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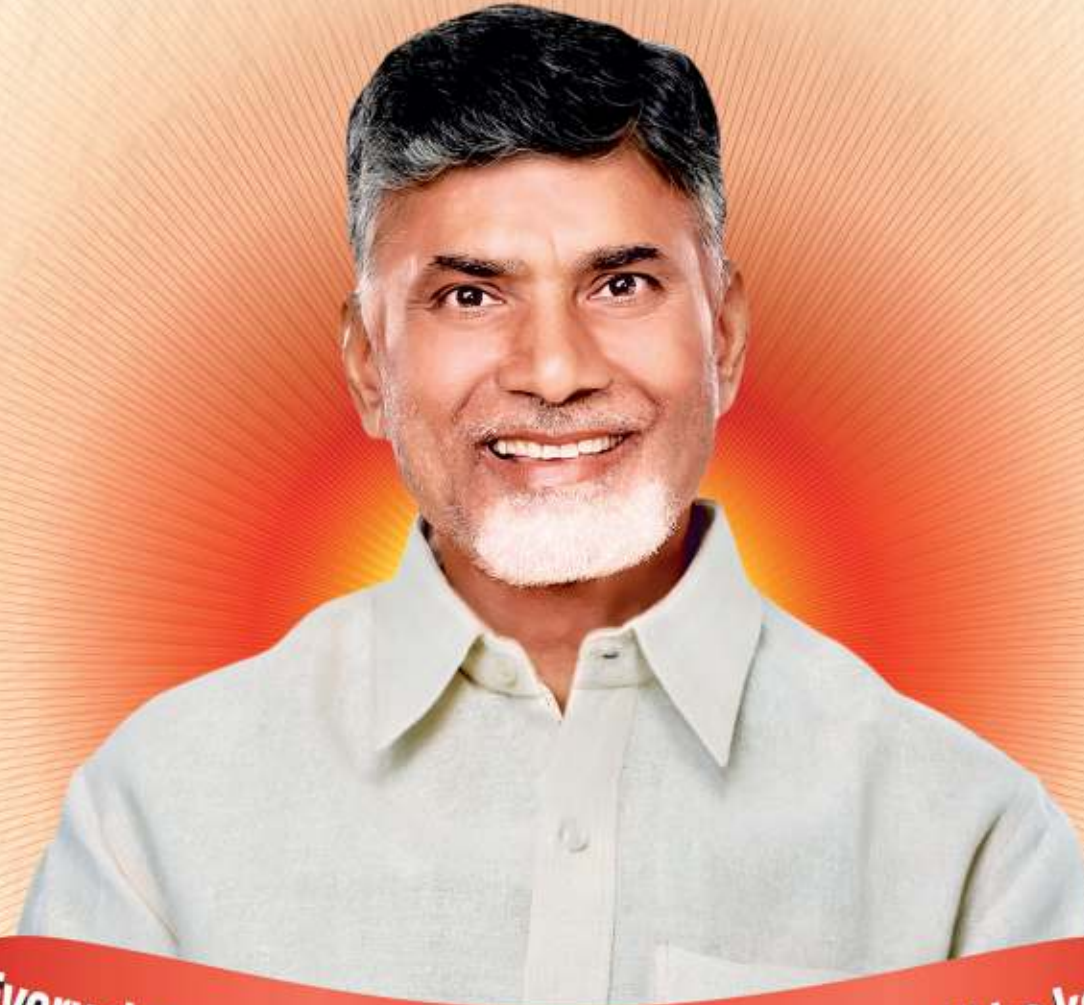
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The beginning of a new, glorious era for Andhra Pradesh!



Every dream will be realized. Every promise will be kept

Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu Garu Will swear in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

Date & Time

12th of June, 2024, Wednesday At 11:27 AM

Venue

Kesarapalli IT Park, Gannavaram, Krishna District

Guests of Honour

Sri Narendra Modi Garu

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Sri S Abdul Nazeer Garu Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh

Sri Amit Shah Garu Hon'ble Union Home Minister of India

Special Guests

Smt. Purandeswari Garu

Hon'ble State President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Andhra Pradesh

Sri Pawan Kalyan Garu

Hon'ble State President of Jana Sena Party

Heartfelt Welcome to everyone!

Issued by: Commissioner, Information & Public Relations Department



Union Min Varma promises to bring new industries to State

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

Union Minister of State for Industries and Steel, Bhupatiraju Srinivasa Varma, emphasised the need for the establishment of industries in Andhra Pradesh (AP) and assured efforts to bring new industries to the state.

During his visit to the city on Tuesday, his first since taking the oath of office on June 9, the Union Minister addressed the media, highlighting the importance of

creating a favourable environment for investors to attract industrial development in AP. "The allocation of land and approval of permissions should be expedited. The necessary infrastructure must be provided to investors to facilitate the setup of industries here," Varma stated.

He expressed regret that no new industries had been established during the five years of the YSRCP regime and pointed out that existing industries had relocated to

neighbouring states. He cited the example of Amara Raja Batteries, which moved its new unit to Telangana due to the YSRCP regime's indifference.

Varma affirmed his commitment to working hard for the establishment of industries in AP in his capacity as Union Minister for Industries and Steel.

He also mentioned seeking the assistance of Union Minister H.D. Kumara Swamy to achieve this goal.

No need to pull each other down on basis of numbers Will reach out to everyone: Rijuji

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Assuming charge as Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Rijju said the government is yet to take a call on the dates of the first session of Parliament after the constitution of the 18th Lok Sabha. Officials said the first session could be held in the last week of June. "The Session dates are under discussion. I cannot share right now," Rijju said.

Rijju assumed charge as the Parliamentary Affairs Minister in the presence of his predecessor

Prashad Joshi and Ministers of State Arjun Ram Meghwal and I. Murugan.

"We need not pull each other down on the basis of numerical strength. People use muscle power outside Parliament, but inside the House, we should use vocal power for good debate," he said when asked about the increase in the strength of the opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Rijju said the people of the country were supreme and their decision reflected in the results of the Lok Sabha elections should be respected.

"Those entrusted with the responsibility to run the government should do so, those tasked with the job of the opposition should discharge their duties," the four-term Lok Sabha member from Arunachal Pradesh said.

J-K TERROR ATTACK Rajgovt announces Rs 50 L compensation, jobs for kin of victims

PNS ■ JAIPUR

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

The decision was taken after talks with protesting locals who held a dharna outside the Chomu police station on Tuesday, demanding government jobs and greater compensation to the families. The bodies of the four people, including a two-year-old boy, killed in the terror attack on a bus carrying pilgrims, were brought here by train on Tuesday and were taken to Harmada and Chomu by their relatives, police said.

VPA unveils plans to propel cruise tourism

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Building on the success of the inaugural visit by the luxury cruise ship "The World," the Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) is taking a proactive approach to solidify Visakhapatnam's position as a premier cruise tourism destination. The VPA has convened a key stakeholder meeting to strategize a comprehensive cruise tourism development plan. This collaborative effort will involve key industry players, including investors, representatives from the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department and AP Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC), travel operators, and the hospitality sector. The focus will be on leveraging the potential of the world-class Visakhapatnam International Cruise Terminal (VICT), inaugurated in September 2023 with a capacity for 2,000

passenger vessels.

Speaking to The Pioneer, the Chairman of the VPA Dr M Angamuthu said "based on the feedback, we will adopt a short-term and long-term cruise tourism promotion strategy with scope for mid-course corrections whenever required." He also highlighted plans to delegate the operation and maintenance of the cruise terminal to a private entity with industry expertise, given the specialized nature of cruise terminal management. Recognizing the crucial role of state government collaboration, Dr. Angamuthu stressed the need to showcase Visakhapatnam's unique tourist offerings and infrastructure. The objective is to attract a steady stream of international visitors, fostering economic growth through increased foreign exchange revenue and job creation for local residents.

The positive feedback



received from "The World's" passengers, impressed by the city's scenic beauty and warm hospitality, serves as a strong validation of Visakhapatnam's potential. Insights gleaned from the 15th Task Force Meeting on Cruise Tourism will provide a valuable foundation for the upcoming strategic discussions. By fostering strategic partnerships and implementing targeted initiatives, Visakhapatnam Port can enhance its appeal to

both domestic and international cruise lines. The focus will be on capitalizing on the region's cultural heritage, historical significance, and natural beauty to build a sustainable cruise tourism ecosystem.

Proposals to enrich the tourist experience include incorporating cultural and historical shows, exhibitions, and performances into onshore excursions. Collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Culture and local

cultural institutions are envisioned to provide authentic and engaging experiences for cruise passengers. The meticulous development of surrounding areas like Simhachalam, Araku, and Bhemili into cultural hubs is also part of the long-term vision. Additionally, industry leader Raja Vaiz, Chairman of Littoral Cruises, expressed optimism about the potential for regular cruise packages connecting Visakhapatnam to popular Southeast Asian destinations like Singapore, Colombo, and Bangkok.

With a commitment to strategic planning and active stakeholder engagement, Visakhapatnam is well-positioned to secure its place as a major player in the global cruise tourism market. This strategic development holds the promise of significant economic and cultural benefits for the city.

