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## **GOVT WORKING** ON 'TEMPLATE MODEL' FOR SETTING UP **MORE AIRPORTS: NAIDU**

'Success of KA warrants a

the pioneer BRS chief KCR is coming to the Assembly on March 12 fearing disqualification. Revanth would continue as the CM for 10 years. Rumours about changing the CM is a lie spread by the opposition. The BRS did not field candidates in the MLC election to ensure the victory of BJP candidates. There will be no BRS in the future. Even Brahma is not likely to protect the BRS - Komatireddy Venkatreddy, Minister

QUOTE OF THE DAY

#### TG now a new hub of ITIs, says Spl CS

Telangana has been recognized as one of the key states for the new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) hub, developed under the Central Government's ITI up-gradation scheme. This hub will introduce new courses and promote innovative ideas, said Sanjay Kumar, Telangana Special Chief Secretary of the LET&F Department, at the Skilling Telangana for a Brighter Future Roundtable Conference on Wednesday. Conducted by the Department of Employment & Training under the SANKALP Scheme, the event included

## Uproar in Odisha **Assembly**

High drama unfolded in the Odisha assembly on Tuesday, when members of the ruling BJP and Congress engaged in a scuffle, as a senior opposition MLA attempted to climb the Speaker's podium, and later accused a saffron party legislator of holding his shirt collar and pushing him. Tension erupted in the House during Question Hour as senior BJP lawmaker Jaynarayan Mishra rushed towards Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati, who was standing in front of Urban



#### Airtel, SpaceX join hands for satcom

Bharti Airtel on Tuesday said it has signed an agreement with Elon Musk-led SpaceX to offer the USbased company's high-speed internet services under Starlink to its customers in India. The as Sunil Mittal-led Bharti Airtel was at loggerheads with Starlink over issues related to licence fees and spectrum pricing for satellitebased internet service providers Airtel is also the single-largest shareholder with a 21.2 per cent share in Starlink's rival firm Eutelsat OneWeb

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### Focus on playing for country: Pant

India wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant feels the lure of the IPL is understandable but budding cricketers should always focus on playing for the country as "everything else" follows thereafter. Pant, who was part of India's triumphant Champions Trophy squad but did not get a game, made his international debut back in 2017 "Since childhood, I had only one dreamto play for India. I never even thought about playing in the IPL. I think today, people are more focused on the IPL..

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Congress MPs meet Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday at Delhi

## Gadkari promised to clear RRR within 2 months: Venkat

The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has assured that all permissions for the Regional Ring Road (RRR) will be given within two months and the matter will be brought to the attention of Prime Minister Modi after getting all clearances, Roads and Buildings (R&B) Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said.

Speaking to the media after meeting Gadkari and Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu along with the MPs from Telangana on Tuesday regarding the RRR and highways, Venkat said that the process of inviting tenders has been



R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Congress MPs meet Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu on Tuesday at Delhi

completed for the Sangareddy-Bhongir-Choutuppal stretch. Around 95 per cent of the land acquisition has also been completed. Rs 1,000 crore has been sanctioned for 12 ROBs, Venkat said.

#### **Mauritius PM bestows** country's highest honour on PM Modi



**PNS** ■ PORT LOUIS

Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam on Tuesday announced that his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi will be conferred with the nation's highest honour, The Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean.

Prime Minister Modi is on a two-day state visit to the island nation. Ramgoolam made the announcement at a community event addressed by Modi.

The prime minister extended gratitude to the people of Mauritius for the honour.

"The people and the government of Mauritius have decided to confer upon me their highest civilian honour. I humbly accept this decision with great respect. This is not just an honour for me, it is an honour for the historic bond between India and Mauritius," he said while delivering his speech at the event

## Govt announces *Rajiv Yuva Vikasam*

To empower 5 L unemployed SC, ST, BC and minority youth

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has announced the launch of Rajiv Yuva Vikasam, a major self-employment scheme with a budget of Rs 6,000 crore, aimed at empowering five lakh unemployed SC, ST, BC and minority youth.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu revealed the scheme's details during a press conference held at the Veer Vanitha Chakali Ilamma Women's University on Tuesday. Bhatti criticised the BRS government for completely neglecting youth development during the last decade. He said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is determined to reverse this by rolling out selfemployment schemes.

He pointed out that SC, ST, BC and minority corporations were left defunct by the BRS administration, depriving thousands of finan-

cial assistance for self-employment. He said that under the Rajiv Yuva Vikas, the Congress Government will provide Rs 3 lakh

Allocates Rs 6,000 crore budget



to each beneficiary to support selfemployment.

The government will issue a notification for the scheme on March 15, and applications will be accepted online until April 5. The selection will be done from April 6 to May 31 and beneficiaries will receive their sanction letters on June 2, coinciding with Telangana Formation Day.

Bhatti added that officials are drafting guidelines to ensure a fair and transparent selection process. He reiterated that the Congress Government is committed to social

justice and will prioritise financial support for disadvantaged youth.

Bhatti also announced that the government has allocated Rs 540 crore for the development of the Veernari Chakali Ilamma University. He stated the administration has drafted a master plan to transform the university into one of the best institutions in the country.

The government will restore heritage buildings on the campus and will reopen the main entrance after the rejuvenation of the Musi River,

#### 'Accept TG lawmakers letters for TTD Darshan'



## KCR: Take on the Congress govt aggressively

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao has directed BRS legislators to aggressively take on the Congress Government in the Assembly and Legislative Council on key issues

affecting people.
Chairing the BRS Legislature
Party (BRSLP) meeting on Tuesday, he asked MLAs and MLCs to be present in the House on time and to ensure a strong fight against the rul-He announced that Deputy Floor

Leaders would be appointed to

Urges MLAs, MLCs to be present in the House



coordinate legislative strategies. KCR emphasised the need for an uncompromising battle on public issues, like corruption in the govern-

ment, unfulfilled promises and policies detrimental to the people. He called on legislators to counter the "false allegations" being levelled

against the BRS by the Congress Government. He specifically mentioned the

ongoing crises in the state, including dried-up crops, power shortages, irrigation water scarcity and farmer distress due to failing motors.

He also highlighted the need to support BC and SC reservations, schools, and demand the clearing of retirement benefits, pending DAs, and PRC for government employees.

He insisted on taking up women's issues, including unfulfilled promises made to them, Continued on Page 2

## KRMB seeks funds for installing telemetry gadgets

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) has written to the Telangana Irrigation and CAD Department, requesting Rs 7 crore for deploying Phase-II telemetry systems in areas falling under the TG Irrigation Department's jurisdiction.

The request comes after resoluapproved budgetary allocation for telemetry meters.

the financial year 2025-26. The funds are meant to improve transparency and accuracy in water accounting.
The KRMB has also sent a simi-

lar request to the Andhra Pradesh Government's Water Resources Department However had earlier communicated to the Board that if Andhra Pradesh does tions adopted at the 19th KRMB not release its share of funds, it is Board Meeting held on January 21 willing to bear the entire cost to and is in accordance with the ensure the timely installation of

## Eatala may head TG BJP

KOLISHETTY VENKATESHWARLU venkat.k.warlu@gmail.com HYDERABAD

Speculations are rife among political observers that the BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, may get the Telangana BJP President post after his meeting with Prime Minister Modi along with his family on March 10 in New Delhi. Meanwhile, Eatala's

associates are installing flexes here and there in Hyderabad giving credence to the spec-

One BJP leader, who is also trying hard to grab the Telangana BJP President post, told 'The Pioneer' that the selection of the new Telangana BJP President will take some more time.

However, one close observer of the BJP said the party may pick former MLC N. Ramchander Rao, Eatala Rajender and the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

It is learnt the party has been delaying the selection of the new Telangana BJP President as it doesn't want to repeat the events which took place just before the 2023 TG

Assembly elections. Some Congress leaders say privately that the results of the 2023 Assembly election may have been Continued on Page 2

## Govt frames guidelines for Gaddar Film Awards

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has finalised guidelines for awarding the newly instituted Gaddar Telangana Film Awards.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, honouring his commitment, approved the awards through GO: Ms No: 25, issued by the Information and Public Relations Department on Tuesday. Film Development Corporation Chairman Dil Raju met the CM on Tuesday.

The government decided to introduce special awards in the name of veteran Telugu cinema figures Paidi Jayaraj and Kanta To give awards retrospectively

Rao. The award named after Film Development Corporation actor Prabhakar Reddy for the most popular film will continue.

The government announced that film awards will also be given retrospectively for the years 2014 to 2023, as no awards were prethe BRS government. For the

entries for the Gaddar Film Awards at the Telangana State artists and technicians.

office at AC Guards from March 13. The awards will be presented for categories like feature films, national integration films, children's films, films focused on environment, heritage and history, debut feature sented during that period by films, animated films, social effect films, documentary films, first time, Urdu films will also and short films. Apart from film be eligible for recognition in awards, special recognition will the feature film category.
Filmmakers can submit their
be given for books and analytical essays on Telugu cinema as well as individual awards for



## Hundreds of passengers held hostage as rebels hijack train in Pakistan Flash

PNS KARACHI/ISLAMABAD

Suspected Baloch gunmen opened fire at a passenger train in Pakistan's restive Balochistan on Tuesday, injuring several passengers, and claimed to have taken hundreds of passengers as hostages.

Jaffar Express, with around 500 passengers on board in nine coaches, was on its way from Quetta to Peshawar in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa when it was fired upon between Gudalaar and Piru Koneri, accord-

ing to officials.
The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) claimed it seized control of the train by derailing it. The group said it had killed six security personnel and taken over 100 people in custody, including security personnel.



did not comment on the group's es an operation, "all hostages will be claim. The fate of passengers, including women and children, was not Pakistan, the UK and the US. immediately known

In a statement, the BLA warned

executed". The group is banned in

Continued on Page 2

## "The security forces have

managed to rescue 80 passengers -- 43 men, 26 women and 11 children -from a bogie," Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind said. However, around 400 passengers remained on the train, still trapped inside the tunnel as security forces engaged in a gun battle with the militants, he said

## AI-based robotic system deployed in SLBC tunnel

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Rescue operations at the SLBC tunnel are being intensified by using robotic technology. Special Chief Secretary for Disaster Management Arvind Kumar and Nagar Kurnool Collector Badavath Santosh held a high-level review meeting on Tuesday at the SLBC tunnel office to assess the progress of the rescue operation and to discuss future strategies.

The officials extensively discussed the methods to be followed in rescue operations, the use of robotics and mechanical equipment, debris removal and safety measures. They provided detailed instructions to speed up the rescue operation and to ensure efficiency in the process.

In line with the Telangana

Government's decision to deploy robots inside the SLBC tunnel, representatives Hyderabad-based Anvi Robotics introduced an AI-based cameraequipped robotic system on

Tuesday. Company representatives Vijay and Akshay entered the tunnel using a loco train to supervise the deployed robot. The company has also set up a communication system at the site to facilitate coordination during operations. Authorities emphasised that using robotic technology in rescue missions minimises human risk and increases effectiveness.

Essential rescue materials and support systems, including cadaver dogs, were once again deployed at the accident site to help in the

## RBI to issue Rs 100 and Rs 200 notes

PNS MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday said it will shortly issue banknotes



Governor Sanjay Malhotra. "The design of these notes is similar in all respects to Rs 100 and Rs 200 banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi

(New) Series," it said in a statement. All banknotes in the denomination of Rs 100 and Rs 200 issued by the Reserve Bank in the past will continue to be legal tender.

Malhotra took over as RBI Governor in December 2024 replacing Shaktikanta Das who demitted office after completion of his extended term.

## Ground realities decide Council candidates in both Telugu states

→he process for selecting nominees for the State Legislative Council might have been carried out as per the national leadership's decision regardless of the likes and dislikes of the state leadership. There can be an element of compulsion while picking candidates for Council seats although local leaders may have strong opinions. Generally, the stamp of the party's high command can be seen in the selection process of nominees for the Upper House both at the state

and at the national level.
In Telangana, the nominees for the four seats in the Legislative Council were decided by the top leadership of the respective parties. The ruling Congress selected three candidates. The Congress allotted one seat to its ally CPI. The selection of former Lok Sabha Member film star Vijayashanti is interesting. She 🖊 is known as a firebrand leader of the In the Congress,

even a person who

enjoys the overwhelming support of the public has to obey the leadership's orders. The Congress high command runs the organisation through incharges. The TPCC got a new Meenakshi in-charge, Natarajan, who also functions as a bridge between the Congress Government in the state and the high command in New Delhi. After Meenakshi took over as the in-charge, the list of nominees for Council seats saw the light of the day.

