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THE TEACHER **APP'S UPLIFTING EDUCATORS & STUDENTS**

Sankranthiki Vasthunnam is a case study for me: Director ANIL RAVIPU



- KT Rama Rao, BRS MLA

6 kg fine rice to all cardholders

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday made it clear that the welfare programs initiated by the Congress government in Telangana were designed to reach every eligible individual, ensuring comprehensive coverage up to the is an unparalleled initiative in independent India. Participating in Praja Palana Gram Sabhas held in Manakondur, Choppadandi, Vemulawada, and Dharmapuri constituencies, Uttam Kumar Reddy, joined by Transport and Backward Classes

23 blood-sucking flies discovered

Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) researchers have identified 23 species of blood-sucking flies in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. including 13 species previously unreported in India, ZSI director Dhriti Banerjee said. The study, recently published in the journal 'Parasites and Vectors', is the first comprehensive survey of these insects in the region. Locally called 'Bhusi flies,' these insects belong to the Culicoides genus and are similar to mosquitoes in their feeding habits. They primarily feed on the blood of livestock...

'Indian talent plays key role in US growth'

Nasscom on Wednesday said H-1B visas have nothing to do with immigration issues and instead fill critical skills gap in the US, as the apex industry body asserted that technology will be the "lynchpin" of : arowth continued need for "win-win partnerships" between companies on both sides. Nasscom vice president Shivendra Singh slammed "myth" that H-1B workers are cheap labour, replace American workers, or depress US salaries, and sought to assuage concerns around any adverse...

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India will adhere to dress code: BCCI

The Indian cricket team will adhere to the dress code set by the ICC during the upcoming Champions Trophy, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI on Wednesday, rejecting speculation that the Board had objected to host Pakistan's name on the side's official iersey. The Champions Trophy will be held from February 19 and India will play its share of matches in Dubai after citing security concerns as the reason for refusing to travel to Pakistan. "BCCI will follow every uniformrelated ICC rule during...

'How did BRS govt enter into pact'

Formula E making losses as state govt looks at organisers' balance sheet

PNS HYDERABAD

Formula E Operations Limited (FEO), a UK-based company owned by Formula E Holdings, Hong Kong, is grappling with significant financial challenges as revealed in its latest financial returns. The company, which manages the operations of Formula E, has accumulated total losses of 278.5 million pounds (approximately Rs 2,952 crore) as on 2023, raising questions about its financial viability. ACB and ED are probing the formula E case and have already questioned former minister KT Rama Rao and officials.

Top sources said, "Telangana government looked at the balance sheet of formula E and FEO's financial trajectory shows consistent and increasing losses over the years. How did BRS enter into agreement with loss-making company? The liability on the State is big". In 2021, the company reported losses amounting to £171.1 million, which further escalated to £236.1 million in 2022. This steep rise in annual losses highlights the



Top sources said, "Telangana government looked at the balance sheet of formula E and FEO's financial trajectory shows consistent and increasing losses over the years. How did BRS enter into agreement with lossmaking company? The liability on the State is big"

company's struggle to maintain ational expenses and limited revprofitability amidst growing oper- enue streams.

A comparison between Formula E and Formula 1 underscores the challenges faced by the former. Formula 1, owned by Formula One World Championship Limited, was acquired by Liberty Group in 2017 for \$8 billion (approximately Rs 60,000 crore). Unlike Formula E, Formula 1 has consistently demonstrated robust financial performance, reporting an operating income of \$213 million for Q3 ending September 30, 2024.

Formula 1 enjoys the status of a premier global entertainment spectacle, attracting massive audiences and sponsorships. In contrast, Formula E, while lauded for its focus on sustainability and electric mobility, struggles to command a similar level of commercial success and fan engagement.

Despite its financial hurdles, Formula E continues to promote its vision of sustainable electric racing. However, with accumulated losses nearing £300 million, the organisation faces an uphill battle to establish itself as a profitable venture in the competitive world of motorsport.

Naidu smiles as Revanth says Amaravati is not our competitor

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reiterated the state's vision of fostering friendly ties with neighbouring states and competing on a global scale during the "Country Strategic Dialogue" round table at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos.

Sharing the stage with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Revanth highlighted the importance of cooperation and development.

AP Chief Minister

competing with Amaravati" and "My state and Hyderabad is going to be China Plus One."

Acknowledging the contribution of Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu, Revanth said, "Chandrababu and YSR developed Hyderabad." While CM Revanth said, "We

want to be a one Trillion USD econ-

Chandrababu was all smiles when TG CM Revanth said, "We are not "Unfortunately they are rich and I "Unfortunately they are rich and I am poor. Maharashtra is the financial capital of India and Telangana has the highest per capita income."

"It is a pleasure to share the stage with my counterparts from Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. These states not only share borders but also rivers like Krishna and Continued on Page 2

Deal of deals at Davos

Sun Petro signs Rs 45,500 crore MoU with Telangana for Green Energy Projects

Nagarkurnool, Mancherial and Mulugu to witness renewable energy transformation

HCL Tech expands IT presence in Hyderabad

JSW UAV to establish advanced manufacturing facility

PNS DAVOS/HYDERABAD

The Telangana admin's inks with go bar signed a Memorandum Understanding (MoU) as the Sun Petrochemicals to establish large-scale pumped storage projects in the districts of Nagarkurnool, Mancherial and

The agreement, inked during the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, marks one of the single-largest investment deals ever in the state, with a massive Rs 45,500 crore investment.

The projects will have a combined capacity of 3,400 MW for pumped storage hydro and an additional 5,440 MW of integrated solar power, making this a landmark initiative in Telangana's transition toward green energy. Over 7,000 jobs are expected to be created during the construction phase, transforming the socio-economic landscape of these regions.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed pride in the agreement, stating, "Broadbasing the investment base and scope of Telangana, our government has been giving equal importance to all sectors, from services to

manufacturing, from innovation-based to conventionpowerhouses. This will create a large number of jobs and a highly impactful transformation around Nagarkurnool, Mancherial and Mulugu

NIGEL JAILS HIGHLIGHTS, MARUTI PLANS INNERDOUBLT Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu highlighted the diligence that went into securing the deal. "Chief



CM Revanth Reddy and IT Minister Sridhar Babu with Dilip Shanghvi, Managing Director, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, and MD, Sun Petrochemicals exchanged MoU at Davos along with IT

The agreement, inked during the World conomic Forum meeting in Davos, marks one of the single-largest investment deals ever in the state, with a massive Rs 45,500 crore investment

Minister and I had several rounds of discussions, along with our officials and top leadership of Sun Petrochemicals to bring to Telangana one of the single largest investment successes since 2014,"

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, and MD, Sun Petrochemicals, said, "Telangana is becoming an irresistible force of an investment destination since the last 12 months, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. We are sure this landmark agreement will have a huge impact on not only the state but the entire country given the significance of green

Dilip Shanghvi, Managing Director,

energy to our economy."

Meanwhile, HCLTech, a leading global technology company, announced the expansion of its global delivery footprint in Hyderabad with the launch of a new tech centre.

Located in Hi-Tech City, the 320,000 sq ft facility will provide 5,000 additional Continued on Page 2

Hyd turns global hub for capability centres: Sridhar Babu

Telangana IT and Industries Minister Sridhar Babu stressed Hyderabad's emergence as India's premier hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs) during his keynote address at a breakfast interaction hosted by the CII and the PwC in Davos. The event, titled 'Driving Innovation and Talent: India's Strategic Advantages in GCCs,' innovation.

'Hyderabad offers global stanstructure, and a talent pool for



Sridhar Babu said.

Minister Sridhar Babu emphadards of living, cutting-edge infrasised that the government's vision extends beyond Hyderabad. "Our modern industries. Under the lead- focus is not just establishing GCCs

ership of Chief Minister Revanth in Hyderabad but also on expand-Reddy, the Telangana Government ing these centres to tier-2 and tierstressed Hyderabad's world-class is committed to fostering invest- 3 cities and towns across Telangana. infrastructure, skilled workforce ments and creating an environ- We aim to ensure that the benefits

> Sridhar Babu outlined the state's strategy to boost GCC operations through advanced technologies like artificial Continued on Page 2

remote corners," he stated.

CONGRESS RULE A FAILURE

Pink flag will fly again: KTR

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) lashed out at the Congress Government accusing it of mismanagement and inefficiency.

Speaking at a meeting with BRS leaders from Sathupalli municipality at Telangana Bhavan, he said, The governance style of the Congress government over the past year is evident from Tuesday's gram sabhas. People are openly questioning the guarantees and promises of the government."

KTR highlighted incidents from gram sabhas where citizens expressed their anger, even dismantling tents in frustration. "This shows the dissatisfaction among the ensure KCR's re-election as CM.

Government," he said.

Referring to the losses of Sattupalli MLA Sandra Venkata Veeriah and Khammam MLA Puvvada Ajay Kumar in previous elections, KTR said that many constituencies are suffering due to the lack of proper leadership.

He praised the development achieved during KCR's leadership, contrasting it with the past.

"In the past, allocating Rs 50 lakh to municipalities was considered significant, but under KCR's governance, both villages and towns have witnessed unprecedented development," KTR stated. He urged partymen to work tirelessly to

a talent powerhouse, showcasing its

pioneering initiatives in skill devel-

opment. The state highlighted the

establishment of the Young India

Skill University, the first of its kind

KIDNEY RACKET Medical Council

ALAKNANDA HOSPITAL

issues notices to doctors

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Medical Council took suo moto notice of Alaknanda Hospital for alleged kidney transplantation on Wednesday. They served notices to the

hospital explain all the details, including the registration of doctors and

s u r g e o n s involved in transplantations. Medical records from the hospital related to donors, and organ recipients

and human resources were also Dr K Mahesh Kumar Chairman, TSMC, speaking to The Pioneer said, "We have taken suo moto cognizance of the development and have

decided to serve notices to the hospital management. We did not receive any complaints from the DMHO.'

"It will be an inquiry and similar to a civil court. In this case the Alaknanda Hospital has been seized already, but according to the procedure we will have to conduct an inquiry. The hospital doctors will have to appear before the Medical Ethics and Malpractice Committee of the Council and present their case. They may also get their registration suspended for two to three years in the coming weeks," added Dr Mahesh Kumar.

PANIC OVER FALSE ALARM

12 dead after jumping off train, getting killed by another

PNS JALGAON

At least 12 passengers were killed on Wednesday evening when they jumped from their train in panic due to a 'fire incident', only to be run over by another train on the adjacent tracks in North Maharashtra's Jalgaon district, offi-

cials said. Twelve bodies were sent to the nearby civil hospital while six to seven persons were injured, special Inspector General of Police Dattatraya Karale told PTI.

The accident took place between Maheji and Pardhade stations near Pachora, more than 400 km from Mumbai, where the 12533 the death toll.



Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express had halted after someone pulled the chain around 5 pm, Central Railway officials said, without confirming the death toll. **Continued on Page 2**

BLENDING TRADITION AND INNOVATION

TG pavilion hogs limelight at Davos

Telangana made a grand statement at the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual summit in Davos with its spectacular pavilion 'Telangana Means Business.'

Breaking away from traditions, this year's Indian Gallery allocated exclusive pavilions for individual states, and Telangana's pavilion became the centrepiece, drawing attention from international investors and experts alike.

A highlight of the pavilion was the 'Fourth City,' Telangana's ambitious vision for the year 2050.

Spread across 14,000 acres, this futuristic eco-city will include a 6,000-acre forest conservation ecozone and aims to become India's first net-zero city. Designed as per the of Hyderabad, showcased the city's ty and transportation facilities.



Work, Live, Learn, Play, concept, the Fourth City will have zones for innovation, electronics, medical tourism and eco-tourism.

The pavilion artfully blended Telangana's historical charm with its forward-thinking vision. Highlighting its infrastructure, talent pool, and investor-friendly policies, the pavilion displayed Telangana's advantages. The back wall, adorned with stunning visuals evolution from the iconic Charminar to the futuristic 'Fourth City.'

including India's third-largest Metro network, the expansion of the Metro to the airport and the international connectivity offered by Hyderabad's airport. It also emphasised the state's Regional Ring Road (RRR), which along with the existing Outer Ring Road (ORR), enhances connectivi-

in the country, which trains youth for 18 industries and equips them with globally recognised skills. Renowned institutions like the ISB, the IIIT and NALSAR were also displayed The pavilion displayed Telangana's robust infrastructure, emphasising Telangana's commitment to educational excellence.

The pavilion detailed Telangana's investor-friendly policies, which have made it a preferred destination for industries. Initiatives like the single-window clearance system and sector-specific incentives for electric vehicles, life sciences, semiconductors and renewable energy were prominently displayed.

TG wants to move 40 million people in eco-friendly way: CM

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy shared his government's vision for transforming urban and regional mobility in Telangana in a speech at the Urban Mobility Roundtable during the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos.

Issuing a call to action the Chief Minister said, "Help us move 40 million people across Telangana in the fastest, greenest, and most cost-effective way. A city that moves best grows fastest. Let's make Hyderabad the fastest and greenest city in the world."

Addressing global leaders and experts, Revanth outlined a comprehensive strategy to enhance connectivity, reduce transit costs and create sustain-

The CM began by emphasising the critical role of urban mobility in shaping the future

"Cities that minimise the time and cost to move people and goods will thrive," he said, adding that urban mobility, combined with sustainability and environmental concerns will dictate the trajectory of human development.

Highlighting Hyderabad's rapid growth, Revanth noted that the city, with a population exceeding 12 million, faces unique mobility challenges. The state is undertaking several projects including the expansion of the Hyderabad Metro to over 100 km, that is, more than doubling its current capacity,

Regional Ring Road spanning 360 km, complementing the existing Outer Ring Road (160 km). He also announced the development of a Regional Ring Railway, ensuring dual layers of connectivity for roads and railways around the city. "Radial roads will connect these rings, creating a seamless network for transportation," he added.

As Telangana is landlocked,

the Chief Minister revealed plans to establish a major dry port to transform the region into a supply chain and warehousing hub. This dry port will connected to the Machilipatnam Port via a dedicated highway and railway link enabling efficient cargo movement.

He also stressed the impor-

'No recommendation needed to access welfare schemes'

PNS HYDERABAD

There is no need for recommendations to get the benefits of the four social welfare schemes including the Indiramma housing scheme, Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said. He made it clear that the government will give priority to the poorest of the poor who have a house site.

He said that some opposi-He said that some opposition parties are wilfully trying to incite the people attending Grama Sabhas to create problems. There is no need for people to feel insecure thinking that their name does not figure in the name does not figure in the list of beneficiaries. People should apply again through Grama Sabhas if their name is not there in the lists, he

Congress activists fight each other for party posts

YC leaders said that former BRS activists were given posts



PNS HYDERABAD

Youth Congress leaders fought with each other for party posts on Wednesday on the premises of the Gandhi Bhavan.

YC leaders from Kothagudem started a fight saying that the Youth Congress is giving priority to those who had joined the Congress from the BRS.

ly and soon it turned into a fight between six factions. Some people suffered minor injuries in the brawl and some said that they didn't get any posts even though they had been working for the party from the beginning of their

Some Youth Congress leaders said that ineligible people

political careers.

The tension built up slow- were given posts and cited the case of one Cheekati Karthik, aged around 38, who was given a post even though he is not eligible for it as per party norms.

Some YC activists said that they were attacked with chairs when they demanded justice and a few women said that some party activists misbehaved with them.

Investments by Hyd companies could have been settled over chai here itself, says KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS leader KT Rama Rao took a swipe at the TG government's decision to announce investments by Hyderabadbased companies at the World Economic Forum meeting at Davos in Switzerland.

In a post on 'X' on Wednesday, KTR criticised the practice, labelling it as a symbol of misplaced priorities.

Sharing an image highlight-ing agreements signed by local companies like MEIL, Skyroot Aerospace and CtrlS at Davos, KTR sarcastically remarked, "What is 'innovative thinking'? Is it making Hyderabad-based

companies travel thousands of miles to Davos in Switzerland, and announce them as investments?" He added, "Elect a clown, expect a circus," followed by the hashtag #CongressFailedTelangana.

KTR's critique centred on the irony of promoting investments by companies headquartered in Hyderabad on an international platform. The leader suggested that such announcements could have been made locally, sav-

ing costs.
"A simple conversation over chai in Hyderabad could have achieved the same thing," he

CM Revanth commits to trillion tree campaign

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy pledged his support to the Trillion Tree Campaign (TTC), a global initiative to create a sustainable green planet by planting trillion trees. Speaking at the World Economic Forum summit in Davos, he vowed to actively contribute to environmental conservation and ensure a safer future for generations to come.

The Chief Minister, along with Minister Sridhar Babu, participated in the initiative at the Telangana Pavilion, where Trillion Tree Organisation emphasised the Telangana gov-



administered the environmen-

tainability in mobility pro-

jects. The state plans to replace

3,000 petrol and diesel buses

with electric buses to reduce

emissions. Telangana is also

leading India in adopting electric vehicles (EV), having waived road tax and registra-

tion charges for all EVs. "Our

state now boasts the highest EV

sales growth," he stated.
Sharing a glimpse of Telangana's long-term vision,

Revanth announced the devel-

opment of a net-zero city

named 'Future City,' spanning 14,000 acres, with 6,000 acres

dedicated to an eco-zone. This

city will feature world-class

mobility solutions and will be

designed on the principles of

innovation, sustainability and

connectivity, he added.

ernment's commitment to susrepresentatives from the tal pledge. Revanth Reddy tainability and detailed its efforts to implement net-zero tives.

policies across all sectors. Environmental conservation is vital for the survival of future generations and Telangana is prioritizing this through its Telangana Rising strategy," he

Prominent attendees included Nicole Schwab, Executive Committee Member of the World Economic Forum and Co-Founder of the Nature Positive Pillar, as well as Florian Vernaz of 1t.org, who appreciated Telangana's proactive stance on sustainability. The delegation expressed hope that Telangana would play a significant role in advancing the campaign's global objec-

'Congress & BJP are one, one is fake, the other deep fake

PNS ■ YADADRI-BHUVANAGIRI

The Congress and the BJP are one in Telangana. While one is fake the other is deep fake, BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha said.

She launched a scathing attack on Congress leaders, accusing them of orchestrating attacks on BRS offices and misleading the public with bogus gram sabha meetings.

Speaking at a press meet after attending the Giri Pradakshina at the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Yadadri, Kavitha warned Congress leaders against targeting BRS workers. "The BRS is a family of 60

lakh soldiers. If our workers decide, Congress leaders will not dare to step out of their homes. Be cautious, Congress leaders," she declared.

Kavitha criticised the Congress Government led by Revanth Reddy for failing to deliver on election promises, including those made in connection with the Musi project. She said that the govern-

ment was using the project as an 'ATM' for contractors by proposing an unnecessary connection from the distant Mallanna Sagar reservoir instead of the nearby Kondapochamma Sagar.

"This is nothing but a ploy to misuse public funds of Rs 7,500 crore," she said, demanding an explanation from Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy.