IIM-V launches leadership talk series

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam (IIMV) marked the commencement of the new academic year (2024-25) for its PGP students with a high-profile event on Tuesday. The event saw the launch of a brand-new leadership talk series titled "IIMV VYAKHYAN," organized by the institute's Career Development Services (CDS) team and the Placement Committee. The inaugural episode featured a distinguished alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad, Sreedhar Bevara, as the chief guest. Bevara is a seasoned business leader, a respected government advisor, and a best-selling author with acclaimed leadership books like "Moment of Signal" and "The Roaring Lambs."

A well-recognized figure in the corporate world, Bevara has been featured as a Forbes contributor and is a sought-after motivational speaker at prestigious institutions globally. His contributions to leadership development have garnered widespread media



coverage in India and internationally. His book "The Roaring Lambs" was an Amazon's Popular Book Award winner in the Business & Economics category in 2021 and achieved National Bestseller status. The session, held at IIMV's new campus, saw enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and staff, all currently part of the second year of the flagship PGP MBA program.

Prof. Deepika Gupta, Chairperson of CDS & Alumni Relations, welcomed the audience and introduced

Bevara. The Placement Committee further elaborated on his achievements and announced a generous donation by Bevara - 750 copies of his book "The Roaring Lambs" to be distributed to all faculty and students. This initiative is funded by the BMR Charitable Trust, founded in memory of his late brother Muralidhara Rao (BMR), to promote knowledge and empower young minds.

Bevara's talk commenced with a captivating anecdote from a trip to Dubai, where

he shared the importance of kindness as a crucial leadership trait alongside the need for individuals to set clear goals and pursue them with unwavering commitment.

He emphasized the significance of maintaining a healthy balance between physical, mental, and spiritual well-being to support one's ambitions, encouraging everyone to strive for self-improvement.

The event concluded with the distribution of "The Roaring Lambs" to the attendees.

UCC part of our agenda: Meghwal



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

He also rejected suggestions that there was a conflict between the executive and the judiciary. Meghwal on Tuesday assumed charge as the minister of state (independent charge) for the ministry of law and justice. He held the same portfolio in the previous Modi government too.

Responding to a question on key vacancies in his ministry, he said wherever there are vacancies, be it the Supreme Court, high court or our ministry or the subordinate courts, we will try to fill them at the earliest. On the issue of simultaneous polls, he said the committee under former president Ram Nath Kovind has submitted its report and we will inform about it later.

Amaravati springs back...

Continued from Page 3

The government is taking steps on a war footing to accelerate the construction of the Amaravati capital. For the past four to five days, CRDA officials have been conducting minor repairs, clearing jungles, and restoring electric lights in the capital area by deploying 83 JCBs and tippers along major roads in the master plan, including Seed Axis Road and Karakatta Road.

Newly appointed Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad, along with CRDA Commissioner Vivek Yadav, visited

the capital region and instructed the concerned officials to prepare a necessary action plan to expedite the construction of Amaravati capital immediately after the swearing-in ceremony on June 12.

The Chief Secretary visited Uddandarayunipalem, the CRDA project site where Bhumi Puja was previously held. He also inspected the residential complex buildings for All India Service officers, the quarters for MLAs, and the residential complexes for AP NGO employees. Additionally, the Chief Secretary reviewed structures such as the

10 MLD water treatment plant and Happy Nest, as well as the additional building complex of the High Court, which is already functioning.

With the Amaravati capital restoration works gaining momentum over the past few days, the real estate business has seen a new surge, with land rates rising not only in Amaravati but also in major cities and towns across the state. Experts predict a surge in property values, driven by increased demand for residential, commercial, and retail spaces. The government's commitment to developing Amaravati into a modern urban

centre includes comprehensive plans for infrastructure, such as advanced transportation networks, green spaces, and smart city amenities.

Real estate developers are already eyeing Amaravati for new projects, anticipating a flood of investments. The city's strategic location, coupled with the government's vision for a world-class capital, makes it an attractive destination for both investors and homebuyers. The development blueprint includes sustainable practices, ensuring that Amaravati not only grows but does so in an environmentally friendly manner.

Chandrababu ...

Continued from Page 3

"There will be no space for unrest, and it is our collective responsibility to meet the expectations of the people. I salute all the people of the State for the mandate they have given," Naidu said. Naidu noted that, unlike the 1994 elections where the alliance did not win many seats, this time the NDA lost only 11 seats. He mentioned that the alliance made a near-clean sweep in almost all Lok Sabha constituencies, except for a few. The Jana Sena won all 21 seats it contested, while the BJP won eight out of the 10 segments it contested.

Naidu recalled Pawan Kalyan's unwavering support during his difficult times, particularly when he was in jail, and appreciated Kalyan's efforts in allying to prevent the anti-incumbency vote from being divided.

"I know how to work hard for the welfare of the people, and we should respectfully conduct the Assembly. Those who have committed blunders will be held accountable according to the law," Naidu stated.

Power is responsibility....

Continued from Page 3

He called on the JSP MLAs to remain accessible to the public, highlighting that, unlike other political parties, the JSP had been with the people for 10 years without holding power.

Recalling a conversation with national leaders in Delhi, Pawan Kalyan noted their surprise at the JSP's ability to sustain itself without power for a decade. He urged the MLAs to prioritize issues within their constituencies and work towards resolving them.

Pawan Kalyan assured that if assistance from the Union government was needed, he would seek it. He mentioned that farmers in Palakonda had complained about elephant herds destroying their crops, indicating that such issues require immediate attention.

"We have promised to provide drinking and irrigation water, education, and employment. We must strive diligently to fulfil our promises," he told the MLAs.

He also pointed out the deteriorating law and order situation under the previous government, stressing the new administration's duty to protect the people. He highlighted the importance of meeting the expectations of the new generation, who had significantly contributed to the 2024 election. He advised the MLAs to address any public grievances seriously and find the root causes of their anger.

Furthermore, he instructed the MLAs to refrain from personal abuse and baseless accusations. Nadendla Manohar also addressed the gathering.

Boys outshine girls in...

Continued from Page 3

Palarigi Sathish Reddy from Anantapur secured 4th rank, Komatineni Manish Choudry from Guntur 5th, Eppa Lakshmi Narasimha Reddy from Siddipet, Telangana 6th, Golla Leha Harsha from Kurnool 7th, Puttu Kysal Kumar from Anantapur 8th, Paramaradhya Sushanth from Hanamkonda, Telangana 9th, and Kamirisetty Prabhas from Prakasam 10th.

In the Agriculture stream, Yellu Srishanth Reddy from Hyderabad secured 1st rank, followed by Poola Divya Teja from Sri Sathya Sai district in 2nd, and Vadlapudi Mukesh Choudary from Tirupati in 3rd. Pera Sathvik from Chittoor secured 4th rank, Aloor Praneetha from Annamayya district 5th, Gutta Bhanuteja Sai from Anantapur 6th, Pennamada Neeharika Reddy from Hyderabad 7th, Sambangi Mani Abhiram from Vizag 8th, Saragadam Pavan from Vizag 9th, and Nagudasari Narayana Rao from Manyam 10th. Notably, the 1st and 7th ranks in the agriculture stream were secured by students from Telangana.

Syamala Rao explained that 25% weightage is given to marks obtained in group subjects in Intermediate or equivalent exams, and 75% weightage to normalized marks obtained

in EAMCET-2024 for awarding ranks.

A total of 1,82,283 female candidates (Engineering 1,16,205 and Agriculture 66,080) and 1,80,566 male candidates (Engineering 1,58,008 and Agriculture 22,558) registered for the examination.

The examination saw registrations from 2,24,317 students in the AU region, 1,17,858 in the SVU region, 16,248 in the OU region, and 4,428 non-locals. The candidates included 1,08,224 OC, 44,710 BC-A, 50,116 BC-B, 2,266 BC-C, 67,133 BC-D, 19,014 BC-E, 59,082 SC, and 12,306 ST. Additionally, 19 candidates applied for a scribe, 76 candidates opted for Urdu medium, and 4,580 students availed corrections at the helpline centre for mistakes during application submission.

The exam featured 160 multiple-choice questions in bilingual mode (English/Telugu). Around 1,000 invigilators, 300 observers/special observers, and 142 chief superintendents per session were assigned.

Vice-chancellors of various state universities visited the test centres during the examinations. Officials from district administration, district collectors, superintendents of police, APEPDCEL, APSRTC, DMHOS, and education institutions cooperated to ensure the smooth conduct of the examination, said the Principal Secretary.

Modi, Shah...

Continued from Page 3

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

Their attendance carries added significance as it coincides with the swearing-in of Pawan Kalyan, a member of their family and president of the Jana Sena Party, as the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Further enhancing the star-studded affair, Superstar Rajnikanth has also graced Vijayawada with his presence, adding to the allure of the momentous event.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

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

- Alleti Maheshwar Reddy, BJP leader



P4



India eyes oil deals with Russia and others: Puri

'SANJAY LEELA' BHANSALI OFFERED ME A FRESH LEASE ON LIFE'



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



DON'T MISS...

Vizag Airport, VSP poised for...

