur and Solan districts on Saturday and Sunday.

Earlier on Friday, debris from drains littered the roads at several places in Shimla and three vehicles parked near a drain were buried in the muck on the Malyana Surala road. No casualty was reported, officials said.

In another incident, four roads -- two in Kangra and one each in Kinnaur and Kullu districts -- have been blocked for vehicular traffic following rains as per the state emergency operation centre.

State capital Shimla and surrounding areas received heavy rains and Jubbarhatti in the suburbs received 136 mm of rain on Thursday evening while Shimla received 84 mm of rain.

Gohar received 42 mm of rain, Mashobra 38 mm, Slapper 34.6 mm, Kufri and Shilaroo 24.2 mm, Sarahan

and Berthin 22 mm each, Ghagas 18.8 mm, Karsog 18.2 mm, Kahu 16 mm and Pandoh 12 mm as per the data released by

the MeT. The MeT has cautioned of damage to plantation, horticulture and

standing crops, partial damage to vulnerable structures, minor damage to kutcha houses and huts due to strong winds and rain, disruption in traffic and water logging in

low-lying areas. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that reports of damage have also poured in from Nerva near Chopal in Shimla district.

"I request the people of the state to stay away from Rivers and drains as the level of water rises following cloud bursts which could prove fatal and people should take pre-

RETIRING NON-PERFORMERS PREMATURELY

Centre asks depts to review employees' working

PNS NEW DELHI

Irked over non-adherence to its directives, the Centre has asked all ministries to timely review the working of the employees so that the non-performers are prematurely retired from service.

In an order, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) asked ministries concerned to direct the public sector undertakings (PSUs), banks, autonomous institutions and statutory bodies under their administrative control to undertake the exercise of periodic review of employ-

It said instructions have been issued from time to time for undertaking periodic review of the government servants' performance with a view to ascertaining whether they "should be retained in service or retired from service prematurely, in public interest".

The administrative ministries and departments have repeatedly been requested to adhere to guidelines issued in this regard and furnish a report to this effect to the DoPT, said the order issued to the secretaries of all central government departments.



However, it has come to notice that various ministries and departments are not adhering to the said guide-lines resulting in delay in identifying the government employees due for review under relevant provisions of

Fundamental Rules (FR)-56 (J)/(I) and Rule 48 of Central Civil Services or CCS (Pension) Rules (now, revised as Rule 42 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021), it said.

These rules lay down the policy of periodic review and

premature retirement of government servants and to ensure efficiency, economy and speed in the disposal of the government functions.

"In view of the above, the ministries/departments are requested to take immediate action to identify the employees due for review under relevant provisions of Fundamental/Pension Rules and ensure that their cases are expeditiously submitted for consideration before the duly constituted review committee as per extant instructions,"

read the order dated June 27. Further, all the ministries,

mance of the government servants and for the employees of PSUs/ banks/autonom ous institutions/statutory organisations under their administrative control to ensure that the employees with doubtful integrity or found to be ineffective are not allowed to continue in government", according to

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Presidential address

President's address, while highlighting various Govt achievements, fell short of raising some serious concerns

s the inaugural session of the 18th Lok Sabha progresses, it is evident that this Lok Sabha would be way livelier and more eventful than the previous one. Thanks to a more evenly distributed treasury and opposition benches. This was evident from the day one and in the address by President Droupadi Murmu to both houses of Parliament. Her address and drawn significant attention and controversy. In the customary joint address, President Murmu made a mention of the various achievements of the government, including its pervasive welfare schemes and the resilience of the Indian economy. The address, while highlighting various achievements of the Government was silent on various issues of national importance. For this the Opposition was vocal in criticising for its content and omissions, especially the exclusion of the ongoing violence in Manipur. The Opposition response was not ill founded but rooted in deeper political and social tensions prevailing in the State. The address, intended to set the tone for the



parliamentary session, included references to several critical issues and achievements. Notably, it highlighted irregularities in examinations and touched upon the historical context of the Emergency imposed in 1975. The reference to the Emergency was frowned upon by the Congress which dubbed it as an effort to deflect attention from the current political scenario. However, the glaring omission of the escalating violence in Manipur stood out starkly. President Murmu addressed the troubling trend of examination paper leaks, acknowledging the impact on the credibility of academic processes. She emphasised the government's commitment to transparency and reform in

examination systems, underscoring the need for stringent measures to ensure fairness and integrity. The mention of the Emergency, referred to as the 'biggest and darkest chapter of direct attack on the Constitution,' was a strategic move that dug up the historical blunder. This reference, while aimed at highlighting the Government's commitment to democracy, struck a nerve with the Congress, reminding them of a period they would prefer to distance themselves from. The most contentious aspect of President Murmu's speech was the omission of any direct mention of the violence in Manipur. The President's speech did acknowledge the government's broader efforts in the Northeast, citing increased allocations for development and initiatives under the Act East Policy, but this was seen as insufficient by many. The exclusion of the Manipur violence from the President's speech was perceived by the Opposition as an attempt to downplay the crisis and avoid accountability. The speech did not adequately address the concerns of the day and call for action from the Opposition regarding various pressing issues. Engaging with these concerns and outlining a collaborative approach to resolve the crisis could have fostered a more constructive political dialogue and demonstrated Govt's willingness to work across party



Sadhus shout slogans as the first batch of pilgrims leaves for the Amarnath Yatra, in Jammu

Suu Kyi spends another birthday in jail



Despite the Junta's desperate measures, including heightened repression and forced conscription, the resistance continues to gain ground

Aung San Suu Kyi spent yet another birthday in prison, as she completed 79 and stepped into her 80th year. No one knows where she is. Even her son, Kim Aris, has not heard from her since receiving a thank-you note from her in January this year for a package he had sent her. Yet not a squeak was heard from leaders of Western democracies who were, not so long ago, condemning her incarceration and Myanmar's ruling junta which had usurped power through a coup on February 1, 2021, and unleashed savage repression as protests surged throughout the country. Clearly, Myanmar is no longer visible on the radar of the democratic world's concerns.

There are doubtless possible explanations. Member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) are engrossed with the war in Ukraine and the possibility of the latter turning into a wider European War, if not World War III. Liberal elements in several European countries are alarmed by the gains made by right-wing forces in the recent elections to the European Parliament. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak of the United Kingdom and President Emmanuel Macron of France are facing elections. Growing popular anger over Israel's continuing offensive in Gaza, which has caused around 40,000 deaths, a large part of whom are women and children, is worrying governments that continue to support the Netanyahu regime.

President Joe Biden's worries range from Israel's war, the conflict in Ukraine, immigration, and fending off the challenge posed by Donald Trump in the November presidential elections in the US. Whatever the reasons, the fact is that Myanmar is no longer the global concern it was.

before. Public and governmental spans of attention are proverbially ephemeral. It is this transience that mostly sustains autocracies. There is a perceptible process. The initial response to a coup is condemnation by democracies and,



Rather, they rally behind the usurper. Mostly thanks to them, the sanctions do not work. The junta that had staged the coup carries on. New developments on the global scene consume the attention of countries condemning the coup. The junta is replaced by another entity as the principal target of outrage. Slowly, opposition towards it declines and there is a gradual trudge towards normalization of ties, particularly if the uniformed dictators relax their tyranny a little while retaining their grip on power.

Is this what is going to happen in Myanmar? One does not know. It will, however, be of no credit to the world's democracies if this does not happen and the people of Myanmar are able to overthrow the junta forcibly, which, by the look of things, is by no means a remote possibility. The Sit-Tat (which, and not Tatmadaw, is the real name of the junta's army), has been suffering reverse after reverse ever since the opposition Three Brotherhood Alliance (henceforth the Alliance) launched its current offensive, codenamed



THE JUNTA'S GROWING **DESPERATION IS** REFLECTED IN THE STERN MEASURES IT HAS BEEN TAKING AGAINST THOSE IT **REGARDS AS** SURRENDERING OR DESERTING, THE KILLING OF ALL SUSPECTED **OPPONENTS AND** HEIGHTENED **EFFORTS AT** CONSCRIPTION

GIVEN THE REFUSAL

OF PEOPLE TO SERVE

IN ITS FORCES

27, 2023. Comprising the Myanmar Démocratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) operating in the Kokang Special Region of Northern Shan State, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), also active in Shan State, and the Arakan Army, based in the Rakhine State in the country's western part, it has been acting in close cooperation with the National Unity Government's military arm, the People's Democratic Force (PDF), and other ethnic armies like the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), the Karen Liberation Army (KNA), the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF), and one of the country's most powerful armed ethnic organisations, the Kachin Independence Army

(KIA). According to an analysis in the website *The Irrawaddy*, datelined June 22, 2024, the junta has lost, since its coup on February, 2024, to the resistance forces one Military Military seven headquarters of the Border Guard Police Battalions, and 63 of the 545 military battalions besides more than 2,500 frontline bases including tactical and frontline bases of military divisions.

Operation 1027, on October Among the latest gains by the resistance forces, Mohinga Matters lists the Chin Brotherhood Force's capture of the junta's battalion station 304 in Chin State's Matupi township on June 17, 2024, and the KNLA's capture of Sukali military station, south of Myawaddy city, on June 18. The Junta's growing desperation is reflected in the stern measures it has been taking against those it regards as surrendering or deserting, the killing of all suspected opponents and heightened efforts at conscription given the refusal of people to serve in its forces. Indeed, those sentenced to death include Brigadier-General Zao Myo Win for surrendering to the MNDAA. The junta has also killed a highly respected Buddhist monk. Bhaddanta Manindabhivamsa, who has

been strongly critical of it by shooting at his car on June 19, Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday. Given its faltering conscription scheme, the junta has reportedly been planning to con-Regional Command, three script women in some parts. Operational Needless to say, all this only serves to swell the tide anger against it sweeping the country. Time is running out for Myanmar's uniformed tyrants.