During gram sabhas, Kavitha accused the Congress of misleading the people by conducting surveys and accepting applications repeat-

edly without any resolution.
"What happened to the applications submitted last year? Are they just staging this drama ahead of elections?" she asked. She urged the public to question Congress leaders directly and expose their inef-

Govt declares

Rs 5 lakh help

PNS MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Wednesday announced a Rs 5 lakh ex gracia for the kin of those killed in the train accident in Jalgaon district.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who is in Davos, said in a video that the government will bear the cost of medical treatment for the injured persons. Deputy CM Eknath

Shinde said prima facie passengers of Pushpak Express jumped off the train amid the train

He said the exact number of the injured and deceased passengers is being ascertained.

Shinde said authorities have been directed to immediately shift the injured to the hospital and ensure they get proper treatment.

Maharashtra Governor Radhakrishnan expressed sorrow over the incident.

"Extremely saddened to know about the unfortunate death of some passengers after they were hit by another train near Jalgaon. Convey my condolences to the next of those who lost their lives. Wishing a speedy recovery to the injured," he stated.

Will chase goons, land sharks seizing the pork's meat: Eatala

PNS HYDERABAD

Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender warned the BJP would chase away the goons and land sharks if they troubled the poor and women.

Speaking to the media on Wednesday at the state BJP office, Eatala Rajender said the Congress government has been troubling the poor in the name of HYDRAA and Musi cleansing. Hundreds of people are filing complaints with men alleging that the government is demolishing their houses court gave a verdict in favour and requested him to protect their houses.

and land sharks are troubling attacking the people continu-

PNS HYDERABAD

them. Moreover, the police are saying that they are facing pressure from the government, he alleged.

"I informed everything to the Medchal collector regarding land encroachments. I slapped the goons who are attacking the Ekashilangar poor," he said.

Rajender said that Harsha Construction Company purchased several plots over there and also encroached on the lands of poor thereby threatm. He said that the of the poor regarding 47 acres in 2010, however, from then Rajender alleged that the onwards encroachers are trypolice are not taking care of ing to encroach that land. the people when the goons The goons and land sharks are

'TDP-JSP-BJP alliance facing rough weather'

ously but there is no response from the police and revenue department, he alleged.

The people came to him and appealed to him to protect their lands several times. In response, he went to the spot, however, the goons didn't give him respect. Moreover, the goons scolded him using filthy language, Rajender alleged.

Rajender demanded Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to respond on these atrocities of Hyderabad and across Telangana.

Rajender warned that the BJP would not keep quiet if goons and land sharks attacked the poor and encroached their lands.

Pawan to throw Chandrababu Naidu aside.

He said the BJP always tries to 'kill' politi-

cal parties aligned with it after using them and

that it is happening in Punjab to Akali Dal and

to Eknath Shinde in Maharashtra. Parties join-

ing hands with the BJP must be careful

regarding this and this could turn out to be

Dayakar said that the BJP is conspiring to

capture power completely in North and South

dangerous for the BJP in future, he added.

IT Minister discusses deals with Infosys, Wipro

PNS ■ DAVOS/HYDERABAD

At the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2025 in Davos, Telangana emerged as a global hub for innovation, sustainability and inclusive develop-

The state showcased its commitment to attracting global investments, expanding its IT footprint, and driving agricultural and technological growth through a series of high-profile meetings and announcements led by IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Sridhar announced a

major expansion of Infosys' Pocharam IT campus, creating 15,000 new jobs for Telangana's youth.

During his meeting with Infosys CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka, collaborations on Smart City solutions, digital governance frameworks. and green IT initiatives were

145 dams in TG need interventions even as budget constraints remain a challenge

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The fifth State Committee on Dam Safety (SCDS) meeting, chaired by the Engineer-in-Chief, Telangana, brought to light critical challenges facing dam infrastructure across the State. The committee underscored the urgent need for structural repairs, improved flood management and interstate coordination to safeguard lives and livelihoods dependent on these reservoirs. Pre- and post-monsoon inspections of 159 specified dams revealed

pressing maintenance needs. ed for decommissioning and Of these, 144 dams require reconstruction by a panel of moderate interventions, while one was flagged for urgent action. Encroachments, unmaintained inspection paths, overgrown vegetation and drainage blockages were identified as common issues compromising dam safety.

Persistent structural issues at key dams were highlighted during the meeting. The Gundlavagu Project, plagued by water depletion problems due to foundational and hydrological issues, was recommend-

experts. Meanwhile, the breach at the Peddavagu Project dam in July 2024 exposed its design limitations, as it failed to withstand inflows nearly double its capacity. The breach impacted ayacut across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, with permanent restoration costs estimated at Rs 92.2 crore.

Budget constraints remain a hurdle, with Rs 200 crore allocated for dam maintenance this year. Officials emphasized the importance of additional funding for long-term rehabilitation projects and strategic improve-

Collaborative efforts between basin states were stressed to manage shared resources effectively and mitigate cascading risks.

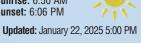
In response to growing flood risks, the committee proposed forming a panel of Chief Engineers from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra to undertake flood routing studies for the Godavari and Krishna basin reservoirs.

TODAY **ALMANAC** Krishna Paksha Jan 22 03:18 PM to Jan 23 05:37 PM Dashami: Jan 23 05:37 PM to Jan 24 07:25 PM Nakshatram: Jan 23 02:34 AN Vishaka: Anuradha: Jan 24 05:08 AM

to Jan 25 07:07 AM 1:51 PM to 3:15 PM Rahukalam 6:53 AM to 8:16 AM Yamagandam 09:28 AM to 11:12 AM Varjyam: 9:40 AM to 11:04 AM Amritakalam: 07:23 PM to 09:10 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:05 PM to 12:50 PM HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Sunny **Temp:** 31° Humidity: 48% Sunrise: 6:50 AM Sunset: 6:06 PM



12 dead after ...

the Chief Minister proves it, he said.

Disturbances have started in the TDP-Jana

Sena-BJP alliance in Andhra Pradesh, senior

Congress leader Addanki Dayakar said. The

slogan war declaring Nara Lokesh as the

Deputy Chief Minister and Pawan Kalyan as

He said that realising that locking horns with

Chandrababu Naidu can endanger the NDA

Government, the BJP is conspiring with

Continued from page 1

ered body parts.

Some passengers of the Pushpak Express jumped off, and were hit by the oncoming Karnataka Express heading from Bengaluru to Delhi, said Central Railway's chief spokesperson Swapnil Nila. IG Karale told PTI that a "fire incident" occurred on Pushpak

Express, at km 372/07 between Maheji and Pardhade stations. The train stopped at the location, and some passengers disembarked. Train No. 12627, Bengaluru-New Delhi Karnataka Express hit people standing on the railway tracks, he added. Six to seven people have been injured. All injured passengers are being treated at the hospital, none of their injuries are

serious. Both trains have reached their respective next stations

and the accident site has been cleared," the senior police offi-Pushpak Express departed from the spot in just 15 minutes, while the Karnataka Express was removed within 20 minutes

after the accident, a railway official said. Maharashtra minister Girish Mahajan also reached the spot. The injured are being treated in a hospital in Pachora and most of them were out of danger, he said.

"Our preliminary information is that there were sparks and smoke inside one of the general coaches of Pushpak Express due to either 'hot axle' or 'brake-binding' (jamming), and some passengers panicked. They pulled the chain, and some of them jumped down. At the same time, Karnataka Express was passing," a senior railway official had said earlier.

Visuals from the accident spot showed a few bodies and sev-

Naidu smiles ...

Continued from page 1

which originate in Maharashtra, flow through Telangana and reach Andhra Pradesh. Development is our priority," Revanth stated during the session.

He emphasized Telangana's ambition to position Hyderabad as a global city comparable to New York and Tokyo.

"Hyderabad is Telangana's crown jewel, and we are focused on building world-class infrastructure to make it compete with cities like Tokyo and Singapore. Our focus is not just on competition but on making Telangana the destination of choice for global investors as part of the China Plus One strategy," he

Reflecting on the contributions of leaders like Rajiv Gandhi, PV Narasimha Rao, Chandrababu Naidu, and YS Rajasekhara Reddy, Revanth acknowledged the economic reforms that laid the foundation for Telangana's progress. "Rajiv Gandhi's reforms in com-

puters and telecom, coupled with PV Narasimha Rao's liberalised policies, opened India to global competition. Leaders like Chandrababu Naidu and YS Rajasekhara Reddy transformed Hyderabad's growth trajectory. Today, Telangana is taking this legacy forward by focusing on global benchmarks," he said.

Revanth outlined Telangana's comprehensive development plan to transform the state into a trilliondollar economy.

The IT and pharma industries remain the backbone in the Outer Ring Road (ORR) area. After the completion of the Regional Ring Road, 65% of Telangana will turn urban. The admin has plans to establish cold storage units, promote organic food production, and support agri-based industries such as poultry, meat, and fish exports to improve livelihoods.

"Urbanization is the key to growth, but we also aim to empower our rural areas by creating strong agro-industrial linkages, he stated

Deal of deals ...

Continued from page 1

employment opportunities and focus on delivering cutting-edge solutions in cloud, AI, and digital transformation across industries like hi-tech, life sciences, and financial ser-

HCLTech's CEO, C. Vijayakumar, remarked, "Hyderabad, with its world-class infrastructure and high-quality talent pool, has been a key location on HCLTech's global network. This new center reaffirms our commitment to the region's technology

ecosystem." The new facility is designed with sustainability at its core, earning a Gold Certification from the Indian Green Building Council. HCLTech has been operating in Hyderabad since 2007 and, with this expansion, will have five centers in the city with a combined seat-

ing capacity of 8,500.

The Telangana Government also signed a MoU with JSW UAV Limited, a subsidiary of JSW Defence, to set up a state-of-the-art Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAV) manufacturing unit. The project, with an investment of Rs 800 crore, will be developed in collaboration with a leading US-based defence technology company.

Hyd turns ...

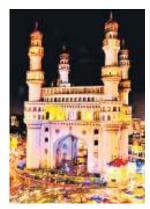
Continued from page 1 intelligence, blockchain software, cybersecurity and digital health.

"Telangana is bridging the gap between industries and educational institutions by creating Centres of Excellence, Advanced Technology Centres, and the BFSI Consortium. We are committed to positioning Telangana as the go-to destination for skilled human resources," he added.

Highlighting the state's inclusive approach, Sridhar said, "Our ultimate goal is to bring technological benefits to every citizen, even in the most remote villages. We are working towards making Telangana the address for skilled talent in India." He also noted that many prominent companies have already set up GCCs in Hyderabad, with more in the pipeline.

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Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanthi

Ravindra Bharathi January 23, (1:30 pm to 10 pm)

Birthday celebrations of Netaji Subhas **Chandra Bose**

> Lamakaan January 23, (11 am)

Bayaz E Yaad

A Tribute to poetry of Aslam Farshori

Lamakaan January 23, (7 pm)

Talk on Marxism and Feminism

By Shivani Kaul

Lamakaan January23, (7 pm)

Demolitions stalled as MLA Danam intervenes

PNS HYDERABAD

A demolition drive in Chintal Basthi of Khairatabad was stalled after MLA Danam Nagender intervened on Wednesday.

Do it after CM Revanth Reddy's arrival from Davos. I will speak to him and then permit you for the demolitions," he said. He further questioned why outsiders are intimidating the local MLA who has been representing them for last 30 years.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Town Planning officials claimed that there are illegal semi-permanent structures that have blocked pedestrian roads. It is supposedly Operation Rope and the officers were doing their duty as it was inconvenient for the

There is a procedure of a complaint and then investigating before going on for demolition. Along with the JCB machine there were officials, the senior officer told

The Pioneer. The MLA, who angrily marched to the spot, demanded the authorities to stop the ongoing demoli-tions. Nagender was also furious with the officials saying how the demolitions were taken up without his knowledge as he was the local elected representative.

City Pioneer





Mayor warns against insanitary conditions in food godowns

PNS HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi has issued a strong warning against compromising public health for profit, stating that any actions endangering people's well-being will not be tolerated. The Mayor conducted a surprise inspection of several food preparation centres in Suraram area of the Quthbullapur Circle in Kukatpally zone on Wednesday

During the inspections, the Mayor observed the preparation of substandard food items and noted insanitary conditions in the production of various food products such as flour-based snacks and sweets. She pointed out that these food items lacked basic quality standards, with no



manufacturing or expiry storage practices were found, action regarding these violates on ingredients like flour violating hygiene regulations.

Additionally, improper concerned to take immediate

She instructed the authorities

Speaking to the media, Mayor Vijayalakshmi empha-

sized that the health of the sized that the health of the public is the city's top priority. She expressed concern that children and adults consuming such low-quality food are at risk of food poisoning and other health issues. and other health issues.

She urged everyone to be mindful when purchasing food from outside and reiterated that the GHMC would take strict action against the sale of substandard products.

The mayor also warned that any non-compliance with food safety regulations would lead to severe consequences.

She assured that these surprise inspections would continue to prevent the sale of harmful food products and protect public health. She specifically called on parents to be cautious, as children are more vulnerable to health risks from contaminated

NIFT Hyderabad's director Prof Malini Divakala, along with other key faculty members celebrating the 40th Foundation Day on Wednesday **40[™] FOUNDATION DAY OF NIFT Al-driven fashion forecasting** platform VisionNxt launched PNS HYDERABAD

India's first AI and EI-driven fashion forecasting platform VisionNxt was launched during the 40th Foundation Day of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Hyderabad. The event on Wednesday,

celebrating NIFT's 40 years of excellence, highlighted the launch of VisionNxt, developed under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. This platform integrates artificial intelligence (AI) and emo-tional intelligence (EI) to pro-vide unique trend insights designed for India's fashion

and retail market. NIFT Hyderabad's director Professor Malini Divakala, along with other key faculty members, showcased a video presentation of VisionNxt,

highlighting its innovative features and benefits, and its role in transforming India's textile industry. VisionNxt aims to reduce reliance on international agencies by leveraging India's strengths in IT and textiles, positioning India as a leader in fashion trend forecasting.

A panel discussion called

'Parikalpna - Envisaging Trends in Fashion,' moderated by Professor Jasti Pooja, featured NIFT alumni talking about future fashion trends and sustainability.

The event also highlighted NIFT's achievements with a visual screening and memory wall display, showing its progress in the fashion indus-

The discussion left attendees feeling hopeful about the future of design and innovation.

NIMS plans exclusive pediatric facilities, new branches

PNS HYDERABAD

The Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) is gearing up to establish exclusive branches catering to pediatric healthcare, including a dedicated Craniofacial branch and a Pediatric Epilepsy centre, announced Director Dr Bheerappa Nagari. Speaking to The Pioneer, Dr Nagari revealed, "We have been witnessing an increasing number of child patients in various departments. To address their specific needs, we plan to introduce specialized

pediatric branches.' The Craniofacial branch is set to be inaugurated soon, with plans already in motion. Meanwhile, a Pediatric Epilepsy centre worth Rs 2 crore, is expected to

commence operations by March.

"These branches, including Pediatric Dermatology, will have separate wards and facilities. Each branch will initially be equipped with 20 beds and dedicated infrastructure. This will streamline the process for young patients, allowing them to directly access specialized care," Dr

Surgeries performed successfully at NIMS with US expertise

DEEPIKA PASHAM

deepikapasham2015@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Two young patients, including a vibrant Instagram content creator and a talkative 7-year-old boy, successfully underwent craniosynostosis surgeries at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), assisted by visiting faculty from the US.

Ten-year-old Naram Nikshayanti, an avid dancer and social media enthusiast, was diagnosed with craniosynostosis after a series of consultations.

Her parents revealed, "We started with neck-up at Lions Club, wh us to LV Prasad Institute, and eventually to neurosurgeons and plastic surgeons at NIMS." She underwent a craniofacial procedure costing Rs 7 lakh, partially Rs three lakh reimbursed by the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Seven-year-old Koushal born with a deformed skull, faced severe breathing issues due to obstructive sleep apnea and abnormal midface growth. Despite multiple soft tissue surgeries, his condition

His parents sought help at NIMS, to remove the device.



NIMS Director Dr Bheerappa Nagari with parents and their children who underwent successful surgeries

craniofacial procedures.

On January 7, Dr David A Staffenberg, a visiting craniofacial surgeon from NYU, performed a breakthrough internal distraction osteogen-

esis surgery.
Remarkably, Koushal was able to sleep supine without a CPAP machine immediately after the surgery. The distraction process, advancing facial bones at a rate of 1mm per day, is ongoing, and he will undergo a follow-up procedure

of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, said that causes varies for Craniosynostsosis. Fewer times the skull bones stop growing when the baby is in mother's womb and sometimes is

a genetical transmission. Dr Bheerappa Nagari, Director of NIMS, highlighted the significance of such surgeries, stating, "Every year, US faculty visit to perform and assist with complex craniofacial procedures. Last year, we successfully operated on four complicated cases."

6.015 kgs of ganja seized, two arrested in Hyd

PNS HYDERABAD

Excise Department officials in Musheerabad seized 6.015 kilograms of ganja and arrested two individuals near gate of NTR Stadium, Domalguda on Wednesday.

The accused, Guddu Kumar and Chetu Kumar Yadav originally from Jharkhand had come to Hyderabad for work. Struggling to earn sufficient income through daily labour and auto-driving, they turned to selling ganja for financial

The ganja was reportedly transported from Odisha and was being taken for sale in the Musheerabad area when the Excise team, led by CI Prasanna Reddy and Sravan, intercepted the auto.

Along with the contraband, one mobile phone was also confiscated.



In a gruesome incident under Rachakonda

Man kills wife, cooks body

parts in pressure cooker

PNS HYDERABAD

Commissionerate, a man allegedly killed his wife, mutilated her body and cooked parts of it in a pressure cooker before disposing of the remains in a local lake.

The accused, identified as Gurumurthy, used to work as an outsourced security guard at DRDO. Meerpet Police revealed that Gurumurthy

of infidelity, which led to the horrific crime. According to the investigation, Gurumurthy dismem-

bered Madhavi's body and dumped the remains in the Jillelaguda lake. The heinous act came to light after Madhavi's parents filed a missing person report.

Upon interrogation, Gurumurthy confessed to the crime. The police have registered a case and are conducting further investiga-

New Esports talent will be equipped with gaming skills

PNS HYDERABAD

Krafton India Esports has launched the first-ever 'Rising Star' programme, which aims to empower and equip new esports talent with gaming skills in India. The programme is open to individuals with at least 1,000 followers on any streaming platform. Applications are now live, offering aspiring esports stars the chance to improve their skills and rise in the industry.

The programme focuses on holistic development, offering mentorship to enhance gaming and content creation abilities. It also emphasises mental well-being and balanced

lifestyles, ensuring long-term success in competitive esports. It aims to nurture rising stars and underdogs, helping them shine in India's esports land-

Associate Director of Esports at Krafton India, Karan Pathak emphasised that the programme is about building a passionate community to elevate India's esports to global standards. This initiative highlights Kraftons commitment to developing India's esports scene.

Eligibility requires applicants to have consistent BGMI-related content, be 16+, and comply with the programme's code of conduct.

Consumer personal style preference shifts for diamonds in jewellery

PNS HYDERABAD

Consumer preferences for diamond jewellery are shifting, with a 28% increase in overall diamond jewellery sales. This growth shows jewellery brands focusing on and changing views on dia-

high-quality, elegant designs and promoting natural dia-monds with the Natural Diamond Council (NDC). Consumers now prefer premium, durable and versa-

tile jewellery. Higher incomes



monds as symbols of style awareness and increase the and sophistication have boosted demand for items like engagement rings, wedding bands and diamond

appeal of natural diamonds. This success shows the jewellery brand's ability to adapt to changing tastes by offering exceptional designs and pro-By working with NDC, moting the value of natural brands build trust, raise diamonds.