The inclusion of MPs from Andhra Pradesh in the Union Cabinet is anticipated to pave the way for significant advancements in both Visakhapatnam Airport and the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. MP Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu from Uttarandhra has been appointed as the Minister of Civil Aviation in Prime Minister Modi's cabinet. Local residents are optimistic that Naidu's deep understanding of the region will enable him to effectively address local needs and improve facilities. Visakhapatnam currently offers international flights to Singapore, Thailand...

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Naidu to organise 'Godavari...'

Nara Chandrababu Naidu, who is taking the oath of office on Wednesday, has the rare opportunity to organise the sacred 'Godavari Pushkaralu' for the third time as Chief Minister. Naidu first organised the 'Godavari Pushkaralu' as Chief Minister of the combined Andhra Pradesh state in 2003. His government also oversaw the event in 2014. Now, the 'Godavari Pushkaralu' will be held in 2027, and the Naidu-led government will again be responsible for organising the event.

-PAGE: 5

'Industry expects growth-oriented...'

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

-PAGE: 8

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

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

-SPORTS

NAIDU SCRIPTS HISTORY

TDP chief to be sworn in as AP CM for record fourth time today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu is set to take oath as the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday, marking his fourth term in that role.

Naidu is scheduled to take oath at 11.27 am at Kesaraipalli IT Park near Gannavaram Airport on the outskirts of Vijayawada.

On Tuesday, the Telugu Desam Legislature Party and NDA partners elected Naidu as their leader.

Leaders of the NDA comprising TDP, BJP and Jana Sena met Governor S Abdul Nazeer and stake claim to form a government.

There could be an invitation from the Governor to form the government by Tuesday evening.

Some more leaders are likely to be sworn in along with Naidu, including TDP general secretary, Naidu's son Nara Lokesh, and Jana Sena leader N Manohar.

Naidu first became the chief minister in 1995 and had another two terms.

His first two terms as chief minister were at the helm of united Andhra Pradesh, beginning in 1995 and ending in 2004, nine years at a stretch while the third term came post-bifurcation of the state.

In 2014, Naidu emerged as the first chief minister of bifurcated Andhra Pradesh and served it until 2019. He lost the 2019 polls to remain an opposition leader until 2024.

Following a landslide victory in the 2024 elections, he is returning as the CM for the fourth term. The NDA comprising TDP, BJP and Janasena won a landslide victory in the recently concluded simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the southern state with a brute majority of 164 Assembly and 21 Lok Sabha seats.



Chandrababu elected NDA's Legislative Party leader

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister-designate and TDP chief, Nara Chandrababu Naidu, was unanimously elected leader of the NDA Legislative Party on Tuesday. The MLAs-elect from all three alliance partners met at a private function hall in the morning to choose their leader. Jana Sena chief, Pawan Kalyan, proposed Naidu's name, which was supported by BJP State unit president, Daggubati Purandeswari, and TDP State unit president, Kinjarapu Atchen Naidu.

Addressing the MLAs-elect, Naidu declared that from Wednesday, it will be a people's regime in the State, with each decision made in the interest of the populace. He emphasised that there would be no vindictive politics, such

- Pawan Kalyan proposed Naidu's name, supported by Daggubati Purandeswari and Kinjarapu Atchen Naidu.
- Naidu expressed gratitude to Pawan Kalyan for his support during difficult times, particularly when Naidu was in jail.
- Naidu emphasized hard work for the welfare of the people and accountability for those who committed blunders.

as demolishing the Praja Vedika or promoting the slogan of three capitals. Naidu assured that his government will function responsibly and positively.

2

Guv invites Naidu to form govt

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Governor S Abdul Nazeer has invited Nara Chandrababu Naidu to form the Government of Andhra Pradesh, following his election as the NDA Legislature Party Leader. The swearing-in ceremony is scheduled to take place at Kesaraipalli at 11:27 AM on June 12, 2024.

On Tuesday, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) state unit president K Atchannaaidu, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state president D Purandeswari, and JanaSena Party Political Affairs Committee chairman Nadendla Manohar met with the Governor. They informed him of Nara Chandrababu Naidu's unanimous election as the Leader of the NDA Legislature Party.

They also presented letters from the Telugu Desam Legislature Party, the Jana Sena Legislature Party, and the BJP Legislature Party, all unanimously supporting Nara Chandrababu Naidu as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.



Power is responsibility: Pawan

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan has said that power is responsibility and urged his party members to focus on serving the people, avoiding vindictive politics following their landslide victory.

On Tuesday, the JSP legislators unanimously elected Pawan Kalyan as the Floor Leader of the JSP Legislature Party. The proposal was put forward by PAC Chairman and Tenali MLA



Nadendla Manohar and was supported by all the MLAs.

Addressing the JSP legislators at the state office in Mangalagiri, Pawan Kalyan emphasised that the people of the state have placed their trust in the JSP, voting them to power with the expectation of better service. He reiterated his commitment to upholding democratic values and principles.

2

Purandeswari calls for united efforts for progress



VIJAYAWADA: BJP State president D Purandeswari, who was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Rajahmundry constituency, described the Modi-Naidu-Pawan Kalyan partnership as a confluence of rivers. She called for united efforts for the development of the State.

Purandeswari highlighted the BJP's concept of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' and criticised the previous government for the lack of genuine welfare and development. Purandeswari opined that the alliance's landslide victory in Andhra Pradesh reflects the people's frustration and disenchantment.

Amaravati springs back to life



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Following the TDP-led NDA alliance's landslide victory in the 2024 general elections, announced on June 4, the joy and happiness among the people and farmers of Amaravati know no bounds. From the very next day after the election results, state government officials swung into action to resume the Amaravati capital construction works, which had been halted for

five years due to the previous government's announcement of three capitals.

With officials taking up various activities in the capital region, "Amaravati is back to life."

On Tuesday, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister-Elect Chandrababu Naidu announced that Amaravati would be the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh. Just a day before taking the oath as Chief Minister, the TDP chief made this announcement, set-



ting the stage for a new era in the state's history. Naidu declared this while addressing a joint meeting of TDP, BJP, and Jana Sena legislators, where he was unanimously elected as the NDA leader in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly. He stated, "There will be no game under the guise of three capitals in our government. Our capital is Amaravati, Amaravati is the capital."

2



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

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and a constellation of political and entertainment luminaries are set to grace the swearing-in ceremony of TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu as he embarks on his fourth term as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. The event, slated for Wednesday, is anticipated to draw widespread attention, with leaders converging at the Kesaraipalli IT Park near

Gannavaram. Among the distinguished guests, Megastar Chiranjeevi stands out, having received a special invitation from the Telugu Desam Party. Acknowledged as a "state guest" by the government, Chiranjeevi is expected to share the platform with PM Modi, Minister Shah, and other dignitaries. His presence underscores not only his association with Naidu but also signifies a moment of pride for the renowned "mega family."

Continued on Page 2

AP Assembly session likely from June 17

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly sessions are expected to commence on June 17. The session will include four sittings, with the newly-elected MLAs taking their oaths on the first day. On the second day, the pro tem speaker will oversee the election of the new Speaker.

There are intense speculations regarding the Assembly Speaker post. Former MP and TDP MLA of Undi, K. Raghu Ramakrishnan Raju, is reportedly lobbying vigorously for the position.

Additionally, other senior TDP MLAs and Jana Sena legislators are also in contention. Chief Minister-designate Nara Chandrababu Naidu is currently considering various candidates for the Speaker's role.

2

Boys outshine girls in APEAPCET 2024 results

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Boys outshone girls in the Engineering, Agriculture, Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (EAMCET-2024) results declared by Principal Secretary of Higher Education Department J Syamala Rao on Tuesday. A total of 3,62,851 candidates registered for the APEAPCET 2024 examination, with 2,58,374 students appearing in the Engineering stream. Of these, 1,95,092 students qualified, resulting in a pass percentage of 75.51%. In the Agriculture stream, 80,766 students appeared and 70,352 qualified, yielding a pass percentage of 87.11%.

Addressing the media, the Principal Secretary announced the top ten rank holders of both streams.

- M Jishnu Sai of Guntur bags 1st rank in Engineering stream
- Engineering stream pass percentage 75.51%
- Agriculture stream pass percentage 87.11%
- 1st and 7th ranks in Agriculture stream from Telangana

In the engineering stream, the top ten ranks were secured by boys. Makineni Jishnu Sai from Guntur secured 1st rank, followed by Murasani Sai Yashwanth Reddy from Kurnool in 2nd, and Bhogalapalli Sandesh from Kurnool in 3rd.

Continued on Page 2

A PHOENIX-LIKE RISE TO POWER

Perseverance thy name is Chandrababu Naidu

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Nara Chandrababu Naidu, a stalwart in Indian politics, is set to take oath for the fourth time as Chief Minister of the State, a testament to his unwavering determination and fighting spirit.

Born on April 20, 1950, in Naravaripalli village, Chittoor district, Naidu's political journey began during his student days. Joining the Congress in 1978, he swiftly rose through the ranks, becoming a Minister in the T Anjaiah Cabinet at the age of 28.