Vijayashanti had floated a party named the Telangana

The new in-charge divided

TPCC members into two cat-

egories, that is, loyalists who

have been with the party since

the beginning of their career

and those who joined during

In Telangana, the nominees for the four seats in the Legislative Council were decided by the top leadership of the respective parties. The ruling Congress selected three candidates. The Congress allotted one seat to its ally CPI. The selection of former Lok Sabha Member film star Vijayashanti is interesting. She is known as a firebrand leader of the Congress

Talli Party during the pre-bifurcation era and eventually merged it with the BRS. She was elected to the Lok Sabha from Medak in 2009 and had the privilege of being one of the two BRS members in the Lok Sabha. The second one was none other than K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR). Later, Vijayashanti developed differences with KCR as she was sidelined to pave the way for KCR's daughter Kavitha to enter politics. So she joined the

Vijayashanti was in the BIP during Vajpayee's rule and the BJP had thought of pitting her against Congress President Sonia Gandhi when she was trying to contest from South India. The then APCC President YS Rajasekhara Reddy requested Sonia to contest from Kadapa. The BJP readied Vijayasĥanti for the Kadapa battle. But Sonia decided to contest from Bellary in Karnataka where the BJP fielded Sushma Swaraj



Senior Journalist ratnakumarmd@gmail.com

The candidature of Vijayashanti is believed to have been not acceptable to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. But the Chief Minister has to go by the high command's decision. Now Revanth Reddy can console himself as he got one seat for his man Addanki Dayakar. Senior minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy

and his brother Komatireddy Raja Gopal Reddy have serious differences with Dayakar in Nalgonda district. Another possible inconvenience await-Revanth is that Vijayashanti might get a place in his Cabinet. The BRS has at last done

justice to Dr Dasoju Sravan Kumar who belongs to the Backward Classes. Earlier, he was in the BRS and had left it as he was not given the Secunderabad Lok Sabha seat. He felt humiliated when he was asked by the BRS leader-ship how many voters of his caste were there in the con-stituency. He joined the Congress and the party made him its spokesman besides giving him the ticket for contesting from the Khairatabad Assembly seat. Rahul Gandhi had assured him a Cabinet berth if the Congress is voted to power. But he was defeated by Danam Nagendar (BRS) who later joined the Congress.

So Dasoju went back to the BRS. Now his dream has come true in the form of a Council

In Andhra Pradesh, five seats have fallen vacant. Due to coalition compulsions, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu allotted one seat each to the Jana Sena Party (JSP) and the BJP. He filled the remaining three seats with candidates from weaker sections. BJP candidate Somu Veerraju has been a strong critic of Chandrababu. When he was president of the state BIP unit. he had accused CBN of using Central funds to boost his

image. CBN couldn't do justice to two persons due to the allocation of two seats to his partners. Former Pithapuram MLA Varma couldn't get a seat as promised by CBN. Varma had to sacrifice his seat for JSP President Pawan Kalyan. The case of former Vijayawada MLA, Vangaveeti Radha Krishna should be viewed in the context of the fragmentation of the Kapu community. If there was no need to allot seats to his alliance partners, CBN would have picked these two former legislators.

CBN could easily manage his alliance partners to fall in line in deciding their candidates in the seats allotted to them. He pushed his men into the JSP and the BJP and 'inserted' them into those parties. That is how only TDP leaders like Mandali Buddha Prasad (Avanigadda) and Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy (Anaparthi) got a chance to contest although their seats were allotted to the TDP's partners. But this can turn problematic for CBN

The point is that whatever the party, the leaders were compelled to accept ground realities while finalising Council candidates in both the

## Tummala asks officials to buy turmeric, ensure fair price

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao directed officials to purchase turmeric and ensure that no turmeric farmer suffers loss-

Tummala spoke to Turmeric Board MD Bhanusri, Marketing Director Surendra Mohan and the Collector, Nizamabad Rajeevgandhi Hanumanthu, on ensuring remunerative prices for turmeric farmers. Tummala asked officials to

ensure that farmers get a fair price based on the maximum price received for turmeric on the NAAM portal and to improve quality standards.

Meanwhile, attending the 47th Rythu Nestham programme, Tummala said that officials should make farmers attend the Rythu Nestham programme in a big way as scientists are providing technical knowledge directly to farmers.

Agriculture officials, staff and farmers from 566 Rythu Vedikas attended the pro-

## KCR coming to Assembly to avoid disqualification: Venkat

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Roads and Buildings (R&B) and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is coming to the Assembly on March 12 thinking that he will face disqualification if he doesn't attend Assembly ses-

Maheshwar Reddy that the elections. The BRS would recent Cabinet meeting was Venkat said that nothing had the BRS," Venkat said.

happened in the Cabinet meeting as Maheshwar said. Maheshwar himself is not in a position to understand what

he is speaking, Venkat said.

'Revanth would continue as CM for 10 years. The change of CM is only a lie spread by the opposition. The BRS did not field candidates in MLC elections to ensure the victory of BJP candidates. The BJP Responding to the criti-cism of BJLP leader Alleti together during Lok Sabha cease to exist in future. Even

## Kavitha demands DNT certificates for nomadic groups

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLC Kavitha has demanded that the state government should immediately issue Denotified Tribe (DNT) certificates to nomadic communities living in Telangana.

She said that it is the government's responsibility to develop these historically marginalised groups and ensure their access to social welfare sops.

A delegation led by United

Poole Front co-convener Bolla Shiva Shankar and Telangana Nomadic Tribes Association leader Kol Srinivas met Kavitha on Tuesday, urging her to take up their concerns in the Legislative Council.

They also highlighted the difficulties faced by nomadic groups due to the lack of proper certification, which prevents them from getting benefits under government

## **MLC** candidates must expose opposition's lies: Mahesh

TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud asked MLA quota MLC candidates that they should expose the campaign of lies launched by the opposition against the Congress Government's development and social welfare schemes.

He advised CPI leaders to continue the alliance government.

continue the alliance saying that they have provided full cooperation as an ally.

The MLA quota MLC candidates of the Congress and the CPI, Addanki Dayakar, Shankar Nayak, Vijayashanti and Nellikanti Satyam made a

'TG, Centre ignoring

turmeric farmers'

BRS MLC Kavitha has lashed

out at the state and Central

governments for neglecting

the turmeric farmers of Telangana. She asked whether Chief Minister

Revanth Reddy is indifferent

to the struggles of farmers as their hardships and tears seemed to mean nothing for

Tuesday, Kavitha extended

her support to the turmeric

farmers of Nizamabad, who

have been protesting the lack

of remunerative prices for

their produce. She criticised

both the Congress and the

BJP for failing to stand by

farmers, despite making

grand promises during elec-

She said that Congress lead-

ers Rahul Gandhi and

Revanth Reddy had assured

turmeric farmers that they

would ensure a price of Rs

15,000 per quintal for turmer-

ic. However, she said that

farmers were now struggling

to sell turmeric even for Rs

9,000 per quintal and there is

no help from the govern-

PNS HYDERABAD

the government.



MLA quota MLC candidates meet TPCC president B Mahesh Kumar Goud on

President Mahesh at the MLA quarters on Tuesday.

courtesy call on TPCC Mahesh Kumar Goud honoured the new MLCs. Later, Mahesh had lunch with the

## Stop paying KCR salary as he is not attending Assembly: Congress



Cognress leaders lodge a complaint with the Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasada Kumar on Tuesday

PNS HYDERABAD

Congress leaders filed a complaint with Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasada Kumar on Tuesday pointing out that Leader Chandrasekhar Rao is not coming to the Assembly but is taking salary and making use of other facilities. The Congress leaders submitted their complaint to the Assembly Secretary too.

The Congress leaders appealed to the Speaker and the Assembly Secretary to

stop paying salary to KCR immediately. They also appealed to the Speaker and the Secretary to recover the salary already paid to KCR.

In their complaint, Congress leaders said that KCR has not been discharging his duty as an opposition leader during the last 14 months. KCR has failed in discharging his responsibilities as the Opposition Leader. So the salary paid to him during the last 14 months must be recovered from KCR, they demand-

#### OU students protest as blades, insects found in food

PNS HYDERABAD

Students of Osmania University Godavari Hostel staged a protest after discovering blades in their dinner on Tuesday late night.
The students sat in protest

with slogans, "We want justice. The Vice-Chancellor must come immediately." They shared videos of food with insects and the plates they were served food on kept on the road in front of the hostel. "We are frequently finding insects in our meals, despite repeated complaints to higher authorities, we hear no response," said students.

Frustrated by the lack of response, they took to the streets, demanding immediate action to ensure food safety in the hostel. Osmania University management has not responded on the inci-

## 'Accept TG lawmakers' letters for TTD Darshan'

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Endowments, Environmental and Forests Minister Konda Surekha has requested Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to ensure that the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) follows the approved guidelines regarding recommendation letters for darshan.

In a statement on Tuesday, Surekha thanked the AP Chief Minister for reinstating the recommendation letter system for Tirumala darshan. She expressed gratitude on behalf of all public representatives from Telangana for taking this decision under his leadership. She pointed out that the number of devotees from Telangana visiting Tirumala has increased in recent times.

"Even after the formation of two separate states, the devotion of Telugu people has not rience at Tirumala.

decreased - it has only grown stronger," she said, adding that Lord Venkateswara remains equally revered in both states. As per the official guidelines, Telangana MLAs, MLCs and MPs are allowed to issue: Two recommendation letters per week for VIP Break Darshan (?500 ticket) and two recommendation letters per week for Special Entry Darshan (?300 ticket). These letters are valid for any two days between Monday and Thursday.

However, Minister Śurekha raised concern that TTD officials are not fully following these instructions, causing inconvenience to both the public representatives and devotees. She urged the AP Chief Minister to instruct the TTD authorities to strictly follow the approved policy, so that devotees from Telangana can continue to have a smooth and respectful Darshan expe-

## Prof. Lakshmi Srinivas appointed VC of Tribal University

PNS HYDERABAD

Yedavalli has been appointed the first Vice Chancellor of the Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University (SSCTU) in Telangana. The appointment was approved by the President who serves as the university's Visitor.

An official communication from the Union Ministry of Education, says that Prof. Lakshmi Srinivas Yedavalli,

Aurora Higher Education and would be governed by the Hyderabad, will hold the post for five years or until he attains the age of 70, whichever is earlier. The appointment marks a significant step in operationalising the newly established

tribal university. The letter addressed to the Registrar of the University of Hyderabad, the mentor institution of SSCTU, said the terms and conditions of the

currently associated with the Vice Chancellor's service Ordinances.

The announcement has been communicated to all stakeholders, including the University Commission, the Association of Indian Universities and the President's Secretariat. The Union Ministry of Education has also directed the inclusion of the appointment on its offi-

#### TG became industrial hub under Cong govt: Vedire Yogeshwar Reddy

PNS HYDERABAD

The TPCC's official spokesperson, Vedire Yogeshwar Reddy, said that in December 2023, the Congress Government headed by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy came to power in

Telangana. The Minister for IT and Industries, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, took charge to drive the state's progress. With his vast experience, he has been relentlessly trying to fulfil the promises made in the Congress manifesto.

Yogeshwar said that in just two months after assuming office, Duddilla Sridhar Babu led international delegations, securing investments of ?50,000 crore for the state. The global outreach in 2024 resulted in large investments.

#### TODAY **ALMANAC** Sukla Paksha Trayodashi: Mar 11 08:14 AM to Mar 12 09:11 AM Chaturdashi to Mar 13 10:36 AM Nakshatram: Mar 12 02:15 AM to Mar 13 04:05 AM Purva Phalguni: Mar 13 04:05 AM to Mar 14 06:19 AM 12:26 PM to 1:54 PM Rahukalam: 7:59 AM to 9:28 AM Yamagandam: 04:26 PM to 05:58 PM 10:57 AM to 12:26 PM Gulika: 01:30 AM to 03:13 AM Amritakalam: Abhijit Muhurtham: HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Partly Cloudy

**Temp**: 36<sup>∞</sup>

**Humidity:** 41%

Sunrise: 6:26 AM

Sunset: 6:25 PM

Updated: March 11, 2025 5:00 PM

## Gadkari promised ...

Continued from page 1

He said that compensation would be given to land losers after the Centre's approval. "Gadkari responded positively regarding the construction of the Somasila Cable Bridge. I asked for five ropeways under the Parvathamala Project," Venkat said.