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

Directive on doctor's fees sparks controversy in Bihar-



The debate over how much doctors should charge for consultations has heated up in Bihar after Pappu Yadav capped fees in his constituency

Pappu Yadav, an inde-pendent Member of Parliament from Purnia in Bihar, has sparked a heated debate by instructing doctors in his constituency to cap their consultation fees at 500 rupees. This directive has not only caused an uproar in medical and political circles but has also highlighted a long-ignored issue: the regulation of doctors' fees for patient consultations.Amid the political backlash and ongoing arguments, several critical questions arise: Who sets the consultation fees for

Is there any mechanism to control the exorbitant fees that doctors often charge? What roles do the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and the Medical Council of India (MCI) play in regulating these fees?Unfortunately, the answers appear bleak for patients. The IMA has distanced itself from the responsibility of setting doctor's fees, citing the "Clinical Establishments Act" as a reason for their inaction. In reality, doctors charge consultation fees ranging from 500 to 2,000 rupees per visit, with no standardization or over-



sight.Adding to the problem is the unethical practice of government doctors running private clinics, sometimes even during official hospital hours. In Bihar, it is common knowledge that government doctors often skip their hospital duties to treat patients privately. Many of these patients had initially visited them at government hospitals. Despite this rampant issue, the IMA has not implemented any regulations to curb this behavior, instead deferring the matter to state governments, stating they will follow any rules set by the states regarding private practice.In Bihar, however, such rules are frequently disregarded. Historically, whenev-

attempted to ban private practice for government doctors, the medical community has

reacted with strong opposition, organizing protests and strikes, which have left many patients without care. This ongoing struggle highlights the urgent need for regulatory reform in the medical sector to ensure fair and ethical treatment for all patients. The controversy ignited by Pappu Yadav's directive to cap consultation fees at 500 rupees underscores the urgent need for regulatory reform in India's medical sector. The outcry from both political and medical circles highlights the long-standing issue of unchecked and exorbitant consultation fees, which often er a state government has range from 500 to 2,000

rupees, with no standardization or oversight. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) and the Medical Council of India (MCI) have largely abdicated responsibility, citing the "Clinical Establishments Act" as a reason for their inac-

Meanwhile, unethical practices persist, such as government doctors running private clinics during official hours, exacerbating the problem.In Bihar, the issue is particularly severe, with government doctors often neglecting their duties in public hospitals to treat patients privately. Attempts by state governments to regulate this practice have faced fierce opposition from the medical community, leading to protests and strikes that disrupt patient care. This situation reveals a critical need for comprehensive reforms to ensure fair and ethical medical practices. By addressing these challenges, regulatory bodies can create a more equitable healthcare system that prioritizes patient welfare over profit, ultimately fostering a more just and efficient medical landscape. (The author is a columnist,

views are personal)

THE PLIGHT OF GIG WORKERS

Madam —The alarming unemployment rate and the availability of cheap labor in India enable multinational companies to dictate terms and exploit poor gig workers with low wages. Over the years, there has been significant outcry in the U.S. and Europe about companies like Amazon, which have been fined and investigated for poor working conditions for non-permanent employees. These commercially driven giants often prioritize profit over worker welfare. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken cognizance of the dire working conditions in Amazon warehouses, where workers are forced to endure inhumane conditions without breaks, often in extreme heat.

Despite regulations like The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, which aims to ensure the safety, health, and social security of contract laborers, the situation remains dire. To meet unrealistic and dangerous targets, unemployed youths are compelled to work under miserable and unhealthy conditions. Consumer indifference further exacerbates the situation, allowing such exploitation to continue unchecked. Regulatory agencies and consumer awareness can make a significant difference. It's crucial to recognize that the gig economy relies on underpaid employees, whose rights and well-being should be central to

national development. **Vijay Singh Adhikari** | *Nainital*

PRESERVING DEMOCRACY IN INDIA Madam — This refers to the article, "The Dark Days of India's Emergency" (27-6-24). When India achieved independence, many doubted its ability to sustain a democratic republic for long. However, the Indian people have consistently demonstrated their wisdom, commitment to democracy, and their ability to resurrect it whenever it has been threatened. Indira Gandhi's declaration of the Emergency, despite being an act that stifled democracy. required considerable boldness.

The hardships endured during that peri-

Integrity of India's education system



cams and the Integrity of India's Education SystemThe National Testing Agency (NTA) is under immense pressure following irregularities in this year's NEET-UG (medical), NET (teaching), and JEE (engineering) exams. The plight of the affected candidates, who prepared for months and traveled long distances to their exam centers, is heartbreaking. They now face the

od remain grim reminders for many. Nevertheless, the citizens, under the leadership of selfless figures like Jayaprakash Narayan, acted decisively to restore democracy. Similarly, when N.T. Rama Rao's elected government was toppled in Andhra Pradesh, the people again rose to action and restored it.

In the last decade, India has been experiencing an undeclared emergency, characterized by a subdued press, with the country ranking 161st out of 180 in the Global Press Freedom Index, the killing of five journalists in a year, and over 200 injured. Numerous individuals have been imprisoned for extended periods without charges simply for expressing dissent. Arbitrary manipulation of election results, such as in the Chandigarh mayoral election, and the use of central agencies to silence opposition voices are reminiscent of the Emergency era. While MISA was used by Indira Gandhi, UAPA serves a similar purpose today. The people possess the power to protect democracy as evidenced by the results of the recent election.

AG Rajmohan | Anantapur

daunting task of preparing for re-examinations, which could have a detrimental effect on their morale and undermine their faith in the system. These candidates come from diverse backgrounds, including corporate employees, housewives, and educators, making it difficult to balance their jobs and studies, let alone prepare for re-exams. There are significant flaws in the examination system, necessitating stringent legal actions and severe punishments for those responsible for these scams. Re-examinations only delay the admission process without addressing the root causes of the problem Political parties should focus on addressing the underlying issues rather than exploiting the situation for political gain. They need to cooperate and propose constructive solutions to tackle this urgent matter. The states must collaborate with the central govt to restore the integrity of the education system.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

THE SPEAKER'S ELECTION

Madam — The election of Om Birla as Speaker was a foregone conclusion, serving merely as a formality to placate opposition parties. The tradition of allotting the Speaker's post to the ruling party and the Deputy Speaker's post to the opposition has been abandoned.

Although AICC President asserted the INDIA. bloc would not withdraw its candidate, Jairam Ramesh admitted they did not seek a division. Consequently, the opposition has forfeited its right to demand the Deputy Speakership.

The trust deficit between the treasury benches and the opposition necessitated the election. Ideally, an agreement could have been reached where the opposition conceded the Speaker's post to the ruling party in exchange for the Deputy Speakership. This trust, if honoured, would have exposed any ruling party's

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

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FIRST COLUMN

DISCOVERING WISDOM THROUGH A ZEN TALE

The truth is that the world around us is often a reflection of our inner world



RAVI VALLURI

There was a man who stumbled upon a Zen story which in several ways typified his state of mind, thought process, attitudes and his reactions and responses to various adverse situations in life. Zen Story

Aeon's ago two men visit a Zen Master. The first man says, "I am thinking of moving into this town. What is it like to inhabit this place?" The Zen Master pondered for a while and then questioned the man, "What was your old town like?"

The first man responds, "It was dreadful living in the town. Everyone was hateful. I loathed staying in the town. This therefore is the reason why I am looking for a fresh place to dwell."

The Zen Master replied instantly, "This town is very much the same. I do not think you should move here. You will discover the place to be resentful and you would end up hating and disliking everyone." This left the first man flummoxed and speechless.

The first man left in a disarray and the second one entered the room of the bearded Zen Master. The room was dimly lit but the virtuous one was incandescent with radiance, sitting silently. The second man posed the same question, "Master I am thinking of mov-

ing to this town. What is it like?" The Zen Master was once again thoughtful and asked the second man, "What was your old town like?" This man blessed with a cheery disposition exclaimed, "Oh, Master! It

was wonderful. Everyone was brimming with confidence and zest; people were friendly and I was jollity personified. Right now, I am interested in a change of place though I am comfortable in the old place of

The Zen Master nodded his head and with a twinkle in his eye replied, "This town is very much similar to your old one and I am positive that



you would feel at home in the new township. Welcome aboard." Life is full of vicissitudes. There are high points and low ones. The first man faced constant misadventure in his old township. He squabbled with his wife, snarled at his children and was at odds with his superiors, juniors, and peers. He was not at peace with himself, with his energy/prana/chi levels at a low ebb.

While the second person, accepted all situations and people as they were. This resonates with one of sutras of the Art of Living, "Accept people and situations as they are." Such people do not find fault with any situation and are at peace with themselves. This becomes the state of their

This Zen story pivots on the idea of karma. Whatever happens to anyone is the result of their own actions. We may travel around the world in the hope of escaping a life we condemned. What we will find instead is that we continue to carry our baggage with us wherever we go. Verily it applies to a positive mindset too, in that happiness is a matter of one's

Upon reading the Zen story the man whose life was like that of the first individual decided to make a metamorphosis in his life and opted to be positive like the second man. He made a 360 degree turn in his thought process and broke the glass ceiling of negativity and accepted all challenges in life. "Invoke the valour in you. Just say, 'Okay, whatever comes, I am going to take it as a challenge.' When you invoke this energy, fear vanishes," says the spiritual master Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd.and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; Views are personal)

Challenges ahead for RaGa as Leader of the Opposition



Rahul Gandhi's new avatar enhances his ability to foster the Opposition unity and effectively counter the BJP's influence within Parliament

ahul Gandhi's decision to accept the Congress Working Committee's (CWC) offer to become the new Leader of the Opposition in Parliament may serve a dual purpose. Firstly, it will provide him with a statutory position under the law, positioning him as a direct rival to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 2029 elections, compelling Modi to take him seriously, unlike in the past. Secondly, despite being the strongest critic of the Prime Minister both inside and outside Parliament, Gandhi's voice has often been drowned out by the BJP's "shouting brigade" over the past decade. However, this scenario is poised to change as the BJP enters the Lok Sabha with a reduced strength of 240 MPs, down from 303 in the previous Lok Sabha.In contrast, the Congress has almost doubled its strength, increasing from 52 to 102 MPs, including three

This bolstered presence will enable the Congress to counter the BJP's tactics more effectively. A tit-for-tat dynamic may emerge in Parliament: if the BJP's "shouting brigade" attempts to silence Rahul Gandhi, Congress MPs may respond by disrupting the Prime Minister's speeches. The overall parliamentary balance of power has shifted as well. The combined strength of the NDA (BJP and its allies) will be reduced to 294, down from 336 in the previous term. Meanwhile, the Congress-led UPA has increased its seats from 90 to 234, including several new additions, posing a significant challenge for the ruling

Challenges as Leader of the Opposition
As the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Parliament, Rahul Gandhi will face numerous challenges requiring a dedicated and full-time commitment. The role cannot be managed on an ad hoc basis as it demands continuous effort and strategic planning. Key responsibilities and strategies include:

Regular Interaction with Allies: Gandhi must engage regularly with leaders of allied parties to formulate strategies aimed at cornering the weakened BJP-led alliance in Parliament. Building and CHAIRMAN OF THE parties, build consensus, and maintaining strong relationships with diverse political groups will be

Aggressive yet Mature Approach: It will be crucial for Gandhi to demonstrate aggression balanced with maturity, particularly when highlighting issues of public importance. His ability to address these issues effectively in Parliament will be key to his success.