Naidu's defining moment came in August 1984 when he spearheaded a movement to reinstate NT Rama Rao as Chief Minister after Indira Gandhi's controversial decision. His

resilience was further showcased in 2003 when he survived an assassination attempt by the People's War Group Naxalites, emerging unscathed and undeterred.

Despite electoral setbacks in 2004 and 2009, Naidu refused to be disheartened. His iconic Padayatra in 2013, covering thousands of kilometres, paved the way for his third term as Chief Minister in 2014.

However, Naidu's tenure was not without challenges. His vision of constructing a Singapore-like capital city for Andhra Pradesh remained unrealised as his party faced defeat in the 2019 elections, winning only 23 MLA seats.

The intervening years from 2019 to 2024 were marked by immense personal and political trials for

As Naidu prepares to re-enter the Assembly as Chief Minister, he fulfils a pledge made amidst adversity: "I will not enter the 'Kowrava Sabha' and I will enter when it becomes 'Gourava Sabha'." His return to power symbolises not just a political victory, but a triumph of resilience, tenacity, and the indomitable spirit of a leader dedicated to serving his people.



Naidu. Facing character attacks on his family and undergoing mental anguish, he remained resolute in his pursuit of justice and accountability. His resolve was further tested

when he was imprisoned in the Skill Development case in 2023. Yet, far from being demoralized, Naidu continued to inspire his party leaders from behind bars. Naidu's political journey has been

characterised by his stronghold in the Kuppam constituency, where he has been elected eight times consecutively since 1989. His rise to power, marked by a revolt against his father-in-law, NT Rama Rao, culminated in his swearing-in as Chief Minister of the combined Andhra Pradesh state in 1995 at the age of 45.

Today, as Naidu prepares to re-enter the Assembly as Chief Minister, he fulfils a pledge made amidst adversity: "I will not enter the 'Kowrava Sabha' and I will enter when it becomes 'Gourava Sabha'." His return to power symbolises not just a political victory, but a triumph of resilience, tenacity, and the indomitable spirit of a leader dedicated to serving his people.

MP demands TRAI probe into blocking of AP news channels

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Rajya Sabha member S Niranjan Reddy appealed to the Chairperson of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to take steps to resume airing of blocked Telugu news channels including TV 9, NTV, 10 TV and Sakshi.

In a letter to the TRAI chairperson on Tuesday, MP Niranjan Reddy said that the AP Cable TV Operators Association, under pressure and directions from the new government led by the TDP, permanently blocked several news channels including TV 9, NTV, 10 TV and Sakshi TV without any lawful and justification or procedural compliance.

The MP cited that the Supreme Court in its judgment

MP Niranjan Reddy said that the regulation has been blatantly disregarded in the current instance. The Cable Operators Association under orders from the new government has taken an arbitrary decision to take various news channels critical of the newly formed regime off the air without issuing the requisite notice

in Star India Private limits Vs Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (2019) 2 SCC 104, has unequivocally held that airwaves and frequencies are public property and every citizen has the right to access them using the best available means.

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the new government has taken an arbitrary decision to take various news channels critical of the newly formed regime off the air without issuing the requisite notice.

Stating that Media serves as the fourth pillar and as a watchdog of democracy, playing a critical role in maintaining the balance of owners by holding government and other institutions accountable to the public.

"The action of the Cable TV Operators Association and the service providers in this case represents a direct assault on the fundamental democratic principles," he lamented.

Niranjan Reddy appealed to the TRAI to conduct a thorough investigation into the illegal blocking of news channels by the AP Cable TV Operators Association and the involved service providers. He also urged the TRAI to ensure strict compliance with TRAI regulations, particularly Regulation 17 of the 2017 Regulations take necessary actions against those who have violated these provisions and uphold the principle of a free and independent press by preventing undue government influence over the media and broadcast services.

Traffic curbs for CM's swearing-in event

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In view of the swearing-in ceremony of TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu as chief minister to be held at Kesaraipalli of Gannavaram mandal on Wednesday, the NTR district police have imposed traffic restrictions in Vijayawada. Except for ambulances and VIP, VVIP vehicles, no other vehicles will be allowed between Ramavarappadu Ring and Gannavaram from 5 am to 2 pm.

NTR Police Commissioner PHD Ramakrishna conducted a meeting with all officials at the commissionerate and gave them necessary instructions. He discussed the security arrangements and the vehicles diversions on Vijayawada-Gannavaram and Vijayawada-Eluru routes. Later, the Commissioner issued a press release regarding the traffic curbs.



NTR District Police Commissioner PHD Ramakrishna

All vehicles are to be diverted at Benz Circle and proceed via Kankipadu, Pamarru, and Hanuman Junction and towards Eluru, he said. However, all transporting vehicles from Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad and Chennai should take diversion at Hanuman Junction, he said

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The Commissioner said all RTC buses from Vijayawada should take diversion at the PNBS and pass via Old PCR Junction, Eluru Road, Hotel Swarna Palace, Chuttugunta, Gunadala, Ramavarappadu Ring, Inner Ring Road, Nunna Bypass Road, Nuzvid, and Hanuman Junction to reach Eluru. Vehicles of VIPs and VVIPs, ambulances and other

emergency vehicles only will be allowed towards Gannavaram. RTC buses, two-wheelers and cars will be diverted at Benz Circle and they have to proceed via Kankipadu, Pamarru, and Hanuman Junction to reach Eluru, he said.

The government has arranged LED screens at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation Stadium, Ambedkar statue, bus stand, railway station, Lenin Centre, ZP Boys High School, Patamata, MBP Stadium, Ajith Singh Nagar, Gymkhana Grounds, Gandhinagar, and Vidyadharapuram Mini Stadium to live stream the swearing-in ceremony.

Construction of Jagananna Colony houses stalled amid political transition



PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The construction of houses in the Jagananna Colony project on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam has come to a standstill, attributed to the recent state elections and subsequent political shifts. Despite the conclusion of the polls, construction activities have not resumed, a slowdown tied to the YSR Congress Party (YCP)'s electoral defeat. Contractors involved in the project, reportedly affiliated with the YCP, are hesitant to proceed. The previous YCP government had unofficially awarded construction contracts - 40,000 houses to JNR Group and 20,000 houses to Rocktree Infra - without a formal tender process. Both companies are linked to former YCP MLAs.

A tripartite agreement was made involving the beneficiaries, banks, and contractors, who offered a third option in house construction. Despite the government having no official role, it entrusted the responsibility to relatively inexperienced construction companies. Consequently, 1,09,216 houses were planned across 73 layouts in the city's suburbs, sanctioned by the central government under the PM Awas Yojana scheme, with an estimated project value of around Rs 2,000 crore. The central government allocated Rs1.8 lakhs per house, while women beneficiaries contributed Rs 35,000 from the bank under the DWCR loan scheme. The state government provided essential materials like cement, sand, and iron.

The construction, which began two years ago, has not progressed as expected. Notably, Rocktree Infra failed to meet construction targets, while the JNR group managed to make some progress. Smaller companies struggled to keep up. By the third week of last month, 16,585 houses were completed, 3,850 houses were nearly finished, 759 houses had reached wall construction, 27,953 houses were at the foundation stage, and the foundations for another 29,456 houses were dug. However, construction for 19,426 houses had not commenced. To date, Rs 335 crores have been sanctioned and credited to the construction companies' accounts by the respective banks.

With the impending formation of a new government, there is uncertainty about whether the JNR group and other smaller companies will continue their work in Jagananna colonies. Officials report a current stagnation, attributing it to the informal assignment of construction tasks rather than a formal tender process. Previously, many officials raised legal concerns about the agreements between beneficiaries and banks, independent of government oversight. This concern is exemplified by the lack of action against Rocktree Infra, despite its negligence over the past two years. It is anticipated that the construction of houses in Jagananna colonies will regain momentum only after the new government takes office and formulates a policy decision on housing.

WARM WELCOME



TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh welcomes Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Gannavaram airport on Tuesday.

Act according to plan in serving guests: Spl officer Veera Pandyan

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Special Officer G Veera Pandyan said that on June 12, Nara Chandrababu Naidu will be sworn in as the Chief Minister of the state near IT Park in Kesaraipalli village, Gannavaram Mandal and suggested that the authorities should act in strong coordination to make this program a success.

A review meeting was organized on the premises of the venue on Monday, by special officer Veera Pandyan and discussed with the in-charges of the galleries along with the

senior officers of the programme coordination. Clear guidance has been given regarding performance of the duties. There will be a total of 36 galleries in three categories and it has been advised to be alert in the management of gallery duties. He said public representatives, their family members, judges, officers of All India Services, special guests, VVIPs, VIPs, media representatives etc will be coming and should provide services to the guests as per the plan. He said that each gallery will have a water team, sanitation team and medical team.

The in-charges of the galleries are advised to coordinate with the members of these groups. It has been explained that the officials like Deputy Collectors will be in charge of the galleries. It is advised to perform duties without making any mistakes anywhere. In view of the Prime Minister also attending the programme, SPG security will come and therefore advised to act in accordance with the security guidelines. The guests attending the program should be seen in the respective galleries in a way that would be auspicious.