"Gadkari said that steps should be taken to complete the sixlane National Highway from Hyderabad to Vijayawada as soon as possible. He asked officials to divide the Hyderabad-Machilipatnam highway into two packages. The road from Gudimalkapur to Vijayawada must be package one and the road from Vijayawada to Machilipatnam the second one as the widening of the road from Hyderabad to Machilipatnam is getting delayed. Gadkari said that a meeting would be arranged to discuss the 62-km Srisailam elevated corridor," Venkat said. Venkat said that he had discussed Mamnoor Airport. Farmers

are ready to give land. The Centre has to give some permissions for the Mamnoor Airport. However, Rammohan Naidu said the Centre will complete the Mamnoor Airport in two and a half years. Rammohan directed the Airport Authority to test the feasibility of Kothagudem, Ramagundam-Peddapalli, Adilabad, Nizamabad

for the Mamnoor Airport will be completed in 15 days. Tenders will be invited for constructing the Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi within 10 days. The Congress Government will construct the Telangana Bhavan in Pataudi House with all facilities. Designs have already been sent to the CM, he added.

Jakran Palli airports, Venkat said. He said that land acquisition

## KCR: Take on ...

Continued from page 1

and holding the government answerable for its deceptive approach in implementing the six guarantees.

KCR directed legislators to raise the delays in disbursing overseas study scholarships for students and the declining standards in the health sector.

He also asked them to question the scrapping of the Dalit Bandhu scheme and demand the full implementation of schemes dealing with sheep rearing and fish dis-

#### Eatala may ...

Continued from page 1

Sanjay had continued as the Telangana BJP President. It is learnt that the party doesn't want to repeat such mistakes as the BJP is aiming to come to power in the next elections. Whether the BJP comes to power or not is a different thing, but the selection of the BJP's Telangana unit President will definitely affect the party's prospects

Another section of Telangana BJP leaders have been saying that the announcement of the Telangana BJP President would be done very soon. However, one BJP leader said the party is maintaining secrecy and that the speculations may or may not become true.

## Hundreds of ...

Continued from page 1

Official data on casualties was not available, but security sources said that the train driver and several passengers

were injured in the gunfire.

"There are reports of intense firing at a Jaffar Express, which was heading from Quetta to Peshawar, between Pehro and Gadalar," Kunri Balochistan government spokesperson Šhahid Rind

Rescue teams and security forces reached the scene, and an operation was underway to track down the assailants, officials said. An emergency was declared

in the local hospitals. Security sources said that the operation will continue till the elimination of the last terrorist. They said the operation is complicated due to the difficult terrain. Railway officials confirmed that the train's driver susemergency relief train has been dispatched to assist. Controller Railways

Muhammad Kashif said that the train, comprising nine coaches, had around 500 passengers on board.

The train was stopped by armed men in Tunnel No 8," the controller said.

There are 17 tunnels in this area on the railway line and due to the difficult terrain, the speed of the train is often slow. The Balochistan government directed local authorities to take "emergency measures".

A provincial government statement said an emergency was imposed at Sibi hospital. Citing security sources, Geo News reported that the train

was stopped after a portion of the track was blown up by the terrorists, who opened fire on the engine, injuring the driver. Security officials present on the train and the attackers exchanged fire, they said,

adding that the terrorists then

took control of the train in a tained serious injuries, and an tunnel. Sources said that no contact

> with the train crew due to the lack of mobile and telephone networks at the location of the attack. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi condemned the inci-

> could be immediately made

dent, saying: "The beasts who fire on innocent passengers do not deserve any concessions." Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief

Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur strongly condemned the attack on the train and expressed concern over the hostage-taking of passengers by the terrorists.

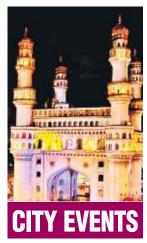
"Targeting innocent passengers and endangering their lives is a cowardly and brutal act," Gandapur said.

In the past, the railway tracks in this area have been attacked by Baloch militants using rockets or remote-controlled bombs, and the BLA claimed responsibility for most of the attacks.

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**Graduation Day** Celebrations By IACG

Venue Ravindra Bharathi March 12, (9 am)

**Cultural Programmes** By Vamsee Art Theatres

> Venue Ravindra Bharathi

March 12, (6 pm)

**Ladies Night** With DJ Hak

Venue Sounds & Spirits March 12, (8 pm)

**Wednesday Night** 

With DJ Vinish

Venue 10 Downing Street -Begumpet March 12, (8 pm)

Montage 2025

National Student Film Festival

Venue

St Mary's College (Co-Education) March 12, (10 am)

#### **Distressed** women follow priest's advice to steal idols

PNS HYDERABAD

SR Nagar Police cracked a theft case of three Panchaloha idols stolen from Sri Vinayaka temple, Gurumurthy Nagar, and apprehended two female suspects. The stolen Shiva-Parvathi and Satyanarayana from them.

Executive Salimadugu Narender Reddy of the Endowments Department lodged a complaint about the missing idols. Temple priest P Naveen Kumar first noticed the theft and alerted authorities.

The suspects are identified as Adidala Swarna Latha (29), and J Pavani (26), residents of NBT Nagar, Banjara Hills.

In detailing the motive, the Police revealed that Swarna Latha, reeling from multiple personal tragedies - including the death of her brother, nephew, father, husband and brother-in-law - sought guidance from a spiritual guru. She was advised that installing and worshiping temple idols at home would bring relief. Unable to afford the idols, she, along with her sister Pavani, planned the theft.

# City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | MARCH 12, 2025

## TG now a new hub of ITIs, says Special CS Sanjay

samuelmjoshuamjmc@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana has been recognized as one of the key states for the new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) hub, developed under the Central Government's ITI up-grada-Central tion scheme. This hub will introduce new courses and promote innovative ideas, said Sanjay Kumar, Telangana Special Chief Secretary of the LET&F Department, at the Skilling Telangana for a Brighter Future Roundtable Conference on Wednesday.

Conducted by the Department of Employment & Training under the SANKALP Scheme, the event included meaningful discussions with industry members, especially

from the construction sector. Sanjay highlighted that the

PNS HYDERABAD

"Creativity in handling situa-

tions is what cartoons teach

you", said retired civil servant

BP Acharya at the Council for Social Development (CSD) dur-

ing a book discussion on 'Obtuse Angle' on Tuesday. The theme of the event was

'Researching Through Everyday Lives', conducted by Prof. Sujit

Kumar Mishra, Regional

Director of CSD, with active

participation from research

Addressing the scholars, Acharya said his book had

received much praise, especial-

ly for the cartoon of the 'Five

blind men of Hindustan'. He

shared his journey as both a

bureaucrat and a cartoonist, emphasising that creativity has

a place in research. He men-

tioned receiving top marks for

his research on socio-econom-

Acharya noted that cartoons

reflect his life and service, stress-

ing the importance of brevity in

research presentations. He

noted that every bureaucrat is a

cartoon himself. The first edi-

Department of Employment & Training under the SANKALP Scheme, the event included neaningful discusions with industry members, especially from the construction sector

Conducted by the

construction sector is the second-largest employer in India. He noted that Telangana is the fourth State to establish a Skill University, focusing on youth skilling. He emphasised ITI modernisation in the State with Rs 3,500 crore allocated over two years to introduce six industry collaborations and

'Creativity in handling situations

is what cartoons teach you'

tion of his book began with a

simple café conversation in Orissa. He also introduced two

recurring cartoon characters, a

grandfather and a grandson, and shared that A Big Fat Wedding was inspired by World

War II in Europe.

He concluded by stating that

cartoons are a product of empa-

thy and announced plans to

publish a coloured edition,

the University of Hyderabad,

Prof. D Narsimha Reddy noted

that cartoons are rarely seen in

He appreciated Óbtuse

major newspapers today.

Meanwhile, Former Dean of

four new courses. Currently, 25 Advanced Training Centres (ATCs) are functioning with a 96% enrollment rate.

Sanjay stressed the need to update ITI courses, replacing outdated ones with industrydemanded programmes.

He mentioned that the Central government is encourtion while ensuring formal recognition. Sanjay noted that the Central ITI will be the hub, and they have received information about getting five hubs,

with plans to request eight. He mentioned that each hub will receive an Rs 80 crore investment, serving as a centre for new courses, innovative ideas and product launches with contributions from the Central government, State and industry. Regarding new courses, Sanjay urged industry input and structured feedback. With 14 lakh construction workers in Telangana, he encouraged worker registration for benefits, including Rs 6 lakh acci-

dent compensation. He concluded by emphasis-ing the need for five new long-term and short-term courses soon.

#### TMC files 12 cases against quacks

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Medical Council (TMC) has filed 12 cases against unauthorised medical practitioners. With this the total reaches to 412 in Telangana

Among the 12 cases were 8 in Hyderabad, 3 cases in Sangareddy, one case in Banswada, Kamareddy dis-

"Despite 412 cases being filed against RMP or PMPs so far, unauthorised medical practice continues, exploiting poor and inno-cent patients for financial gain while endangering their health," said the Medical Council in a state-

In the past few months, the TMC officials have been conducting frequent inspecagainst fake doctors. Last month, raids were carried out in Dundigal, Bachupally, Sangared dy, Vanasthalipuram, Banswada and Kamareddy districts.

## 5,29,649 appear for Inter first year exams

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TGBIE) conducted the Intermediate Public Examination (IPE) 2025 for first-year students on Monday. The exams included Mathematics Paper-IA, Botany Paper-I, and Political Science Paper-I. According to official data, 5,53,423 students registered out of whom 5,29,649 appeared, while 23,774 were absent accounting for an extension of the paper of absenteeism rate of 4.29 per cent. Officials reported five malpractice cases, one in Karimnagar, one in Nizamabad and three in Nalgonda.

#### Family of four dies by suicide in Habsiguda

PNS HYDERABAD

A family of four was found dead at their residence in Habsiguda, in an apparent suicide due to financial distress. A suicide note recovered from the scene cited monetary struggles as the reason for their extreme step.

The deceased have been identified as Chandrasekhar Reddy (46), his wife Kavitha (36), and their two children, students of Class IX and Class V.

The incident came to light when relatives, unable to contact the family, visited their home. "After receiving no response, they forced the door open and found all four dead," said Osmania University Inspector N Rajender.



AIGF CEO Roland Landers, EGF CEO Anuraag Saxena, along with FIFS Director General Neil Castelino in

#### 'Code of Ethics' adopted to promote responsible gaming and user safety

PNS HYDERABAD

The All India Gaming Federation (AIGF), the Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) and the E-Gaming Federation (EGF) have jointly signed a Code of Ethics (CoE) to promote responsible gaming and user safety. The CoE sets industry-wide standards by enforcing responsible gaming and advertising policies, requiring annual third-party audits and ensuring trans-

Based on global best practices, the CoE mandates age-gating, strict KYC procedures, user-set spending limits and self-exclusion options. It applies to all member operators offering skill-based real-money gaming in India, protecting over 50 crore Indian gamers. Gaming companies with annual revenue above Rs 100 crore must comply within six months, while others have nine months. Upon compliance, federations will issue a renewable annual certification.

The CoE focuses on responsible gaming, fair play, transparency and ethical advertising. AIGF CEO Roland Landers emphasised that responsible gaming strengthens India's gaming industry. Meanwhile, FIFS Director General Neil Ćastelino called it a unified step toward a safe and accountable gaming environment. EGF CEO Anuraag Saxena highlighted the need to eliminate unethical gambling practices. The signing follows a joint MoU with ASCI to curb illegal betting ads, reinforcing the industry's commit-ment to user safety.

## Switching from rice to cereals can boost farmer income: ISB-H study

PNS HYDERABAD

A new study suggests that shifting from rice cultivation to alternative cereals like millet, maize and sorghum could reduce climate-induced production losses and boost farmer incomes in India.