16 Indira Mahila Shakti Bhayans to be completed by Sept: CS

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari held a high-level meeting on Wednesday at the Secretariat to review the progress of several key infrastructure and development projects, including the construction of the High Court buildings, Telangana Bhavan, Osmania General Hospital, the Northern Regional Ring Road, Indira Mahila Shakti Bhavans, and Young India Integrated Residential Schools.

Discussing the Osmania General Hospital redevelop-ment, the Chief Secretary examined plans for new academic blocks and residential zones. She directed the Hyderabad District Collector to conduct a joint inspection with the Revenue, Civil Supplies, and Police Departments to remove petrol



bunks in the hospital vicinity for smooth execution of the project.

Shanti Kumari stated that the construction of 16 Indira Mahila Shakti Bhavans has already begun and work on six additional buildings will commence within a week. All these structures are expected to be completed by the end of September.

Regarding Young India Integrated Residential Schools, the Chief Secretary instructed

the Education Secretary to draft operational and academic frameworks for the initiative. She also emphasised the need to strengthen the engineering division of the Telangana Education Welfare Infrastructure Development Corporation (TEWIDC) and requested officials to submit proposals. The review also covered

land acquisition updates for the Regional Ring Road and progress on the Telangana Bhavan construction. The meeting was attended

by Vikas Raj, Special Chief Secretary of Roads and Buildings; Srinivas Raju, Government Advisor; Naveen Mittal, Principal Secretary of Revenue; Christina Zongthu, Principal Secretary of Health; Yogita Rana, Secretary of Education, and other senior

Two habitual offenders arrested, property worth Rs 4.6 lakh seized

PNS HYDERABAD

In a commendable operation, the Bowenpally Police apprehended two habitual offenders involved in a series of house burglaries and recovered

stolen property worth Rs 4.6 lakh. The arrests were made following an extensive investigation into cases registered under Cr. Nos. 23/2025 and 29/2025.

The accused, identified as Gjen alias Nagapalla

Kishore Kumar (21), a driver Shapur Nagar, Hyderabad, and originally from Anantapur, and Chithari Bharath alias Baathu (21), a labourer from Hasmanthpet,

Old Bowenpally, were known for targeting locked houses in isolated areas. They broke into homes at night, stealing valuables such as silver ornaments, watches, mobile phones and electronic equipment.



recovered from them

Silver ornaments, two Titan watches, one Provogue watch, two mobile phones, two Canon cameras with lenses and a Honda Activa were

Hyd the only city with a 9% decline in average flat sizes

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad is the only city to see a 9% decline in average flat sizes in 2024, according to Anarock data. Despite rising housing prices across cities, homebuyers are still seeking larger living spaces. In 2024, the average flat size in the top seven cities grew by 8%, from 1,420 sq. ft. in 2023 to 1,540 sq. ft. This is a 34% increase compared to 2019, when the aver-

age was 1,145 sq. ft.
National Capital Region
(NCR) saw the highest growth, with flat sizes rising 29% from 1,890 sq. ft. in 2023 to 2,435 sq. ft. in 2024. This surge is due to the growing supply of luxury housing in the region. The luxury segment accounted for 70% of new units launched in 2024, up from 40% in 2023.



Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) had the lowest growth in average flat sizes, reaching 849 sq. ft. in 2024, a modest 8% increase from 2019.

Hyderabad's average flat size increased by 24% over six years but saw a decrease in 2024. Other cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, and Pune

saw steady growth in flat sizes. Chairman of Anarock Group Anuj Puri said that demand for larger flats, especially luxury ones, is growing despite higher prices. This increase is mainly due to more new luxury housing projects introduced in the region over the past year.

'All ration cardholders will receive 6 kg fine rice free of cost'

Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy made it clear that no deadline to apply for ration cards, Indiramma houses

PNS KARIMNAGAR

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday made it clear that the welfare programs initiated by the Congress government in Telangana were designed to reach every eligible individual, ensuring comprehensive coverage up to the saturation point, He claimed that it is an unparalleled initiative in independent India.

Participating in Praja Palana Gram Sabhas held in Manakondur, Choppadandi, Vemulawada, and Dharmapuri constituencies, Uttam Kumar Reddy, joined by Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, emphasised the Congress government's commitment to leaving no one behind.

MLAs K Satayanarayana, Medipally Satyam, Aadi Srinivas and A Lakshman Kumar and MLC Jeevan Reddy, other senior leaders, and officials were present. Uttam Kumar Reddy announced the

issuance of new ration cards to all eligible individuals through a seamless, continuous process conducted in a transparent and accountable manner. He urged people to check their names in the beneficiary lists and apply during the ongoing Gram Sabhas or through designated officials. He criticised the previous BRS government for issuing fewer than 40,000 ration cards during its 10-year rule.

"Ration cards are a priority for almost all poor families. Therefore, we've decided to ensure that every eligible beneficiary becomes a part of the PDS through ration cards," he said.



Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy addressing a Gram Sabha in Karimnagar district on Wednesday

"After completing issuance of ration cards as promised during elections all ration cardholders will receive 6 kg of fine rice per person free of cost. Unlike the coarse grain previously distributed, this initiative ensures food quality and prevents misuse.

He criticised the previous BRS regime for misleading people with unfulfilled promises of double-bedroom houses. As housing minister in the previous Congress government, I oversaw the construction of lakhs of Indiramma

However, BRS cheated the people on the promise of 2BHK houses and delivered nothing in 10 years. In contrast, the Congress government has reintroduced the Indiramma Indlu programme, ensuring housing benefits for all eligible families. Poor families will receive Rs 5 lakh for house construction, he stated. He also assured the public that the Congress government would ensure housing for the poor until saturation is achieved.

Minister Uttam said that the Congress government had increased 'Indiramma Rythu Bharosa' support to Rs 12,000 per acre, exclusively for cultivable landowners. Calling the Congress government profarmer, he reminded the public that the state government had waived their crop loans in a single instalment.

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar listed out the welfare schemes being implemented by the Congress government

Narayanpur project will be completed

Uttam Kumar Reddy announced that the Narayanpur reservoir in Karimnagar district would be completed by next year. He declared that the Narayanpur project would be completed on a war footing and treated as the highest-priority project. He stated that nearly Rs 32 crore was required for land acquisition and another Rs 10 crore for the completion of other works. Once completed, the project would create an additional ayacut of 70,000 acres. He also announced that the balance works of the Yellampalli Reservoir would be completed within one year. He criticised the previous BRS regime for completely neglecting the Narayanpur project over the past 10 years. Uttam Kumar Reddy accused the previous BRS government of wasting thousands of crores in the name of irrigation projects without achieving significant ayacut. In contrast, he said the Congress government focuses on achieving maximum ayacut with efficient use of funds. He assured that the Narayanpur project would be completed on

since it came to power in December 2023. These include free travel for women in RTC buses, free power up to 200 units, gas cylinders for Rs 500, free power for farmers, crop loan waivers, and many other schemes covering all sections of society.

hi-tech training camp on Telangana-Chhattisgarh border being dismantled on Wednesday

Police take control of Maoist hi-tech training camp

PNS WARANGAL

In the forests of Bhattiguda, located along the Telangana border, a hightech training camp set up by the activists of the Communist Party of India-Maoists, known as Maoist Party, fell into the hands of the police on

Wednesday.
The Cobra Battalion soldiers launched an attack on the camp, taking it into their control and also dismantling a memorial plaque named after Kattaka Sudhakar. The memowas erected at the training

In the camp, the Naxalites had also prepared tall trees for training pur-

With the increasing pressure from the forces, the Maoists have no choice

but to select new shelter zones. Despite having taken shelter in the border areas of Narayanpur and Dantewada, the forces are infiltrating these areas as well. These regions have witnessed several encounters in the past under Operation Jalashakti.

Even though forests are dense during both the rainy and summer seasons, the forces are identifying and eliminating Maoist shelter zones. Base camps have expanded in areas like Bastar, Dantewada, Bijapur, Kanker, Narayanpur, and the rest of the forest regions. While the Maoists once targeted base camps, now the forces are focusing on eliminating the Maoist shelter zones.

As part of it, the security forces on Wednesday identified the hi-tech training camp and dismantled it.

TG Workers Welfare Assn urges govt to fulfil promises

The Telangana Workers Welfare Association Shadnagar Division held the committee meeting here on Wednesday. The meeting was chaired by P Venkat Ramreddy, division president. The meeting focused on the association's ongoing efforts to support Telangana activists and ensure the fulfillment of promises made by the state government.

In his address, Venkat Ramreddy emphasised the need for continuous work towards the welfare of activists in the coming days. He highlighted that the mandal committees should be completed by the end of this month, with elections for the Kondurg and Chaudhary Guda mandal committees scheduled to take place shortly. The Shadnagar division committee election had already been conducted, with only the Keshampet mandal committee elections pending due to some delays.

Venkat Ramreddy further mentioned that the state government, led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, is committed to fulfilling its promises to the people. The completion of all mandal committees is a priority, with a focus on identifying genuine movement activists and

ers, visited the Nalgonda police office

the attackers.

involved in the incident.

State Corporation Chairman



informing the Division Committee, Mandal Committees, and Town Committees about their details.

He also announced that elections for the Farooq Nagar, Kondurg, Chaudhary Guda, and Shad Nagar town committees would be held on January 26 and 27 of this month.

The meeting was attended by several key figures, including Pinapaka Prabhakar, Honorary President of the Telangana Workers' Welfare Association Division, advisors Nakkala Venkatesh Goud, co-convenors Jangaru Narasimha and Mohammad Sirajuddin, vice-presidents Arla Yadaiah, Jangari Ravi, Siddala Srinath, and coordinator Mamidipalli Sarath.

ATM theft poses a major challenge for police

Pressure is mounting on the police to crack the mystery of burglary

PNS NIZAMABAD

The ATM theft in Pitlam mandal were 17 burglaries during the day police. So far, no clues could be more than 500 general thefts were obtained. As a result, the police are reported, according to the police's

help in investigation. The police are still examining the CCTV

On January 12, a gang of thieves looted an SBI ATM located near the main road in Pitlam mandal. They used gas cutters to braek open the ATM and stole Rs 17.70 lakh. The police have initially estimated that a gang of four members from outside the states were involved in this rob-

ATM, while another person was in a car, and another might have been keeping a watch. After committing the robbery, the thieves fled in a car on National Highway 161.

However, it seems they avoided the toll gate and instead took routes through nearby remote villages. The gang members covered their faces with cloth to conceal their identities while entering the

After the incident, the police collected fingerprints at the crime scene. Once a case investigation is concluded, another case arises. In the district, motorcycle thefts, mobile phone thefts, and burglar-

both day and night. Last year, there trying to rope in group persons to annual report. The police managed

routine, with incidents happening



bery. Two individuals entered the to solve 65 per cent of the cases and recovered 53 per cent of the stolen goods. The remaining property still needs to be recovered.

However, these ATM thieves have posed a challenge to the police, as they were careful not to leave even small clues behind. Consequently, the police are under pressure from higher authorities to esolve this case.

Nearly ten days have passed since the incident, and there has been no significant progress in the case. As a result, higher authorities have focused special attention on this case. The police are investigating whether the thieves headed towards Maharashtra or Tamil ies at locked houses have become Nadu after committing the crime.

Gram Sabha marred by protests in districts

PNS WARANGAL/SIDDIPET

Grama Sabhas organised in various districts witnessed protests with people voicing concern over their names missing from the list of beneficiaries for vari-

On the second day of the gram sabhas held in the agency area in Mulugu district, people confronted the officials. When the officials asked those whose names did not appear on the list meant for sanctioning houses under the Indiramma Housing scheme to submit applications again, the people questioned why they should apply again. An argument ensued between the officials and the people. The police had to intervene to ensure that peace returned. The people raised the issue saying that this was not the gram sabha but

"police sabha. The gram sabha held in Shankarajupalli, Shappalli, and Shivapuram villages under Eturnagaram mandal in Mulugu district also witnessed protests.

Protests erupted in 23 out of 34 gram sabhas held in Nallbelly mandal in Warangal district on



People protesting at Gram Sabha in Mulugu district on Wednesday

the second day on Wednesday. The people who attended the Gram Sabha protested against the style of functioning of offi-

In Siddipet district, the gram sabha held in Duddeda village, there was an uproar as the names of those who had applied for various schemes did not appear on the list. Villagers expressed anger, stating that despite having no houses and having applied, the eligible names were not being listed. They criticised the officials for not doing justice to the poor. The Mandal MPDO attending the meeting mentioned that only a draft list was being read out at the meeting, and reassured the people not to be disappointed. He also mentioned that the government had provided another opportunity for people to apply again if their names did not

appear. In Ganneruvaram mandal of Karimnagar district, at the grama sabha held on Tuesday, several people found fault with the list beneficiaries for the Chakalivanipalle village. Landlords and government servants' names have been included in the list instead of the names

Constable charged with attacking wife

PNS NALGONDA

A constable working at the Kethepally police station, Mogili Saidulu, who is also deputed as a car driver at the Shaligouraram circle office, has been found to be in an illicit relationship with anoth-

er woman. while abandoning his wife and children. He had secretly rented a room in Nakrekal and was living with the woman, according to

When his wife, Nagamani, found it out, she went to the rented room where Saidulu

was staying with the woman. Upon questioning the woman, Saidulu sent her out and attacked Nagamani, confining her in the room and attempting to murder her. Nagamani later filed a complaint at the Nakirekal Circle Inspector's office.

against Cong activists PNS ■ NALGONDA diate arrest of the Congress leaders Former Nalgonda MLA Kancherla involved in the attack and action Bhupal Reddy, along with party leadagainst the police officers who were

ATTACK ON EX-MLA

BRS leaders file complaint



the Congress leaders were Former MLA K Bhupal Reddy and BRS leaders handing over a complaint to District Superintendent of Police Sharat Chandra Bhupal Reddy, former Pawar in Nalgonda on Wednesday

Ramachandru Nayak, former munic- the attack and called for swift action ipal chairman Pallé Ravikumar, to ensure such incidents do not hap Dudimetla Balraju Yadav, Rajeev pen again. They urged the authorities Sagar, and former municipal chairman to hold both the Congress leaders and Mandadi Saidireddy submitted the complaint to the District Superintendent of Police.

allegedly complicit. They condemned

police officers accountable for their actions and to take necessary measures to maintain peace in the region.

Stalker hurls acid on nursing student

PNS KHAMMAM

An incident of acid attack on a nursing second year student came to light in Khammam, according to a report.

According to the victim's family members a youth had been stalking and pestering the girl for long to force her to accept hislvoe. The youth hurled acid at her on January 13 while she was doing rangoli in front of her home in Khammam

fter hearing her cries in agony, Ganesh fled as the local people came to girl's rescue. The family members rushed her to a nearby hospital. She sustained burns to her stomach and one hand. She is stated to be out of

Based on the victim's complaint, the police

registered a first information report against the accused on Tuesday and reportedly took him

into custody.

Family members revealed that the accused had been harassing the student, which led her to attempt suicide twice in the past. They also mentioned that the accused had threatened to kill her brother if she refused to accept his lave.

Sankranti festival boosts RTC revenue

The Medak region of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (RTC) saw a significant increase in revenue during the Sankranti festival, earning an additional Rs 20 lakh per day. This boost was primarily due to the introduction of special buses between January 10 and 20 to accommodate the festival rush. To manage the increased demand, RTC officials and employees worked in close coordination. Managers from various RTC depots visited bus stations, swiftly deploying special buses on the busiest routes. Many migrant workers returning to their hometowns for the festival, as well as others traveling to the state, contributed to the surge in passengers.

16,828 govt school students are anaemic **PNS** ■ KARIMNAGAR

A large number of students in government schools across Karimnagar are suffering from anaemia due to a lack of proper nutrition in the midday meals and poor implementation of food menus in social welfare hostels. Despite the state government's efforts to provide nutritious food to students, these measures are not effectively executed at the grassroots level, resulting in frequent health issues, including anaemia, according to a study.

As part of the Telangana government's initiative to combat anaemia, medical teams have been visiting government schools under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Programme to screen students in classes five to seven.

The screening revealed that many students, particularly those from rural areas, are suffering from anaemia. The denial of eggs in school lunches due to rising

costs, along with the use of stale vegetables in curries, has further exacerbated the issue. Social welfare hostels are also

contributing to the problem, leading to iron deficiencies among students. The symptoms of anaemia include weakness, exhaustion, and stunted physical and mental growth.

Out of 38,929 students screened under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Programme, a total of 16,828 were found to be anaemic. Of these, 10 per cent are suffering from severe anaemia, with the majority being girls.

District medical and health officials have taken steps to address the issue by provid-

ing iron supplements to affected students. After three months, follow-up screenings will be conducted to assess their progress. Dr Sajida, the medical offi-

cer for Karimnagar, stated that special attention is being paid to students with anaemia, including iron supplements through Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and district hospitals. Severe cases are receiving focused care, and medical tests for anaemia will soon be extended to first-class students as per government directives.



ACROSS THE STATES



Mock drill conducted for Uttarakhand UCC Portal

he Uttarakhand government's Information Technology
Development Agency (ITDA) conducted a mock drill for the
state's Uniform Civil Code (UCC) portal to test the website's operational readiness ahead of its official rollout sometime this month. More than 3,500 citizens, all dummy entries, were registered on the Uttarakhand UCC Portal and action was taken on around 200 dummy applications by subregistrars and registrars during the exercise conducted on Tuesday, an official release said. The primary objective of the mock drill was to identify technical bottlenecks and operational challenges associated with the rollout of the UCC portal and the goal was successfully achieved, it said. Minor technical issues were identified within the citizen module, particularly in the Aadhaar-enabled registration process. Additionally, mapping errors between registrar and sub-registrar user accounts were noted in certain areas. ITDA promptly took note of these concerns and has initiated the process of addressing them.



HC dismisses EPS' petition against lower court order

he Madras High Court on Wednesday dismissed a petition filed by AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, against a lower court order directing a police probe into allegations of providing false information in his election affidavit. Justice P Velmurugan dismissed the petition filed by the Leader of Opposition against a Salem court order and also directed Palaniswami to cooperate in the probe. The local court had directed the police to inquire into allegations that Palaniswami had provided false information, among others, about his property in his election papers for the 2021 Assembly polls. The former CM, who represents the Edappadi (Salem) constituency in the Assembly, had moved the HC against the lower court direction issued in



Man found dead in home, **FIR** against wife

35-year-old software engineer was found dead in his house in Ashok Vihar Phase-2 prompting police to lodge a case against his wife and brother-in-law, officials said on Wednesday. The engineer's wife Seema and three-year-old daughter were missing from the house, they said. According to a complaint filed by Singh's father Krishan Kumar, who is a Sub Inspector in Haryana Police, he asked the neighbour to check on his son after he did not pick his calls. When the neighbour went inside the house, he found Singh lying lifeless on the floor, the police said. A senior investigating officer said when the police team reached, the body was lying on the floor near a bed and a bedsheet was tied around Singh's neck. There was no one else in the house at that time, the officer said, adding that Singh's family has expressed suspicion of murder. According to the neighbours, the couple used to fight every day. The engineer's father has accused Seema and her brother of killing his son, the officer added. An FIR of murder has been registered against Singh's wife and brother-in-law at sector 5 police station, the officials said.