Vizag Airport, VSP poised for advances

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The inclusion of MPs from Andhra Pradesh in the Union Cabinet is anticipated to pave the way for significant advancements in both Visakhapatnam Airport and the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. MP Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu from Uttarandhra has been appointed as the Minister of Civil Aviation in Prime Minister Modi's cabinet. Local residents are optimistic that Naidu's deep understanding of the region will enable him to effectively address local needs and improve facilities.

Visakhapatnam currently offers international flights to Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia. However, passengers wishing to travel to Dubai must transit through Hyderabad or Bangalore. Given Dubai's status as a global travel hub, there has been a longstanding demand for direct flights from Visakhapatnam. Many believe that Minister Naidu will champion this cause and expand international connectivity. Additionally, there is a strong push from the local communities to enhance domestic flight services from Visakhapatnam.

A world-class airport is being constructed at Bhogapuram, projected to be operational within two years. Continuous oversight by the Minister is expected to expedite its completion. However,



the commute to Bhogapuram from Visakhapatnam, which takes over two hours, is hindered by traffic congestion. To address this, there is a proposal for the construction of 12 flyovers and a metro line to connect Bhogapuram Airport, necessitating coordinated efforts with various departments for timely completion.

Representatives from the AP Air Passengers Association, Naresh Kumar and DS Verma, have emphasised the need for international-level cargo handling facilities at the airport. They advocate for specialized cargo flights from Visakhapatnam to save time and suggest the construction of an additional airport exclusively for cargo. Enhancements such as multiple temperature-controlled storage units, packing and loading facilities, and advanced security screening equipment are deemed essential. These recommendations will be presented to Minister Naidu for consideration.

Prime Minister Modi has appointed Kishan Reddy from Telangana as Minister of Coal and Mines and Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma from Narasapur as Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries.

Presently, over 200 trucks per week transport these goods by road to Hyderabad, Chennai, and Kolkata for further export.

Visakhapatnam's steel industry has faced severe challenges over the past five years, primarily due to the lack of self-sufficient mines, leading to production disruptions and financial strain. Promises made by Chief Minister Jagan during his padayatra to secure special mines from Odisha and Chhattisgarh have not been fulfilled. Additionally, the state government's decision to sell Gangavaram Port shares to Adani at a low price without supporting the steel industry has compounded the difficulties. The allocation of coal mines to the steel industry, with the newly appointed ministers from the Telugu states at the helm, is seen as a potential solution to alleviate the industry's debt burden and operational hurdles. Local stakeholders are hopeful that these strategic appointments and subsequent actions will lead to substantial improvements and renewed growth for both Visakhapatnam Airport and the steel industry.

Raghu Rama's 2021 arrest comes to fore in AP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP leader K Raghu Ramakrishna Raju's 2021 arrest case has come to the fore in Andhra Pradesh after he lodged a complaint against outgoing Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and select officials over it.

On Monday, Raju lodged a complaint with the Guntur superintendent of police over the three-year-old incident, accusing Reddy and some senior officials of plotting a criminal conspiracy against him.

Raju, 62, alleged in his complaint that senior IPS officers P V Sunil Kumar and P Sitaramanjaneyulu, police officer R Vijaya Paul and government doctor G Prabhavathi were part of that conspiracy.

He was arrested in 2021 in the thick of the Covid-19 second wave. According to Raju, he was tortured in custody and an attempt was made to murder him. "A false case was registered against me by the CB-CID of the Andhra Pradesh government. On May 14, 2021, I was arrested without due process, I was bullied, unlawfully physically pulled inside the police vehicle, and forcibly taken to Guntur the same night," Raju said in the complaint.

Alleging that though he underwent an open-heart surgery "some weeks" before his arrest, Raju claimed that he was

abused and threatened to be killed for "criticising the chief minister (Jagan)".

"I was arrested without due process, including the absence of a medical examination or adherence to proper legal procedures...I was kept in the CBCID office, Guntur from 9.30 pm onwards (May 14, 2021). I was not given my medicine despite having had an open-heart bypass surgery," he alleged.

Further, Raju alleged that when the magistrate had sent him to Guntur Government General Hospital, the then superintendent of the hospital, G Prabhavathi, had colluded with Sunil Kumar to create falsified medical reports that no injuries were inflicted on his body. "Due to police brutality, I was shifted from Guntur to Secunderabad Army Hospital by the orders of the Supreme Court and thereafter I was granted bail by the Supreme Court," said Raju.

The bail came a week later. Raju was the ruling YSRCP's Member of Parliament from the Narasapuram Lok Sabha constituency.

Among other allegations, he demanded that a case be registered against all the accused persons, saying that "these criminal offences must be addressed promptly and justice be done".

Raju recently won from the Undi assembly constituency in West Godavari district on a TDP ticket.



Mass screening and medical camp launched to combat malaria in tribal hamlets

PNS ■ PADERU

The Medical & Health Department initiated a comprehensive mass screening test and medical camp on Tuesday in the tribal hamlets of Buruga and China Konela, located in Ananthagiri mandal. The initiative aims to detect and treat malaria cases, which have seen a significant increase in the area.

In Buruga, the department organized a medical camp to diagnose and treat residents showing symptoms of malar-

ia. The camp also featured the first round of Inside Residual Spraying (IRS) using 5% Aclacinomycin, an insecticide, to curb the mosquito population.

House-to-house visits were carried out to ensure comprehensive coverage, and antilarval operations were conducted in the common village well and other stagnant water sources.

This move comes in response to a report by The Pioneer on June 11, highlighting the surge in malaria

cases in Buruga and China Konela.

The report attributed the proliferation of cases to inadequate mosquito control measures, coupled with the lack of essential infrastructure like power and roads. Among the affected were the children of a Community Health Worker (CHW).

"Screening is being conducted with Rapid Diagnostic Test kits, and patients are being provided with appropriate medication. IRS is being carried out in the

recently in the district on the occasion of World Environment Day. He praised students for participating during the summer holidays.

As many as 80 students participated in the competition. Of them, 20 students displayed their talents.

DSEO Subba Rao presented prizes and certificates to all these students. Also, cash prizes were distributed to the winners.

NTR District Science Officer (DSO) M Hussain and others participated in the programme.

NTR District School Education Officer (DSEO) UV Subba Rao presented prizes and certificates to those who excelled in the poster presentation competition, that was held



NTR DSEO Subba Rao presenting certificates to the winners of the Poster Presentation competition in Vijayawada on Monday



Malaria Screening Camp in Buruga, Alluri Sitharama Raju District, on Tuesday.

homes of tribal residents, and antilarval operations are being implemented in stagnant water areas to control mosquito breeding," said Dr K. Santosh Rao of Bhimavaram Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Ananthagiri mandal, speaking to The Pioneer. "The first dose of medication is administered under my supervision, with the subsequent doses to be given by CHWs and other staff."

The Bhimavaram PHC, situated about 50 km from

Buruga and China Konela, is the primary healthcare provider for the region. Residents often travel to Gajapathinagar, approximately 20 km away, or S. Kota, which is over 35 km away, for medical services.

The efforts by the Medical & Health Department reflect a concerted push to address the health challenges faced by the tribal communities in these remote hamlets, aiming to mitigate the impact of malaria and improve overall public health.

Addressing joint capital issue priority for political parties

Addressing the consequences of the cessation of Hyderabad's status as joint capital of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will be a priority for the respective governments of the Telugu states in the days to come. For, scores of unsettled matters are pending before the governments of the two states, with the Union government having oversight on many of them. The status of Hyderabad as the joint capital of TG and AP, determined for a period of 10 years under the AP Reorganisation Act 2014, officially ended on 2nd June 2024. Telangana, India's youngest and 29th state, has completed 10 years. Considering the stakes involved in the sharing of assets between the two Telugu states,

the issues surrounding the joint capital status of Hyderabad cannot be wished away. Most importantly, the residual state of Andhra Pradesh could not build its own capital, due to many reasons, some of which are political. So, there is a case for extension of the joint capital status of Hyderabad for another 10 years. Former PCC president and former minister S Sailajanath has demanded the same to facilitate AP in handling pending problems with TG. Why should Hyderabad be continued as the joint capital of the two Telugu States, irrespective of the claims of TG political circles that the city had been built with the 'blood of Telangana people'? Is it true

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

really? Has it been built without the contribution of people of other regions of the erstwhile state of AP? What is the truth behind the construction of Hyderabad? The foundation stone was laid for the construction of Hyderabad in 1591 by Qutb Shahi rulers of the Golkonda Empire. In fact, the entire area of the erstwhile state of AP that existed for 58 years (1956-2014) was part of then Golkonda Empire at the time of the commencement of the construction of Hyderabad. This means the present two Telugu States were integral parts of the Golkonda Kingdom. Qutb Shahi rulers spent huge money that came



M D RATNA KUMAR Senior Journalist

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

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

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

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

NCC cadets exhorted to be positive, disciplined

PNS ■ ELURU

District Collector said that discipline is important to the students from the student stage itself and NCC provides discipline to the cadets.