Ashwini Chhatre, Associate Professor and Executive Director at the Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business-Hyderabad, along with glob-al researchers, highlights that while Indian farmers prefer rice for its economic benefits, it is highly vulnerable to climate change. In contrast, alternative cereals are more climate-resistant and economically sustainable in the

long run. Communications, the study notes that farmers' crop choices are influenced by price fluctuations. Economic incentives could encourage a shift from rice to climate-



resilient crops, potentially reducing climate-related production losses by 11% and increasing farmers' net prof-

Lead author Dongyang Wei, from the University of Delaware, emphasises that while increasing alternative cereals can stabilise production and improve farmer profitability without reducing overall calorie output. Meanwhile, Ashwini Chhatre

adds that policymakers must address economic factors and introduce policies promot-

ing climate-resilient crops.

The study highlights that current pricing structures favour rice due to government support.

pricing reforms and incentives to encourage sustainable agriculture, offering valuable insights for strengthening India's food system against climate variability.

## **Revised syllabus should reach students digitally: TGCHE**

Obtuse Angle author BP Acharya at the Council for Social Development on

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) has convened a meeting with the Private Degree Colleges Association on Tuesday.

Prof V Balakista Reddy, TGCHE Chairman, was told about the need for syllabus to be updated and modified, review of online admissions, fee reimbursement, semester system and detention system.

The Chairman of the

TGCHE acknowledged the significance of the Global Meet for Human Resource and emphasised that skilled personnel are the need of the hour. He highlighted that the entire world is looking towards India, as the country has the second-largest youth population. He stated that a revision of the syllabus is undertaken to make it more

practical oriented. The student would be suppled the material even in digital form. The revised syllabus

would be tailored to meet the specific requirements of various industries and academic

Angle, saying BP Acharya understands academics. He

recalled how Acharya used car-

tooning to express himself dur-

ing civil service.
Retired IPS officer SA Huda

said creativity requires sensitiv-

ity and commended the book's

meaningful cartoons. He high-

lighted cartoons on CM

Rajasekhar Reddy's death,

media manipulation and the

Subhani Shaik called cartoons a

powerful communication tool,

exposing political escapism. He

noted that Acharya's work

closely observes politicians and

stands with the people.

disciplines, ensuring graduates are job-ready. He affirmed that steps would be taken to train the undergraduates in skills, which would satisfy the growing demands of human resources around the globe. With regard to the fee reim-

bursement, semester system and detention system, he said, "We understand the challenges faced by students and are

Systematically. While it is difficult to implement all changes overnight, we will work in an

PG Colleges Management Association State President Surya Narayana Reddy, Working President A General

Parameshwar, Secretary Ramakrishna and Narsimha Yadav and others were among those present at the meeting.

of exercise, minimize the use

of whey protein, turning

towards clean plant protein

Dr Naveen Reddy also high-

ighted that many educational institutions, including both

residential and day-scholar

schools, do not have adequate-

ly maintained rest rooms. As a

result, Gen Z students drink

less water or fluids to avoid

using them leading to dehy-

dration and an increased risk

of urinary infections and kid-



IT Minister D Sridhar Babu laying foundation for various infrastructure projects in Uppal

## IT Min Sridhar Babu lays stone for works worth Rs 41.19 cr

PNS HYDERABAD

Minister for Information Technology, Electronics and Communication Industries D Sridhar Babu laid foundation stone on Tuesday for various infrastructure works worth Rs 41.19 crore in Uppal Circle. MLC Patnam Mahender

Reddy, Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy and Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Sobhan Reddy were present on the occasion.

The projects include Rs 88.80 lakh for sewerage and CC road works at Indira Nagar, Metla Ramantapur Ward.

Rs 1 crore has been allocat-

ed for first-floor construction of Rajaka Seva Sangham and Ambedkar Seva Sangham buildings in Ramantapur and Rs 1.20 crore for a 450/300-dia sewerage pipeline at Balakrishna Nagar and KTR Nagar.

Similarly, Rs 25.43 crore has been allocated for for water supply system, sewerage system strengthening and infrastructure development at Uppal Bagayat Phase 1 and Rs 6.26 crore for CC roads and retaining wall construction at Suryanagar, Srirama Colony, Lakshmareddy Colony, and other areas.

An amount of Rs 1.52 crore has been allocated for sewerage remodeling, stormwater drainage and CC road construction at Bharat Nagar, Uppal Circle and Rs 4.88 crore for remodeling existing sewerage lines in Padmavati Colony, Anand Nagar, South Swaroop Nagar, and nearby areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sridhar Babu said, The Uppal-Narapally flyover will be completed soon. A new IT corridor will be developed from Uppal to Ghatkesar. An expansion of Metro Rail

services across Hyderabad is planned. Eco-friendly buses will be introduced to curb pollution. The Musi River cleanup will be undertaken to resolve issues faced by local residents.

## **WORLD KIDNEY DAY**

## Gen Z, gym-goers in TG experiencing elevated serum creatinine levels: AINU

**DEEPIKA PASHAM** deepikapasham2015@gmail.com HYDERABAD

Kidney-related problems are gradually increasing among Gen Z and gym-goers in Telangana as they experience elevated serum creatinine levels. A campaign for World Kidney Day this year on March 13 adopted the motto -Prioritising Early Detection for Healthy Kidneys.

Some individuals are dealing with protein leakage in their urine. Additionally, students in schools and colleges are taking inadequate water due to constant stress levels leading to an increase in urinary infections. These concerns have been highlighted in recent research conducted by doctors at the Asian Institute of Nephrology

and Urology (AINU). Dr Avula Naveen Reddy, Consultant Nephrologist at AINU, stated that at least three to four cases involving Gen Z patients are reported at their hospital every month, which is a noticeable increase compared to previous years.

"Recently, most of our kidney-related cases involve individuals aged 16-20, which primarily includes Gen Z. Many of these cases are in the early stages. On average, we receive three to four cases per month, with issues such as elevated creatinine levels, protein leakage and urinary infections," said AINU in a statement.

"These problems may have existed a decade ago, but due to a lack of widespread screening at the time, they were not diagnosed as often. If both



raised creatinine levels and urinary protein leakage are present, we recommend a kidney biopsy and further testing be warranted. If there is no protein leakage and only raised creatinine levels we advise conservative measures and med-

The precautions include to follow a low- to moderate protein diet, avoid painkillers, unnecessary over the counter medications, stay hydrated by drinking enough water or fluids, reduce red meat con-

Symptoms to watch out for ication," said AINU doctors.

ney stones.

kidney diseases are noticing excessive foam in urine, could indicate protein leakage, fever associated with abdominal pain, frequent urination and burning urine - typical of urinary tract infections.

# lelangana :-





HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | MARCH 12, 2025

## No dearth of funds for Indiramma **Housing scheme: Ponguleti**

PNS KHAMMAM

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has made it clear that despite financial challenges, funds for the construction of Indiramma houses will be sanctioned through green channel to ensure there are no hindrances. On Tuesday, the Minister, along with District Collector Muzammil Khan and Vaira MLA Ramdas Nayak, performed the groundbreaking ceremony and foundation stone laying for the construction of Indiramma houses in Punyapuram village of Wayra mandal.

During this event, Minister Srinivas Reddy said that the difficulties faced by people during the BRS rule for 10 years have come to an end now, and within just one year of the people's government, several welfare activities were undertaken successfully. The government is committed to providing Indiramma houses to the poor. He mentioned that 4.5 lakh houses were sanctioned, with 3,500 houses allocated to each Assembly constituency. The government will also allocate additional houses to Scheduled Castes and



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy performing the groundbreaking ceremony for Indiramma houses in Punyapuram village in Khammam district on

cies. The Indiramma housing programme aims to provide houses to the poor in four phases with financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh. On January 26, the government-sanctioned Indiramma houses to eligible individuals in a pilot village in each mandal across the state.

In Punyapuram village, 108 Indiramma houses have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs 5.5 crore, and the foundation stone for their construction was laid today. Between 2004 and 2014. about 23 lakh Indiramma women. Additionally, 56,000 jobs have been provided in the first year for unemployed

The government's goal is to construct 20 lakh houses in the next four years, and they assured that houses will be allocated to the eligible, regardless of political party, caste, or religion. To alleviate the problems faced by farmers, the Dharani system was abolished, and the Bhumi Bharati Act was introduced. A total of Rs 11,600 crore is being invested in building Young India Integrated Gurukula Schools in 58 Assembly constituencies. An international standard school for children is also being constructed in the Wyra constituency with an investment of Rs 200 crore.

District Muzammil Khan noted that the Minister is paying special attention to the Indiramma housing programme. The Collector emphasised that utmost care should be taken in constructing Indiramma houses for the poor. Wyra MLA M Ramdas Nayak said that in line with the promises made dur-

#### 2 engineering students killed in accident

**PNS** ■ RANGAREDDY

A tragic accident caused by overspeeding claimed the lives of two engineering students near Narsingi's Movie

The incident occurred when a car carrying six students lost control and crashed into an electric pole, leaving four others seriously injured.

According to police reports, all six students were first-year BTech students from CBIT College.

They were traveling from their college in Gandipet to Hyderabad when the accident took place. Authorities confirmed that excessive speed was the primary cause of the crash.

Following the accident, the injured students were immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment.

Police have launched an investigation into the incident and urged young drivers to exercise caution on the roads.

Following the accident, the police warned that a penalty would be imposed on motorists who exceeded the speed limit. Investigation is underway.



## **Emotional reunion after 30 years**

PNS KARIMNAGAR

It was a scene straight from a tearjerker as a young woman ran to hug an elderly woman. It has proved that nothing equals a mother's love. In early childhood, she protects her child. Later, even after getting married, a mother continues to think about her children at every moment. But what if, under unavoidable circumstances, a mother and child have to be separated during early childhood? What if they reunite after almost 30 years? Such emotional moments are beyond words. Tears of joy flow on reunion and words fail. A similar incident took place in the Chhattisgarh district of Kanker.

Ramareddy, from Korutla in Jagtial district, joined the Naxalite Party's People's War Group in 1979. After some time, he was caught by the police and imprisoned. After being released from jail, he married Vasantha, from Sirikonda in the Kothalpur mandal of the same district. Shortly after, Ramareddy and Vasantha joined the People's War and went underground. While living in the forest, they had a daughter, Bhavani. When Bhavani was one year old, they handed her over to relatives living in Mumbai and continued to stay with them. Ramareddy served as the Secretary of the Northern

REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT

FORM-VII (See Sub-rule(1) of rule-25

And Section-19(1) of the Act-30/2013)

Collector/Additional Collector/ RDO Huzurnagar

DECLARATION

District Collector Suryapet File No: GI668/2024 Dated: 07-03-2025 Revenue Divisional Officer Hazumager File No: FI908/2023 Dated: 06-03-2025

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/

Collector Suryapet that a total land to an extent of Ac: 10.12 gts in survey number 472 & 478 patha land is required in the Vellaturu Village of Chinthalapalem Mandal, Suryapet District for public purpose namely Formulation of Lift Irrigation Scheme to Mukthyala Branch Canal from Krishna River near vellaturu Village of Chinthalapalem Mendal.

of Chinthalapalem Mandal

Telangana Special Zone, and during this time, he was killed in an encounter. In 2001, he lost his life in an exchange of fire near Maddimalla under Yellareddipet mandal in the undivided Karimnagar district.

Afterwards, Vasantha, also known as Shantakka or Mamathakka, went to the Dandakaranya region of Chhattisgarh. She served as a member of the Bastar Division Committee for a long time. She was arrested by the Kanker police in December last year. She is suffering from chronic disease. Afterwards, the police began inquiring about her family members. Upon discovering that her hometown was Karimnagar district, the Chhattisgarh police informed the Telangana police. As a result, three days ago, the Karimnagar police traced Bhavani's whereabouts and informed her about

On Monday evening, Bhavani, along with her relatives, arrived at the Kanker district Superintendent's Office, where she met her mother. The emotional reunion of mother and daughter after so many years filled the area with intense emotions. They hugged each other affectionately, shedding tears. The scene moved everyone present and brought tears to people who were present.