Unifying a Fragmented Opposition: One of the most significant challenges will be unifying a fragmented opposition. The diverse political ideologies and regional interests create a complex landscape, making consensus-building a critical yet difficult task.

Countering the Ruling Party's Narrative: Despite the BJP's reduced majority, countering its dominant narrative remains a formidable challenge. The ruling party's stronghold on media and public perception necessitates a strategic and compelling opposition

Scrutiny of Leadership Style: Gandhi's leadership style and communication skills will be under constant scrutiny. Establishing his credibility and demon-





RAHUL GANDHI MAY ALSO GAIN AN IMPORTANT POSITION AS THE

ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE, WHICH PRIMARILY **EXAMINES** REPORTS FROM

> COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL

strating robust leadership in par-liamentary debates and public forums are crucial for gaining public trust and support. Responsibilities as LoP

Holding the Government Accountable: Gandhi will lead the opposition's efforts in holding the government accountable. This involves articulating the opposition's stance on various issues, participating in debates, and ensuring effective representa-

Rallying Opposition Parties: coordinate their efforts. This can be challenging given the diverse ideologies and interests of differ-

Effective Communication: Gandhi must communicate effectively within and outside Parliament. His speeches, statements, and interactions with the media will shape public perception and influence political discourse.

Strategic Decision-Making: Making strategic decisions regarding when to cooperate with the ruling party and when to oppose them requires astute political judgment. Balancing these choices will be crucial.

Mastery of Parliamentary Procedures: Understanding parliamentary rules, procedures, and tactics is crucial. Gandhi will need to master these to effectively challenge the government.

Raising Critical Issues: People expect the LoP to raise critical issues, propose alternatives, and offer constructive solutions. Meeting these expectations will be key to Gandhi's effectiveness as LóP.

Rahul Gandhi may also gain an

important position as the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, which primarily examines reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). The PAC has a majority of government nominees and typically decides issues by vote. Additionally, as LoP, Gandhi would be part of various collegiums alongside the Prime Minister and Chief Justice of India (or government nominees), responsible for selecting the heads of key investigative and transparency agencies including the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Lokpal, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Chief Election Commissioner/Election Commissioners, and Chief Information Commissioner

Historical Parallels: Indira Gandhi and Rahul GandhiAn amended version of Karl Marx's quote suggests that history repeats itself first as tragedy and not necessarily as farce; hence its recurrence has ended up enhancing Rahul Gandhi's prestige as LoP. Political observers note two stark similarities between the late Mrs. Indira Gandhi's comeback in 1980 and Rahul Gandhi's recent resurgence.Indira Gandhi earned the title "Bechari" in the eyes of the people due to the excesses and humiliation inflicted on her by the Janata Party after losing power, a fallout of the

Emergency's dark era. In the late 1960s, she was derisively called "Goongi Gudiya" (Dumb Doll) by her detractors, which ultimately helped her emerge strong and bounce back to power in 1980. Similarly, Rahul Gandhi's rejuvenation as a credible LoP in 2024 comes after being dubbed "Pappu" by the BJP.

At this juncture, experts suggest that the common people witnessed a privileged member of the Gandhi family walking in scorching heat and biting cold, highlighting their problems. This might have changed their opinion about him, leading them to perceive him as a "Bechara Shehzada" (Poor Prince), earning their sympathy and contributing to the BJP's undoing in the 2024

The NDA government's focus on Hindutva, anti-Muslim rhetoric, and tall promises failed to address people's real issues. Prime Minister Modi can be credited for popularizing the term "Shehzada" (Scion) for Rahul Gandhi, but this campaign ultimately transformed his image from "Pappu" to a credible national leader. Overall, Rahul Gandhi's leadership as LoP will significantly impact India's political landscape. To effectively represent the opposition in Parliament, he will need to rise to these challenges, demonstrating strong leadership and a commitment to addressing the concerns of the Indian people.

(The writer is a senior journalist and a policy analyst; views expressed are personal)

Union budget needs to adopt all-inclusive approach to health

India needs to spend more on infrastructure development, innovation, and accessibility for universal health coverage by 2030

s India anticipates the unveiling of the first Acomprehensive Union Budget under the Modi 3.0 government, the healthcare sector finds itself at a crucial crossroads. The interim budget has set a preliminary roadmap, yet achieving a transformative overhaul of the healthcare ecosystem requires

a robust and unified effort. It is imperative to prioritize increased funding for healthcare infrastructure, innovation, and accessibility to create a new ecosystem that can support India's ambitious healthcare objectives. One of the primary expectations from the forthcoming budget is the reclassification of hospitals as infrastructure investments. improvement in service deliv-This reclassification has the ery. A significant step forward



SUGANDH AHLUWALIA

private sector investments, which are vital for the development of state-of-the-art healthcare facilities across the

Additionally, extending interest rate subventions for medical equipment could alleviate the financial strain on hospitals, facilitating the modernization of technology and

would be the formulation of a roadmap to boost public healthcare expenditure to 3% of the GDP. According to the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Reserve Bank of India estimates, healthcare expenditure needs to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 18.9%. The current goal is to achieve 2.5% public expenditure on healthcare by 2025-26 and 3% by 2030-31.

While these targets are ambitious, they require meticulous planning and strategic execution to be realized. The economic burden of healthcare costs is a major concern for the lower and middle-income groups in India. High out-ofpocket expenditures, coupled with escalating healthcare costs potential to attract substantial for India's healthcare system and insurance barriers, neces-

sitate immediate government intervention. Incorporating advanced treatment methods into the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and encouraging private health insurance companies to adopt similar practices can significantly enhance healthcare accessibility for these groups. The government must also place a strong emphasis on rural healthcare in its budget allocations Direct investments in health-

care infrastructure and medical personnel, along with targeted incentives to attract doctors and hospitals to underserved areas, are critical. This approach will expand healthcare coverage and spur innovation in insurance products, making comprehensive healthcare accessible to all, especially in rural regions where the need is most pressing. Physical infrastructure along with the human resources is essential for delivering quality health-

Rational regulations and policies are critical to supporting India's aspiration to achieve UHC by 2030. Such regulations should enable seamless collaboration among all stakeholders, ensuring that quality healthcare services are accessible to all citizens, regardless of socio-economic status.

This approach will help address health disparities and improve overall health outcomes in the country. The private sector has a pivotal role in delivering quality healthcare services. Bridging the critical gaps in service delivery is

essential for achieving UHC, particularly in addressing the dual burden of non-communicable and communicable diseases. Health insurance is a vital component in the journey toward "Health for All." With low insurance coverage, many individuals face substantial out-of-pocket expenses when seeking healthcare services. Implementing mandatory health insurance and gradual-

ly expanding coverage to include self-employed professionals and other currently excluded groups can pave the way for a more equitable healthcare system. This strategy would ensure that all citizens have access to

essential health services without financial hardship. Access to quality healthcare is fundamental for everyone, and UHC

is key in this regard. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), UHC means access to essential health services, including affordable medicines and vaccines, without financial difficulty. Strengthening health systems and essential infrastructure is vital for achieving

The private sector's investments in healthcare infrastructure and training health butions toward this goal.

workers are significant contri-Achieving the goal of Healthcare for All by 2030 in India presents numerous opportunities but also requires overcoming significant barriers. A multi-faceted approach is essential for increasing access to and delivery of qual-

ity healthcare. Developing a

ness model that integrates primary, secondary, and tertiary care systems is crucial. Such a model should empha-

size affordability and high quality, enhancing the reputation healthcare.Substantial support for the hospital sector is also necessary, including a combination of investments and tax reliefs, to build infrastructure assets and provide top-tier healthcare services across the country. Bridging the ruralurban divide in critical care facilities is imperative to reaching the goal of Healthcare for All by 2030.

(The author is Chief Strategy Officer at Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal)

FATF adopts India's mutual evaluation report; hails anti-money laundering regime

he Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenary on Friday adopted the mutual evaluation report of India's anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism regime during its plenary meeting held here. In its brief outcome statement, the global body said that India's legal regime in these two domains was achieving good results. It, however, said the country needs to address delays relating to concluding money laundering and terrorist financing prosecutions. The final evaluation report for the country

will be published later when the "quality and consistency review" is completed, it said. The Parisheadquartered body leads global action to tackle money laundering, terrorist and proliferation financing. India's mutual evaluation on FATF guidelines, a measure that checks a country's efficacy to make effective laws and policy and implement them to check financial crimes, was last done in 2010.



Reliance Industries mcap tops Rs 21 L cr mark amid rally in shares

hares of Reliance Industries climbed over 2 per cent on Friday, taking its market valuation above the Rs 21 lakh crore mark. The heavyweight stock rose by 2.31 per cent to settle at Rs 3,131.85 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 3.27 per cent to hit a record high of Rs 3,161.45. It was the biggest gainer among the 30-share BSE Sensex firms. On the NSE, the stock climbed 2.19 per cent to settle at Rs 3,128.25 each. The company's market valuation jumped by Rs 47,777.57 crore to Rs 21,18,951.20

crore Reliance Industries is the country's most valued firm by market capitalisation (mcap). In volume terms, 10.33 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and 144.77 lakh shares on the NSE during the day. So far this year, shares of Reliance Industries have jumped 21.16 per cent on the BSE. Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) on February 13 this year became the first Indian company to achieve a market capitalisation of Rs 20 L cr.



Stanley Lifestyles shares jump nearly 30% in debut trade

hares of luxury furniture brand Stanley Lifestyles Ltd ended with a premium of nearly 30 per cent on Friday, against the issue price of Rs 369. The stock started the trade at Rs 499, reflecting a jump of 35.23 per cent on the BSE. During the day, it soared 38.21 per cent to Rs 510. Shares of the company ended at Rs 474 each, up 28.45 per cent. On the NSE, it listed at Rs 494.95, up 34.13 per cent. Shares of the firm ended at Rs 479 apiece, rallying 29.81 per cent. The company's market valuation stood at Rs 2,702.62

crore. In volume terms, 55.85 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and 216.11 lakh shares on the NSE during the day. The Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Stanley Lifestyles got subscribed 96.98 times on the last day of subscription on Tuesday. The Rs 537 crore initial share sale had a fresh issue of up to Rs 200 crore and an offer for sale of up to 91,33,454 equity shares. The initial share sale had a price range of Rs 351-369 per share.