Two Maoists killed in Bokaro

PNS ■ BOKARO

Two Maoists, including a woman, were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Jharkhand's Bokaro district on Wednesday, police said. A red rebel, who was carrying a bounty of Rs 15 lakh on his head, was also arrested, a senior officer said. The gunfight took place in a forest area under the Penk Narayanpur Police Station limits early on Wednesday, he said.

Jharkhand Director General of Police (DGP) Anurag Gupta, while briefing media persons in Bokaro, said that a Maoist area commander, identified as Shanti Devi, and red rebel Manoj Tudu were killed in the encounter.

Alcohol is available in Delhi but not water: Modi

URGES BJP TO TARGET WINNING MORE THAN 50 SEATS

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged Delhi BJP members to target winning over 50 per cent booths in the assembly polls, and said people are openly expressing anger with the AAP government and reminding it of its promises.

In an online interaction with Delhi BJP members, Modi said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which he slammed as "aapda" (disaster),

has been exposed.

The 'aapda' is making new announcements everyday as it is daily receiving information of losing ground in various parts of Delhi, he said.

He accused the AAP of conspiring to push people from 'purvanchal' out from the national capital, alleging the party is full of hate for them.

This party engaged in lies and deceit, and between it and the Congress they have betrayed people massively over

the last 25 years, he added. Those born in the last 25

India's development

needs to be

inclusive: Rajnath

Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh on Wednesday said that

India's development needs to be inclusive, equitable, ecologically sustainable and moral-

ly desirable and that the Centre

remains committed to a cli-

be need-based and not greed-

based" and for this our behav-

iours need to change to ensure

to do away with the "use-and-

The Defence Minister was

speaking after inaugurating

the closing ceremony of poet,

environmentalist and human

rights activist Sugathakumari's

90th birth anniversary cele-

brations in Pathnamthitta dis-

said, "India is a fast-develop-

ing country, but its develop-

ment needs to be inclusive,

equitable, ecologically sus-

tainable and morally desir-

able without compromising

Speaking at the event, he

trict of the state.

dispose economy", he said.

mate resilient future. Singh said the country was fast developing and there-fore, its consumption "should

PNS PATHANAMTHITTA

(KERALA)

fulfil any of its responsibility," he said, asking BJP members to carry videos and pictures of poor roads, drainage conditions and garbage among other woes facing people to expose the AAP.

"The 'aapda' did not

years or those who are in the 35-40 year age group have seen nothing but destruction, he said, adding they have lost hope and are in despair.

Calling for defeating the Arvind Kejriwal-led party, he said it will pave the way for fulfilling the resolve of making Delhi the developed capital of a developed India.

Targeting the city government for "failing" to fulfil basic needs like water to people, he said while interacting with a BJP member that "liquor is

available but water is not". The BJP will run a massive campaign to ensure that drinking water reaches everyone once it is elected to power here, he said.

"The 'aapda' did not fulfil any of its responsibility," he said, asking BJP members to carry videos and pictures of poor roads, drainage conditions and garbage among other woes facing people to expose the AAP.

He also charged the city gov-ernment with being responsible for a rise in people's electricity bills.

Slamming Kejriwal, he said 'sheeshmahal" is a live example of the AAP's deceit and lies.

Kejriwal unveils 7-point 'manifesto' for middle class

NEW DELHI: AAP national

convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday announced a seven-point "manifesto" for the country's middle class, saying they have been neglected by successive governments and are a victim of "tax terrorism". In a video message on Wednesday, he said the middle class is the real superpower of the Indian economy but has long been ignored and exploited solely for tax collection. Kejriwal announced the seven-point charter aimed at addressing the concerns of the middle class. The demands included raising the education budget from the current 2 percent to 10 percent and capping private school fees. He also proposed subsidies and scholarships for higher education to make quality education acces-



14 killed, 24 injured in two accidents in Karnataka

PNS ■ YELLAPURA/RAICHUR (KARNATAKA)

As many as fourteen people were killed and 24 sustained injuries in two separate road accidents occurred in Uttara Kannada and Raichur districts on Wednesday, police said.

The injured are out of danger, but are undergoing treatment in the hospital, they said. Condoling the tragic incident, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the families

would be paid compensation. "It's heartbreaking to hear the news that 14 people died in two separate accidents in Yellapur in Uttara Kannada district and Sindhanur in Raichur district. I pray for the souls of the deceased to rest in peace," Siddaramaiah said in a statement. "The families of the deceased will be provided appropriate compensation by the government," he added.

In the Yellapura incident, a truck carrying 29 fruit sellers fell into a 50-metre-deep valley in the wee hours of Wednesday, police said.

"Around $5.\bar{3}0$ am, the truck driver in a bid to give way to another vehicle went to the extreme left and fell into a 50-metre-deep valley," Narayana said. He added that there was no protection wall in the road there.

"Eight persons were killed on the spot and two got critical injuries. The injured have been shifted to the KIMS Hospital in Hubballi," the officer said. Two critically wounded persons too died, failing to respond to treatment, sources said.

Nine victims have been identified as Fayaz Imam Saab Jamakhammadi (40), Wasim Mulla Mudageri (25), Ijaz Mushtaq Mulla (20), Sadiq Bhasha Paras (30), Ghulam Hussain Gudusaab Jawali (40), Imtiaz Ahmed Jafar Mulageri (45), Alfaz Jafar Mandaki (25), Jalani Babdul Ghaffar Zakati (20) and Aslam Babu Benne (24). "We shifted the 15 injured persons to the hospital. They are out

of danger," a police officer said.
A pall of gloom descended on Savanur town after the accident. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah too condoled the tragic death of 10 people in Yallapura.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of lives in the accident in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka. Condolences to those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon. The local administration is assisting those affected. An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000," the Prime Minister Office said in a post on 'X'.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident at Yallapura in Uttara Kannada that took away precious lives."

India on track to meet SDG health targets: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday reviewed the progress under the National Health Mission (NHM) over the last three years and was informed that with significant progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), India is on track to meet its health targets well ahead of

The NHM has contributed to improving India's public

the 2030 deadline.

health outcomes through its relentless efforts in expanding human resources, addressing critical health issues, and fostering an integrated response to health emergencies, the Cabinet was informed.

Over the last three years, the NHM has driven substantial progress in multiple areas, including maternal and child health, disease elimination, and healthcare infrastructure, an official statement said. The Cabinet also gave its nod to continue the mission for the next two years for achievements of the targets under SDG.

"With significant progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), India is on track to meet its health targets well ahead of the 2030 deadline," the statement said, adding "The ongoing efforts of NHM have successfully led to a dramatic transformation in India's healthcare

Talk on 'next chief minister' refuses to die down in K'taka

PNS BENGALURU

Despite the party high command's strict instructions, the talk about the 'next chief minister' refuses to die down in the ruling Congress in Karnataka.

leader Parashuram Pujari of Hire Bagewadi and his supporters performed special pooja at Sigandur Chowdeshwari Devi temple in Belagavi on Wednesday to see his leader and state Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi as the next chief minister. They performed pooja, holding posters which had Jarkiholi's picture and the message 'Satish Jarkiholi, the next Chief Minister'.

On Tuesday, the supporters of Holding a photograph of

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar raised the CM issue during the 'Gandhi Bharat' event

Shivakumar Will
become the next chief
minister," the monk
announced before a
huge crowd at Varur in
Dharwad district on
Tuesday evening Shivakumar, who is also the

Congress Karnataka unit president, the supporters raised slogans - "Shivakumar should be made the next Chief Minister". A Digambar Jain monk,

Gunadhara Nandi, along with 18 other senior monks of the Jain order blessed Shivakumar of becoming the next CM. "Today I am making this pre-

diction that Shivakumar will become the next chief minister," the monk announced before a huge crowd at Varur in Dharwad district on Tuesday evening.

Scientists discover 23 species of blood-sucking flies

PNS KOLKATA

Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) researchers have idenified 23 species of blood sucking flies in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, including 13 species previously unreported in India, ZSI director Dhriti Banerjee said.

The study, recently published in the journal Parasites and Vectors', is the first comprehensive survey of these insects in the

Locally called 'Bhusi flies,' these insects belong to the Culicoides genus and are similar to mosquitoes in their feeding habits. They primarily feed on the blood



of livestock like sheep, goats, and cattle, as well as wild animals such as deer.

The study highlights five species that can transmit the Blue Tongue Disease virus, a condition that can be fatal to livestock and cause significant economic losses in animal husbandry.

Banerjee emphasised the need for regular surveillance

and control measures, especially given the region's importance as a major tourist destination. "The presence of these Cul species, particularly those responsible for Blue Tongue virus transmission, needs attention," she said.

Conducted in 2022 and 2023, the study found that 17 of the 23 species identified also bite humans, though no human disease transmission has been reported so far.

Officer-in-charge of ZSI's Diptera section, Dr. Atanu Naskar, said a systematic survey of the entire archipelago is needed to understand the role of these insects in disease transmission.

Nadda lauds milestones of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

PNS NEW DELHI

the planet's health."

Union Health Minister I P Nadda on Wednesday lauded the BIP-led central dispensation's work in bringing about a continuous improvement in the women's health markers ever since it came to power in 2014. The minister was speaking at the 10th-anniversary celebrations of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign here. "In the last ten years, we have

seen remarkable efforts for

our women. BBBP was not just

a campaign to save and educate the girl child, but a broader vision to bring women into the mainstream," Nadda said. He claimed the initiative has

SAIF ATTACK CASE

led to significant improvements in India's sex ratio at birth. "We have moved from 898 to 930, and the day is not far when the sex ratio will reach equality. But this requires us to work together with a focus on education and health," he said.

According to a central gov-

ernment release, India's sex

ratio in 2014-16 was 898. Haryana, often in the spot-

light for its skewed sex ratio, implemented strict monitoring of ultrasound clinics to curb

illegal sex-selective practices, Nadda said. Its 'Selfie with Daughter' initiative brought global attention to the cause, promoting awareness about gender equality through community participation.

Madhya Pradesh introduced a novel approach with its 'Lado Abhiyaan, focusing on delaying the age of marriage and increasing access to education for girls and encouraging parents to educate girls in rural areas, Nadda said.

The accused has been asked

to speak slowly so that police

could decipher his statements,

Police on Tuesday recon-

structed the sequence of events

of the crime unfolded at Khan's

building in Bandra. The

accused was taken to a nearby

building briefly during the recreation of the crime, the

A day before, Khan was dis-

the official added.



Kailash Satyarthi calls for 'Globalisation of Compassion' from Indian soil

PNS MATHURA

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi on Monday called for "globalisation of compassion" to allay tensions and breakout of violence worldwide.

Satyarthi, a social activist known for his work on child rights, child labour, and sexual exploitation, was speaking at the inauguration of the Kalyanam Karoti Eye Institute in Mathura.

"We have globalised information, trade, markets, consumer goods, and production. But now, it is time to

globalise 'Karuna' (compas sion) from Indian soil, Satyarthi said. He also informed reporters about the launch of the 'Satyarthi Movement for Global Compassion, a campaign supported by several world leaders, former heads of states, and fellow Nobel laureates. On the rise of artificial

intelligence, he said, "AI is undoubtedly becoming a dominant force, but its dangers are also growing. We must address these risks proactively. To counter AI, we must focus on 'Compassion Intelligence.

Multiple depts of forensic lab to examine evidence

PNS MUMBAI Multiple departments under the Forensic Science Laboratory at Kalina in Mumbai will examine key pieces of evidence seized by the police investigating actor Saif Ali Khan knife attack case, officials said on Wednesday.

Police on Sunday arrested the attacker, identified as Bangladeshi national Shareeful Islam Shehzad Mohammad Rohilla Amin Fakir, for stabbing Khan at his Bandra apartment on January 16 during a

burglary bid. A variety of materials, including mobile phones, clothes of the accused, and CCTV footage seized following the arrest of Fakir (30) alias Vijay Das, have been sent to the FSL for examination.

FSL departments such as Tape Authentication and Speaker Identification (TASI), Biology, DNA, Footprints, Physics, Cyber, and others will be involved in analysing the evidence, a police official said.

An official said police didn't notice blood stains on the clothes of the accused seized



FSL departments such as Tape Authentication and **Speaker Identification** (TASI), Biology, DNA, Footprints, Physics, Cyber, and others will be involved in analysing the evidence, a police official said.

from his bag when he was arrested from Thane.

The official said investigators are facing difficulty in interro-Bangladeshi accent.

gating Fakir due to the language barrier as he speaks with a heavy

charged from a private hospital in Mumbai after five days during which he underwent two surgeries.

official added.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

A Boost for Indian Professionals

H-1B visa reforms by Trump will go a long way in addressing the anomalies in the visa system and help Indian professionals

he H-1B visa has long been a critical pathway for skilled foreign workers, particularly Indians, to contribute to the US economy. With Indians accounting for over 72 per cent of H-1B visa recipients in 2023, any reform in this programme significantly impacts the Indian professional community. In his second term, President Donald Trump introduced groundbreaking reforms to the H-1B visa programme, shifting the selection process from a lottery-based system to a salary-based model. These changes, effective from January 17, 2025, aim to prioritise highly skilled professionals and streamline the visa process. The H-1B visa programme was established in 1990 to allow US companies to hire foreign workers with specialised skills. It has been a cornerstone of the tech and engineering sectors, enabling companies to bridge skill gaps. In 2023 alone, 386,000 H-1B visas were issued, with nearly three-quarters going to Indian nationals. This programme not only benefits the US economy by



addressing skill shortages but also strengthens India-US ties through the exchange of talent and innovation. The most notable change is the replacement of the lottery system with a salary-based selection process. This reform ensures that highly skilled professionals with competitive salaries are prioritised, making the programme more meritocratic. Besides, now the Indian professionals living in the US will be able to renew their H-1B visas domestically, eliminating the need for costly and time-consuming international travel. Another good news for the Students studying in the US on F-1 visas can now transition to H-1B visas more efficiently, fostering smoother

career progression. Now on, research-oriented institutions are exempt from the annual visa cap, encouraging academic and scientific innovation. These reforms are poised to significantly benefit Indian professionals and students. With salary as the primary criterion, skilled Indian workers in high-demand sectors like technology, engineering and healthcare are likely to secure visas more easily. The streamlined process and in-country renewals will reduce uncertainties for professionals and their families. By retaining top talent, these changes will further strengthen the economic and technological collaboration between the US and India. President Trump's reforms reflect a strategic approach to talent acquisition and economic growth. By aligning visa policies with the needs of US businesses and rewarding merit, these changes demonstrate a commitment to fostering innovation and efficiency. While these reforms are a step in the right direction, they would require stricter scrutiny of visa holders and employers. This measure ensures transparency but might pose challenges for smaller companies offering competitive but lower salaries. Moreover, the shift in focus could pressure Indian professionals to align their career trajectories with higher-paying roles, potentially impacting sectors like academia and non-profits.



A woman prepares yarn to make the tricolour ahead of Republic Day 2025, in Nadia

The legacy and survival of the Fourth Estate



Initiatives promoting media literacy, particularly among youth, can help bridge the gap between traditional journalism and contemporary audiences

n 1780, James Augustus Hicky published India's first printed Inewspaper, 'Hicky's Bengal Gazette,' also known as the Calcutta General Adv, normative power of print media.

It was the printing press that propelled humanity into a new era of knowledge dissemination. In India, newspapers have become an essential pillar of democracy, freedom of expression, and public discourse. The celebration of Indian Newspaper Day reminds us of the transfer of a potent tool in the freedom struggle, awakening the masses to issues of injustice and fostering a collective national consciousness. The legacy of stalwarts like Mahatma Gandhi, who wielded publications like Young India and Harijan as instruments of change, underscores the unparalleled influence of newspapers in shaping society. Historically, the press has been a mirror reflecting societal truths, a watchdog ensuring accountability, and a platform amplifying diverse voices.

Newspapers have been central to the articulation of ideas, the dissemination of information, and the fostering of debate and dialogue. The printed word has held power, credibility, and a permanence unmatched by fleeting digital narratives. Yet, the world of print media today faces an existential crisis. In an era dominated by smartphones, the internet, and instant news apps, the relevance of traditional newspapers is being questioned. Circulation and readership have declined

Advertisements, which once constituted the backbone of newspaper revenue, have shifted to digital platforms. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated this decline, as lockdowns disrupted distribution networks and readers turned to online alternatives. The Fourth Estate, embodied by traditional media, has paved the way for the Fifth Estate, represented by social media, as youth increasingly gravitate toward digital platforms for their news and engagement. India, despite its rich newspaper history, has not been immune to these global trends.

While the country boasts a vibrant linguistic diversity in its



the digital age. The shift is not merely technological but also cultural. The younger generation's preference for quick, digestible content over in-depth reporting signals a change in information consumption patterns. Traditional newspapers, with their rich investigative journalism and nuanced storytelling, are increasingly viewed as slow and outdated.

The immediacy of apps like Daily Hunt and platforms offering free e-papers has made paying for physical newspapers seem redundant. This decline, however, should not overshadow the irreplaceable value of print media.

Unlike digital platforms prone to misinformation and algorithmic biases, newspapers have long been trusted for their credibility and editorial rigour. They offer a depth of coverage that ensures stories are not just told but examined and contextualised. Newspapers are archives of history, recording



HIGH LITERACY RATES AND A **CULTURE OF** RESPECT WELL-RESEARCHED **JOURNALISM**

ENABLED NEWSPAPERS TO THRIVE EVEN IN

permanence that digital platforms, with their ephemeral nature, cannot replicate. Japan provides a remarkable case study in media literacy and the enduring power of print. Despite being at the forefront of technological innovation, Japan boasts the world's largest-circulated dailies, such as Yomiuri Shimbun with a circulation nearing 10 million and Asahi Shimbun not far behind. High literacy rates and a culture of respect for well-researched journalism have enabled newspapers to thrive even in a digital age. This example underscores the potential for print media to coexist with digital platforms when supported by an informed and engaged reader-

events with an accuracy and

Indian Newspaper Day is a reminder to recognise and preserve this legacy. While print media must innovate to survive, readers, too, bear a responsibility to support credible journalism. The rise of epapers and hybrid models combining print and digital offers hope for the industry's evolution rather than extinc tion. Newspapers continue to play a vital role in fostering cymakers to ensure that these democracy.

They provide a platform for marginalised voices, hold power to account, and offer citizens the information they

need to make informed decisions. At a time when digital echo chambers threaten the very fabric of public discourse, newspapers serve as a counterbalance, offering diverse perspectives and challenging groupthink.

The theme of survival is intrinsic to the narrative of Indian newspapers. Just as Hicky's Bengal Gazette persevered despite colonial censorship and competition, today's publications must navigate the challenges of the digital age. The story of newspapers is one of resilience and adaptation. From the handwritten Acta Diurna of Julius Caesar's Rome to Gutenberg's printing revolution, and from Hickey's modest four-pager to modern broadsheets like The Times of India, the medium has continually evolved to meet the needs of its time. As we celebrate Indian Newspaper Day 2025, it is an opportunity to reflect on the enduring significance of the printed word. While the medium may change, the principles of journalism-truth, accountability, and the public good remain timeless. It is up to principles continue to thrive in an age of rapid technological change.