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#### Minister also highlighted schemes such as Rs 500 gas houses were built, he added. ing elections, the government is providing homes to the eli-The government will procylinders, 200 units of free elec-Scheduled Tribes constituenvide financial assistance for tricity, and free bus travel for Governor stresses on all-round

development of Kondaparthi village

PNS MULUGU

Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Verma has emphasised that Kondaparthi village in Mulugu district should become a role model for development across the country.

The Governor announced a grant of Rs 1.5 crore for the development of the adopted village during his visit to Kondaparthi in SS Tadwai mandal on Tuesday.

During his visit, the

Governor inaugurated the statues of Komaram Bheem and Birsamunda, launched digita classes in the local school, households and 285 residents, Telangana and is actively pro-



opened an Anganwadi centre, a spice unit constructed at a cost of Rs 7,84,700, and a sewing machine unit built at a cost of Rs 7,76,594.

Addressing a meeting, the Governor Kondaparthi, said that which

should serve as a model for development.

house construction in four

phases: Rs 1 lakh after the

foundation is laid, Rs 1.20

lakh after wall construction, Rs

1.75 lakh at the slab stage, and

another Rs1 lakh after comple-

tion, totalling Rs5 lakh in assis-

Despite financial challenges,

the government has waived Rs

21,000 crore in farmer loans,

which is a unique measure in

the country. By the end of March, all farmers will receive

the Rythu Bharosa funds. The

He praised the village for introducing digital classes and highlighted the students' English-speaking skills.

He stressed the importance

of setting up small scale industries to provide self-employment for women and thus ensuring economic develop-ment. Kondaparthi's chili, turmeric, and spice products would achieve the same recognition as Gujarat's Amul, he

hoped. He said that he has adopted

moting their development. The Governor commended the efforts of the state government, district administration, and tribal communities in advancing these villages.

Panchayati Raj, Women, and Child Welfare Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka expressed her gratitude to the Governor for his commitment to tribal welfare.

She stressed the need to link the village with markets to support entrepreneurial

growth among women.
District Collector Divakara S and others participated



Samuel distributing Kalyana Lakshmi

## **MLA** distributes cheques to

On Tuesday, in the Arvapalli village under the Jaji Reddi Gudem mandal in Suryapet district, the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak cheques distribution programme was held at Sri Rama Function Hall. Thungathurthy MLA Mandula Samuel distributed cheques to beneficiaries

A total of 96 cheques, amounting to Rs 96,11,136, were distributed to beneficiaries from Jaji Reddi Gudem, Nuthanakal, Maddirala,

Thungathurthy MLA Mandula cheuqes at Aravapalli village in

## **Kalyana Lakshmi** beneficiaries

**PNS** SURYAPET

## Youth in shackles forced to do menial work in police station

PNS NIZAMABAD

A video has gone viral on social media showing a person with chains on his legs being made to do menial work at the police station.

The incident took place at the Bodhan police station in Nizamabad district. A person at the police sta-

tion was forced to clean the police station with a broom with his legs chained.

Typically, when someone

commits a crime, they are arrested and placed in the police station cell. They are then produced in court.

According to sources, the



man who was forced to sweep the floor was identified as Dasharath. He was reportedly taken into custody on charge of motorcycle theft.

As part of the process, the person who committed the theft had his hands and legs some files.

shackled to prevent him from escaping, it was explained. The man in shackles was cleaning the floor while a police officer was inspecting

## Inter-state criminal gang of robbers nabbed

PNS KHAMMAM

The Wyra police on Tuesday nabbed an inter-state gang of robbers that indulged in a series of house-breaking incidents in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

The gang members created a sensation in Wyra by barging into the house of an old woman on the pretext of conducting survey. They decamped with gold

jewellery and cash from the Wyra police nabbed

uniform, gained entry to the house of the old woman to con-

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arsamma Whi. Nagaraju Shi.

Sd/- Land Acquisition Sd/- Additional Sd/- District

Collector

DIPR RO.NO: 784/LA/PP/Advt/Pub/2024-25

Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer,



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them and re	ecovered Rs 35 lakl	n tions in the house claiming that				
and gold or	naments from them	, her son was peddling marijua-				
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Commissio	ner of police Suyni	The police found movements				
Dutt.	•	of four persons to be suspicious.				
Disclosin	ng this to media	, The police took them into cus-				
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member gang, clad in police robbery incident came to light.						
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and Reconstruct	tion of Financial Assets and	Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in				

and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and it exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 13/05/2024 Calling upon the Bernewet Guerranton-1, Bornower, Mrs. Gande Vijayanni Wo. Gande Chandra Sekhar Ru. HNo.1-6 141/46/2351. Sinan Nagar, Near Vidyandhi Bendhurus School, Suryapet, Telangara 508213, 2.Co Bornower, Mr. Gande Chandra Sekhar Sis, G. Lingsmurthy Ru. H. No.1-6-141/46/2511. Sinan Nagar, Near Vidyandhi Bandhuru School, Suryapet, Tallangara -508213 with our Suryapet Branch opens the property present present control of the second to the second repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 49,95,094° (Rs. Forty Nine Lakhs Nine he Thousand Ninety Four Only) as on 15/05/2024 with further interest and cost within 80 day m the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guerantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property on 06/03/202 flow in exercise of powers conferred on him Ther under Section 13 (4) of the sa Act read with rule 6 and 9 of the said rules. We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules from

here under which deals with the rights of redemption over the securities by the born The borrower in perfouser and the public in general is hereby coultined not to deal with the proper and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amoun Rs. 48,95,0947- (Rs. Forty Nine Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Ninety Four. Only) as on 15/05/202 DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY All that part and parosi of Open Piot No. 13, in Sy. 797 of Survepet Revenue Village, admeasurin on extent of 331.00 Sq. Yards, Manasa Nagar, Near Anjanappuri Colony within the limits of Survapet Municipality, Survepet Dist. Survapet Sub-Registration Dist. Nelgonda Registration Dist

Telangaria bounded by North Open place of D. Papaiah and Others ,South 30 Feet Wide Road East Open Place of S. Anantharamulu and others, West: 30 Feet Wide Road.

The said land acquisition for the project is exempted from the Chapter II and chapter III of the LA Act 2013 i.e., social impact / assessment (SIA) and Food Security as per Section 10(A) of Right to Faid compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement 2013, Telangana Amendment Act -2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017). Geoda 418 478 412 418 Veera Reddy 478 478 472 478 8 8 8 8 Therefore declaration is made that a piece of land measuring, more or less Ac.12.26 Gts of patta land of Sundore Sundara measuring, more or less At. 12.26 dis or paid land of standard measurement under acquisition in the Vellaturu Village, chinthalapalem Mandal Suryapet District for public purpose namely for Formulation of Lift Irrigation Scheme to Mukthyala Branch Canal from Reddy Slu 478 478 472 478 Krišhna River near Vellaturu Village Village: Vellatueru Mandal : Chinthalagalem District : Suryape St. Sur Type Type Area Name and No. vey of of under Address of Hum Title Land Acqui Person Sie Blichan 8888 Enjoyer sition interested Patta Dry 0.06 472/ Potte Dv | 8.21 Kola Stinu Kolu Srins 472 472 472 472 Str. Purmeish Sto. Permaish 0.0 112 Bloam Sib. Nagaish 0000 Yospideti Yengisheti |472 |472 |472 |472 Vectorwarry Sic Birsham 1/1/2 Mic. Saidaiah Wo, Saidaiah Katabolna | 478 | 476 | 472 | 471 Kanna 4721 nbashira Rasi Shivalah S/o. Ste. Hanumolah | Hanumolah 434 Srinu Sh. 473/ Gunda Shire Gunda Shiva | 472 | 472 | 472 | 472 Bikaham Reddy S/b. Linga Reddy Linga Reddy 8 479 478 478 472 478 No Version Sic. D D D D 472 Anjamma Ws. Sundar Rao Sundar Reo Sty. Pensish Sty. Pensish Covinda Raja Govinda Raju J.S J.S J.S J.S 4727 Kethepaty Dass Narseinto | 472 | 472 | 472 | 472 Six Krishmalah Sic Krishnalah 14/29 Lacheigh Prontherom. 112 SmuSh. 13 (3 (3 /3 473 Silnu Sib. 223/1 Prokash Str. Prokash Sto. 0 0 Keringula 418 478 472 418 пa Saldolah Saldalah Bandham Bandham Sh Sanbalah лил Sambalah Karingula qySin Kotelah 223/1 .02 Ws. Hussein Mic. Hussein wikatestruoti, Venkotestwartu (3 (3 (3 (3 (4 110 10 473' Potte Dry Kistamshetti Kathopally Ste Krishnalah Sto Krishnalah Hussen Sic. Prakash Sio Routhu 478 478 472 478 Anjamma Wio Anjamma Wis J3 J3 J3 J3 Kommu Gopi S/s.Shombalal Sh. Jearge Wis Nerselah Wio Nerselah Sambalah Sib. 45 476 Routhu 418 478 472 478 JE4 Shalakahi Wo J3 J3 J3 J3 Milo. Saldalah 12 473' Fada Dry Gopi S/b. Achemne 199s. ng. G8 Whi Norsolah Wo Marsalah Janu Slo 13 A Rouths Routhu 478 478 472 478 Vahabkahi J3 J3 J3 J3 AAAN. Mio. Saldolah Bichalu Mis.Mulkanti Wo.Mukkanti 14 473' Potta Dr Rauths Routhu 223/1 Nanamma Srideni Wb. 478 478 472 478 Mic. Saldsiah Wester 5 673 Veeralah Munaga 472 472 472 472 Ha Routhu Venkati Routhu Venkati Str. Weeslah Sto. Versiah WW Wio Saldalah 16 473/ Fatta Dry 10.12 Total 54/1 Prakash S/s. Prakash Sio This declaration is made after hearing of objections of persons interested and due enquiry as provided U/s 15 112 Seideigh 473 Gunda Peri Gunda Peri of the Act No. 30/2013. Due to Land Acquisition no one W Raddy Sio. Reddy S/s. ал is affected, hence resettlement is not proposed Nagi Reddy Negi Roddy Mines of coal, iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying 18 472/ under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, expect such parts of the mines and minerals which 1/1/2 Saidalah may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed. 19 473/ Saldalah Aplan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Huzurnagar or at 20 473/ 223 Gopi S/b. Capi Ste. Collectorate Suryapet on any working day. Seideigh ////// Saidolah

## Fall in line, DMHO tells private hospitals

PNS WARANGAL

District Medical Health Department Officer of Warangal Dr B Sambashivarao on Tuesday revealed the formation of an expert committee to take legal action against private hospitals following reports of maternal deaths. He emphasised that legal measures would be implemented based on the committee's findings.

Dr Sambashivarao said that surprise inspections were carried out at Prathima Cancer Hospital and Apollo NSR Hospitals to ensure compliance with regulations. He also made it clear that strict action would be taken against any hospitals found conducting gender determination tests, urging all medical facilities, including clinics and hospitals, to adhere strictly to the regulations.

All healthcare facilities in the district, including clinics, polyclinics, labs, hospitals, well-



Officer Archana and Senior Surgical Oncologist Avinash Tipani at Prathima Cancer Institute in Warangal on Tuesday

Medical

ness centers, physiotherapy centers, and eye clinics, must be registered. Additionally, hospitals and clinics offering alternative therapies like Ayurveda, Unani, Homeopathy, Siddha, Yoga, and Naturopathy must also complete registration, or face penalties, closure, and legal actions. The officer further stated that Registered Medical Practitioners (RMP) and

Practicing

Practitioners (PMP) are prohibited from using the title "Doctor" and are only permitted to provide first aid, excluding injections, saline administration, allopathic treatments, and stock medications.

Dr Sambashivarao urged doctors to write prescriptions clearly, and that all medical facilities display fee structures in both Telugu and English at their reception.