Tata Steel UK begins legal action against union strike

Tata Steel on Friday said it is being forced to commence legal action to challenge the validity of a steelworkers' union strike ballot, as it warned that its blast furnaces at Port Talbot may have to pause operations amid the industrial action.

The Mumbai-headquartered steel major had originally planned to shut down one of the blast furnaces by the end of June and the second one by September. However, Unite the Union's proposed strike from July 8 could result in the closure being forced earlier.

"Following the announcement by the Unite Union to unilaterally call strike action from July 8, Tata Steel is unfortunately forced to commence legal action to challenge the validity of Unite's ballot," a Tata Steel spokesperson said.

"In the coming days, if we cannot be certain that we are able to continue to safely and stably operate our assets through the period of strike action, we will not have any choice but to pause or stop heavy end operations (including both blast furnaces) on the Port Talbot site.

The Mumbai-headquartered steel major had originally planned to shut down one of the blast furnaces by the end of June and the second one by September. However, Unite the Union's proposed strike from July 8 could result in the closure being forced earlier.

That is not a decision we would take lightly, and we recognise that it would prove extremely costly and disruptive throughout the supply chain, but the safety of people on or around our sites will always take priority over everything else," the spokesperson said.

The company again called for Unite to withdraw its indus-

memorandum of understanding, which it said puts forward a wide-ranging proposal including "generous employee support packages, training, and skills development".

trial action and join the other unions - Community and GMB - in giving consideration to the company's proposed

We understand the impact

tractors, but we remain committed to a just transition and

pending a governmentbacked grant funding agreement — to the 1.25 billion pounds investment in low-CO2 steelmaking, which will ensure Tata Steel has a long and sustainable future in the UK," the company's spokesperson added.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham claimed it is "fighting for the future of the steel industry" and wants things deferred until after the general election on July 4 as it claims to have secured "serious investment" from the Opposition Labour Party which is leading the pre-election surveys.

"Tata putting out a statement to shut or pause its blast furnaces three months earlier than they intended to is the latest in a long line of threats that won't deter us. The Unite campaign is not about selling jobs, it's about securing the longterm future of steel making in this country for thousands of workers in Port Talbot and South Wales," she said.

Govt in process of finalising policy to offer PCI coal to steel makers to reduce imports

PNS NEW DELHI

The government is in the process of finalising a policy to offer washed PCI coal to steel makers in order to reduce imports, a senior official said

PCI (pulverized coal injection) coal is a type of metallur-gical coal, which is used in the steel making process as auxiliary fuel for partial replacement of coke. It helps steel plant increase efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

"We are actually thinking about a policy...whereby we will be washing and offering washed PCI coal to the steel sector (only specifically to the steel sector) end use so that we will be able to reduce imports,"



ash content in PCI coal. At present, most of the steel makers in the country import

PCI coal and its demand is expected to go up to anywhere between 20-30 million tonnes by 2030, Nagaraju said.

"We are finalising a policy and once done, we will be able to offer washed coking coal to the steel sector specifically so that they are able to blend with

the imported coking coal and

reduce imports," he said. Nagaraju further said that the government will set up about eight coking coal washeries to meet the demand of the steel sector. "We are going to set up about eight coking coal washeries so that by 2030 we will be having at least 60 million tonnes of washed coking coal in the country to meet the steel sector demand," he added.

According to mjunction services -- a B2B e-commerce platform -- India's coking coal imports rose to 57.22 million tonnes in FY24 compared to 54.46 MT imported in FY23. Imports of PCI coal also increased to 16.69 MT in 2023-24, against 15.69 MT a year

GAIL advances net zero emission target to 2035

PNS NEW DELHI

State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd on Friday said it has advanced the target to achieve net zero carbon emission by five years to 2035 as it takes multi-prolonged approach to reaching the goal.

The company was previ-

ously targeting net zero carbon emissions by 2040.

'GAIL Board accorded approval to advance its net zero target for Scope-I and 2 emissions by five years, from the year 2040 to year 2035," the company said in a state-

Scope 1 covers emissions

from sources that an organisagenerating the electricity. tion owns or controls directly for example from burning fuel in factories or even in its

fleet of vehicles. Scope 2 are emissions that a company causes indirectly and come from where the energy it purchases and uses. For example, the emissions caused when

"This decision follows an extensive study undertaken by GAIL to enhance its sustainability goals and align with India's broader net zero commitments," it said. GAIL plans to achieve this ambitious goal through a strategic

Markets snap record rally

Profit-booking hammers banking finance stocks

PNS MUMBAI

Market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty halted their threeday record-hitting rally to close with losses on Friday as investors booked profit in banking, finance and tech stocks despite a positive trend in global equities.

Snapping a four-session winning run, equity indices succumbed to selling pressure after mid-session when profit-taking emerged on few

After hitting fresh all-time high level in early trade, the 30-share index declined 210.45 points or 0.27 per cent to settle at 79,032.73. During the day, it jumped 428.4 points or 0.54 per cent to hit a fresh record peak of 79,671.58.

The Nifty went lower by 33.90 points or 0.14 per cent to 24,010.60. During the day, 0.53 per cent to hit a new life-

The Sensex breached the historic 79,000 mark on Thursday and the Nifty hit the 24,000 level for the first time in intra-day trade.

In the past four trading days, the BSE benchmark jumped 2,033.28 points or 2.63 per cent.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Maruti, JSW Steel and Bajaj Finserv were among the laggards. In contrast, Reliance Industries, Tata Motors, Asian Paints, Nestle and Titan were the biggest gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green. European markets were

trading mostly higher. US markets ended in positive terit climbed 129.5 points or ritory on Thursday.

Bank of Maharashtra launches remote A/c opening

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In today's fast-paced world, convenience reigns supreme and this extends to financial services. Recognizing this shift, Bank of Maharashtra is leading account opening with the introduction of Video-KYC (Video **Based Customer Identification** Process). This innovative solution streamlines the process, allowing individuals to open savings accounts entirely from the comfort of their homes and embracing efficiency.

Bypassing Branches, Embracing Efficiency Traditionally, opening a

bank account involved timeconsuming visits to branches, filling out paperwork, and waiting in queues. Video-KYC eliminates these hurdles. Customers can now initiate and complete the entire account creation process through a secure video call with a bank representative. This not only saves valuable time but also caters to those with busy schedules or limited mobility.

The Power of Video-KYC The Video-KYC process prioritizes both security and ease of use. Here's what customers need to know:

smooth experience, prospec-

agreeing to terms and conditions, providing basic informa-Requirements: To ensure a tion, and scheduling a video call at their convenience.

guage, and follow the prompt,

"I want to open a new account via VKYC." This includes

their Aadhaar number, a sig- During the video call, the bank nature on white paper, a executive guides customers



mobile number linked to their Aadhaar, and a soft copy of their PAN card readily available. The Process: The process is designed to be user-friendly. Customers simply visit the Bank of Maharashtra website, navigate to the VCIP section, Security Meets Simplicity: choose their preferred lan-

through verification process, which includes confirming a reference number sent to the customer's linked mobile number. This two-factor authentication ensures a secure and transparent experience. Once the live KYC verification is complete, accounts activation typically

occurs within 24 hours. Account Activation and Beyond: A World of Banking Convenience. Once the account is live, customers then gain access to a wide range of banking products and services through the bank's the MahaMobile app.

From receiving ATM/debit card to managing finances online, Video-KYC accounts empower customers to bank entirely from their fingertips. Additionally, the seamless integration with technology provides real-time transaction alerts and account statements, fostering greater control over finances.

Leading the Digital Charge: Bank of Maharashtra's Commitment to Innovation

The implementation of Video-KYC underscores Bank of Maharashtra's commitment to providing a seamless, secure, and efficient banking experience. This innovative solution eliminates the need for extensive paperwork and offers a contemporary approach to account opening, catering to the demands of the digital era.

RBI imposes Rs 29.6 L penalty on HSBC

PNS MUMBAI

lakh on The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) for non-compliance with certain directions related to cards.

The penalty has been imposed on HSBC for noncompliance with certain directions issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 'Credit Card, Debit Card and Rupee Denominated Co-branded Pre-paid Card operations of Banks', the central bank said in a statement.

RBI said a Statutory The RBI on Friday said it has
Inspection for Supervisory bank was conducted by it with reference to its financial position as on March 31,

> Based on supervisory findings of non-compliance with RBI directions and related correspondence in that regard, a notice was issued to the bank advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for its failure to comply with the said

R&D arm, we created a

roadmap, collected data from

the Hindi-speaking popula-

tion, and built the Indus

model. "Our collaboration with

Dell Technologies & Intel will

Tech Mahindra launches indic language LLM 'Project Indus'

PNS NEW DELHI

Tech Mahindra on Friday announced launch of Project Indus, a large language model (LLM) designed to converse in

Indic languages and dialects. The first phase of Indus designed for the Hindi language and its 37+

a multitude of

dialects. ' Project Indus is our seminal effort to develop an

LLM from the ground up.

Through Makers Lab, our

help deliver cutting-edge AI solutions that enable Tech Mahindra Launches enterprises to Project Indus Large Language scale at speed. We will redefine the GenAI landscape, driving innova-

Model (LLM)

Malhotra, Tech Mahindra, said.

tion and oper-

ational excellence," Nikhil

🍩 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🐗

EE-Div16 /EE/Divm.16/(/SBZ)/GHMC

NIT No: 11/Cin-16/Engg-Div-16/SBZ/GHMC/2024

De: 28-96-2024

Name of the work: Crid works in Amberpet Cincle-16, Secundersbad Zone, GHMC, Total Tender

Amount Rs. 43-50 Lakts, St. No. 1 to 3 Start Date: 29/06/2024 From 3:00 PML Last Date & Time

for receipt of Bid: 03/07/2024 at 3:00 PML, Srl B.V.S.RAJU, Executive Engineer, Division-16 Circle-16, Amberpet, Sechad Zone, GHMC, Celt: 6309929591 6309919662. Address of the Concerned Executive Engineer, Div-16, SBZ, GHMC Abids, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Further details can be seen at E-Procurement www.teader.telangans.gov.in telangana.gov.in Sdi- Executive Enginee Div -16- S8Z-GHM0 R.O.No: 1240-PP/CL/ADVTH/2024-25, Dt. 28.06.2024

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ROADS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
e-PROGUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No.02/RDF/CE/RAB), RR/2024-25
The Chief Engineer (R&B) Rural Roads, Hydershad invites tenders on e-procurement platform

for One (D1) work costing Rs. 1500.00 Lakhs in following constituency under RDF Scheme

Constituency: Alair No. of Works: 1 No. | Amount: Rs. 1500.00 Lakhs. si bidders can download the tender schedules from https://tender.telangane.gov.in from 02-07-2024 from 03.00 PM onwards. Last date is 09-07-2024. Sel-Chief Engineer (R&B)
August Agents (Rabel Rands Ry 2016) 2019

Rated Rands (Ry) 8.0.8x 1940P/CL/ADVT11/2024-25, Dt 28.86.2024

e-commerce supplies till June 30 PNS NEW DELHI India and the US have decided to extend a 2 per cent equalisation levy or digital tax on e-commerce supplies until

India, US extend digital tax on

In a major reform of the international tax system, India and the US have joined 134 other members of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework (including Austria, France, Italy, Spain, and the UK) in reaching an agreement on October 8, 2021, on the statement on a two-pillar solution to address the tax challenges arising from the digital-

June 30, the finance ministry

said on Friday.

isation of the economy. On October 21, 2021, the US and Austria, France, Italy, Spain, and the UK reached a political compromise on the transitional approach to the unilateral measures in force while Pillar 1 is implemented.