(The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

Breaking the cycle of violence: Lessons from personal trauma



Violence against the weak manifests in countless forms—child abuse, bullying, ragging, molestation and domestic violence—leaving deep and often irreparable scars

▼iolence against the weak is a timeless and universal phenomenon. Child abuse, bullying, ragging, eve-teasing, molestation and domestic violence are only a few that can result in irretrievable damage to the psyche or can even have tragic consequences. I joined the hostel for the first time as a 12-yearold adolescent. I was out in the world, away from the shelter of my parental love, trying to overcome my insecurities.

One time a senior shouted at me to fetch a packet of cigarettes from the dormitory. I still remember my tears as I was roughly reprimanded for being tardy. I was scared of the hostel life. Three years later, I joined the college hostel. Ragging had not yet been banned and was openly indulged in by seniors. It was supposed to be a harmless fun activity to initiate the newly joined youngsters into college life. It had degenerated into something completely different.

One Sunday, we were forced to sit above the wardrobe and hurl choice profanities at each other. I mouthed words

from my limited vocabulary. We were so traumatised that we started returning home over the weekends. When our parents questioned us,

we started bicycling into the desert on the weekends when ragging was at its peak. We slept in remote towns before returning to the campus at the start of the We even spent a night in the

waiting room of a railway station. We were particularly wary of one young man called the 'ragging king'. In time, after the freshers had to the next year when I would be bestowed the dreaded title by the new arrivals. One incident before throwing the file back changed my outlook. I was at you, or the one preying ragging a fresher, who was upon the junior female colterrified and not responding to my questions.

Frustrated, I barked at him to jump into a nearby well. Much to our horror, he turned around and ran towards it. Momentarily stunned, I must have run the fastest race of my life and managed to stop him in the nick of time. I was a changed person. The government stepped in to ban the practice. Sadly, it continues.

A recent news report mentioned ragging in several medical colleges where male seniors force fresh entrants to memorise and read aloud from booklets filled with profanities and promoting sexual violence against women, specifically against classmates and nurses.

The booklet also teaches freshers to look at women of all ages, including those in the 0-15 years age bracket, as sex objects. Many of us may been welcomed, I settled have been at the receiving down. I forgot my earlier end of the local or the school

trauma and looked forward bully. It exists even at the workplace, sometimes in the guise of the rude superior who would not think twice league. Women do not have a pleasant experience travelling on public transport. They are afraid to step out after sunset.

Every day we read of brutal assaults and deaths. The list is endless. Many are unable to bear the trauma and give up on life. I am not a psychologist. The reasons might be more complex than blaming it on not inculcating the right values in the children. But, that can be a starting

We can teach our young what English author Brian Jacques wrote in one of the Redwall series of fantasy novels for children, "Defend the weak, protect both young and old, never desert your friends. Give justice to all, be fearless in battle, and always ready to defend the right." (The author is an electrical

engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

US EXITS FROM PARIS AGREEMENT

Madam — American President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Monday, pulling the US out of the Paris climate agreement. The Paris Agreement provides a durable framework guiding the global effort for decades to come, marking the beginning of a shift towards net-zero emissions. Thus, at a time when the whole world prepares to celebrate the International Day of Clean Energy on January 26, Trump's decision to exit is a severe blow to worldwide

efforts to combat global warming. The way Donald Trump signed an order to withdraw the US from the Paris climate agreement for a second time reflects his party's hawkish stance on the agreement. In fact, the track record of the Republican Party shows its reluctance to make any commitment on an action plan on climate change. Even in the case of the Kyoto Protocol, President George W Bush had withdrawn the signature of the Democrat Vice President Al Gore, who had signed the Protocol on behalf of the US. The Republicans want any future American involvement in climate change agreements to be matched by equivalent commitments by developing country parties. Will recent severe natural disasters due to climate change, ranging from floods in Florida to wildfires in California, open the eyes of the Republicans?

Manoj Parashar | Ghaziabad

LACK OF SKILLED WORKERS

Madam— When the issue of the growing threat of unemployed youth came to the fore, a few industrialists expressed the fact that they were facing difficulty in getting skilled and employable youth to recruit in their firms. It was then the Union government came with the apprenticeship scheme under which willing unemployed youth are allotted firms to take training with a monthly incentive to trainees as well as the firm. Though 500 firms were to be identified to engage under this scheme, the number could not

Ban criminals from contesting election

EEDITO



he Supreme Court observation barring criminals from contesting elections should be taken into cognisance by the government, the Elections Commission and the political parties. The SC should have passed the order incorporating such observation in the interim bail order, thus binding the EC, the government, and the parties. How can a criminal, violating laws, killing people, illegally possessing properties,

be achieved because of a lack of clarity and inbuilt lacuna in the scheme. The firms enrolled in the scheme do not have the scope to absorb all the trainees with employment. In some firms, in order to take the trainees, some experienced workers were to be dispensed away with its impact on production. Above all, the possibilities of employing all those trained are not guaranteed.

The point to be noted here is why those who are carrying certificates, diplomas, and degrees are rejected for want of employable skills. Education is given to the private players who are using it as a mere commodity meant for making huge profits with the least concern for the quality and the level of knowledge they part with to the students. The government lacks the moral courage and political will, for whatever reason, to put the private players on the track. The pro-rich policies of the ruling dispensation may also be a reason, as growing unemployment helps the employers exploit more work at lesser cost.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

confiscating others' lands and buildings, extorting, and rioting, serve as a public representative in the Parliament, assemblies, and local municipal bodies? Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are glaring examples of such billionaire mafia dons whose crime list knew no bounds.

Both states suffered in development, education and growth for decades. Fielding the criminals and convicted killers in the elections is the antithesis of democracy and the Constitution. Money and muscle power win elections for them even if in jails. Such a list is quite exhaustive across all political parties. If 25-30 percent of elected representatives have a criminal background, people are also to be blamed for their own decline and eclipsed future. Some political parties prominently field criminals and extremists in elections and depend on the cadre of criminal backgrounds.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

SENIOR CITIZEN DEMAND CONCESSIONS

Madam — The Union Budget 2025-26 is going to be presented in Parliament on the first of February. One of the pressing demands on the minds of many senior citizens is whether the Indian Railways will bring back concessions on train fares for senior citizens. The issue holds significant importance as it directly impacts about 15 crore senior citizens across the nation.

The Indian Railways had, in March 2020, decided to withdraw the concessions providing a 50 per cent discount to female senior citizens and a 40 per cent discount to males on train fares. According to Railways norms, males and transgenders aged 60 and above and females aged 58 and above, are treated as senior citizens. It represents a pivotal opportunity for the government to demonstrate its commitment to elder care, social equity, and responsive governance by restoring concessions to senior citizens in the ensuing budget.

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FIRST COLUMN SHUN THE VIOLENCE,

EMBRACE PEACE

True transformation lies not in vengeance but in reconnecting with the divine qualities of love and peace



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

oday we are living in a world where violence has become our culture. It may be seen in the hundreds of wars going on in different parts of the world or it may be seen through innumerable violent incidents that occur every day in cities and homes across the universe. So, what exactly has led to the spread of violence so much even though people strongly denounce it? We all know that the history of human civilisation is an epic saga of violence punctuated by episodes of relative calm. Violence, subtle and gross, manifest and incognito, has been the defining force of humanity's quest for power in the last two millennia. The rise and fall of empires, the religious crusades and socio-political uprisings down the ages were impelled by violence on a massive scale. One of the major reasons why violence has become so deeply embedded in the human psyche is that on the one hand, we denounce it but on the other hand we condone or even justify it. In the 21st century, which we all boast of living in, violence has been glorified in ingenious ways by the media, especially television, the internet and films. A world that has been fed so much on violence is no wonder becoming increas-



ingly dangerous to live in for its occupants. It's a known fact that today violence has become the means to seek political and social justice. Men kill men in the name of the almighty and later on, these killings are then justified as dharma by the custodians of religion when it is used for a righteous purpose. Amidst all these, a question that comes up is, Can one justify so much Violence? Or, can violence ever root out adharma (unrighteousness)?

Well!!!! To conquer dharma we need to first understand the true dharma of the self. We all must realise that good or evil are the traits of the human soul and even after death these traits or sanskar are carried on to the next birth. This sanskar may change or become stronger as per the person's karma in the next life. Hence, it follows that one may kill an evil person but one cannot destroy the evil in that person. It would instead increase due to feelings of hatred and revenge. Remember!! An evil act is bound to be punished as per the Law of Karma in the present or the next birth because there is a natural justice system that works intallibly and eternally. Hence, one must never think that it someone avenges a wrong by doing wrong in turn, he/she will not suffer. No!! The truth is that in this case, both persons will have to pay for their respective wrong actions by undergoing some suffering because any act done with ill will towards others is violence and it is bound to bring sorrow for the doer. Hence, a person may escape the laws of the land but his karma will catch up with him sooner or later for sure. We all need to understand the philosophy behind the word religion or dharma. Dharma in the true sense simply means living by eternal spiritual values such as peace and love. When we share love and goodwill with others it is bound to stir up similar feelings in that person. On the contrary, when we hate and harm others it is bound to spark ill will in them. The world that God created for us was a completely non-violent and harmonious world where no evil existed. Goodness exists eternally; it is when we begin to lose touch with our real values that we are enslaved by negative tendencies. We are all children of "Almighty" who is the ocean of love, peace and joy, so his qualities are our qualities too eternally, aren't they? That is why all humans resist hatred. They never resist love or joy. He is always merciful and benevolent towards all, so how can he justify violence? And the only way to bring peace and harmony back on earth is to empower ourselves spiritually and rid our minds of all negativities. This will uproot violence completely out of the world and the world would become the one that it was, serene and peaceful.

(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist, views are personal)

Renuka Ji Dam: Addressing Delhi's water woes



Conceived over half a century ago on Giri River in Himachal Pradesh, the Renuka Ji Dam is finally set to redefine water and energy security across six Indian states



he visionary Renuka Ji Dam project, conceived 58 years ago on Himachal Pradesh's serene Giri River, is finally transcending decades of delays to emerge as a game-changer. This landmark initiative promises to alleviate Delhi's chronic water scarcity while energising Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh with sustainable power generation. Beyond its functional benefits, the dam exemplifies federal cooperation and political resolve. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laid the foundation stone of this Rs 6,946-crore project on December 27, 2021. Now, with 95 per cent of procedural hurdles cleared, global tenders will soon be floated, paving the way for construction. Cost estimates have surged to Rs 8,262 crore, factoring a 5 per cent annual escalation. Targeted for completion by 2030, with operations commencing in 2032, this project's progress is critical for Delhi and beyond.

For Delhiites, the dam symbolises the realisation of a 58-year-old aspiration. The stored water will be routed to Delhi-NCR, Uttar Pradesh and Harvana through the Hathnikund Barrage, further reaching the Wazirabad and Okhla Barrages. Delhi's water demand exceeds 1,200 million gallons daily (MGD), with severe shortages during summer. The Renuka Ji Dam, promising 275 MGD, will bridge this deficit, bolstering domestic supply, industrial growth, and infrastructure develop-

Harvana leads with a 5.73 BCM share (47.82 per cent), contributing Rs 555.95 crore. Uttar Pradesh's 3.721 BCM (31.05 per cent) follows with Rs 361.04 crore. Rajasthan holds 1.119 BCM (9.34 per cent), contributing Rs108.58 crore. Himachal, Uttarakhand, and Delhi contribute Rs 36.67 crore, Rs 30.17 crore, and Rs 70.25 crore, respectively. Uttarakhand's share of water in the upper Yamuna basin is 0.311 BCM, which constitutes 2.60Rs30.17 crore of the total share. Together, the states allocate Rs 1,162.66 crore for this critical project.

Originally slated to showcase progress before Delhi's 2025 Assembly elections, the dam faced delays, pushing construction timelines by 5-6 months. Intervention by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

could expedite design approvals and tendering. Local tensions remain high. The Jan Sangharsh Samiti criticised project authorities for inadequate rehabilitation efforts, including compensation gaps for displaced families. Activists demand higher pay-outs aligned with Public Works Department estimates, claiming the current compensation is insufficient. Harikesh Meena, Managing Director of HP Power Corporation, refutes these allegations, stating Rs 1,573 crore has been disbursed, with 90 houseless families offered relocation options.

RENUKAJI,

NESTLED IN

HIMACHAL'S

DISTRICT, IS

IDEAL FOR THE

DAM DUE TO ITS

GEOGRAPHICAL

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THE GIRI RIVER, A

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STEADY WATER

SIRMAUR

Himachal Pradesh is set to gain 200 million units of electricity annually, worth Rs 66 crore. Delhi has already transferred Rs 270 crore, funding 90 per cent of the Rs 300crore power machinery cost, underscoring the project's importance. Renuka ji, nestled in Himachal's Sirmaur district, is ideal for the dam due to its geographical and hydrological advantages. The Giri River, Yamuna tributary, ensures a steady water flow.

The site also holds immense cultural significance. Named after Goddess Renuka, the mother of Parashurama (an avatar of Lord Vishnu), the area is steeped in mythology. Renuka Lake, India's largest natural lake, draws pilgrims year-round. Ancient temples dedicated to Goddess Renuka and Lord Parashurama further enhance its spiritual and historical value. The project blends technological ambition with religious reverence, ready to address Delhi's water woes and power needs for generations.

The Rs 8,262.28-crore Renuka Ji Dam project, a 148-meter-high rock-filled structure, will transform water and power availability across six states. Submerging 1,508 hectares and displacing 7,000 residents, including 346 houseless families, the project spans 41 villages across 25 panchayats. Proposed in 1976, the dam faced

decades of procedural hurdles. Initially estimated at Rs 4,596 crore

in 2015, costs have ballooned. A significant milestone was achieved in January 2019, when a MoU among the six beneficiary states, brokered by then Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, resolved water-sharing disputes. In 2022, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Modi, approved financial support, pushing the project into execution mode.

Located near Dadahu village, the dam will store 498 million cubic meters of water, routed to Delhi-NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan via key barrages. As part of the PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, it will deliver 23,000 litres per second to Delhi. Additionally, incidental hydroelectric power generation (40 MW) will earn Himachal Rs120 crore annually. Technical Experts predict a 110 per cent increase in the Giri River's flow, ensuring reliable water supplies during lean periods. Despite challenges faced by displaced communities, the Renuka Ji Dam promises long-term benefits: improved water security for Delhi, agricultural irrigation, and energy generation marking it a milestone in cooperative federalism and infrastructure

development. Despite its potential, the project's journey was fraught with challenges. Environmental concerns, inter-state disputes, land acquisition hurdles, and funding delays plagued progress. Securing environmental clearances was a monumental task. Forested landscapes raised alarms over wildlife displacement and green cover submergence. Years of negotiations and compensatory afforestation plans eventually paved the way.

Inter-state discord over water-sharing ratios and financial contributions delayed progress. Himachal Pradesh had to acquire 1,477 hectares of land, including 909 hectares of forest. Protests and legal battles over compensation and rehabilitation compounded delays until enhanced packages and livelihood restoration initiatives placat-

ed affected communities. The project's escalating cost was another sticking point. Initially pegged at Rs 3,600 crore, delays ballooned the budget to Rs 6,946 crore by 2021. Financial deadlock broke when the central government agreed to fund 90 per cent of the cost under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). This eased the financial burden on states, with Delhi swiftly sanctioning Rs 1,066 crore as its share.

The central government played a crucial role in reviving the project. Integrating it into initiatives like the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), underscored the dam's importance. Accelerated clearances, robust mediation, and funding commitments demonstrated political resolve. With construction set to commence by mid-2025 and completion targeted for 2032, strict oversight will ensure timely execu-

The Renuka Ji Dam epitomises cooperative federalism at its finest where the centre and states unite to tackle shared challenges. For Himachal Pradesh, it heralds economic growth, energy self-sufficiency, and enhanced infrastructure. For Delhi, it is a lifeline, promising a reliable solution to its chronic water crisis. Beyond immediate benefits, the dam's capacity to regulate river flow and mitigate downstream flooding enhances its value as a climate-resilient infra-

As a testament to sustainable development, the Renuka Ji Dam underscores the synergy of political will, inter-state collaboration, and community engagement in overcoming complex challenges. By transforming Himachal Pradesh into a green energy hub and securing Delhi's water needs, the project exemplifies inclusive growth and environmental stewardship.

(Writer is a senior political analyst and strategic affairs columnist based in Shimla; views are

Empowering panchayats: The key to achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 through communiy actions

India must transition from top-down governance to a model where community leadership is the driving force behind sustainable development

ndia's development trajectory has been shaped by significant contributions contribution from the office of Prime Minister (PM), Chief Minister (CM) and District Magistrate (DM). To achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 empowering Panchayat leadership, headed by Village Mukhiya (VM) is a critical

strategy.
The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 mandated the transfer of authority of 29 functions, underscoring their vital role in delivering services directly to the communities. Despite this mandate, Gram Panchayats (GP) lack functionaries and have limited infrastructure and capacity for planning and



MANMOHAN SINGH

of allocated funds or prioritising local infrastructural projects decided by either the district or state. Addressing these challenges is crucial for India to meet its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improve its Human implementation. This often Development Index (HDI) leads to either underutilisation ranking. It requires building

the capacity of GPs to adeptly identify, plan, and implement projects that align with the needs established through Gram Sabha.

The Panchayat Raj System established panchayats as the foundation of decentralised power, emphasising that sustainable development must begin with our smallest unit of democracy: the Panchayat, led by the VM (Sarpanch). Elevating the role of the VM akin to the PM and CM at the centre and state, supported by a strong administrative structure, can drive effective grassroots decision-making. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has grouped the 17 SDGs into nine themes, demonstrating India's commitment to achieving these goals through the implementation of Localised

with creating Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) that align with LSDG priorities. However, a survey of 800 panchayats revealed that only 7 per cent of Sarpanches independently chose their LSDG themes using the Gram Panchayat Facilitation Tool (GPPFT), while 34 per cent of themes were decided by Block officials, 22 per cent by Sarpanches or Sachivs, and 16 per cent were directed by the state, reflecting a need for strengthening planning at the panchayat level.
To develop Viksit Panchayats,

SDGs (SDGs) by Panchayats.

GPs across India, are tasked

extends beyond the education department, requiring collaborative efforts across health, social welfare, and community development. A central coordinating body at the vilfour key actions are proposed: lage level, led by the VM can Support panchayat for lastdrive such convergence. For mile convergence: When a instance, Anita Devi, Village 13-year-old girl drops out of Mukhiya of Bhetaura school, the responsibility Panchayat in Gaya, Bihar has

embraced the 'Healthy Panchayat' LSDG theme. Collaborating with ASHAs, Anganwadi Didis, and Gandhi Fellows to achieve 'Zero Home Delivery' eventually boosting institutional delivery rates from 25 per cent to nearly 90 per cent in just one year. Replicating such successes requires empowering panchayat through convergence of funds, and functionary and

administrative support.

Reimagine development of Panchayat Leaders: India has 2.6 lakh elected VMs, dedicated to strengthening panchayat governance. Prime Minister's call to bring 1 lakh youth into politics is a great encouragement for local youths. To unlock their full potential, we need to reimag-

ine the institutional framework

that focuses on capacity build-ing for elected 'VM and Ward Members'. For example, Jyoti Behar Devi, Mukhiya in Gumla, Jharkhand, banned alcohol in her panchayat, focused on livelihood opportunities and also started the "Siti Bajo aur School Aao" campaign to boost school attendance, effectively transforming her community.