## ACROSS THE STATES



#### 4 killed as vehicle falls into gorge in J-K

our persons were killed and eight others injured on Tuesday when a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and rolled down into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said. The accident took place near Gangode area in the district when the driver reportedly lost control over the tempo traveller, causing it to roll into the deep gorge. Immediately after the mishap, local police and SDRF personnel rushed to the spot to carry out rescue operations, they said. Three persons died on the spot, and one died on the way to the hospital, officials added. Eight injured persons were shifted to the hospital. "The vehicle was on its way from Jammu to Mahore. It rolled into deep gorge. In the mishap, three persons died on the spot, and one died on the way to the hospital. Six injured our of eight injured persons have been shifted to Jammu," said SSP



#### **Arunachal to bring** electronic media advt policy

runachal Pradesh minister Nyato Dukam on Tuesday assured the assembly that the electronic media Advertisement policy will be fully implemented within six months after necessary modifications. The Information and Public Relations (IPR) minister, while responding to a question raised during Question Hour by NCP MLA Toko Tatung, said while the policy has been implemented in principle, the funding pattern remains an issue. "As per the existing policy, a separate fund should be allocated to the IPR Directorate on a quarterly basis, which has not been done. The review process is ongoing, and amendments will be made as funds become available," Dukam said. In response to a supplementary question, he revealed that Rs 48 lakh was spent on electronic and digital media advertisements, including national satellite channels, from 2020 to 2024.



#### **Karnataka HC stays FIR** against YouTuber

he Karnataka High Court on Tuesday stayed the First Information Report against YouTuber Sameer M D, who was booked for his investigative video on the Soujanya rape and murder case Soujanya (17), a second-year Pre-University student of the Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College was allegedly raped and murder on October 9, 2012. Justice Hemant Chandangoudar granted interim relief to the petitioner by staying the FIR, which was registered at Cowl Bazaar Police Station in Ballari under Section 299 (hurting religious sentiments) of the Bharativa Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. Sameer had posted a video titled "Dharmasthala Soujanya Case" on his YouTube channel 'Dhootha: Sameer MD', which has garnered over 18 million views. The video peeps into several criminal cases spanning decades in the Dharmasthala region, with particular focus on the 2012 rape and murder of Soujanya, the wrongful conviction and subsequent acquittal of Santosh Rao, and patterns of alleged influence in multiple criminal

#### Conviction rate in drugs cases up by 86 per cent: Punjab minister

PNS CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh, Mar 11 (PTI) Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Tuesday said the conviction rate in drug cases rose to 86 per cent in the past three years even as he said the state government was committed to wipe out the drug menace from the state.

Referring to the ongoing anti-drugs drive, 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' (war against drugs), Cheema said the police were conducting round-theclock operations against drug smugglers and warned that

either quit drug trafficking or leave Punjab; otherwise, they would end up behind bars.

In the past 11 days, 1,072 FIRs have been registered under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and 1,485 drug peddlers have been arrested, he said at a press conference.

Under this campaign so far, 76 kg of heroin, 50 kg of opium and Rs 50 lakh in cash have been recovered, he added. Around 7 lakh drug tablets, 4.5 kg drug powder and 950 kg of poppy husk, along with other synthetic drugs, have been seized by the such individuals would have to police, Cheema told reporters.

# Modi, Mauritius Prez discuss ways to boost bilateral ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Mauritius President Dharam Gokhool on Tuesday and the two leaders exchanged views on deepening the special and close bilateral ties.

Modi, who arrived here Tuesday morning on a two-day State Visit, called on Gokhool at the State House.

"Had a great meeting with His Excellency Mr. Dharambeer Gokhool, President of Mauritius. He is well acquainted with India and Indian culture. Expressed gratitude for inviting me to be a part of the National Day celebrations of Mauritius. We discussed how to further boost bilateral ties across diverse sectors," Modi said in a post on X.

During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged views on deepening the special and close bilateral ties between India and Mauritius, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a state-

They recalled the shared history between the two countries and the existence of strong



people-to-people linkages, it added. Prime Minister Modi noted that it was an honour for him to attend the National Day celebrations of Mauritius as chief guest for the second time.

In a special gesture, Prime Minister Modi handed over OCI cards to President Gokhool and First Lady Vrinda Gokhool. He also gifted holy Sangam water from Mahakumbh in a brass and copper pot to President Gokhool. Modi also gifted Makhana - a superfood from

The Prime Minister presented a Banarasi silk saree in a Sadeli box to the wife of President Gokhool.

The Banarasi saree, originating from Varanasi, is a cultural heritage known for its fine silk, intricate brocades, and opulent zari work, while the Sadeli box from Gujarat features intricate inlay craftsmanship. After the talks, President Gokhool hosted a State lunch in honour of Prime Minister

Prime Minister Modi also visited the Ayurveda Garden in

collaboration with the Government of India. The Prime Minister noted that Mauritius is an important partner for India in advancing the benefits of traditional medicine, including Ayurveda.

"It is commendable that an Ayurvedic Garden has been built in the State House in Mauritius. I am also happy that Ayurveda is gaining pop-ularity in Mauritius. President Dharambeer Gokhool and I went to the Ayurvedic Garden, giving me the opportunity to see it firsthand," Modi posted on X. Before meeting President Gokhool, Prime Minister Modi and Mauritius counterpart Navinchandra Ramgoolam planted a sapling at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Garden.

Earlier, Prime Minister Modi received a warm welcome at the airport upon his arrival in the country after nearly a decade. Modi last visited Mauritius in

His Mauritius counterpart Ramgoolam and other leaders

## Bureaucrats can't be allowed to frustrate grassroot democracy: SC

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said bureaucrats couldn't be allowed to "frustrate grassroot democracy" and upheld a Bombay High Court order reinstating a woman as the sarpanch of a Maharashtra village. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said it noticed several recent instances from the state where bureaucrats misbehaved with the elected representatives of Panchayats.

"We have given judgements in two-three cases where babus were found to be misbehaving with the elected representatives. This is happening typically in Maharashtra. These babus should be under the elected representatives. These bureaucrats cannot be allowed to frustrate the grass root democracy," it said.

The court also came across bureaucrats trying to open old cases to disqualify elected representatives



especially at grassroot level. "They (bureaucrats) try to open old cases like your grandfather has encroached upon government land and hence you are disqualified," Justice Surya Kant told the counsel for Archana Sachin Bhosale, whose election as the sarpanch was set aside by the high court on January 29. Reinstating Kalavati Rajendra Kokale as the sarpanch, the top court upheld the high court quashing the June 7, 2024 order of the collector of Raigad district declaring a vacancy for the post of sarpanch in village Ainghar, Taluka-Roha and appointing a returning officer to conduct the election.

## People playing politics on language:Goyal

Says lotus will bloom in Tamil Nadu

PNS NEW DELHI

Amid ongoing tussle between the Tamil Nadu government and the Centre over the alleged "Hindi imposition", Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday took a swipe at the state's ruling DMK, alleg-ing some people are doing politics even on language and trying to divide the nation.

His remarks in the Lok Sabha came soon after IUML MP from Kerala Abdussamad Samadani quoted Hindi cou-plets in his speech. Appreciating Samadani and a



small by speaking in Hindi.

"But it is unfortunate that some people are trying to divide the nation...politics is being done on languages also," the commerce and industry minister said, eliciting protests from some oppositon members.

Congress leader Kumari Selja, who was in the Chair, in a lighter vein mentioned

in a lighter vein mentioned that the minister could also speak in Tamil.

Vanakkam... (in sometime) Lotus will bloom in few other members who speak good Hindi, Goyal said nobody will become big or Tamil Nadu, we will also talk in Tamil...," Goyal said. Lotus is the symbol of BJP.

Participating in a discussion on the Manipur budget and supplementary demands for grants, CPI(M) member from Tamil Nadu S Ventakesan asserted that "India is not Hindia..." and added that people who do not understand about giving funds for education would not understand mother tongue.

tongue.
DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and the Centre are at loggerheads over the former's stand on the three-language policy under the National Education Policy

#### Is there AI software to track missing persons? Delhi HC asks police

PNS NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court recently enquired with police if there was an artificial intelligence (AI) software to track persons who went missing owing to various reasons, including mental illness.

A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Dharmesh Sharma in an order passed in February asked Delhi Police to file an affidavit on the matter. The court order came on a petition filed by a man who said his father had been missing since February 17,

"Let a short affidavit be placed on record by

the state, stating whether there is any artificial intelligence software which can be or has been used by Delhi Police for confirming and checking the whereabouts of such missing persons, who may have gone missing due to various reasons including unstable medical conditions," the bench

The court observed the status report of the police which said there were no traces of the petitioner's father despite requisite procedures, including his photographs being shared on the zonal integrated police net-

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA** 

REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT

FORM - C

(See rule 6/12)

#### **WB** govt plans Bill to combat fee hike in pvt schools

PNS KOLKATA

is planning to introduce a Bill in the assembly soon to keep a tab on the unbridled fee hike in private schools, Education Minister Bratya Basu said on Tuesday. Replying to a query from a BJP legislator regarding the state government's plan to control the steep fee hike by the authorities of private schools, Basu said the issue was discussed with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

He did not disclose when the Bill would be tabled. Speaking to reporters later,

"Middle-class parents feel the pinch in the pocket due to the steep fee hike in private schools. It affects their budget. We have discussed the matter with the CM, and as per her guidance and instruction, we have decided to introduce a Bill in this connection," Basu said.

the minister said the enactment of the Bill would depend on the governor.

PNS VARANASI

Tuesday.

Devotees and Naga Sadhus cele-

brated the unique tradition of

playing Holi with funeral ashes

amid burning pyres at the Manikarnika Ghat here on

Gulshan Kapoor, the organis-

er of the 'Chita Bhasma Holi' or

'Masan Holi' ritual at the

Mahashamshan (cremation ground), said Naga Sadhus

danced with tridents and swords.

One of them, wearing a garland

Kapoor said the ritual was

Preparations for the festival

noon, following a grand 'aarti' of

ash and colours, he added.

Baba Mahashamshan Nath.

## Uproar in Odisha Assembly as BJP, Cong members scuffle

## House adjourned multiple times

High drama unfolded in the Odisha assembly on Tuesday, when members of the ruling BJP and Congress engaged in a scuffle, as a senior opposition MLA attempted to climb the Speaker's podium, and later accused a saffron party legislator of holding his shirt collar and pushing him.

Tension erupted in the House during Question Hour as senior BJP lawmaker Jaynarayan Mishra rushed towards Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati, who was standing in front of Urban Development Minister K C Mohapatra when the minister was replying to a question.

Mohapatra was giving the reply amid a ruckus by opposition BJD and the Congress members.

Earlier, Bahinipati attempted to climb the Speaker's podium in order to stall the proceedings but failed, with Speaker Surama Padhy allowing the Question Hour amid



Thereafter, he approached the minister asking him to stop giving the reply as the opposition members were protesting in the well.

'Mishra caught hold of my shirt collar and pushed me. I was requesting minister Mohapatra to stop giving a reply when the House was not in order. I requested him with folding hands. But, Mishra suddenly came up to me and caught hold of my collar," Bahinipati told reporters outside the House.

Soon, other members of the treasury bench rushed to the well of the House and scuffled with the

sent there, and raised anti-government slogans. As the chaos prevailed, Speaker

Padhy first adjourned the proceedings till noon, and later three more times.

While the BJP and Congress members were seen pushing one another, the BJD members, though present in the well, did not engage in the scuffle.

The BJD and Congress members were protesting on various issues. While the BJD members demanded a statement from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi over Mishra's remark referring to the merger of erstwhile Koshala with Odisha in 1936 as a "historical mistake", Congress MLAs agitated over the alleged increase in

crimes against women in the state. The opposition members were also seen standing on the reporters' table and raising slogans.

The Speaker later extended the adjournment for 10 minutes from noon, and then again till 2 pm.

concerns,

Mahashamshan Nath Temple

Committee had requested women

not to attend due to the large

belief that on 'Rangbhari

Ekadashi', Lord Shiva brings

Goddess Parvati to Kashi after

While deities, celestial beings

and humans celebrate Holi, Lord

ghosts, spirits and other mystical

beings — are left out, he said. To

include them, Lord Shiva plays

Holi with pyre ashes at the

Shiva's divine companions -

The celebration is rooted in the

crowd and potential chaos.

their celestial wedding.

#### Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Special Collector (LA) nissioner, GHWC, that a total of 2847.55 Sq. Yds land is required in the Amber Village, Amberpet Mandal, Hyderabad District for public purpose namely, for acquisition land affected under Proposed Bridge 48.00M wide road from Bharath Petrol Pump Acafe Junction construction of Bridge over Musi river at Amberpe Title Land Sq.yds 67,77 Shaik Mohsin 2-3-655/C/1 67,77 Shalk Mohsin 29.77 P.Anii Kumar 43,66 P.Anl Kumar 2-3-655/C/3 112.66 R. Narasaiah 2-3-655/C/4/B 230.11 Ugam Raj Jain 2-3-602/K/9 223.44 R. Mallesh 2-3-682/K/8 67,44 R.Shekar 57.55 G. Satiesh Kumar 78.44 B. Jayanth Kumar 128.66 B. Jayanth Kumer 2-3 51.88 G.Gopal and Others 2-3-655/B/B/1 150.88 R. Mailesh and Others 2-3-692/K/2/1 750.33 R. Mailesh and Others 191.00 R. Mallesh and Others 2-3-892/K/2/1 35.22 Shaik Yousu! (Pania Ashurkhana) 78.00 N. Vanaja 70.55 P. Ard Kumpr 35.44 B. Bioshaputsi 40.77 K.Andalu 92.22 S. Vijay Kumer 2-3-692/K/2/1 48.22 T. Sabitra 54.11 K. Madhavi 2-3-692/K/2/1 2-3-892/ K/2 & 75.33 2-3-692/K/2/3 Total 2847.55

This Notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fai apensation and Transparency in Land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettleme Act, 2013 (Central Act no. 30/2013), as amended by the Right to Fair Compensation an ransparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telanger mendment) Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Special Collector (LA) & nmissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad on any working day during the working hours. Th vernment of Telengena/Special Collector (LA) & Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabac cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Officer i.e., Special Deput Collector, Land Acquisition, GHMC, Hyderabad and his staff to onler upon and surve land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for th proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section -12 of the said Act.

Under Section 11 (4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or gause as ansaction of land i.e. sale / purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such Notification without prior approval of the Speci Collector (LA) & Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad

Objections to the acquisition if any, and claims from all the persons interested affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the perso rested in the land within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this Notificatio as provided under Section 15 of the Act before Special Collector (LA) & Commissions

Sdi-Addl. LA, GHMC, Hyderabad.

Sdi-Special Deputy Sdi- Special Collector (LA), & Commissioner LA, GHNC, Hyderabad. GHMC, Hyderabad

Devotees, Naga Sadhus play Holi

with funeral pyre ashes

of human skulls, performed a fierce 'Tandava' dance. Devotees begin six months in advance, with and foreign tourists participated two to three sacks of ash collectin the event, getting covered in ed daily from the cremation ground. However, this year, the ritual faced opposition from reliobserved for about an hour from

gious scholars. Kashi Vidvat Parishad, along with other organisations, termed it against the scriptures.

Parishad's general secretary Ramnarayan Dwivedi said there is no scriptural evidence supporting householders playing Holi at

following this practice, which is against our traditions," he said.

a cremation ground.

Kapoor said keeping in mind

Mahashamshan the following Thousands of people from

People are being misled into

across the world visit Kashi to witness and participate in this rare and spiritual Holi, which offers an intense encounter with life's ultimate truth, he said.





## Editor's

## Beyond the rhetoric

It is time to go past symbolic gestures and confront the harsh reality of Women's dignity

ven as we celebrated International Women's Day, just two days later, we reported three deeply disturbing incidents: the rape of an Israeli tourist in Hampi, a man creating a public nuisance in Pune by urinating at a crossroads, and the blaring of obscene songs in Bihar. These incidents may seem unrelated, but they share a troubling common thread-our society has become morally degraded, indifferent to the dignity of women, and increasingly insensitive to gender equality.

This decline in values is occurring in a country that once revered womanhood, placing women on a high pedestal. The famous sloka from the Manusmriti, 'Yatra naryastu pujyante ramante tatra devta' translates to, "Where women are honored, divinity blossoms there." It serves as a reminder that women should be respected and valued in society. Historically, women like Apala, Ghosha, Lopamudra, and Gargi were esteemed figures in ancient India. In modern times, countless women have made significant contributions across various fields. Yet, given the current state of affairs, one might wonder if the gods have already abandoned us.

What has gone wrong? Why do we see such pervasive misogyny and moral decline in a country that once celebrated womanhood? When did we lose our way? Blaming Western influence for our own degeneration is a weak excuse. The truth is, while women have been at the forefront of progress, they have also endured some of the harshest forms of patriarchy. From domestic violence to workplace discrimination, Indian women continue to struggle against entrenched biases, even from so-called educated and cultured men who conveniently abandon their ideals when it comes to gender equality.

The three incidents reported may not be the norm, but they are symptomatic of a larger, deeply rooted issue. Over the years, we have only reinforced the objectification of women. Just glance at advertisements where women are reduced to eye candy, Bollywood films where they play second fiddle to male protagonists, or popular fiction where they are confined to stereotypical roles of homemakers and child-rearers. Even the comments from the politicians in the recent past have been rather uncharitable about women. The problem runs deeper than we acknowledge. Society as a whole must awaken to the true power of women and respect them for their inherent worth, not just as decorative figures.

What can be done? First, we must recognise and admit that the state of women in India is deplorable. Ignoring the issue or brushing it under the carpet will not help. When stand-up comedian Vir Das made a pointed remark about how India worships women by day and violates them by night, all hell broke loose. Yet, outrage cannot erase the painful truth. Hypocrisy and pretense cannot change the truth. Token gestures and symbolic celebrations are past their expiry date—it is time for real action. Stronger laws may be part of the solution, but they must be backed by proper implementation. (It is worth noting that the conviction rate for crimes against women remains abysmally low) More importantly, we need to instil respect and gender sensitivity in men from an early age. Boys must be taught that their sisters have the same rights as they do, and society must reinforce this equality at every level.

The time for complacency is over. A cultural shift is needed-one that does not just pay lip service to gender equality but actively fosters a safer, more just environment for women. Only then can we truly claim to honour and respect them. Let us make a beginning. We at The Pioneer have taken an initiative and would like our readers to join us in our campaign to awaken the society from its deep slumber.

**Leaderspeak** 

I am on a multi-nation trip to the

Indo-Pacific, a region I know very

well having grown up as a child of the

First stop: Honolulu where I'll visit IC

troops engaging in training.

Pacific. I will be going to Japan, Thailand, and India, with

a brief stop in France enroute back to DC. Building strong

communication are vital to achieving President Trump's

TULSI GABBARD, US INTEL CHIEF

relationships, understanding, and open lines of

objectives of peace, freedom and prosperity.

partners and INDOPACOM leaders, and our

## The Unfinished Fight for Gender Equality

The latest data from global institutions paint a troubling picture—economic and political inequality persist, gender-based violence remains rampant. "Accelerated Action" must become a force for real, urgent change

he calendar page has turned and March 8, International Women's Day (IWD), fades into the rear-view mirror. Yet, the echoes of pronouncements — of "Accelerated Action" the very theme of IWD 2025 - still reverberate. Newspapers, policymakers, and government and international organisations have once again performed their ritual - churning out reports and issuing platitudes, all while the chasm of the gender gap yawns wider. They speak of strengthening the "fairer sex" — a term that dares to confine the boundless potential of women. Let us be clear: this is not about "disparities." This is about the brutal, systemic discrimination that chokes life from women's ambitions, both in the intimate spaces of their lives and the cold, unforgiving arenas of their professions. "Accelerated Action" is not a theme; it is a desperate, overdue demand for momentum - a seismic shift towards an unrelenting dismantling of the barriers and biases that have held women hostage for far

too long.
The World Economic Forum's (WEF) 2024 'Global Gender Gap Report', highlights the slow progress in achieving gender equality, with the global gender gap now 68.5 per cent closed, an increase of just 0.1 per centage points from the previous year. Health and Survival (96 per cent) and Educational Attainment (94.9 per cent) are near parity, but Economic Participation (60.5 per cent) and Political Empowerment (22.5 per cent) remain significantly unequal. The report also points to regional disparities that persist, with Europe (75 per cent) leading the charge, North America (74.8 per cent), and Latin America and the Caribbean (74.2 per cent), while Southern Asia (63.7 per cent) and the Middle East and North Africa (61.7 per cent) lag behind. Iceland, Finland, and Norway are top performers, while Bangladesh, Iran, and Sudan struggle with gender inequality. At the current pace, full gender parity will take until 2158, far beyond the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target.

In economic participation, women form 42per cent of the workforce but hold only 31.7 per cent of senior leadership roles. The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) gender gap is stark, with women representing only 28.2 per cent of the STEM workforce versus 47.3 per cent in non-STEM sectors. Political empowerment has improved, with women occupying 33 per cent of parliamentary seats, nearly double the 18.8 per cent in 2006. The report further emphasises the role of caregiving policies, noting an increase in maternity leave from 63 to 107 days since 1970, while paternity



leave remains low at nine to 15 days

The report issues a compelling call to action, urging governments, businesses, and civil society to accelerate efforts toward gender equality. As the report emphasises, "Achieving gender parity is not just a moral imperative, but an economic necessity. Closing gender gaps will drive productivity, sustainability, and societal progress worldwide".

Further, the UN Women's Report on Women's Rights in Review 30 Years After Beijing" (2025) is worth a reflection, which assesses global progress on gender equality since the 1995 'Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action'. While 1,531 legal reforms have been enacted, disparities persist - women earn 20 per cent less than men, perform three times more unpaid care work, and only 63 per cent of working-age women are in the labour force compared to 92 per cent of men. Gender-based violence remains widespread, affecting 736 Million women globally, with 53 per cent of women in Europe and Central Asia facing online abuse. Maternal mortality rates have stagnated, and 236 Million additional women and girls are projected to face food insecurity by 2050 due to climate change. Further, Women remain underrepresented in politics (27 per cent ians processor of 2022 cournation and per course

cent of parliamentarians) and peace processes (10 per cent of negotiators in 2023). Despite 112 countries adopting national action plans on women, peace, and security, only 28 per cent have allocated sufficient funding.

To accelerate change, the "Beijing+30 Action Agenda" outlines six urgent priorities, such as 'bridging the digital gender divide', 'eradicating violence against women', 'ensuring equal political representation' and 'securing climate justice for women'. Governments must significantly increase funding, implement stronger accountability measures, and prioritise gender-sensitive policies.

Achieving gender equality requires bold, immediate action, ensuring all women and girls have equal rights, opportunities, and safety in every sphere of life. Amidst all the celebrations - and resolutions - that marked IWD 2025, it is equally critical to reflect on the 'Human Rights Watch World Report 2025' that reveals a global regression in women's rights, marked by intensified

oppression in numerous regions. Afghanistan witnessed the Taliban's extreme gender-based restrictions, effectively eliminating women from public life through bans on education and employment, alongside reports of severe abuses. In Sudan, conflict-driven sexual violence became a weapon of war, with widespread rape and forced mar-

Moreover, the enduring issue of Crime Against Women (CAW) significantly hinders the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by undermining progress across a broad spectrum of objectives, specifically impeding SDG-3 concerning good health and well-being and SDG-5 dedicated to gender equality, as the repercussions of CAW permeate and disrupt these interconnected areas of social, economic, and gender equality. The road to true gender equality remains long and arduous. While progress has been made, systemic barriers, deep-rooted discrimination, and rising global challenges continue to hinder women's empowerment and safety. The need for sustained, bold, and transformative action is urgent.

(The writer is programme executive Gandhi Smriti Sansthan. Views expressed are personal)

## Navigating coercion and gaslighting

## **O**SECOND pinion

Tam writing this column on a Friday. Exactly a week ago, around this time, a slanging match took place in the Oval Office in full view of the media. As people all over watched the drama unfold, I shook with vicarious consternation when a war-time leader was psychologically conquered by two men who are the powers that be of the Western world. It was a scene that felt unsettlingly familiar, not just as

was a scene that felt unsettlingly familiar, not just as a geopolitical showdown, but as a stark example of the pressures we all face in the presence of unchecked authority. President Trump set an uneasy tone to the meeting right from the word go when he made a stinging remark about President Zelensky's attire as soon they met. Although it was made to sound casual, the dig was front and centre, and the former's discomfort was more than obvious. What I saw that day was a slice of life we've all been part of, in some form or another at work, at home, and in relationships where authority looms large, demanding submission in the face of power imbalances. I cringed at the memories it evoked - of gaslighting and manipulative episodes from my own life - and found myself wondering: What should we do when we're subjected to such mortifying treatment, especially when it is unexpectedly thrust upon us?