The annual training programme of NCC was held at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Pedavegi on Tuesday. District Collector Prasanna Venkatesh participated in the programme as the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that discipline is very important in life and if discipline is practiced from the student stage then one can reach higher heights in life. "It is stated that if we move forward with mental goodwill, no one can stop us from reaching higher heights," he added.

The Collector exhorted the NCC cadets to practice discipline, positive attitude and



think to get out of the problem without getting confused when faced with a problem, adding that he will never forget the inspiration given by Havaldar Sathyaraj during his training. He also advocated enhancing Artificial Intelligence skills as it would be very useful for them in the future. He said that if there is an opportunity to participate in the Republic Day Parade as NCC students, they should not give it up.

The Collector said that the NCC training program provides a bright future for the students and getting the C certificate it is very useful for job opportunities. He asked the students to avail all the opportunities they find. NCC Commanding Officer Colonel S Mukharji also spoke. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya principal YSS Chandrasekhar and others were among those who took part in the programme.

3 killed, 9 hurt as car rams stationary lorry

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Three persons were killed and nine others were injured when a van ramed into a stationary lorry at Kakani in the early hours of Tuesday.

According to the police, the lorry had developed technical trouble, prompting the driver to stop the vehicle on the national highway near the Oncology Hospital.

The Tata Ace, carrying 13 workers, collided with the stationary lorry, resulting in the deaths of K. Rambabu (40), Teja (21), and D. Madhu (25).

The injured were taken to the Government General Hospital (GGH), where one of them is reported to be in critical condition. The victims were on their way home after



completing decoration work in Vijayawada. The police have registered a

case and moved the bodies to GGH for postmortem. Traffic on the busy Chennai-Kolkata

highway was disrupted for several hours following the accident.

SPG conducts ASL trial run ahead of PM's visit

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Special Protection Group (SPG) for the security of the Prime Minister conducted its Advanced Security Liaison (ASL) trial run with Krishna district police and officials of the Central Intelligence Agencies ahead of the oath-taking ceremony of N Chandrababu Naidu as chief minister at Kesarapalli on Tuesday. The ASL trial run was conducted successfully from the Gannavaram Airport to the programme venue near the IT Park. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the swearing-in ceremony.

SPG Inspector General (IG) Kumar Mehta instructed the officials to make strict security arrangements. Also, he inspected the security arrangements at the Gannavaram airport and expressed satisfaction.

Later, he discussed the route map of the Prime Minister's convoy from the airport to the



SPG and local police officials inspecting the security arrangements at the Gannavaram airport on Tuesday



The Special Protection Group for the PM conducting Advanced Security Liaison trial run from the Gannavaram airport to Kesarapalli IT Park on Tuesday

venue and vice versa, along with special officers Hari Kiran, DIG Gopinath Jetti, Krishna district SP Adnan Nayeem Asmi and others.

IGs Rajasekhar Babu and GVG Ashok Kumar, NTR Police Commissioner PHD Ramakrishna, Krishna District Additional SP G Venkateswara Rao, NTR District Medical and Health Officer Dr M Suhasini and others were present.

Student bus passes to be issued from today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As the new academic year 2024-25 is set to be started, NTR District Public Transport Department Officer (PTDO) MY Danam has stated that the APSRTC has made all necessary arrangements to issue student bus passes from June 12. Students belonging to Vijayawada are requested to get their bus passes from the bus pass counters on the premises of the Pundit Nehru Bus Station (PNBS), he said.

In a press release here on Tuesday, MY Danam said that bus passes would be issued for all students from Tiruvuru, and Jaggayapet Bus Depots in the district. However, the other bus pass counters at Auto Nagar Depot, Kankipadu, and Ibrahimpatnam are only renewing the bus passes, he added. These student bus passes would be issued from 9 am to 8 pm, however, on Sunday, the counters would work from 8 am to 2 pm, he said.

480 bags of diverted PDS rice seized by officials

PNS ■ KAKINADA

The officials of the Regional Vigilance and Enforcement Department and the revenue and civil supplies officials intercepted a lorry near Alamuru village on Monday and seized 480 bags of rice, meant for the Public Distribution Scheme (PDS).

The officials said that they also seized the lorry for illegally transporting 23,500 kg of PDS rice worth over Rs.18.70 lakhs. On interrogation, S Narasimha

Murthy a trader from the Kakinada Jagannadhapuram area, who was transporting the PDS rice, confessed before the squad that he was transporting the same from Srungavruksham of Palakoderu mandal besides Bhimavaram to Loven international Kakinada. A case under 6-A was registered. The lorry and the rice stock were handed over to the Alamuru police. Vigilance officials Jagannadha Reddy, Vali, Kishore, Alisha, and Revenue officials were among those who attended.

Naidu to organise 'Godavari Pushkaralu' for third time

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Nara Chandrababu Naidu, who is taking the oath of office on Wednesday, has the rare opportunity to organise the sacred 'Godavari Pushkaralu' for the third time as Chief Minister.

Naidu first organised the 'Godavari Pushkaralu' as Chief Minister of the combined Andhra Pradesh state in 2003. His government also oversaw the event in 2014. Now, the 'Godavari

Pushkaralu' will be held in 2027, and the Naidu-led government will again be responsible for organising the event.

Previously, the 'Godavari Pushkaralu' was organised by the government led by Marri Chenna Reddy in 1979 and by the government led by Nedurumilli Janardhan Reddy in 1991. Chandrababu Naidu stands out as the only Chief Minister to have the opportunity to organise the 'Godavari Pushkaralu' three times.



Oral cancer are diagnosed at an advanced stage: Experts

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Cancer is a significant health issue in India, with oral cancer being among the top three prevalent types. The primary causes of oral cancers are all forms of tobacco use, including smoking and chewing. Early diagnosis enables less invasive treatments, eliminating the need for radiation or chemotherapy. This approach not only improves patient survival rates but also reduces economic burdens, says Dr Ramakrishna Vangara, Consultant, Radiation Oncology, Manipal Hospitals Vijayawada.



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pain, patients might dismiss them as unimportant. Pain is a common trigger for people to seek medical help, so painless symptoms are often overlooked.

In developing countries like India, delays in diagnosis are

influenced by fear of cancer and negative coping mechanisms - In countries such as India, there is a prevalent fear of cancer, which can cause individuals to avoid seeking medical help due to the anxiety associated with a potential diagnosis. This fear can lead to denial and other negative coping mechanisms that delay diagnosis.

Government health authorities, along with professional associations and relevant organizations, should take the initiative to develop and implement a wide range of awareness programs. These programs should aim to educate the general public about the warning signs and symptoms of oral cancer.

Additionally, these initiatives should emphasize the critical importance of regular dental and medical check-ups for early detection and prevention. By raising awareness through these educational campaigns, we can empower individuals with the knowledge necessary to recognize potential issues early and seek timely medical advice, ultimately improving public health outcomes.

400+ school buses await fitness certificates ahead of reopening



PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

As schools prepare to reopen, over 400 school buses in the district still need to obtain their fitness certificates from the Road Transport Authority (RTA). The deadline for obtaining the No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the department is June 12. According to RTA authorities, there are approximately 1,300 to 1,500 school buses in Visakhapatnam district. To date, around 1,100 buses have successfully completed their fitness tests and received the necessary NOCs. Deputy Transport Commissioner GC Raja Ratnam emphasised the urgency, stating, "If the buses fail to get the NOC from the department due to lack of slots before June 12, they should not ferry students until they undergo a fitness test."

The Deputy Transport Commissioner has held meetings with various school man-

agements, stressing the importance of completing the fitness tests by the June 12 deadline. Only buses with valid NOCs will be permitted to transport students. Outlining the basic requirements, Raja Ratnam noted that drivers must have at least five years of driving experience and be under 50 years of age. Additionally, each school bus must have an attendant to assist students while boarding and alighting safely. He also highlighted the necessity for management to check the bus driver's condition using a breathalyzer before commencing any trip. Regarding auto rickshaws transporting school students, Raja Ratnam stated that school managements must maintain a register and establish a road safety committee involving parents, with regular meetings. Auto Rickshaws are permitted to carry only six students at a time.

Revanth concentrating on protecting his CM post : Alleti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

Maheshwar said the Congress gave '420' assurances to the people. However, the Congress government had not implemented a single major assurance till now. He said the CM had avoided implementing the assurances citing the Model Election Code so far. He said the govern-



ment is troubling farmers by not implementing the promise to waive farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh loans.

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

He demanded that the CM should apologise to the people

for deceiving them and asked the CM to reveal when the Rs 5 lakh Vidya Bharosa Card will be given.

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

"Where is the Rs 4,000 unemployment allowance?" he asked. The BJLP leader said that Revanth had vowed in the name of God regarding the waiving of farm loans and added that people are waiting to see when the CM will implement his promise.

Maheshwar said the Revanth government played down the corruption in the Kaleshwaram Project by appointing a retired judge to conduct the probe.

"Why is the government not placing the irregularities in the Dharani Portal before the people?" he asked.