On November 24, 2021, India and the US agreed that the same terms that apply under the October 2021 Joint Statement shall apply between India and the US with respect to India's charge of 2 per cent equalisation levy on e-commerce supply of services and the US' trade

action regarding the said

Equalisation Levy.

The validity of this agreement was from April 1, 2022, till implementation of Pillar 1 or March 31, 2024, whichever is earlier.

On December 18, 2023, the Inclusive Framework issued a statement calling for a finalisation of the text of the Pillar 1 multilateral convention by the

end of March 2024 with a view to holding a signing ceremony by the end of June 2024.

On February 15, 2024, the US and Austria, France, Italy, Spain, and the UK decided to extend the political compromise set forth in the October 21 Joint Statement until June 30, 2024.

"In light of above developments, India and the United States have decided to extend the validity of the agreement reflected in November 24 Statements until June 30, 2024. All other terms of the transitional approach remain the same," the finance ministry said in a statement.

India and the US will remain in close contact to ensure that there is common understanding of the respective commitment and endeavour to resolve all issues on this matter through constructive dialogue,

Key infra sectors growth rises 6.3%

PNS NEW DELHI

The eight key infrastructure sectors' growth rose by 6.3 per cent in May on healthy expansion in the production of coal, natural gas, and electricity, though the growth rate is lower than in April, according to official data released on Friday. The production of the eight sec-

tors grew 6.7 per cent in April. The growth of these core sectors -- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fer-tiliser, steel, cement and electricity -- was 5.2 per cent in May 2023.

The official data showed that fertiliser, crude oil, and cement output recorded negative growth in May.
During April-May this fis-

cal, the output of these sectors was up 6.5 per cent against 4.9 per cent in the same period

The production growth of

coal, natural gas and electricity rose by 10.2 per cent, 7.5 per cent and 12.8 per cent, respectively, against 7.2 per cent, (-) 0.3 per cent and 0.8 per cent in May 2023.

The growth rate in the production of refinery products and steel slowed down to 0.5 per cent and 7.6 per cent durng the month under review. The eight core sectors contribute 40.27 per cent to the

country's Index of Industrial Production (IIP). Commenting on the data, Icra Ltd Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said that while the core sector growth sustained above 6 per cent for the fourth consecutive month, it eased slightly in May.

A combination of factors including the heatwave over parts of the country and the phased parliamentary elections could have curtailed activity and execution in some sectors, she added.

the pioneer yaerabaa

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Saturday June 29, 2024

"HYDERABAD IS NOW COMPETING WITH SOME MAJOR CITIES IN WORLD'

SHRADDHA NEWARE

Sukhbir Singh is no stranger to the city of Nizams, as he first came to Hyderabad back in 2011 on January 17. Pacing out 12 years later, he was once again back in the city last year, this time as the General Manager of Novotel Hyderabad Airport.

After working in the hospitality industry for more than twenty years, he seems to know every nerve of the business. Speaking to us about his association with Hyderabad, the Jamshedpurborn says, "The city was extremely kind to us. It's an easy city to live and grow in, and it does not have too much discrimination for people from outside the city or within. The warm and kind nature of people in the city continues to be so even now.

Comparing his hometown, Jamshedpur, to the city of Hyderabad, the former director of sales and marketing shares, "My hometown is a small industrial town and we grew up in a township. People work on shifts and that's about it. There's not too much hustle, bustle, or trade that happens. Hyderabad is a bustling metropolis today, competing with some of the major cities in the

Coming to the changes he has witnessed in the city since his last tenure here, from 2011 to early 2014, the former General Manager of Accor Mumbai area speaks to us about the changes he has witnessed: "The traffic has of course gone up in the last 10 to 12 years. But I think there's been a lot of infrastructure developed. The city was designed to make people's lives easier."

He further shares a titbit with us about the land behind Novotel Hyderabad Airport: "In 2011, we were a hotel, 40 kilometers away from the city. The space behind the hotel used to be nothing but rugged terrain, and we would advocate for the SUV car companies to bring them here so that they could do a bit of a trial run for the customers" for the customers."

As a person now associated with the development of hospitality, he has contributed to many sustainable projects, one of which includes a small patch of exotic vegetables being farmed to sustain the hotel.

Talking about a life-changing memory, he up her old house in

from the industrial town

Jamshedpur, joins *The Pioneer* and shares his affinity, love for

mentions that it relates to both his work and family because he wanted to be a hotelier. From a salesperson into an operational role, he shares, "I had come in here as a director of sales and marketing. From my family's perspective, I think they were elated with the idea and supported my decision. When you are making transitions, there's a lot of hard work that needs to be done. My wife made sure that she supported the entire endeavour as much as possible. Now I am in my 11th year as a general manager, thanks to Hyderabad and the hotel."

He further compares driving in Mumbai versus Hyderabad from his residence to work. He says, "What was different from Mumbai was that I used to calculate the distance in time. Whereas the people in my team, who were local, used to calculate that in terms of kilometers. So for me, Banjara Hills was 30 minutes away and for them, it was 37 kilometers away."

He explains people being puzzled at this, but for him, driving 30 minutes from his residence, which is 2400 sq. ft. according to him, unlike the 700-800 sq. ft. ones in Mumbai, was a welcome thing. He adds, "Language is not a problem, which is typically what people believe in the north—that when you go down to South India, you could have a barrier from a language point of view. We didn't have that."

For him, his wife has been a shadow throughout. He gleeful-ly shares, "My wife loves that song, Tu jahan jahan chalega, mera saya saath hoga. She's been my shadow, and she has been with me for the last 20 years. Having to move every two and a half or three years, my wife has gotten too good at packing

saying, "The city has been very, very kind to us."

For our special Hyderabond segment, Sukhbir Singh, who is

two days and then moving pin codes and moving states. He shares that his wife had a big influence in making the decision to move to Hyderabad since she too enjoys the city.

Kind is the word that comes to his mind when thinking of Hyderabad,

aving a stone in your kidney can be a painful and recurrent condition a painful and recurrent condition that is increasing in the younger population. Recently, it has been seen that there is a rise in kidney cases among youngsters. Kidney stones are deposits of minerals and salts that are formed inside the kidney. They affect parts of the urinary tract, from the kidney to the bladder. When the stone moves through the urinary

tract, it causes a urinary tract infection, severe pain, vomiting and can cause other complications like fever and sepsis.

The impact of heat waves

Recently, India has been experiencing scorching heat, with temperatures above 45 degrees Celsius in many regions. This extreme heat causes various direct and indirect health impacts, which include dehydration and an increased risk of kidney stones. Dehydration causes a reduction in the volume of urine, which allows minerals to crystallise and form stones.

Rising incidence among younger popu-

Traditionally, kidney stones were seen among older adults. However, according to recent trends, there has been an increase in the number of younger adults being diagnosed with kidney stones. Various factors contribute to the rise, including sedentary lifestyle, environmental factors like heat waves, and eating habits.

Study insights

As per a study done by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), it was shown that there has been an increase in kidney stone cases among teenagers. The researcher also added that it is caused by longer exposure to high temperatures, sweating, reduced liquid intake and a higher concentration of stone formation in urine.

Recent news reports

There is a sudden surge in cases related to kidney stones in states that are affected by heat waves. Hospitals in these regions

ed an increase of 30% in emergencies for kidney stones during the summer months.

Factors contributing to the rise Dehydration

It is the most direct consequence of a heat wave. The body loses more fluids, due to which urine becomes concentrated and increases the risk of kidney stone formation. Younger individuals are more vulnerable to it as they are more active and stay outdoors.

Dietary habits

Heat wave worsens kidney

stone crisis for younger people

Modern eating habits include a high intake of processed foods, sugary beverages, and high-sodium food products, which contribute to kidney stone formation. When these eating habits are combined with dehydration, they create the perfect environ-ment for the development of kidney stones.

• Sedentary lifestyle

The rise in sedentary lifestyles among urban youth increases the risk. Lack of physical activity leads to obesity, which is another risk factor for kidney stones.

Preventive measures Hydration

It is important to stay hydrated, as water helps dilute the substances in urine that cause stones. Individuals should aim to consume at least 3 litres of liquid daily.

• Dietary adjustments

Decreasing the consumption of salt, animal protein, and sugar lowers the risk of kidney stone formation. It is beneficial to add high-water-content fruits and vegetables to the diet.

· Regular check-ups

Routine medical check-ups help in the early detection of kidney stones and make it easy to manage them. Individuals with a family history of kidney stones should be more aware.

• Public health

The rise in kidney stone cases among the young population brings a whole new challenge to public health. It leads to an increase in healthcare costs, lost productivity, and long-term complications. Public health campaigns that are focused on prevention, awareness, and early intervention are essential. The sudden surge in kidney stone cases in India,

especially among young adults, is a pressing health concern due to rising heat waves. Addressing the issues leading to the stone formation by creating awareness, taking preventive measures, and providing timely intervention. As there is a change in climate and its impact on global weather patterns, the importance of health measures becomes crucial.

(The author, Dr. Amit Tiwari, is a consultant-urology, at Manipal

Rautu Ka Raaz. Slow burning crime drama with compelling narrative

TANISHA SAXENA

the city.