Democratise data through Panchayat: Village Mukhiyas, as key information providers of government schemes, need real-time access to comprehensive beneficiary data and scheme details. Implementing technology solutions that provide such access is paramount for informed decision-making and efficient governance. The Ministry of Panchayat Raj and the Ministry of Rural

initiatives which need further integration with planning and execution at the panchayat

Revitalise Village Committees Village-level committees such as School Management Committees, Village Health and Sanitation Committees, Jan Arogya Samitis, and Village Water and Sanitation Committees, play a pivotal role in fostering decentralised governance and community participation in development efforts. To achieve Viksit Bharat, these committees need to align to avoid duplication of efforts and promote commu-

nity ownership. (The writer is Co-Founder and CEO Aspirational Bharat Collaborative; views are personal)

HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | JANUARY 23, 2025

IN BRIEF



NSE adds 1 crore investors in 5 months

he National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Wednesday said its unique registered investors have crossed the 11 crore mark, with the latest 1 crore addition taking place in just five months, reflecting investor participation in the stock market through direct means. Investor registrations at the NSE have experienced a remarkable acceleration in recent times, with a 3.6 times jump in the last five years. It took 14 years since the NSE's commencement of operations in 1994 to reach 1 crore investors. The pace then quickened, with the next 1 crore registrations taking about seven years, followed by another 3.5 years for the next crore and the subsequent milestone of adding the fourth crore took just over a year. "The rate of growth has since quickened significantly, with each additional 1 crore investors being added in roughly 6-7 months, while the last 1 crore investors were added in just over five months, reflecting a shift in investor enthusiasm and participation in the stock market through direct means," NSE said in a statement. In the last five months, daily new unique investor registrations have consistently ranged between 47,000



Non-fossil fuel-based capacity touches 218 GW-mark

ndia's total non-fossil fuel-based capacity has touched the level of 217.62 gigawatt (GW) as of January 20, an official statement said on Wednesday. In 2024, 24.5 GW of solar capacity and 3.4 GW of wind capacity were added, reflecting more than two-fold increase in solar and 21 per cent rise in wind installations compared to 2023, the statement said. "India is emerging as a global leader in clean energy. As on January 20th, 2025, India's total non-fossil fuel based energy capacity has reached 217.62 GW," the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy said. As per official data, as of December 2024, India's overall power generation capacity was at 462 GW, of which 209.444 GW was renewables, including hydro. The country aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity by 2030. The rooftop solar sector also experienced significant growth in 2024, with 4.59 GW of new capacity installed, marking a 53 per cent rise over 2023.



Number of records on eSankhyiki reach 134 mn

inistry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Wednesday said the number of records on its data dissemination platform eSankhyiki has surpassed the 100 million-milestone within seven months. The platform which was launched in June last year has 134 million records in its repository. This milestone highlights India's commitment to leveraging data for evidence-based policymaking and its leadership in advancing global statistical practices, a ministry statement said.

Developed using open-source tools and in-house expertise, eSankhyiki provides a comprehensive repository of time-series data across key domains, including National Accounts Statistics (NAS), Price Statistics, NSS Surveys, Economic Census, and Index of Industrial Production (IIP). The platform empowers researchers, policymakers, businesses, and citizens with user-friendly dashboards that allow filtering, visualization, and data export in multiple formats in line with the principals of 'data as public good'.

New pact with European bloc to bring \$100 bn investment

Will create 10 lakh jobs in India: Jayant

PNS DAVOS

A new Trade and Economic Participation Agreement with a four-nation European bloc will bring USD 100 billion worth of investment and create one million jobs in India, Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary said on Wednesday.

Here to attend the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, the minister said in an interview that Indian talent has proved its mettle globally and the commitments made by global companies show their trust in the skillset of Indian youth.

The Indian government has done a lot on capital formation, infrastructure creation and bringing investments, and the results are visible everywhere, be it ports, railway or road networks, he said.

The minister for Skill Development Entrepreneurship said these are basic things for any industry as well as for people and investors.

"One thing is also clear that the Indian government trusts its youth a lot. Prime Minister



Narendra Modi himself keeps talking to youth and keep inspiring them on every occasion," he said.

He cited the example of the recent Young Leaders Dialogue and said the prime minister spent six hours with the youth and it was only to listen to the youth of the country who had come from all over India.

This marks a sea change in the way youth of our country are being taken by the government, he said.

When we talk about skill development, the entire world is now recognising the potential of our young talent. We are getting ranked at top positions in various education and skillset rankings and at some places we have even overtaken countries like the US. Even in areas like AI skills, we are

being ranked on top globally,"

Chaudhary said. "I feel so proud when here I tell business and government leaders from all over the world during meetings and roundtables about the progress India has made in areas like education, skill development and youth empowerment. Even in trade and business agreements we sign, they also show our and our partners' trust in India's youth. We have had several successful meetings here which would be converted into partnerships and agreements in the coming time and would bring new investments and create a large number of jobs," he added.

Talking about the meetings

he had here during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, he said the Swiss government is soon likely to ratify a trade and economic participation agreement that has been have signed with a bloc of four European nations and India expects that to come into effect from next

"One of the key positive outcomes is that it is the first free trade agreement that will have a skill development component. The skill development institutes of these four European nations and their curriculum would be taken to our youth also. It will also ensure that someone who had learnt a skill in India would be recognised in these European nations also.

"This agreement will lead to USD 100 billion worth of investments and one million new jobs in India through companies of these four European countries," he said.

Indian talent plays key role in US growth'

H-1Bs fill critical skills gap: Nasscom

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nasscom on Wednesday said H-1B visas have nothing to do with immigration issues and instead fill critical skills gap in the US, as the apex industry body asserted that technology will be the "lynchpin" of US economic growth, trigger-

ing continued need for "win-win partnerships" between companies on both sides.

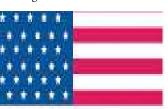
Nasscom vice president Shivendra Singh slammed "myth" that H-1B workers are cheap labour, replace American workers, or depress US salaries, and sought to assuage concerns around any adverse impact of President Donald Trump's latest moves and orders on flow of Indian tech professionals to the US.

Singh told PTI that Nasscom does not have any reason to be less optimistic around Indian IT industry's growth story, given that India and Indian talent have very important role in growth of US economy.

He expressed optimism that the developments in the US would not cloud the outlook for the Indian IT industry.

comments Nasscom's

assume significance given the growing unease around Trump's policies and the impact it could have on exportled USD 250 billion Indian IT industry, which derives biggest chunk of its revenue from the US market. President Trump began his second term with a



spate of executive orders on Tuesday and moved quickly to end a decades-old immigration policy of birthright citizenship - that is automatic citizenship for children born in the US to non-citizen parents. Many believe, and worry, that this could potentially impact children born in the US to H-1B visa holders, as well as other categories like green card holders and those on temporary

Govt raises raw jute MSP by 6 pc to Rs 5,650/ quintal

PNS NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a minimum support price of Rs 5,650 per quintal for raw jute for marketing season 2025-26, an increase of 6 per cent or Rs 315 over the previous MSP.

The decision was taken at the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, informed Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

The new Minimum Support Prices (MSP) ensure return of 66.8 per cent over all-India weighted average cost of production and will benefit growers, the minister said. The government has increased MSP of raw jute from Rs 2,400 per quintal in 2014-15 to Rs 5,650 per quintal for 2025-26 marketing season, an approved MSP of raw jute for Marketing season 2025-26 is in line with the principle of fixing MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times all India weighted average cost of production as announced by the Govern ment in the Budget 2018-19, an official release said.

RECOVERY IN IT, BANKING SHARES

Sensex jumps 567 pts, Nifty ends above 23,150

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex rebounded nearly 567 points and Nifty regained 23,150 level on Wednesday following value buying in IT and bank-ing shares and firm global

The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 566.63 points or 0.75 per cent to close at 76,404.99, driven by gains in Infosys, TCS and HDFC Bank. During the day, the benchmark surged 624.77 points or 0.82 per cent to hit an intraday high of 76,463.13.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 130.70 points or 0.57 per cent to settle at 23,155.35. In the intraday session, the Nifty rose 144.9 points or 0.63 per cent to 23,169.55 on the NSE.

slumped to seven-month lows on Tuesday due to foreign fund outflows and profit-taking by investors amid tariff war worries. Sensex tanked by 1,235 points and Nifty by 320 points.

Recovering its past losses, Infosys surged 3.16 per cent



to emerge as the biggest gainer among Sensex scrips. Tata Consultancy Services jumped 2.97 per cent and Tech Mahindra by 2.28 per cent. Sun Pharmaceutical, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Technologies, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank were among the gainers.

Tata Motors was the biggest loser among Sensex shares, dropping by 2.24 per cent. PowerGrid, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, NTPC, Tata Steel and Adani Ports were the major laggards.

"The benchmark indices

rebounded amidst heightened volatility following better-than-expected results from a major private bank. The IT sector led gains, recovering from recent losses, while mid and small-cap stocks continued to underperform due to valuation of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

Broader markets, however, closed lower. The BSE smallcap index slumped 1.56 per cent and midcap gauge declined 1.2 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, Focused IT rose the most by 2.19 per cent, followed by Information Technology by 1.88 per cent, Teck by 1.65 per cent, Bankex by 0.26 per cent and Financial Services by 0.17

On the other hand, Realty plunged the most by 4.53 per cent, followed by Industrials (1.88 per cent), Capital Goods (1.82 per cent), Power (1.57 per cent) and Utilities (1.38 per cent) were among the laggards.

Overall market breadth

was negative as 2,802 stocks declined while 1,142 advanced and 115 remained unchanged on the BSE. The market capitalisation of BSElisted companies fell by Rs 2,18,878.25 crore to Rs 4,21,88,327.56 crore or USD 4.87 trillion. Shares of Cyient DLM plunged 13.55 per cent after the electronic manufacturing services firm reported a decline in its December quarter profit.

During the day, the shares of the company slumped over 15 per cent to hit a 52week low of Rs 506.05

Denta Water and Infra gets 17 times subscription

PNS NEW DELHI

The initial public offer of water and infrastructure solutions company Denta Water and Infra Solutions got fully subscribed within minutes of opening for bidding on Wednesday and ended the day with 17 times subscription. The initial share sale received bids for 8,93,75,450 shares against 52,50,000 shares on offer, translating into 17.02 times subscription, according to data available with the NSE.

The portion for Non-Institutional Investors fetched 36.19 times subscription while the category for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) got subscribed 17.58 times.

The quota for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) received 1.67 times subscription. Denta Water and Infra Solutions on Tuesday said it has raised a little over Rs 66 crore from anchor investors.

The issue, with a price band of Rs 279-294 per share, will conclude for public subscription on January 24.

Gold jumps Rs 630 to hit record high of Rs 82,730

PNS NEW DELHI

Gold prices rallied by Rs 630 to a lifetime high of Rs 82,700 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday following persistent buying by jewellers and retailers amid strong global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Rallying for the sixth straight session, gold of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 630 to hit a lifetime high of Rs

82,330 per 10 grams.

"Gold prices touched new all-time highs in Wednesday's session. The uncertainty surrounding US President Donald Trump's trade policy appears to be an important factor driving a haven flow toward precious metals," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Ânalyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Gold of 99.9 per cent purity previously hit its record level of Rs 82,400 on Óctober 31, 2024. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity hit an all-time of Rs 82,000 per 10



grams same day. Silver also surged Rs 1,000 to Rs 94,000 per kg on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for February delivery increased by Rs 299 or 0.38 per cent to

trade at Rs 79,523 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

"In the domestic market, MCX gold registered comparatively minor gains, limited by the rupee's strength. This currency strength capped the upward movement in domestic gold prices," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst -Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said.

Silver futures for March delivery increased Rs 204 or 0.22 per cent to Rs

92,295 per kg. Globally, Comex gold futures rose USD 10.20 per ounce or 0.37 per cent to USD 2,769.40 per ounce.

"Gold prices continue to rise as the dollar weakens. Markets are worried after Trump delayed his promised trade tariffs on China, Mexico, and Canada, raising fears they may come next month sparking fears of a prolonged trade war," Abans Holdings' Chief Executive Officer Chintan Mehta, said.

NDFC seeks import duty rationalisation

PNS NEW DELHI

The Nuts and Dry Fruits Council of India (NDFC) on Wednesday urged the government to rationalise walnut import duty on a per-kilogram basis, reduce GST to 5 per cent, and introduce a productionlinked incentive scheme for the sector in its pre-budget pro-

India's dry fruits market is projected to hit USD 12 billion by 2029, growing at 18 per cent February 11-14 in Mumbai.

CAGR, according to the industry body. With Kashmir producing over 90 per cent of domestic walnuts, NDFC President Gunjan V Jain emphasised the need for protecting local farmers despite the existing 100 per cent import tariff. "We have sought per-kilo import duty on walnuts instead of percentage-based taxation," Jain said while announcing MEWA India trade show's second edition, scheduled for

SOUTHER POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED OPEN TENDER (SHORT TENDER) NOTICE NO. 03/2024-25

Sealed tenders are invited through Open Tender (Short Tender) from eligible contractors for Carrying various Electrical works and supply of O&M materials in Operation Circle, Narayanpet, TGSPDCL.

All the Information can be obtained from Circle Office/Narayanpet, Circle Office Phone No.: 8500828264. Note: For Open Tender (Short Tender) Works, Purchase Schedules from Circle Office/Narayanpet. R.O. No.: 9458-PP/CL/WDVT/12929-25, Dt. 22-01-2025

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ROADS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE NIT NO: 13/SEDEE/Tenders/2024-25 /1 to 3 Dt: 22.01

81.00 lakhs. Download to tender documents and submission of bid document 25.01.2025 to 01.02.2025 upto 3.30 PM, Technical bid opening date: 01.02.2025 @ 3.30 PM Price bid opening date: 01.02.2025 @ 4.00 PM, Tender documents will be available in a procurement markstplace in between dt: 25.01.2025 to 01.02.2025. Tender details can be seen by login into www.tender.telangana.gov.in (R&B) Circle, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri R.O.No: 9489-PP/CL/WOVT/10034-25, Date: 22-01-2025

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CONTROL (THROUGH 'E' PROCUREMENT) Nit No. 24/EE/GHMC/DIV-21/2024-25

Tenders are called vide no. No. 24/EE/GHWC/DIV-21/2024-25 (Item No. 01 & 02) DI 22.01.2025. Through 'e' procurement for (02) works with an estimated cost of **Rs. 46.62** Lakhs. The sale of bids is open on the website 'e' procurement market place from 4.00 PM on 23.01.2025 onwards. Last date for submission of bids is 30.01.2025 at 4.00 PM. Sale of bids closes one hour before the submission time. Further details can be seen or the website https://tender.telangana.gov.in.

Chandanagar Circle-21, SLP Zone: GHMC R.O.No: 9508-PPICLIADVT/1/2024-25, Dt. 23-01-2025

PNS DAVOS Electronics The global capability centres Communications; Industries & Commerce, said, "The in India have transformed from being centres of cost Government of Telangana is working to put young Indians arbitrage to global innovation hubs, Indian leaders said on in Skills' University for train-Wednesday on the sidelines of

Annual Meeting.
Speaking at a breakfast session organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) here, they also said there should be a consistent focus on upskilling the Indian talent pool.

Babu, Sridhar Telangana's Minister for

the World Economic Forum

Information Technology,

ing, coaching and tutoring that is required to upskill and reskill employees as well as people who would like to know about new technolo-

This has already started, and it is absolutely industrydriven where the government only acts as a facilitator, he

Emphasising the impor-



Davos: India's GCCs transform to innovation hubs

tance of staying ahead in technological advancements, he said, "As the world is witnessing the next wave of revnext level.' olution right now in terms of technology, India should be

proud of the talent that we have, and we need to focus on how we move this talent to the

"We have upscaled our talent to the next level and have

almost every state in India is in the drive for new technologies, operating technologies or developing centres of excel-lence. The Government of India over a period of 2-3 decades has introduced initiatives like Make in India and Digital India which have provided a big platform for each and every state to further move forward," he added. Godrej Industries Chairman

become centres of innovation,

and accelerators. Today,

and Managing Director Nadir Godrej said, "India is strong in ESG and there is much progress in green energy. The

strength. strength. PwC India Chairperson Sanjeev Krishan said, "GCCs in India emerged because of cost arbitrage but it is no longer the case now. Moreover, there have been very significant efforts being made to make sure that inclusivity and wholesome growth is achieved to make sure that GCC is spread across the country".

strong startup ecology of the

nation is an opportunity for

collaboration. Academia, gov-

ernment and industry can col-

laborate on new technology. If

all of us go to full length, GCCs

will go from strength to

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Thursday January 23, 2025

TEACHING BEYOND TEXTBOOKS

The Teacher App's uplifting educators & students

TEJAL SINHA teial.sinha30@gmail.com

ducation in India presents a tale of contrasts. Urban areas enjoy access to well-equipped schools with quality teaching, while rural regions face persistent challenges in delivering basic education. Recognizing this disparity, the Bharti Airtel Foundation, under the leadership of its visionary founder, has committed itself to bridging this gap by focusing on grassroots education. In this exclusive conversation, Mamta Saikia, the founder sheds light on the Foundation's efforts, their pioneering approaches, and the launch of the

transformative Teachers App. The journey of the Bharti Airtel Foundation began with a mission to address the challenges faced by rural schools. "We've been working in education for over 24 years now," Mamta Saikia, the founder of the foundation shared. "When we talk about quality education, you'll find excellent schools in big cities. However, the real work - if we are serious about equitable education - needs to happen in villages where resources are limited."

Punjab served as the Foundation's testing ground for impactful, scalable models. "In rural schools, even the teachers are from local villages. While they have potential, they lack structured training. That's where we came in, developing programmes to help these teachers enhance their classroom practices," she

The Foundation's efforts led to the introduction of academic mentors, a key initiative designed to create lasting improvements. These mentors regularly visit schools, working closely with teachers, principals and even students to address their unique needs. "We didn't just focus on teachers," the founder elaborated. "We also created student leaders. They are the most powerful agents of change. By fostering leadership among students, principals and teachers alike, we've created schools where children want to learn and teachers are motivated to teach. This vision materialized through the Quality Support Programme, initially launched in just eight schools but now reaching thousands. "We engage with schools for five years under this programme to ensure that the changes we introduce are sustainable. It's not about quick fixes - it's about fostering growth

A key element of the Foundation's model has been the introduction of clubs and houses in schools, bringing a vibrant energy to these institutions. "These activities

across the entire school ecosystem."

are more than extracurricular - they help students develop critical life skills such as communication, leadership, and stress management," she said. These efforts have equipped students with abilities that go beyond academics. "Leadership, confidence, and communication skills are essential for success in any field, and these activities provide a platform for students to build those skills."

The impact of these programmes quickly caught the attention of progressive block and district education officers. "Many government officers recognized the potential of our model and invited us to collaborate on

scaling it across their regions." To sustain this growth, the Foundation began training resource personnel at district and State levels. "This ensures that even when our direct engagement with schools ends, the practices we've introduced continue to benefit future generations."