He said the people gave the Congress only eight LS seats even though the Congress enacted many dramas for votes. He said that he is sending a letter to know when the Congress government will implement its assurances.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

The road ahead

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

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



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

Let statecraft replace vicious propaganda



SIDHARTH MISHRA

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

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



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



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

in the Government's line. The biggest question which must be haunting the BJP leadership is that when the residents of Uttar Pradesh took an "overwhelming" part in the celebration of the consecration of the Ram Temple, why did it not endorse the party as enthusiastically when it came to the electoral battle? Once again, the propaganda machinery only helped turn a happy moment into an instant of loyalty test. It was seen that handing out an invitation to the Opposition leaders to a 'quasi-political' function was to get them to refuse and get branded as 'anti-Hindu'. No communication expert would ever prepare a model which would spend time in their hour of glory on the rivals. The narrative so floated in the end created a situation where the 'homecoming' for Ram Lalla got overtaken by 'Ayodhya-coming' of the Opposition leaders. Today, the BJP Government is perched on the support of Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party and Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United). Both the leaders did not come to Ayodhya but have come to the support of Narendra Modi 3.0. In the past, they have even called the Ramjanambhoomi Movement as a 'political project' of the BJP. The latest narrative of the open denouncement of the voters of Uttar Pradesh by the BJP's extended family will certainly not find traction with either Kumar or Naidu. The castes and communities who did not vote for the BJP voted for Kumar and Naidu in their respective States. The call of the hour is to change the nature of the dialogue from confrontation to consensus, not only among the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners but among all the stakeholders of India, that is Bharat. The demand of the situation is to push the economic and strategic agenda as statecraft than a tool to demonise and belittling those opposed to the Government. (The writer is an author and president of the Centre for Reforms, Development & Justice; views are personal.)

PICTALK



Competitors at the annual dragon boat race in Hong Kong

PTI

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

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

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



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

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

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



AJAY KUMAR GUPTA

SUNLIGHT'S INFLUENCE ON LIFE

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

OPEN ACCESS TO GREEN ENERGY

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Surge in numberplate violations



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

gering 286 per cent increase from last year. This sharp rise underscores the intensified efforts by the authorities to enhance road safety. Defective number plates are more than a minor infraction; they pose significant risks, from impeding law enforcement to contributing to traffic violations. The focus on high-traffic areas and the detailed breakdown of top violator zones, like Mayur Vihar and Nand Nagri, highlights the strategic approach taken by the police. It's commendable that alongside enforcement, there are awareness campaigns aimed at educating vehicle owners about the importance of compliant number plates. This holistic approach not only aims to correct current issues but also to prevent future violations, ultimately contributing to a safer and more orderly city. Saanvi Jain | Jamshedpur

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

ATTITUDE SHAPES HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

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

nal factors. Duryodhana, a prominent character, exemplifies how arrogance and anger, fueled by his uncle Shakuni and others, lead to destructive behaviour. This mirrors historical atrocities like the Nazi genocide, highlighting the dangers of prejudice and hatred. Conversely, the story of the Zen Master and the Thief underscores the transformative power of compassion. The Master's forgiveness and understanding helped the wayward student reform, illustrating that empathy can foster positive change. Human attitudes, shaped by social interactions and experiences, can lead to either constructive or destructive outcomes. This continuous learning process underscores the importance of compassion and understanding in shaping a better society. Harold S Geneen aptly encapsulates this, emphasising that leadership is reflected in attitudes and actions, not just words. Aarush Kapoor | Vijayawada

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FIRST COLUMN BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER SOCIETY

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



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

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

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

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



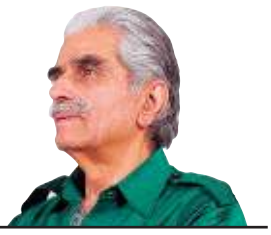
rivalry and absence or lack of love and co-operation at various levels of society.

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

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

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

The Garhwal Regiment's glorious military heritage



ASHOK K MEHTA

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



AJEET GODARA

newfound awareness people in large numbers are turning to organic products and getting healthy chemical-free products on their plates, India's organic product market has witnessed an unprecedented surge over the last decade, driven by growing consumer awareness about health, sustainability, and environmental impacts. As urban populations increasingly seek out healthier lifestyle options, the demand for organic food products has soared. This trend is not just limited to a niche segment; it has permeated mainstream consumer preferences, pushing organic products to the forefront of the food industry. The organic food market in India, valued at \$1,582.2 million in 2023, is expected to

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



and oils. The products of organic companies are available not only through its website but also on major e-commerce platforms such as Amazon, Flipkart, and Bigbasket, making them accessible to a broad consumer base. The brands have also expanded their product range into seed verticals, encompassing

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

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

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

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

MONEY MATTERS

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

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



India eyes oil deals with Russia and others: Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

agenda.

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

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

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

"We are a longstanding partner of the Russian federation.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



JAIPRAKASH ASSOCIATES INSOLVENCY

NCLAT asks ICICI to consider one-time settlement proposal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sensex, Nifty settle almost flat amid volatile trade

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

ENERGY MATRIX

Will increase contribution of renewables, says Joshi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Before taking charge, the minister along with his family members took off his footwear and offered prayers. Speaking to reporters, Joshi said under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a lot of development has happened in this sector and the country stands fourth globally in renewable energy in terms of installed capacity.

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

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

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



Gold rises Rs 150; silver plunges Rs 1,400

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Sebi launches investor certification exam to foster financial literacy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Developed in collaboration with the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM), this voluntary certification aims to help investors test their knowledge of mar-

kets and investing, Sebi said in a statement.

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

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

'Industry expects growth-oriented policies'

Doesn't see coalition as speedbreaker: Anish Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

for growth, he replied in the negative.

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

growth agenda will continue going forward," Shah said.

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

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

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

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

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

as in leadership positions.

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

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

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

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



EXCLUSIVE

SANJAY KAPOOR REVEALS ALWAYS BEING A FAN OF 'WHODUNNIT' CONCEPT IN FILMS

TEJAL SINHA

The Kapoor family's very own Prem (the film in which he made his debut), Sanjay Kapoor, has certainly been the man who has created a remarkable journey in the entertainment industry.

Currently streaming on Zee5, The film, helmed by Saumitra Singh, saw The Zoya Factor actor playing a special investigative officer.

Though the budget of the film was low, he believes that not every film has to be large-scale. "If the script works, the film works," enthuses the Anjaane: The Unknown actor.



Mizapur season 3 is here!

More gripping and intense than ever before, Mizapur Season 3 is set to premiere on Prime Video on July 1, 2024. The well-acclaimed franchise has taken the audience into a captivating saga of power, revenge, ambition, politics, betrayals, deceptions, and complex family dynamics.

what's brewing?

NIDHI'S SISTERHOOD IS A HEARTWARMING TALE OF SELF-DISCOVERY

Amazon MiniTV has announced its upcoming series Sisterhood, a captivating drama set in the century-old all-girls convent school, S.I.S.T.R.S., by unveiling its enthralling trailer.

MiniTV for free starting June 13th. Reflecting on portraying the character of Gargee in the series, Nidhi Bhanushali expressed, "Bringing Gargee to life in Sisterhood has been a fulfilling experience."



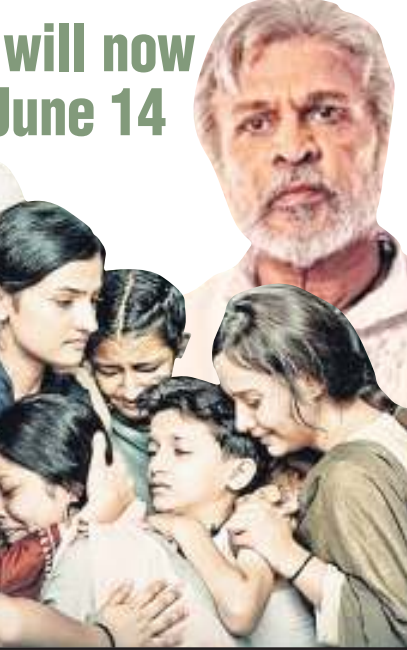
ELIZABETH ADMITS REGRETTING MARRYING EDDIE FISHER

The HBO documentary Elizabeth Taylor: The Lost Tapes delves into the life of the actress, nearly ten years after her death in 2011. The film made its premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival on June 11 and will be available for streaming on Max on August 3.



Hamare Baarah will now be released on June 14

Following a legal hurdle, the Bombay High Court has paved the way for the release of the much-anticipated film Hamare Baarah. In a recent ruling, the court granted clearance for the movie's release, prompting the announcement of a new release date.



hopeful to release the film on the decided date, certain guidelines from the honourable court came, and we had to postpone our release, which was very devastating for us.

AUSTIN BUTLER DISMISSED RUMOURS ABOUT HIS ROLE IN PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN FRANCHISE

Following the termination of Johnny Depp from Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean film franchise, numerous conjectures and suspicions surfaced on the internet.