Plot: Sangeeta, the corrupt and regressive warden of Sewadham, a school for the blind in the village of Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, has been found dead. As Inspector Deepak Negi (played by Nawazuddin Siddiqui) and his team investigate the case, layers of the

Review -

DIRECTED BY : Anand Surapur

PRODUCED BY: Umesh Bansal, Shariq Patel, Chintu Srivastava, Anand Surapur

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Sayak Bhattacharya

CAST: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Rajesh Kumar, Atul Tiwari

STREAMING ON: Zee5 RATING: 3/5

story begin to unravel. The prime suspects include the school's trustee, Manoj Kesari (played by Atul Tiwari), the principal, and

Highlights: Rautu ka Raaz is a slow burning crime thriller set in the backdrop of the hilly terrain of Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand.

hilly terrain of Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. Unlike any typical crime thriller *Rautu ka Raaz* is a subtle portrayal of village life.

Siddiqui's performance is a tour de force, blending stoic resilience with a palpable sense of vulnerability. His portrayal of a man grappling with his inner demons while unraveling external mysteries is nothing short of mesmerising. Complementing Siddiqui's gravitas is Rajesh Kumar, who plays Sub Inspector Naresh Dimri. Kumar's body language and dialogue delivery make this character a uniquely compelling sub inspector,

guage and dialogue delivery make this character a uniquely compelling sub inspector, significantly enriching the narrative.

The supporting cast is equally impressive, with standout performances from Narayani Shastri, Samridhi Chandola, Harshit Verma, and others, adding depth to the film's intricate web of characters. Each role no matter cate web of characters. Each role, no matter how small, feels essential to the fabric of the story, creating a living, breathing community that is as much a part of the mystery as the crime itself.

What sets *Rautu ka Raaz* apart from other crime thrillers is its pacing. This is not a film that rushes to reveal its hand. Instead, it slowly peels back the layers of its narrative, allowing the audience to savour each revelation. This deliberate pace is both a strength and a challenge; it demands patience but rewards

viewers with a richly textured story that stays with them long after the credits roll.

In the compelling narrative of the crime thriller, an unexpected focus emerges on pivotal social issues, particularly the urgent necessity to improve facilities for visually a richly textured cinematic expeimpaired children. Going beyond its primary storyline, the film eloquently portrays the multifaceted lives of visually impaired individuals, subtly emphasising their equal participation in the spectrum of human experiences. A poignant moment unfolds when Rajat, who is blind, inadvertently overhears telling. a conversation revealing unjust treatment by the warden. What is truly commendable is how seamlessly and poignantly these themes are interwoven within the framework of a crime thriller. Moreover, the film's ending is

profoundly touching.

Drawbacks: While Rautu ka Raaz excels in its narrative depth and character development, some viewers might find its slow pacing challenging, especially those accustomed to faster-paced thrillers.

Technical aspects: From the opening

Technical aspects: From the opening frame, the film captures the breathtaking vistas of the Garhwal foothills. The lush, rolling terrain, shrouded in mist, provides a beautiful backdrop that becomes a character in its own right. Cinematographer Sayak Bhattacharya's lens transforms the hills into a labyrinth of mystery, where every twist and turn reveals a new layer of intrigue.

Verdict : Rautu ka Raaz is a must-watch for aficionados of slow-burn crime dramas and those intrigued by narratives that tran-



what's brewing?



The fifth edition of Hyderabad Regional Chapter's flagship event, "IIID Showcase Insider X 2024," with the theme "Design Intelligence," was held. It will conclude at Hitex Exhibition Centre on June 30.











The Maha Tambola, a charitable event organised by Phankaar Innovative Minds in partnership with Hoonar Creations. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the girl child





The ITC Kohinnor in Hyderabad hosted the 10th Machinist Super Shopfloor Awards. Visweswara Reddy N won the Business Leader of the Year award during the













(YRGMERF) announced the Suniti Solomon Memorial Symposium on Friday, which is organised by YRGCARE. The distinguished Dr. Suniti Solomon, founder trustee of YRGMERF, will be honoured for her lifetime legacy and her enormous contributions to healthcare at this conference.



Max Fashions' highly anticipated Max Mania sale, which starts at just Rs 399. At the Max Mania Sale, discover the ideal balance between fashion freedom and bargains.

ARCHIE

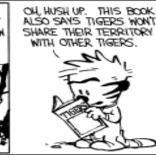






CALVIN AND HOBBES







GARFIELD







KING ARTHUR SEARCHES FOR HIS ANCESTRY: RESULTS: YOUR MOTHER WAS A HAMSTER AND YOUR EATHER SMELLED OF ELDERBERRIES

REALITY CHECK

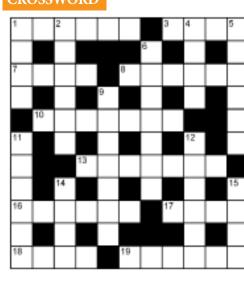
ANKEGTE



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DOWN



NANCY







SUDOKU

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

· Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.

1 A female relation 2 A baby's toy The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45. 4 Water from the sky

ACROSS 5 Four times twenty 1 One of the continents 6 You need this to be 3 Opposite of false allowed to drive a car

7 A short letter 9 The world's largest bird 8 Repairing 11 Wine is made from 10 Went red in the face these

- 13 A game with bat and 12 Middle
- 14 Young woman 16 A king's son 15 Twirl 17 Come to an halt
- 18 Sprinkle this on food 19 A bird that can be trained to race



GINGER MEGGS







DIFFICULTY RATING: ** ** \$\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \fra

Kamal Haasan gets high praise for his role in KALKI 2898 AD

reaction Kalki 2898 AD has been receiving. The actor is presently occupied with the promotion of his next film, *Indian 2*, which will hit theatres on July 12. He has found time in his hectic schedule to view the movie and talk about Kalki 2898 AD. "In Kalki, I have played a small role that makes an appearance for a few minutes only," the actor started. "I haven't even started my actual role in the movie yet; I have more work ahead of me in the sequel. I was shocked when I saw this movie as a fan."

"Kalki 2898 AD is one of many signifiers that Indian cinema is moving towards global entertainment. Nag Ashwin approached mythology with caution and impartiality toward all religions. The storytelling legacy of India is unmatched by any other culture, with the exception of Greece, Japan and China. By bringing every-one together, Ashwin has selected stories from that and carried them out very patiently."

After seeing the movie, Kamal complimented Amitabh Bachchan's performance and stated that he wasn't sure how to classify him. "I'm not sure if he qualifies as a new actor or a veteran. He did a really good job on the movie. It appears like the

uring a special press conference in Chennai, Kamal Haasan finally talked about the movie was created with kids in mind. Now, don't question how a white-haired man can watch these kinds of movies. This movie makes you realize that every adult has a child inside of them. I think this is a fantastic attempt and I'm glad to be involved. The fact that this adventure will continue makes me delighted," he continued.

The cast of Indian 2, which features Kamal Haasan and Shankar, will soon be travelling to Singapore to promote the film. This will be Senapathy's feature film comeback. The actor will also feature in *Thug* Life, a 2025 release directed by Mani



Kalki 2898 AD collects Rs 191.5 cr globally on day one

ag Ashwin's 3D spectacle *Kalki* 2898 AD registered a record opening at the global box office, earning Rs 191.5 crore gross on day one of its release, the makers said on Friday. Touted as a marriage of Hindu epic Mahabharata and science fiction, the big-budget film is produced by Vyjayanthi Movies and was released on Thursday in six languages: Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Hindi and English. It features a star cast led by Prabhas.

Deepika Padukone, Amitabh Bachchan and Kamal Haasan, along with Disha Patani, Saswata Chatterjee and Shobhana. Vyjayanthi Movies shared the opening day figure of the movie on its official X page through a poster which stated that Kalki 2898 AD earned Rs 191.5 crore in gross box office collection (GBOC). The film's day one earnings is the third highest opening day collection for any Indian film. It is behind SS Rajamouli's RRR (Rs 223 crores) and

Baahubali 2 (Rs 217 crores), which also featured Prabhas in the lead role. On Thursday, trade pundits had predicted that the film might earn around Rs 200 crore globally on its opening day. Previously titled *Project K*, it is arguably the most expensive feature film in Indian cinema history, at a reported Rs 600 crore. Large crowds were seen outside theatres in several cities, including Hyderabad and Mumbai. The initial reviews were also favourable.

Prithviraj Sukumaran & wife Supriya Menon acquire stakes in Kochi FC

Pan-India star Prithviraj Sukumaran, known for his impeccable roles in *Aadujeevitham*, *Saalar: Part 1* and many other blockbusters, has acquired stakes emphasised that actor Prithviraj's involvement in the league will create a unique blend of enterin a football team in the Kerala Super League. The power couple, Prithviraj Sukumaran and Supriya Menon, have invested in Kochi FC, one of the six teams competing in the league.

Their involvement brings a new level of excitement and visibility to the league. This move is not only an investment, but also a passionate effort to enhance the local sports culture. By acquiring Kochi FC, the couple aims to provide a platform for budding football talents in the region, creating opportunities for players to

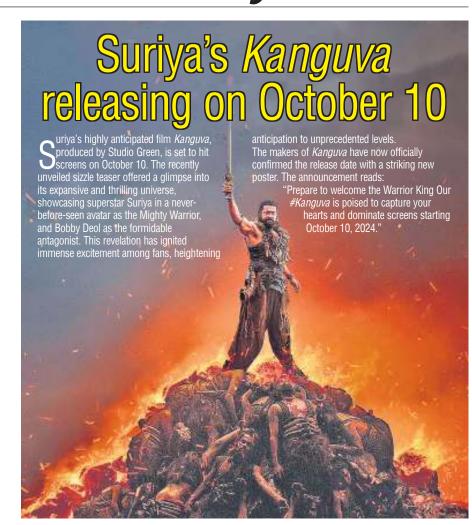
Mathew Joseph, CEO of Super League Kerala,

tainment and sports in Kerala. This exciting development is set to unfold during the 60-day league, starting at the end of August this year.

On the work front, Prithviraj Sukumaran has fans eagerly awaiting his upcoming directorial block-buster, L2: Empuraan, a sequel to the critically acclaimed *Lucifer*.



tollywood



Odela 2 begins crucial schedule in Hyd

dela 2 is a proud production of Madhu Creations and Sampath Nandi Sequences that are being choreographed by top Teamworks, with director Ashok Teja of stunt masters! Odela Railway Station fame.

The first look poster of superstar Tamannaah Bhatia as the wise Naga Saadhu "Bhairavi," which was previously released, went viral throughout the nation and greatly increased anticipation for the movie.