In its mission to revolutionize education in India, the Bharti Airtel Foundation has launched TheTeacherApp, a comprehensive platform designed to uplift schools by empowering teachers, school leaders, and educationists. At its core, the platform believes in creating happy and energized schools where teachers, students, and parents are actively engaged in the process of school transformation. The app seeks to bridge gaps in education by equipping teachers with high-quality, engaging content and tools that enable them to build better learning environments. The Foundation firmly believes that transformative education starts with empowered educators who can inspire and guide their students

The Teachers App marks a new chapter in the Foundation's Designed to empower educators. this digital platform provides curated resources tailored to their specific needs. "The app offers subject-

focused content for teachers of classes eight and nine, but its scope goes beyond materials for principals

With a focus on grassroots impact and sustainable change, the Bharti Airtel Foundation is paving the way for a future where every child has access to quality education and every teacher is equipped to inspire. We have the Chief Executive Officer of the foundation, Mamta Saikia discussing it's innovative programmes, transforming schools into vibrant hubs of

and senior faculty to deepen their understanding of effective pedagogy," she explained. One of the app's standout features is the Green School initiative, which fosters an environmentally conscious mindset among teachers and students. "This program goes beyond planting trees. It's about equipping schools to integrate sustainability into their daily operations and educational practices." The app also addresses practical challenges faced by teachers, such as exam preparation and the need for students.

innovative classroom strategies. "Every teacher, whether in private or government schools, needs a mentor. The Teachers App provides that mentorship. ensuring teachers are better equipped to nurture their Through the app, the foundation is not only addressing existing challenges in education but also laying the groundwork for a brighter, more inclusive future. By empowering teachers to reimagine their schools and instilling a renewed sense of purpose within the teaching community, the platform is driving

Concluding the conversation, the founder reflected on the broader goals of the Foundation. "Our ultimate aim is to build future citizens by strengthening the pillars of education. The fact that state governments are reaching out to us for support shows that we are on the right path," they remarked.

Mamta emphasised that education reform isn't just

the transformation of education in India - one

about improving content delivery. "It's about creating schools where children love to learn. teachers enjoy teaching, and communities take pride in their institutions. By focusing on grassroots initiatives and leveraging technology like the Teachers App, we can ensure a brighter future for our country." These initiatives demonstrate how targeted,

holistic efforts can address systemic challenges in education. With the Teachers App, the Quality Support Programme and their commitment to working with local communities, the Foundation is paving the way for meaningful, long-

lasting change in the lives of India's students and



WHY GENETIC

n a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape, precision medicine is no longer a distant dream—it's a presentday reality. At the core of this transformation lies genetic testing, a revolutionary tool that has the potential to unlock personalized healthcare for everyone. Whether you aim to manage chronic conditions, plan your family's future, or better understand your body, genetic testing offers actionable insights tailored to your unique biology. Our DNA is the blueprint of life, holding instructions that shape everything about us-from physical traits like eye color and height to our predisposition to specific diseases. Genetic testing dives deep into this blueprint, identifying variations in our genes that could impact our health. This knowledge empowers individuals and healthcare providers to make informed. personalized decisions, far beyond the limitations of generic recommendations.

THE KEY BENEFITS OF **GENETIC TESTING:**

1. Early Detection and

Genetic testing helps identify risks for conditions like cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and Alzheimer's. Farly detection enables proactive measures that can save lives and improve outcomes

2. Precision Medicine No two individuals are alike, so why

should their treatments be? Genetic testing helps tailor medication plans to each person, minimizing side effects and optimizing effectiveness.

3. Informed Family Health **Decisions**

For families, genetic testing provides invaluable insights into hereditary risks, empowering them to make better health and planning decisions.

4. Lifestyle Tailored to

Your Genes

Beyond medical applications, genetic testing can guide lifestyle choices, such as the most effective diet or exercise regimen for your unique genetic makeup. While the benefits of genetic testing are undeniable, it's natural to have concerns. Issues like privacy, the emotional toll of results, and cost are valid considerations. Fortunately, advancements in technology have made genetic testing more accessible, affordable, and secure. Genetic counseling further ensures individuals understand their results and can make informed decisions. Healthcare is shifting from treating illnesses to preventing them, and genetic testing is a cornerstone of this transition. It empowers individuals to take control of their health with knowledge rather than guesswork. At CianaHealth, we recognize the transformative potential of genetic testing in delivering personalized, evidence-based care. Our platform integrates genetic insights with a 360-degree view of patient health, offering tools like automated documentation, specialty workflows, and drug interaction checks. By harnessing the power of genetic testing, we help patients and providers create tailored wellness programs and manage hereditary risks with precision. As we embrace this new era of precision medicine, genetic testing should not just be an option—it should be an integral part of your healthcare strategy. The unique story written in your DNA holds the key to better health, not just for you, but for future generations. The future of healthcare is personal, proactive, and empowered by genetic insights. Let genetic testing be your first step toward unlocking it.

> (The author, Dr. Geethika Nutakki, is the VP Business Development and Health Tech at CianaHealth.)

GLAMPING WITH AN EC

PNS HYDERABAD

till etched in your memory is the breathtaking tent gala hosted by the Ambanis? It's time to elevate your expectations, as we introduce you to an unparalleled luxury experience - an exclusive tent city nestled in the heart of Maharashtra. This is where the majesty of the great outdoors converges with unparalleled opulence, redefining the art of wilderness escapades! As locals marvel at this splendour, they can't help but exclaim, 'This is no ordinary tent city, but a luxury tenting experience that surpasses all expectations!' The buzz is palpable, the excitement is contagious and the allure is irre-

We see a tagline that reads "eco-glamping"—an amazing adventure that skillfully combines the splendour of nature with the comforts of upscale living! In the which has suddenly swept the luxury primitive roughing-it for opulent comrable journey is promised by the glamping revolution, which included every-

realm of outdoor adventures, glamping has revolutionised the game. This is also true of Maharashtra Eco Glamping, vacation market. Picture exchanging forts, where you may live under starry skies in luxurious suites that resemble safari tents. This type of glamping was inviting tourists to fully experience the beauty of nature without compromising their comfort level, as the boundaries between wilderness and wellness were becoming increasingly hazy. A memo-

thing from yoga to riverbank experiences

try while also touching the site's senses.

and gourmet meals to recycled linens. The tranquil beauty of riverside experiences served as a reminder that a retreat can successfully blend the allure of outdoor activity. Indeed, adventures! A cycle tour around the pods, water sports and the luxury cruise experience and the





sunset's purple hues are just a few of the adventures that will leave you speechless in Gangapura Dam. Well, let's go on.

It would have been impossible to overlook the wine tasting at this eco-glamping experience, which is located in what the nation refers to as the capital of vineyards. Therefore, one of the things that they refer to as adventures is a wine-tasting trip at the top winery. We became more convinced that a dining experience could be as gourmet as this even in a local setting after taking part in indigenous cooking workshops in the middle of vineyards with a touch of that local Maharashtrian masalas: the Kara Dosa, Kolhapuri Misal Ki Sabzi, authentic Chicken Curry, Bajre Chi Bhakri and everything garnished by the poha, which is the signature ingredient of downtown Maharashtra. Similar to this, we had an agro-tourism workshop experience that gave us a fresh viewpoint on the indus-

The retreat's class on farming, gardening, picking your own veggies and other leisure pursuits will undoubtedly satisfy the goal of sustainability, which is what this glamping experience is ultimately intended to achieve.

Sustainability, indeed! There is one aspect of this entire event that cannot be ignored. It does nourish the world and the psyche when it is infused with a little sustainability.

"Sustainable vacations," as we like to call them, encourage us to walk lightly, give back generously and establish a close connection with nature. Every element, from carbon-neutral excursions to ecolodges made from recycled linens, is intended to protect the delicate ecosystem's equilibrium. You will learn that the most lasting memories are those created with a clear conscience and a gentle footprint as you stroll through the pristine landscape at Girnare village, the canopy of trees that you can see from the other side of the riverside and how they are helping local communities by setting up these awesome workshops.

A bamboo cane entryway, a sustainable-looking shack housing those art and naturopathy courses and numerous other sustainable accents—how can we not call this a really eco-friendly experience?

Should we discuss the cultural aspect of it a bit? Oh, we adore the way this confluence of luxury, sustainability and culture is happening. The air of the Godavari was filled with the beautiful aroma of incense, the delicate chanting of mantras and the gentle lap of the river's waves as evening fell upon the revered Panchvati ghats. The lake was awashed with flames as the priests lifted their divas to the sky. The ghat's neighbouring temples gave us the impression that it was all more than a ceremony. You will feel the moments' celestial vitality. From there, you might consider going to the most well-known Jyotiralinga Trimbakeshwar! You will be confronted by those strands of tradition and faith. As part of a cultural experience, we also need to visit the Pandavleni Caves, which are the ancient nooks and crannies of a bygone era. You may also

give Maharashtra tourism some credit for making these experiences come to life with the retreat and preserving the traditional legacy even when visitors are looking for a luxurious vacation. That's

the way to go! This memoir comes to a spectacular conclusion when the dholkars' deft hands brought the "nagadas" of Nashik's famous Dhol experience to life. Uff, there was an electrifying energy pulsing through the air. Visions of traditional Maharashtra culture were evoked with each Dhol. The stresses of the outside

world will melt away as you enjoy the glamping festival as it is renowned to be. According to the observation, it was about immersion rather than only accommodations. It was about enjoying the good things in life while integrating with the natural world.

For those who appreciate the outdoors or adventure, eco-glamping offers the conveniences of a luxurious lifestyle while allowing for constant reconnection. You may refer to it as a festival or a retreat, but one thing is certain: it is a tent city that is a magnificent wonder.



what's brewing?





training institute in Hyderabad, has

Test scheduled for February 2, 2025.

and B.Tech students, as well as IT

professionals, by offering them a

chance to enroll in a prestigious

or offline test will provide selected

candidates with an intensive three-

career guidance, certification preparation, and interview coaching.

Quality Thought ensures



















MyWiproVerse Hyderabad. Transforming Workspaces with Smart Lighting and Ergonomics Anuj Dhir, Senior Vice President & Business Head, Commercial & Institutional Business, Wipro Consumer Care & Lighting, said, "Modern workspaces are hubs for collaboration, innovation, and creativity. At Wipro, we are reimagining these spaces with the right balance of advanced technology and thoughtful

Wipro Launches

ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES

HOW DOES THIS TRANSMOGRIFIER GUN KNOW WHAT TO TRANSMOG RIFY SOMETHING INTO?





SPEED BUMP

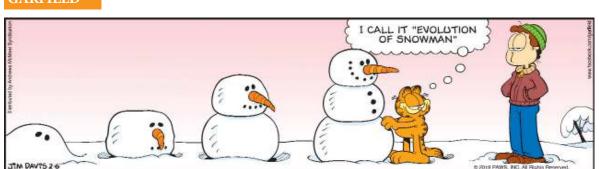
THE GUN AUTOMATICALLY READS



CROSSWORD



GARFIELD







GINGER MEGGS







REALITY CHECK





SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: **

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

any row or column must equal 45.

- contain each number (1 to 9)
- The sum of all numbers in
 - 2 Throbbing with pain 3 Two matching things 4 A command

12 The sound a pig makes

17 The planet we live on

18 A singer's instrument

19 People who repair teeth

people

DOWN 1 Weary

5 Letters are put in these

- ACROSS 1 Stir a cup of coffee with this 6 A takeaway food item
- Opposite of south 11 Blocks of bread 8 A very crowded country 13 A tiny body part that 9 The finish of a story carries messages to 10 To snatch something the brain
- 15 Opposite of heads 14 Someone who helps sick
 - on coins 16 Closed



Hyderabad | Thursday January 23, 2025

Sankranthiki Vasthunnam is a for me: Director Anil Ravipudi

SURESH KAVIRAYANI sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

nil Ravipudi completed 10 years as director in the Telugu Film Industry (TFI) with his debut film 'Pataas' released on January 23, 2015. In these 10 years, he made eight films and all of them are hits. "From my debut film to now, I am getting appreciation and also bigger hits one after another," said Anil. "All my films done very well and I didn't see any low point except the two years pandemic, which is low for everyone," said

the director. His latest 'Sankranthiki Vasthunnam' is heading towards a huge blockbuster and surprised many with its huge collections. Venkatesh played the lead actor, while Meenakshi Chaudhary and Aishwarya Rajesh are the female leads. "It is not an ordinary success; this film is now history, particularly when you see the revenue of the film. It also gave me a big relief, because somewhere a few people criticizing and with this film, that also cleared," said Anil.

When asked about a small kid uttering adult dialogues, he supported it. "There is so much impact on kids these days, because of the OTT. I wanted to tell through my kid character that if you watch some web series in OTT, they definitely spoil. So, I have to make the kid utter those dialogues."

For another question, he said, his dream was to become a director. "Yes, I wanted to be a director and my wish came true with my debut film 'Pataas'. All these films are a bonus," he said. "I give full credit to Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, who produced, acted and gave chance to me with 'Pataas'," said Anil. He added that his aim is not to disappoint audiences.
"I always try to do something different from my earlier film. I don't want to repeat the characters or genre in my next film. I also took care that there is no resemblance of any character from my earlier film in my next film. After 'Bhagavanth Kesari', I did 'Sankranthiki Vasthunnam', both are quite different genres. Also the success of my earlier film

gives confidence to do better in my next film."

The director said that family entertainers with comedy backdrop are always successful. "If you see films like 'Aa Okkati Adakku', 'Appula Apparao' and many others, which were successful in our earlier times, audience came to the theatre to get some laughs and I feel that I am providing it to them. If they laugh and enjoy watching my films, that's a big success for me," he said.

Talking about his films which are mostly entertainers, he said, "My strength is to provide entertainment. So, I can go with this kind of genre even in future also. But after the success of a couple of films, I can go for experiment," he said.

When asked about some

people criticizing his films of being 'Jabardasth' skits and he was good at it, he reacted very angrily, saying, "Where did I write a 'Jabardasth' skit? All these years a few people are criticizing and I want to answer them with my films. Take my latest film which is getting humongous response and it is creating history in collec-tions, audience watching it and enjoying it. What proof you need than this? I don't want to answer that kind of a question, audience will reply for

When he made 'Sankranthiki Vasthunnam', his thought was that audience who likes his earlier 'F2' may come and watch this one too. "But it reached beyond my expectations and its shocking and surprising," he said. He added that people are eager to watch entertainment movies.

The director said that he couldn't sleep the night before his film's release. "When the shooting was

happening and then promotions, I was normal. But when it's come to release, I couldn't sleep the night before, because I was a bit scared about it," he said. "I pray God that the film is a success on the first day," he added.

The director said he didn't change much

from his debut film till now in these 10 years.
"Now, I am a matured person and like earlier, I am not responding to any small criticism or for any small thing.

That's the only thing I learnt.

HIS LATEST FILM, HIS **UPCOMING FILM**

> Otherwise, I am the same person," said Anil. He added that actors like Ravi Teia, Mahesh Babu and Venkatesh perfectly match his comedy timing. "Other actors also did, but their strengths are different. But these three actors perfectly catch my comedy punches and dialogues," said

the director with his

For another question, he said he will watch all movies

experience.

tollywood case study

releasing on every Friday. "I watch all the movies and I feel that it is part of a learning process," he said. For characters in his films, he is inspired from real ones. "I always observe my surroundings, people around me, observe the society, when I meet some people, I observe them and get inspiration for all my characters. I always get inspired by real people to portray my characters," said Anil.

After the successful 'F2', Anil made the sequel to it 'F3', but the sequel was not much of a success. "If I continue the film where the 'F2' ends, like Venkatesh and Tamannah having kids and their problems started with them, it is going to be more success than the first one. But with an overconfidence, I made a different story. If I follow like 'DJ Tillu' and then 'Tillu Square', 'F3' could be done better," said Anil, about his sequel.

The director generally takes senior actor Rajendra Prasad in his films, but in this film he missed him. "Initially, I wanted to rope in for the Chief Minister's role, but I wanted to work with Naresh. So, I planned a surprising role for Rajendra Prasad in the second half, but somehow missed him in this film," said Anil.

Talking about 'Sankranthiki Vasthunnam"s result, he said, he could-

n't imagine. "Particularly this film's success, I can't imagine, because it went to roots and it's surprising to everyone and also to me. I didn't understand why this film became that much success. The final revenue definitely shocks everyone. This film is a case study for me and I have to sit and analyze it," said the director.

Anil's next film is with Megastar Chiranjeevi and asked about it, he said, "It's too early to talk about the film as we are still doing our homework about the genre and the story. I want to come up with a different story which he didn't do till now". Anil said that he is happy as a director and doesn't want to produce films. "I am happy as director and want to provide entertainment," said Anil.

He said he will work on the script for three to four months and then for the shoot of his film five to six months. "One film a year is good," he said.



Has Rajamouli started shooting Mahesh's film?

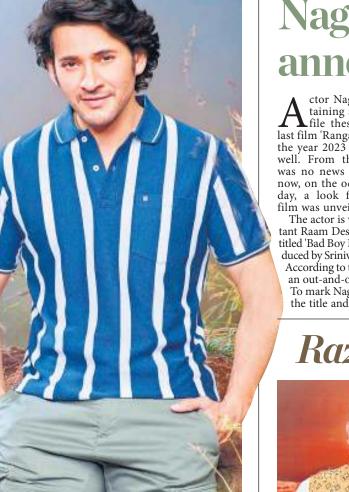
his is the question doing rounds everywhere around Film Nagar. Generally, Rajamouli will hold a media conference before going to his film shoot and explain about his film. He did this for all his films till now. But when it comes to his upcoming film with Superstar Mahesh Babu, he is tight-lipped. He launched the film with utmost secrecy, without a picture coming out from it. Though some of the unit people attended the launch along with the lead actor, director and producer's families, not a single glimpse from it has come out. He has taken utmost care about it and even now, he is shooting the film with utmost secrecy, said a source.

Unofficially, a unit source confirmed that Priyanka Chopra is the leading lady in his film opposite Mahesh, and the actress is in town recently. She visited Chilkur Balaji temple and shared the pictures in her social media. But she didn't put any word about Rajamouli's film or Mahesh Babu in her post. She said there is a 'new chapter' in her life, but she didn't mention what is new. She thanked Upasana Kamineni Konidela in her post. Maybe, her new chapter means that she is working

in a Telugu film, some people assume.

It seems, Rajamouli started the shooting first with the lead pair and then went abroad for further shooting of his film. "Maybe, he is taking some workshops with the lead pair which he usually does. So, she landed in the city for it," said another source.

As he announced earlier, this film is an adventurous one like 'Indiana Jones'. So, it needs lot of action scenes and for that he may be training the lead pair, opines a source from the industry. Whatever it may be, director Rajamouli chose not to reveal anything about his upcom-



After a long time, Naga Shaurya's film announcement

A ctor Naga Shaurya is maintaining a complete low profile these days. The actor's last film 'Rangabali' was released in the year 2023 and it has not done well. From then onwards, there was no news from the actor and now, on the occasion of his birthday, a look from his upcoming film was unveiled.