Pirates of the Caribbean. The star of Dune 2 remarked, "Oh, really? I'm not aware of that. I love Pirates of the Caribbean." Austin Butler explained that if those rumours became true, one of his dreams would be fulfilled.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



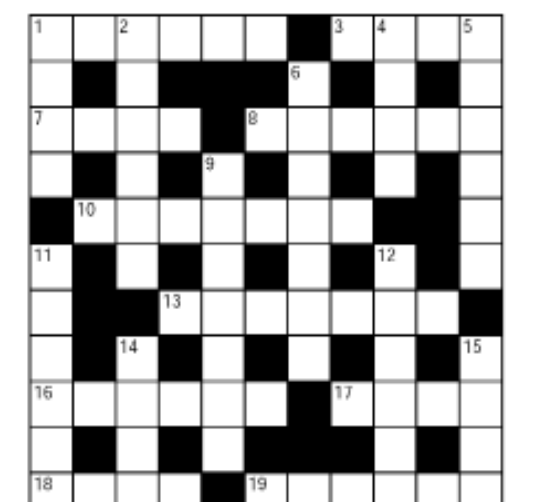
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



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

ACROSS

- 1 Completely quiet
3 Scheme
7 Plenty
8 A covering for fried fish
10 Begged
13 Inquisitive
16 Middle
17 Closed
18 Utters aloud
19 One third of ninety

DOWN

- 1 Sprinkle this on food
2 Small
4 Overdue
5 Opposite of wide

GINGER MEGGS



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

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

SHIKHA DUGGAL

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

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

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

The actor further disclosed, "I realised that love is really vital while working on *Heeramandi*, but that you should always choose the greater good for the people over your own romantic feelings. You have no idea how much a Sanjay Leela Bhansali set affects us! You enter a completely new time zone each time you step foot on his set, which is why you experience these selfless feelings as well." Taha added, "In their own times, *Heeramandi*'s story defied social conventions. Considering Tajdar's acceptance of Alamzeb, I'm sure attitudes would have shifted. It's also important to remember that no series like this has ever been produced before! The information is independent. The world was introduced to *Heeramandi* by Sanjay Leela Bhansali!"

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

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

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

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RASHMI BHUMIREDDY

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

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

This played a key role in his career. He initially started his career in operations onboard India's aircraft in Mumbai and later joined a design organisation in Delhi, where he worked on contracting and designing complex technical marine platforms. During these days, he shares, "I have learned to work with global teams. I was selected to collaborate with foreign nations to get a niche TOT in the ship-building domain. Following my MSc in Defense and Strategic Studies from DSSC, I have taken up CEO's office roles, where I was a staff officer and a subject matter expert advisor to the fleet commander of the Eastern Fleet. Apart from that, I took part in over 13+ international maritime exercises during deployments and high-stakes events that have given me a rare opportunity to sail on the Singaporean frigate RSN and US Aircraft carrier as part of my personal exchange. In regards to leadership roles, I was selected to head a large unionised industrial organisation with over 700 workers in Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam."

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

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

network with industry professionals and alums through various on-campus events, pro bono consulting projects, experiential learning programs, and study treks."

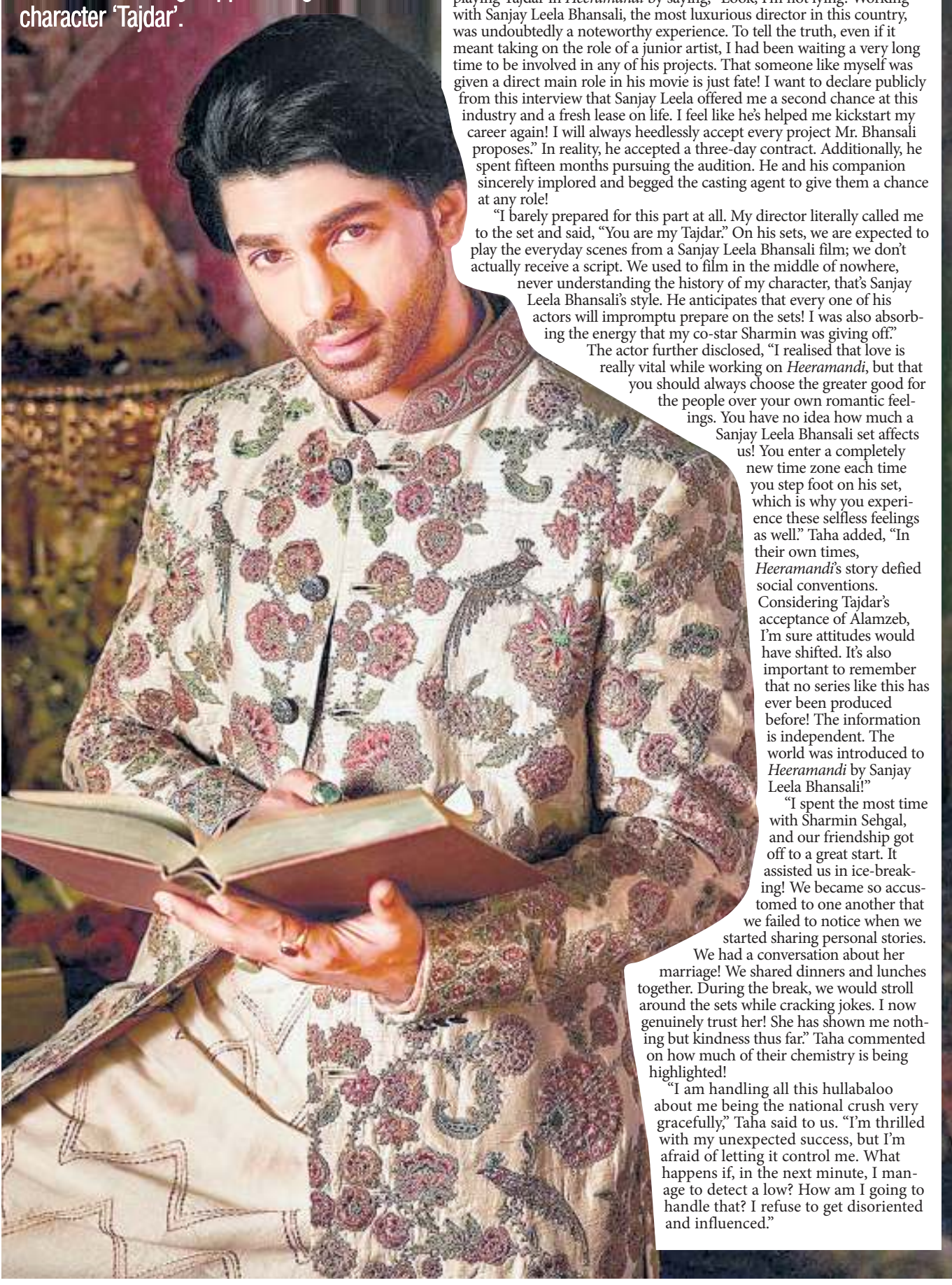
However, he did go through his own good share of challenges as well during his transition from the government sector to the corporate sector. "Though military service is respected by a lot of companies, it does not translate into employment opportunities," he highlights, adding, "There is a tendency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

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



NAVIGATING FROM SEA TO CORPORATE WORLD

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



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

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

Poor eating habits

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

By consuming frozen foods that are low in nutrients, fiber, and vitamins, there is a dependency on high salt consumption, which leads to excess sodium, fats, and sugar in the body. It can also lead to serious diseases like stroke, heart

EATING YOUR WAY TO WELLNESS

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



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

PTI ■ NEW YORK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It's not everyday that one gets a

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

him to come good.

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

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

SQUADS:

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

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

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

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



win against Oman.

The globe-trotting all-rounder has the experience of facing Australia four times in T20s during his stint with South Africa.

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

TEAMS (FROM)

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

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

Match starts: 6am IST.

SL IN MUST WIN CLASH VS NEPAL

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

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

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

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

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

TEAMS (FROM):

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

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

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

PTI ■ LAHORE

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Chennaiyin FC rope in Colombian star Wilmar Jordan Gil

PTI ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

PTI ■ NEW YORK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW YORK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"It doesn't look like the Caribbean wickets are too much better. So, we have to play smart cricket and use our cricket brain a little bit more."

He feels that once the Super Eight starts in the West Indies, the par-score will be 160 plus.

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

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

Ravi Teja, Sreeleela reunite for a mass film

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

K. RAMYA SREE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Looking ahead, Kajal teased her involvement



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

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

Dhanush-starrer *Raayan* to release in July

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

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

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

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

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

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



Yevam presents a unique thriller experience: Director Sandeep Raj

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



Reflecting on the collaborative spirit of the team, he expressed his hope for the film's success. Chandini expressed her gratitude to Sandeep Raj and Vishwak Sen for their contributions to her career.

Sandeep Raj hailed *Yevam* as a standout thriller with impressive storytelling and technical finesse. He emphasised the emotional depth and engagement the movie offers to viewers, expressing confidence in its universal appeal. He commended Vishwak Sen's commitment to quality content and pledged his support for the project.

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

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

Rose Audio Visuals enters Telugu market



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

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

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

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

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

Vijay Deverakonda's America tour gets resounding response

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

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

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



URVASHI SIGNS MEGA TAMIL PROJECT WITH DIRECTOR SHANKAR

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

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

He was quoted as saying, "Urvashi Rautela and Aishwarya Rai are my favourite actresses."

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

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



Hitched by love!

ARJUN'S DAUGHTER MARRIES IN GRAND STYLE

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

PIC TALK