The multilingual supernatural spectacle has finished filming in a number of gorgeous sites in India as part of its first schedule. With the almighty blessings of Mahadev Lord Shiva at his sacred home of Varanasi, the film's filming got underway in March.

Now, the makers have announced that the team has begun a crucial schedule for the film in Hyderabad. According to the



First song from *Double Ismart* to be out on July 1

staad Ram Pothineni and dynamic director Puri Jagannadh are set to dazzle audiences once again with their upcoming Pan-Indian film Double *Ismart*, proudly produced by Puri Jagannadh and Charmme Kaur. The film has been scheduled for release on August 15, 2024, on the eve of Independence Day.

The makers are gearing up for the musical promotions, with renowned composer Mani Sharma returning after delivering a chart-buster album and captivating BGM for the first part. The first single titled *Steppa Maar* is set to release on July 1. A striking poster has been

unveiled, featuring Ram Pothineni exuding stylish vibes and dancing in front of a Lord Shiva statue. The song promises to be an electrifying tune that will instantly captivate the masses, with Ram's dance moves expected to be a major highlight. Choreographed by Jani Master, the lyrics are penned by Bhaskara Bhatla and Anurag Kulkarni has lent his vocals.

Described as a mass action entertainer, Double Ismart has generated immense hype, especially with Sanjay Dutt playing the main antagonist and Kavya Thapar starring as the female

The film will be released in

Telugu, Tamil, Kannada. Malayalam, and Hindi languages.

BEGINS SHOOTING he excitement around Salman Khan's upcoming film *Sikandar* has intensified as the shooting progresses in Mumbai, with the recent addition of Rashmika Mandanna to the sets. Directed by renowned filmmaker AR Murugadoss and

produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, Sikandar is slated for an Eid 2025 release. According to sources, the actress is currently in Mumbai and has joined the shooting of the film. Salman Khan, a Bollywood icon known for his charisma and box-office prowess, headlines Sikandar alongside Rashmika Mandanna, marking her eagerly anticipated debut opposite Khan. The film promises a blend of action, drama and entertainment, characteristic of Murugadoss's directorial style. Sikandar is set to captivate audiences with its compelling storyline and stellar performances. With production in full swing and Mumbai providing the

> among fans eager to witness Khan and Mandanna's on-screen chemistry. As the Eid 2025 release date draws nearer, Sikandar is poised to be a blockbuster, offering viewers a cinematic treat filled with excitement and emotion

backdrop for pivotal scenes, anticipation is building

K'taka murder case: Naga Shaurya defends Darshan

ctor Naga Shaurya has expressed his support for Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who is currently in custody in connection with the alleged murder case of Renukaswamy. Naga shared a photo on his Instagram, showing Darshan tying a watch on him. Addressing Darshan as "anna" (brother), Naga wrote in his post that Darshan is not someone who could ever harm anvone and expressed confidence in Darshan's innocence. "My heart goes out to the family of the deceased, and I genuinely wish them strength during this difficult time," Naga Shaurya wrote in his Instagram post. The actor expressed disappointment at people rushing to conclusions about the issue. He stated, "Darshan Anna is not someone who could ever harm

anyone, even in his worst

him well can attest to his

nightmares. Those who know

generosity, kind-hearted nature.

and unwavering commitment to

helping others. He has always

gone out of his way to support

those in need and has been a pillar of strength for many." Naga Shaurya also conveyed his faith in the judicial system, believing that the truth will soon come to light. He emphasised the need for privacy and respect for the families involved in the challenging situation. "We must also remember

that another family is suffering greatly as well. They deserve privacy and respect during this challenging period. I firmly believe that Anna, known for his integrity and compassion, will be proven innocent and that the real culprit will be brought to justice," he concluded in his post, adding a folded hands emoji. For those unfamiliar with the situation, Darshan and his

friend Pavithra Gowda were arrested on June 11 in connection with the alleged murder of Darshan's fan Renukaswamy. According to police officials, Renukaswamy had allegedly sent obscene messages to Gowda, which reportedly led to the tragic

trailer hints it's a new concept film

he trailer of the film Raa Raja, directed by B. Shivaprasad and starring Sugi Vijay and Mounika Maguluri as the lead hero and heroine respectively, has been released under the banner of Sri Padmini Cinema. The trailer was impressive with its unique



concept, extraordinary taking and brilliant background score. Without revealing the character faces, the concept designed is very interesting. The horror

thriller elements have created lot of curiosity. The new concept of Raa Raja will give audiences a very different experience when they see the trailer. Shekhar Chandra is providing music for this film. while Rahul Srivatsav is handling the DOP. Uppu Maruthi is the editor, and Ramachandrayulu is the art director. Makers have announced to make the release date of this film official very soon.

Raghava Lawrence's *Benz* to star Fahadh Faasil & SJ Suriya

n an exciting update from the world of cinema, Raghava Lawrence is all set to helm his next directorial venture titled *Benz*, which promises to be a

captivating thriller featuring two acclaimed actors in antagonistic roles. The film has garnered attention with sources confirming that Fahadh Faasil and SJ Suriya will portray pivotal villainous characters. Raghava Lawrence, known for his dynamic filmmaking style and penchant for blending action with emotional depth, has chosen a compelling narrative for Benz. The inclusion of Fahadh Faasil and SJ Suriya, both renowned for their versatility and

intense portrayals on screen, adds an intriguing dimension to the project.

Bakkiyaraj Kannan, celebrated for his directorial prowess showcased in films like *Remo* and *Sulthan*, brings his distinct vision to Benz. The collaboration between Lawrence, Kannan and the ensemble cast promises a cinematic experience that will keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Speaking about the film, Raghava Lawrence expressed his enthusiasm for working with Fahadh Faasil and SJ Suriya, highlighting their

ability to bring depth and complexity to their respective characters. He shared his excitement for the audience to witness their performances in roles that challenge traditional perceptions of antagonists in Indian cinema.

Benz is poised to be a milestone in Raghava Lawrence's career, marking his foray into a genre that blends high-octane action with intricate storytelling. As anticipation mounts for further details

about the film's plot and production, fans

and critics alike eagerly await its release to witness the clash of titans portrayed by Fahadh Faasil and SJ Suriya. With production underway and the groundwork laid for a gripping narrative, Benz is set to redefine the boundaries of cinematic storytelling, promising audiences an unforgettable cinematic journey into the world of intense drama and thrilling confrontations.



The stars of Indian 2 arrived for their movie promotions in Malaysia. Kamal Haasan, Siddharth and SJ Suriya, landed in the vibrant city amidst cheering fans and flashing cameras on Friday. The makers took to their social media handles to share the image of the trio having their moment in Malaysia as they landed there

he pioneer

Proteas will succumb to unplayable Axar, Kuldeep in final: Sarandeep

ormer India cricketer Sarandeep Singh feels the "unplayable" spin ■ "unplayable" spin combination of Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel will be too much for the South Africans to handle during the T20 World Cup final in Bridgetown,

Barbados on Saturday.
Wrist spinner Kuldeep has taken 10 wickets in four games with a best of 3/19, while Axar has grabbed eight from seven games with a best of 3/23. Both left-arm spinners are

expected to play in the final.
"If you ask me, who are the two players who will win it for India in the final, I will say Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel. They are outright matchwinners in spin-friendly conditions," Sarandeep told

PTI Videos on Friday.
"We are having at the world's best spinners at the moment. Look at the way Kuldeep and Axar came in, they are winning all the games. They are unplayable. Everyone is talking about Kuldeep. He is going to destroy the South African middle order.

"He has done it against England, it will not be easy for

England (in semifinals). Now it's the turn of South Africa. Axar is also a very dangerous slow left-arm orthodox bowler. An outright match-winner. Indian spinners will win the final."

India and South Africa are coming into the final having not lost a single match in the World Cup. While South Africa won all their eight games, India were victorious in seven as the tie against Canada in Florida was washed out due to rain.

Sarandeep, who played three Tests and five ODIs, added that Axar and Kuldeep would be even more potent on the spin-friendly Bridgetown wicket.

"Axar starts getting wickets from the sixth over. It's not easy for Axar to bowl in powerplay. He comes, bowls, and makes things easy for the rest of the bowlers. Kuldeep and Axar are complementing each other so well.

"The wickets in West Indies are not easy to play especially if you have world-class spinners like Kuldeep and Axar. It was not easy for Australia (in Super 8s) and South Africa



Sarandeep observed. The former India off-spinner

added that skipper Rohit Sharma was spot on in his assessment of Caribbeans conditions and opted for four

spinners.
"Rohit opted for four spinners but (Yuzvendra) Chahal is not in the scheme of things. The reason is, others have done their job exceedingly well. (Ravindra) Jadeja is the senior-most player but he is not coming into powerplay. Axar knows how to bowl in these conditions. He is the best option for us to bowl into the powerplay. He is giving the results as well," he added. On whether South African

spinners Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi could also trouble the Indian batters, Sarandeep said, "Yes they will. Keshav and Shamsi are also very good. Let's see how Indian batsmen handle the spinners.

"India has a very strong middle order. India has left-handers like Rishabh Pant, Shivam Dube, Axar, and Jadeja. Four left-handers in the middle order. It will be interesting to see how Maharaj and Shamsi are going to tackle will be a big challenge for them

Sarandeep added that India has the best batting and bowling lineup in the world. "Bumrah's economy is 3.5 or 3.6. This is so unreal. Other bowlers go over 9 or 10. Even after eight games, his economy is 3.5. This is so unreal. What else can you ask from him? India is the favourites not only in batting but bowling as well.

runs in seven innings.
"Virat is waiting for the final to perform. He is a world-class player, no doubt. He is mentally very strong. He is a team man. He is playing for the team. And there is some plan given to him.

The former cricketer played down Virat Kohli's lack of

form. Virat has scored only 76

"Normally he opens only in the IPL. But here he had been given a clear-cut role. Virat is trying to hit from the first ball and trying to put more pressure on the bowlers. But somehow he is getting out quickly. But I am not worried about him. He is a big-match player. And that big game is coming. His big innings is coming against South Africa."

Buttler admits tactical mistake of not bowling Moeen Ali on turning Providence track

PTI ■ GEORGETOWN (GUYANA)

Admitting that they were completely outplayed by India in the T20 World Cup semifinal, England skipper Jos Buttler said in hindsight it was a tactical mistake on his part to not bowl Moeen Ali on a turning Providence pitch

Indian spin twin of Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav claimed three wickets each as the defending champions folded for 103 in 16.4 overs in their pursuit of 172 in a rain-

pursuit of 1/2 in a rain-interrupted semi-final here on Thursday. "Yeah, disappointing. I think we were outplayed by India. They fully deserved the victory," Buttler said in the post-match media interaction.