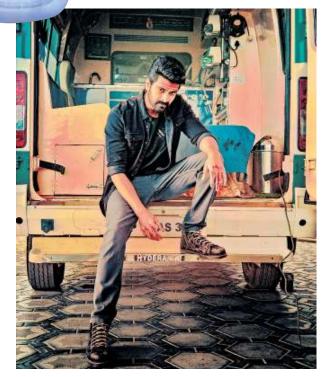
The actor is working with a debutant Raam Desina for his upcoming titled 'Bad Boy Karthik', which is produced by Srinivasa Rao Chintalapudi. According to the makers, the film is an out-and-out action entertainer To mark Naga Shaurya's birthday, the title and first look of the film were unveiled on Wednesday.

According to the title, the story reflects the intense nature of Naga Shaurya's character. Notably, the word 'BAD' has been conspicuously removed from the van in the picture, subtly hinting at his character's aggressive nature and indicating the

film's action-packed genre.

Vidhi is playing the female lead opposite Naga Shaurya.

Samuthirakani, Sr Naresh, Saikumar, Vennela Kishore and Sridevi Vijaykumar are also there in key roles. The makers said that the shoot is nearing completion and the release date of this film will be announced in the coming days.



Razakar won many film awards: Director



irector Yata Satyanarayana of 'Razakar' film fame is happy that his film is now streaming on OTT on January 24.
"Though the film was released some time back, the delay in screening an OTT is due to film festivals and a Hindi release," said the director. He added that he sent it for many film festivals and won appreciation. "Our film received fantastic response in Hindi, Marathi and other languages. Out of 18 film festivals we applied to, we were selected for 15. It was recognized as the Best Indian Debut at the IFFI held in Goa, where I was nominated for Best Director," he said.

He added that representatives from 75 countries at the Goa Film Festival appreciated the film, and 72 countries attended its screening at the Jaipur Film Festival. They were all astonished to learn about such a significant chapter in India's freedom struggle. The film has won multiple awards. The film is now screening on Aha OTT

channel from January 24.

The director said that he wrote many stories on Telangana's history. "I have 20 more stories about the heroes from Telangana's history, and I plan to turn them into films as soon as possible," said Satyanarayana.

Rashmika Mandanna on a wheelchair,

attended promotions

elling to Mumbai for her upcoming Hindi film Chhaava's promotions. The actress recently injured her leg while doing her gym and was unable to walk. Doctors advised her rest. It seems the actress couldn't sit idle at home and wanted to promote her Hindi film. So she came out and travelled to Mumbai in a wheelchair. This shows her dedication and commitment towards her professional work. She simply says 'no' to promotions because of her situation, but she travelled in a wheelchair and attended the promotions with a limping leg. A video of the actress travelling in a wheelchair

is doing rounds on the

ctress Rashmika Mandanna, nicknamed internet and social media. She was limping from as National Crush, is on a wheelchair, travher car to wheelchair and then she got help from her team. It is evident that she can't walk

> on her own. After the blockbuster 'Animal', Rashmika is the most wanted, both in Hindi and also in down south. This is a big period project and she wanted to do her part to help the film. So she travelled, says a source. Vicky Kaushal is playing the lead character of Chhatrapathi Sambhaji Maharaj, while Rashmika is playing the role of Yesubai. The look of Rashmika was released a few days back and it got positive response from everywhere.



Vikram's sequel locks the release date

Wikram is another Tamil actor, whose popularity in Telugu is big like many other actors. Actually, Vikram started his career with Telugu films and then settled in Tamil. All his films are dubbed into Telugu and they became super hits here also. Last year, his 'Thangalaan' was released in Telugu and was successful. Now, his upcoming film 'Veera Dheera Sooran' part 2 is releasing in Telugu along with the Tamil version on March 27. Interestingly, the first part of 'Veera Dheera Sooran' started production a few years back, but later dropped. Now, the makers of this film put the title as 'Veera Dheera Sooran' part 2 and it is directed by SU Arun Kumar. SJ Suryah, Sooraj Venjaramudu and Dushara Vijayan are the other key actors in this film. GV Prakash Kumar is

the producer. This film revolves around Kaali, played by Vikram, a common and normal person involved in a dangerous crime network and what happened to him, why he was involved is the story, according to reports. The makers now officially announced the film release on March 27 in all languages. So, one hopes that Vikram is coming up with another stellar



Australian Open: Swiatek will face Madison Keys in semifinals

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

ga Swiatek is dominating her Australian Open opponents the way no one has at Melbourne Park since Maria Sharapova in

Swiatek's latest lopsided win came via a 6-1, 6-2 score in the quarterfinals against No. 8 seed Emma Navarro on Wednesday.

The No. 2-seeded Swiatek not only has not dropped a set so far in the tournament, but also has lost a grand total of only 14 games as she seeks her first title at Melbourne Park and sixth Grand Slam trophy overall. Sharapova was the last woman to reach the Australian Open semifinals having dropped fewer than 15 games.

"She does everything with 100% conviction and intensity," Navarro said about Swiatek. "She has a different style of movement and play. It's tough to not be sort of affected by that and not feel like, OK, I have to do everything at the same speed that she's doing it.' So that was something, for sure, I felt a little bit today."

Swiatek will face No. 19 Madison Keys of the U.S. On Thursday

night for a berth in the final. The other women's semifinal is No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka, the two-time defending champion, against her good friend, No. 11 Paula Badosa. Keys, whose best showing at a major was getting to the title match at the 2017 U.S. Open, was a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 winner against Elina Svitolina and is into her third semifinal in Australia.

"Iga is tough to beat, because she has a lot of spin, kind of naturally, on both sides. She's a good server. She's a good returner. She moves incredibly well." incredibly well," Keys said. "The biggest thing that makes her so difficult to beat is, because she moves so well, if you miss your spot just slightly, she has enough time to recover, and then the point goes back to neutral."
There's an American in the men's

semifinals, too: No. 21 Ben Shelton got that far in Melbourne for the first time with an entertaining 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (4) win over unseeded Lorenzo Sonego of Italy. Shelton was a semifinalist at the 2023 U.S. Open and now will meet No. 1 Jannik Sinner, the defending champion, or No. 8 Alex de Minaur in that round. Sinner faced



de Minaur on Wednesday night. The other men's semifinal Friday is Novak Djokovic vs. Alexander

Swiatek Against Navarro, benefited from a no-call of a double bounce on a point she won in the second set. Because Navarro

continued playing the point and did not immediately stop to ask for a video review, she wasn't allowed to have the sequence checked

modest about things afterward.

Well, I think it was much more tougher than the score says," said Swiatek, a 23-year-old from Poland. "Emma's a fighter ... And I wanted to stay focused and keep my intensity."

Swiatek has won four of five career

matchups against Keys, 29.
"Madison is a great player and experienced, so you never know," Swiatek said. "I'll be just focused on myself."

Using a new racket this season, Keys is on a 10-match winning streak, including a title at a hard-court tune-up event in Adelaide. Her run to the semifinals in Melbourne includes victories over two past runners-up at the Australian Open, Danielle Collins

Australian Open, Danielle Collins and Elina Rybakina.

Keys' past losses in the semifinals in Melbourne came against eventual champions Serena Williams in 2015 and Ash Barty in

"I think I play a little bit smarter for sure ... Probably a little bit less

fearless," Keys said. Svitolina, a three-time Slam

Either way, Swiatek's dominance semifinalist, was in control during was pretty clear, even if she was the first set. But Keys made some tactical adjustments, including looking for more opportunities to get to the net. She won 23 of the 26 points when she moved forward and ended up with a total of 49 winners, 23 on her powerful forehand side.

The one difficulty Keys had was getting going in her return games. But she finally converted her seventh break chance to lead 4-2 in the second set.

'Getting to the point where I'm starting to appreciate my career for what it has been, and it doesn't have to have a Grand Slam in order for me to look at it and say, I've done a really good job, and I've really left everything out there. Now, while that's obviously still the goal, there have been periods of my career where it felt like if I didn't win one, then I hadn't done

enough,," Keys said.
"That kind of took a lot of the fun out of the game, and there were times where it felt paralyzing out on the court because it felt as if I needed it to happen, instead of giving myself the opportunity to go out and potentially do it.



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Seasoned India pacer Mohammed Shami has revealed that he was gripped by a sense of fear when he began his rehabilitation after a long injury layoff, but managed to overcome that phase by training his mind to stay focussed on the national comeback.

Shami was sidelined after the lost ODI World Cup final the Ranji Trophy, he guided against Australia in November Bengal to their first win of the 2023 due to an ankle injury that required surgery. The recovery from that was followed by a swelling on his left knee during the domestic remeback some weeks back.

Tropby (five wickets). Following his inclusion in India's Champions Trophy

squad, his return has garnered national attention. He is also in the squad for the five-match T20I series against England beginning here later this evening.
"I waited for an entire year and

I worked very hard (to get back to full fitness). There was a sense of fear (of getting injured during rehabilitation) even while running," Shami said in a video posted by BCCI.

"It is difficult for any player to get injured after being in full flow, go the the NCA (National Cricket Academy) for rehabilitation and then make a comeback," he added. The cricketer, however, said an athlete is far more determined after deaking with an injury.

"When you go through injuries, I feel you grow stronger as an athlete, this is

what I feel. Because you have to repeat a lot of things while being mentally strong.

Shami went through the domestic grind, representing his home state Bengal in the Ranji Trophy, Syed Mushtaq and Vijay Hazare but a swelling in his knee finally ruled him out of the fivematch Border-Gavaskar Test series in Australia.

On his competitive return in season with a seven-wicket

Hazare Trophy (five wickets). Shami's T20I career has been sporadic, with just 23 appearances since his debut in 2014. His last outing in the format was against England in the 2022 T20 World Cup semifinal.

The 34-year-old said he has overcome the setbacks and is raring to go.

Whatever is done, is done. I have crossed that (injury) phase. If you work hard you will get the results. That's what I believe in. If you get injured you have to make a comeback for your team for your country. So fight and grow," he

"If you are strong and believe in yourself and you have confidence in your abilities, have self-belief, then I don't think you will find any difference. Confidence is important for any task," he

Big wins for England, Australia in U19 Women's T20 World Cup

PTI ■ JOHOR

Opener Davina Perrin smashed a fine half-century and Trudy Johnson put up a fine all-round show as England crushed the United States of America (USA) by eight wickets to climb to the top of Pool B in the U19 Women's T20 World Cup, here Wednesday.
Bangladesh, New Zealand
and Australia were the other

winners on the day. Bangladesh overcame Scotland by 18 runs, New Zealand defeated Samoa by 67 runs, while Australia were menacing in their 83-run win over Nepal.

England flexed their muscle by chasing down 120 in 14.2 overs with opener Perrin scoring a 45-ball 74, studded with nine boundaries and three sixes. Johnson hit an unbeaten 44

after taking two wickets for

17 runs. Prisha Thanawala (2/20) also contributed in restricting USA to 119/5. USA captain Anika Kolan led the charge with the bat, shoring their innings with an unbeaten 46 off 42 balls. Bangladesh outlasted Scotland in Group D after managing 121/9 and then restricting the opponents to 103/8 in the allotted overs.

Captain Sumaiya Akter topscored for Bangladesh with an unbeaten 29 off 36 deliveries. She was supported by Afia Ashima Era (21 off 19) and Juairiya Ferdous (20 off 32).

Scotland were courageous in their chase with Pippa Sproul scoring a 41-ball 43 but they couldn't get over the

In another match, New Zealand sealed a 67-run win against tournament newcomers Samoa.

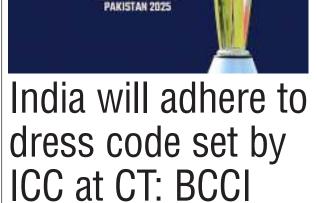
The Kiwis scored 107/9 in 17 overs and dismissed Samoa for 40 in 14.2 overs. Eve Wolland (48) shone with the bat while Rishika Jaswal (3/12) and skipper Tash Wakelin (3/3) excelled with the ball.

Olive Lefaga Lemoe made history by taking Samoa's first ever ICC Women's U19 World Cup wicket, dismissing New Zealand star Kate Irwin caught-andbowled for a duck.

Australia had an easy outing

Australia had an easy outing against Nepal, defeating the Asian side by 83 runs after scoring 139/6.

Nepal could only muster 56/8 in 20 overs with Lily Bassingthwaighte (2/4), Juliette Morton (2/10) and Hasrat Gill (2/9) taking two wickets each wickets each.



The Indian cricket team will The Indian cricket team will adhere to the dress code set by the ICC during the upcoming Champions Trophy, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI on Wednesday, rejecting speculation that the Board had objected to host Pakistan's name on the side's Pakistan's name on the side's

security concerns as the reason for refusing to travel to Pakistan.

"BCCI will follow every uniform-related ICC rule during Champions Trophy," Saikia told PTI.

"Whatever the other teams will do regarding the logo and dress code, we are going to follow in true letter and spirit," he added. However, Saikia said that whether national captain Rohit Sharma participates in the ICC's pretournament engagements, including a press conference and an official photo shoot in Lahore, is something that is

still being discussed.
"Whether Rohit Sharma travels to Pakistan for ICC media engagements something that's still not decided," Saikia added.

There were unconfirmed media reports that the BCCI had objected to embossed on their jersey, which is an established practice for all ICC events, owing to the tense political ties between the two countries. It is understood that there was

the host nation's name being

never any doubt about following the logo guidelines and the BCCI did not raise concerns with the global body. official jersey.

The Champions Trophy will be held from February 19 and World Cup, Babar Azam a India will play its share of his men duly sported the host matches in Dubai after citing country's name on their jerseys as part of the tournament protocol.

The Champions Trophy is being conducted under a 'Hybrid Model' for the first time as BCCI didn't get permission from the Indian government to travel to Pakistan.

India will play all its matches, including the marquee league match against the arch-rivals from across the border, in Dubai. In case, the Indian team reaches the semi-final and subsequently final, the two matches will be played in Dubai as well.

As far as Rohit Sharma visiting Pakistan is concerned, the matter is still under consideration and there are certain issues that the Indian cricket board needs to consider if its captain visits Pakistan for a customary photo-shoot and pre-event press conference.

AB de Villiers wants to play cricket again

AB de Villiers wants to play "real cricket" again. Not in the high-pressure environment of IPL but somewhere "casual" to have a bit of fun and please his children.

De Villiers retired from all of forms of cricket in November 2021 to spend more time with his family. The 40-year-old former South Africa captain is now involved with multiple projects in charity and broadcasting.
He is also the brand

ambassador of the ongoing SA20. But in a chat with Melinda Farrell on her Youtube channel, de Villiers let it slip that he wishes to play the game again.

"I might still play cricket one day. No confirmation whatsoever. My kids are putting me under a bit of added.

bowling machine bowling machine balls...Maybe I will walk out and play a bit of casual cricket somewhere," he



pressure and I feel like I could go to the nets with de Villiers said them." referring his three children -- two sons Abraham and John, and daughter Yente. "My boy could feel me bowling machine balls...Maybe I will walk out machine

proper cricket outside the like the ÎPL.

"I am talking on a more serious note, actually, of playing some real cricket not professional IPL or SA20 had my fair share (of high pressure cricket), that's

De Villiers hinted at playing lens of professional leagues

stuff but who knows? I have

"This right one is the dominant one, it is working fine. I am doing it for my kids and see if I can go out there and enjoy cricket again. Even if it is very casual and

see where we draw the line. 'We are not talking RCB (Royal Challengers (Royal Bengaluru) and some stuff. I don't want to feel that pressure again. Wherever I go I would want to have bit of fun," added the batting great, whose wide range of strokes, some of them quite unconventional, earned him the moniker 'Mr 360'. De Villiers represented South

Africa in 114 Tests, 228 ODIs and 78 T20s. The powerhitter holds the record for the fastest 50 (16 balls), 100 (31 balls) and 150 (64balls) in the ODI format.

Praggnanandhaa crushes Mendonca to sole lead Tata Masters

PTI WIJK AAN ZEE

Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa crashed through the defences of fellow Indian Leon Luke Mendonca to jump into sole lead after the fourth round of the Tata Steel

Masters chess tournament here. Praggnanandhaa started off with an innocuous Ruy Lopez closed but found his chances in the middle game when Mendonca, clearly being the rookie here, could not handle the pressure of another high-profile game.

It was another day when Praggnanandhaa found the fire to score his third win on the trot after 46 moves.

Interestingly, all of Praggnanandhaa's victories have come at the expense of the Indians so far in the tournament, with the GM now looking forward to the clash against world champion D Gukesh.

With his third win, the Chennaibased player has stamped his authority ahead of the first rest day of the long and gruelling tournament that lasts till 13 rounds with three rest days thrown in.

Recently-crowned champion D Gukesh played true to his instinct but could not get past Alexey Sarana, who now plays for Serbia instead of Russia. The Indian, playing with black pieces, tried every trick under the sun but Sarana stuck to the basics to not force anything which could

The game remained level for a long time and eventually both players got a new queen on the board with Sarana only having the final say with an extra Bishop. With no pawns left, the result was anyone's guess and the game ended in a draw soon after.

P Harikrishna dumped Max Warmerdam of Holland to stake his claim in the tournament. The Indian was brought in after Vidit Gujrathi withdrew at the last moment. Harikrishna's score of 2.5 points from four games more than justifies his presence here. It was a Catalan opening and Warmerdam did not know what hit him as he found all the white



trade of queens earlier in the opening. Harikrishna made short work of his opponent, winning in pieces around his king despite the a mere 23 moves.

Erigaisi was on the top of the world but it has all come crashing

Russian who now plays for Slovenia. It was another bad day down as he lost another game in office for Erigaisi as his tactical

ability surrendered before his opponent's prophylactic thinking. Just out of the opening, Erigaisi was worse and then came close to winning in the queen pawn opening. But a blunder cost him dearly as he walked into a worse endgame. Fedoseev won a piece and never looked back. In the challengers' section, R

Vaishali made a huge comeback at the expense of Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan and Divya Deshmukh proved her critics wrong with an exemplary victory over Ediz Gurel of Turkey. After a day that saw seven wins with white pieces in this section, Vaishali was at her best scrolling the tactical possibilities out of a queen's gambit declined and found her niche as Yakubboev forgot to take care of his weakened king. Vaishali, never shy of tactics, wrapped it up quickly. Divya had to wait for the fourth round for her first victory, and it was a clean triumph wherein the Indian outplayed Gurel, who played black.

Winning a pawn was crucial for Divya and after that her endgame

skills were clearly on the fore as she won in 56 moves. Results - Round 4:

Masters:

P Harikrishna (Ind, 2.5) beat Max Warmerdam (Ned, 1); Arjun Erigaisi lost to Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 2.5); Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 2.5) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 1.5); R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 2.5) beat Leon Luke Mendonca (Ind, 0.5); Wei Yi (Chn, 2) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 3); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 2.5) dew with Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 1.5); Alexey Sarana (Srb, 2) drew with D Gukesh (Ind, 2.5).

Challengers:

Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 1.5) beat Ediz Gurel (Tur, 2); Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb, 1.5) lost to R Vaishali (Ind, 2.5); Svane Frederik (Ger, 2) drew with Nogerbek Kazybek (Kaz, 2); Miaoyi Lu (Chn, 3) drew with Irina Bulmaga (Rom, 0.5); Nguyen Thai Dai Vam (Cze, 3) drew with Aydin Suleymanli (Aze, 2); Arthur Pijpers (Ned, 1) drew with Erwin L'Ami (Ned 3); Oro Faustino (Arg, 1) beat Benjamin Bok (Ned,