'They had an above-par score. I was hoping to restrict them to 145-150 probably on that pitch. It was always going would have got Moeen (Ali) "India played a really good to be a tough chase from

Having won the toss, the England skipper went in with an unchanged XI and it was Adil Rashid and Liam Livingstone who were his chosen spinners, overlooking Moeen Ali perhaps to deal with the damp conditions.

Rashid and Livingstone conceded just 49 runs in their

eight overs with the former also ending the explosive innings of India skipper Rohit Sharma for a 39-ball 57 in the Asked about thei

14th over. Asked if there was a failure of plans or execution, Buttler said: "A little bit of both. I thought they played well as well. I thought we bowled a little bit without luck in the power play, a few close calls

"But, yes, I think the benefit of hindsight and reflecting, I



there," Buttler admitted.

The ball was turning viciously and staying low as Rohit placed close-in fielders that resembled playing Tests in

"I think everyone knew what to expect from this wicket. I think traditionally the bounce is low. And yeah, I thought India played really well and they played the conditions

Asked about their playing combination, Buttler said:
"We thought long and hard about selection, about whether we kept the same balance that had been working well, or did we need four seamers on that particular wicket. That was a really tough call that we made and we ended up sticking with what we had."

in the game of course. So, yes, game of cricket, whatever team or whatever happened at the toss -- they were going to be a tough team to beat and we had to be at our best if we were going to win the game and we were short of our best

today. India will face South Africa in the final and Buttler feels it will be a game of close margins. "The two top sides in the final is going to be a game of small margins and it's going to be a great game. Two really good teams," he said.

The Buttler-led side managed to beat only one Test playing nation -- West Indies -- in this tournament and were on the brink of early elimination after a washout against Scotland and a defeat to Australia in the group stage. However, Australia handed them a lifeline by beating Scotland and they narrowly

managed to make the Super 8s beating Namibia via DLS

method. "Reaching a semi-final of a World Cup is an achievement. World Cup is an achievement. We wanted to obviously go all the way. That was what we came here for," said Buttler, who led them to the T20 World Cup title in 2022 after taking over white-ball captaincy from Eoin Morgan. "We foced lots of challenges." "We faced lots of challenges and adversity throughout the whole tournament and we've stuck together well and played well enough to get to this stage. But unfortunately, at this stage, we've fallen short." "I think everyone has made progress and we've played well and not well enough, but I think the stuff that we've been doing behind the scenes, the way we've prepared, the way we've trained, the way we've played in patches has been really good. "There's a lot of talent in the

team. And yes, we came up these conditions," he said. Asked if there would be fresh

faces the next time, he said: "Yeah, I think... I can't do that I haven't taken in the defeat. Very much thinking about this game and what happened and yeah, I think they say there's some time between today and the next matches, and we can see what happens."

On his future plans and whether he would stay on as captain until the Champions Trophy in Pakistan in February, he said: "To be honest, I'm just looking forward to some time away

from the game.
"As I sit here, emotional after a loss, I don't need to dive too deep into it right now. I just look forward to some space from the game."

Plan was to make it difficult for England without doing anything extraordinary: Axar

PTI ■ GEORGETOWN (GUYANA)

His exploits in the powerplay set up India's massive win over England and left-arm spin-ner Axar Patel said keeping things simple was the key as it helped him make life difficult for rival batters "without doing anything extraordinary".

Coming in to bowl in the fourth over, Axar (3/23) removed England skipper Jos Buttler off his very first delivery before dismissing Jonny Bairstow and Moeen Ali in consecutive overs to derail England's chase as they eventually folded for 103 in pursuit of 172 in the T20 World Cup semifinals here on Thursday.

"Obviously in powerplay, it is difficult (to bowl) but when you know that you are getting help from the wicket, then without thinking much, without doing anything extraordinary, I thought that the more I keep it simple, the easier it would be for me," Axar said during the postmatch press conference.



"We spoke in the dressing room that it's not an easy wicket (for batting), and I knew that the batsmen will charge at me. It wasn't going to be easy to hit me down the ground and also (they) couldn't hit off the back foot because the ball wasn't coming on the bat.

"So my plan was to make it difficult for them, force them to think of playing some other shots, and, that's what happened on the first ball. So that was the plan."

Axar sent his first ball from round the wicket and Buttler, looking for the reverse-sweep, ended up lobbing it up for wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant to do the rest.

"I hadn't really planned to get a wicket on the first ball. My mindset was to put the ball in the right areas. Obviously, when you play knockouts, you want to start and finish well with the first and last ball," said Axar, who was adjudged the Player-of-the-Match. "I think it was difficult to hit big

shots, to sweep and reverse sweep because some balls was keeping low on this wicket, so vou can't connect it so easily." India scored 171 for 7 after being asked to take first strike and Axar said they were confident of defending the total.

"I think 170 was a par score, we could defend it. Rohit bhai said after he finished batting that it was very difficult to hit big shots because the odd ball was spinning, it was staying low and skidding as well.

"When we made 170, we knew that we had scored 10-15 runs extra, which we could have defended."

Batting at number eight, Axar also hit a six during his 10-run cameo and he said it gave him an idea about the nature of the surface as the pacers were bowling slower balls in the death

"Obviously, I got a clue from that (batting) as to what I could do and what I couldn't. When I went to bat, everyone was bowling slower, the ball was not coming at the speed I wanted so I couldn't connect properly. So giving pace would have made it easy for them. It was important to hit the ball at a good area. "It's also about pressure. When

you are chasing, and you know that the wicket is helping the bowlers, as an opener, or anyone in the top four, they think of cashing in on the powerplay as much as possible but it didn't work out.

Shafali Verma becomes fastest woman double-centurion in Test cricket

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Dashing India opener Shafali Verma smashed the fastest double-century in the history of women's Test cricket, eclipsing Annabel Sutherland of Australia during the one-off Test against South Africa here on Friday. Shafali, 20, scored her double ton off just

194 balls, bettering Sutherland's feat, which came off 248 balls against South Africa earlier this year. Shafali also became the second Indian after former skipper Mithali Raj to hit a double century in Test cricket after almost 22 long years here. Mithali's 214 had come off 407 balls and the former India skipper achieved during



the drawn second Test against England at Taunton in August, 2022

Shafali struck 23 fours and eight maximums during her attacking knock. She brought up her twin ton with consecutive sixes of off-spinner Delmi Tucker, followed by a single. Shafali was finally run out at 205 off 197

Besides, her opening partner Smriti Mandhana also made an attacking 149 off 161 balls with the help of 27 boundaries and one six to stitch a formidable opening partnership of 292 runs, which came off in just 52 overs. India are going great guns against South Africa on the opening day scoring at close to a run-a-ball.

Last Tango: Possibly final time Rohit and Virat will play for India in T20I format

New Delhi,(PTI)

there.

This Saturday afternoon in Barbados, no Indian fan would want Rohit Sharma to drag his jaded body towards the dug-out trying to hide a tear welling up at the corner of his

No Indian fan would want to revisit Virat Kohli's blank stare towards the podium where the coveted ODI World Cup trophy rested exactly seven months and 10 days back.

What they would surely want is to see the two greats do a memorable tango in probably their 'Last Dance' in the game's shortest format, at least in India colours.

If one understands the drift of Indian cricket's ecosystem, whether it is the BCCI mandarins or the national selectors, they want the troika of Kohli, Rohit and also Ravindra Jadeja to go out on a high from the format. This is because next month's Zimbabwe series would certainly usher in a new dawn keeping in mind the 2026 T20 World Cup in

To prepare for any global trophy,

the core needs to be finalised two years in advance and in 2026, a 39-year-old Rohit or a nearly 38year-old Kohli or even Jadeja are unlikely to fit in.
At this point, with the focus firmly on the final, no one wants

to use the sensitive 'R' word as far as T20Is are concerned but it is believed that if India can beat South Africa in Barbados on Saturday, both skipper Rohit and Kohli would know that in this format, they have nothing more left to achieve.

There may or may not be a formal announcement as they would continue be a part of IPL, where they are still two of the biggest brands apart from Mahendra Singh Dhoni and the non-cricketer -- Shah Rukh

For Kohli, it will be the completion a of cycle with all three ICC white-ball trophies (2011 ODI World Cup, 2013 Champions Trophy) in his cabinet.

Just like Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara decided immediately after beating India in that 2014 T20 World Cup final that they would both quit the



shortest format, one doesn't know if the two greats would do something similar.

Kohli and Rohit, the two

and 119 catches between them generational talents with 8334 are the last bridge between the T20I runs, six centuries, 69 fifties old and new and they both far as white ball global triumph is

deserve to be in the same frame concerned. A T20 World Cup

those two victories belonged to the Dhonis, Sachin Tendulkars, man they revered. Kohli earned and Yuvraj Singhs way more. This trophy would rightfully belong to them.

Champions have egos -- some have pretty pronounced ones, while few others keep them concealed.

One could gauge the pain in Kohli's eyes after he got out against England and if anyone wants to count the 'King' out of the final, do it at your own peril. For Rohit, if one wants to sum up November 19, 2023 for him, the apt coinage would be Sudhir Mishra's 1996 cult classic "Is Raat Ki Subaah Nahi".

Even if he asserts that he has moved on, the wounds have healed, he would still be itching

for a closure. One can say with a degree of certainty that had India won the 2023 ODI World Cup, Rohit would not have been desperate to play this edition of the T20 World Cup.

with that trophy in hand.

Both are World Cup winners but

triumph would give him that.

His popularity is organic. Dhoni respect with his humongous onfield achievements. But Rohit gets love, unadulterated -- from peers as well as juniors.

No wonder Ravichandran Ashwin chokes while narrating how the skipper asked one of the team physios to accompany the spinner to Chennai after his mother had a health scare and that too in the middle of a Test match.

They have seen the crests and troughs of Indian cricket together for more than a decade. They had arrived when Nokia 3310 was in vogue and in their twilight zone, they are witness to change in nature of fandom-every third android phone owner is either a 'Viratian' or a 'Rohitian'.

Thankfully for Rohit and Kohli, there is nothing more to prove. If Saturday indeed is their 'Last Dance' in T20Is, the void will be difficult to fill not just in terms of quality but also, and perhaps more so, emotionally.