What mental attitude can we adopt in these moments? How do we respond to coercion that seeks to dismantle our courage,



and what kind of armour can protect us from the tles them because it signals that we are not easily provoked.

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In these moments, we resessert control without uttoring a sign.

The first step is awareness. Recognising the power play for what it is allows us to protect ourselves emotionally. Often, bullies thrive by distorting reality — by twisting words, fabricating narratives, and making us feel inadequate, indebted, or small. The psychological manipulation is insidious. But when we step back and see the game being played, we can detach ourselves from the emotional quagmire they attempt to drag us into. It's not about denying the truth

of our emotions, but about observing them, questioning their source, and not letting them define us.

Self-validation is the cornerstone of this mental fortitude. In a world where we are conditioned to seek external approval, it is easy to fall prey to manipulation. But when we ground our self-worth in our understanding of who we are, we become less susceptible to intimidation. No longer will we bend or contort ourselves to meet others' expectations. We are enough as we are. And then comes emotional detachment. Bullies feed on emotional reactions. They want us to react, to flinch, to show weakness. The key is not to suppress our feelings but to cultivate a calm, observational stance. When we resist the urge to react impulsively, we throw them off balance. A composed response, or better still, a poised silence, often speaks louder than any words we could muster in the heat of the moment. In the face of a verbal barrage, sometimes doing nothing is the most powerful response. A dignified silence unset-

tles them because it signals that we are not easily provoked. In those moments, we reassert control without uttering a single word. In situations where we are pushed into a corner, we can reframe the narrative by presenting the facts. For instance, if we are pressured to express forced gratitude, we might say, "We have both benefited from this collaboration." By putting the truth back at the centre, we dilute their leverage and reinforce our agency. Ultimately, the key is knowing our boundaries and refusing to make concessions that compromise our dignity. The moment we yield to unfair demands, we allow the cycle of manipulation to continue. So, we must know when to say "No" and stand firm in that decision. But all of this requires confidence, and confidence, like any armour, is built over time.

The inner dialogue we carry with ourselves matters immensely. Bullies may make us doubt our worth, but we must reprogram that narrative, affirming daily that we are deserving, and that we need not bend in the face of coercion. Preparing ourselves for difficult conversations through rehearsal and mental preparation can transform panic into poise. In the end, the most profound defence against power plays, gaslighting, and coercion is an unwavering nonchalance. Confidence isn't loud or brash. It is quiet and unshaken. It is the knowing that no matter the forces that may try to knock us down, we are unyielding. We stand tall, not because we are immune to the pain, but because we refuse to let it define us.

(The author is a Dubai-based columnist and children's writing coach. She has published six books. Views expressed are personal)

## Letters to the Editor

#### **India's Golden Shift**

Madam— India has always had a deep-rooted connection with gold, a metal that symbolises wealth, financial security, and cultural heritage. From weddings and festivals to religious ceremonies, gold plays an essential role in the lives of Indians.

However, this strong demand for physical gold has led to an over-reliance on imports, contributing significantly to the country's current account deficit and putting pressure on foreign exchange reserves.

Recognising this economic challenge, the Government introduced the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme in 2015 under the broader Gold Monetisation Scheme to provide an alternative means of investing in gold while reducing dependency on imports. Over time, SGBs have emerged as an effective financial instrument, gradually shifting India's gold investment landscape towards a more structured and sustainable model.

The SGB scheme was designed to offer the benefits of gold investment without the challenges associated with owning physical gold. These bonds are issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on behalf of the government, making them a secure and reliable investment. Each bond is denominated in grams of gold, allowing investors to own gold in a digital or paper form rather than in physical form.

ANUSHKA BOHRA, UJJAIN

#### **America First, World Last**

Madam— It appears that United States (US) President Donald Trump is determined to disrupt global amity with unilateral declarations, whether on tariffs or wars. He thinks of America as the overlord and the countries on the earth as vassals. Before the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-President Trump meeting in Washington DC, he made a scathing attack on the BRICS nations over de-dollarisation attempts and declared that "BRICS is dead"

He accused the grouping of being made for a 'bad purpose.' He asserted that he had conveyed to the BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa — that they would be "hit by a 100 per cent tariff" if "they want to play games with the Dollar," adding a warning that "The day they mention that they want to do it, they will come back and say, we beg you, we beg you."

The response to Donald Trump's threats came from Brazil's President Lula da Silva, who said bluntly that "BRICS+ is committed to ending US Dollar dominance no matter what."

President Trump announced unilaterally that India had agreed to slash its tariffs. He said "India charges us massive tariffs. Massive, they have agreed, by the way, they want to cut their tariffs way down now because somebody is finally exposing them."

HARIDASAN RAJAN, KOZHIKODE

#### Mark Carney replaces Trudeau

Madam—The 23rd and a decade old ruling President of Canada, Justin Trudeau is all set to leave Canadian President office. The coalition government which Trudeau has been balancing since last few years has finally come to an end with the election of Mark Carney as Canada's next President.

Mark election to the apex post is been done at a critical juncture, as there has been so many fragilities for Canada to be handled around. He is supposed to settle down, a long list of issues both domestically and internationally for

Today, Canada is juggling to manage many of its internal problems like increasing food and housing prices, its trade and tariff war with the US, at the same time, it has been trying to find out a solution about the US idea of land annexation.

Not only this of coping some of the regional issues, Canada currently hold worst relations specially with India because of her Khalistani supporting commitments. The new appointment of Mark Carney is welcoming. We hope that Canada will be able to find out the appropriate solution of its domestic and international problems and will stand fairly without any bias on account of her internal turbulences. The change in leadership is the must requirement of Canada at this critical time period.

eriod. Kirti wadhawan, kanpur

#### **WOMEN'S AWARDS UNDER FIRE**

he recent controversy over the Chief Minister's award to a woman on Women's Day in Haryana has raised serious questions. For many years, the Mahila Awards have stood as shining symbols of recognition, highlighting women's achievements in fields where they

have often been marginalised. These awards are more than just an inspiration for inclusion, they aim to honour outstanding achievements in a society that has often overlooked women's contributions. However, the integrity of these awards is now at risk, challenged by political influences and changing cultural attitudes. The future of the Mahila Awards depends on society's ability to find a balance between fairness, recognition and inclusiveness. It is important how we honour women's achievements going forward. The Women's Awards have historically played a vital role in acknowledging and honoring female achievements in a variety of fields. Whether in literature, science, sports, or film, these awards have provided much-needed recognition in areas where women often face challenges. However, in our rapidly changing social and political climate, the significance and necessity of these awards are coming

under scrutiny. In the past, the Women's Awards represented a hard-earned acknowledgment of excellence in fields where female talent was often overlooked.

They were symbols not just of inclusion, but of resilience, determination, and pioneering success. Today, however, these awards are at risk of losing their integrity-not because of a decline in women's achievements, but because their original meaning of recognition is being blurred, politicised, or discarded altogether.

At a time when inclusivity is claimed to be embraced, the unique purpose of the Women's Awards risks backfiring. Some argue that gender-specific awards should no longer exist in a society that aims for equality. But does true equality come from eliminating platforms that once amplified women's voices? Rather than creating a level playing field, we are seeing a worrying trend: the mixing, repurposing, or outright removal of awards designed to honor women's contributions.

In today's cultural climate, where representation is often prioritised, some awards have shifted the focus from true achievements to a focus on

anship. PRIYANKA SAURABH, HISAR

## **Europe: The Unraveling of a Continent in Denial**

As the continent clings to outdated illusions of dominance, the war in Ukraine has exposed decades of strategic miscalculations and betrayals. Now, with Washington shifting priorities and internal fractures deepening, Europe faces a stark choice: reclaim sovereignty or fade into irrelevance



he spectacle that unfolded in the Oval Office of the White House last week was nothing short of a geopolitical farce-Volodymyr Zelensky, once the West's prized emissary of democracy, now reduced to a beleaguered supplicant before Donald Trump and his inner circle. The desperation in his voice was palpable as he attempted to navigate the most humiliating moment of his political career with forced composure. But Trump appeared to be sizing up the Ukrainian president for obsolescence, searching for a more pliable figure to serve American interests in Ukraine. The bitter irony of history plays out in cycles, and it seems Zelensky is now on the cusp of becoming the sacrificial lamb for the West's mounting failuresmuch like past puppets discarded when their usefulness waned.

Yet this moment is more than just an embarrassing episode for Ukraine's leader; it is emblematic of a much deeper malaise-a reckoning that Europe itself can no longer evade. The European continent, which for centuries positioned itself as the epicentre of enlightenment, democracy, and civilisation, is now teetering on the precipice of its catastrophic undoing. The Ukraine war, a conflict exacerbated by the very hands that claim to seek peace, is but a symptom of an existential crisis decades-if not centuries-in the making.

Europe's ruling elite, basking in the illusions of their hegemonic past, have orchestrated betrayal after betrayal, not only against external powers but also against their long-term survival. The great deception played on the USSR, for instance, was a masterstroke in Western duplicity. The fall of the Soviet Union was not an organic collapse but a carefully engineered dismantling, with Europe-hand in hand with the United States and Britain-undermining Moscow's geopolitical reach under the guise of partnership. Vladimir Putin himself, in his now-infamous 2007 Munich speech, laid bare the West's treachery: "What happened to the assurances given by Western partners after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact? Where are these declarations today? No one even remembers them. But I will allow myself to remind this audience what was said. I would like to quote the speech of NATO General Secretary Mr Woerner in Brussels on 17 May 1990. He said: 'The fact that we are ready not to place a NATO army outside of German territory gives the Soviet Union a firm security guarantee. Where are these guarantees?"

These assurances were nothing more than words on paper-meaningless in the grand chessboard of Western hegemony. NATO expanded, encircling Russia, reneging on every commitment, demonstrating that Europe had no intention of honouring its promises. The deliberate humiliation of Russia post-1991-the eastward march of NATO, the exploitation of Russian economic vul- the 19th century, ultimately disintegrated as



nerabilities under Western-advised 'shock therapy'-was an act of strategic subjugation. And yet, in an extraordinary twist of fate, the very forces that dismantled the USSR are now engineering their disintegration.

History is rife with European fragmentation, political betrayal, and self-inflicted wounds. The Treaty of Versailles, a document intended to secure peace after the First World War, instead laid the foundation for the Second, as European powersdrunk on their perceived victory-imposed punitive measures that sowed the seeds of future destruction. The division of Germany, the appeasement of Hitler at Munich, and the Cold War partitions across the continent all serve as testaments to the European elite's tendency to manufacture crises rather than resolve them.

The Napoleonic Wars saw Europe in constant flux, with alliances forged and broken in pursuit of hegemonic domination. The Concert of Europe, an attempt to stabilise the continent in



imperial ambitions and nationalist movements undermined its very premise. European unity has historically been an illusion-punctuated by moments of cooperation swiftly followed by bitter enmities. And yet, despite this bloodstained history, modern European leaders refuse to acknowledge the destructive cycle they are perpetuating in

Europe, shackled by its servitude to American interests, blindly followed Washington into every geopolitical quagmire-be it in Iraq, Libya, Syria, or now Ukraine-without considering the longterm consequences. The current conflict in Ukraine is not an aberration; it is the logical culmination of decades of strategic miscalculations. The EU, by choosing to weaponise Ukraine as a battering ram against Russia rather than seeking diplomatic equilibrium, has sealed its fate. Instead of charting an independent course towards true strategic autonomy, Europe doubled down on its vassal status to the United States, believing that this alignment would ensure perpetual dominance. But as the tides shift-with Washington's attention pivoting towards Asia and Trump poised to prioritise 'America First' over NATO's European commitments-the continent is waking up to a grim reality: it has no viable future without a fundamental realignment.

The past century has been a cycle of European duplicity-not only against Russia but also against the Global South. Latin America, Africa, and Asia suffered under colonial plunder and economic subjugation, all dressed in the language of progress. The European elite, now feigning moral righteousness in Ukraine, were the very architects of untold misery across the world. France still holds African nations in a monetary stranglehold through the CFA franc, Britain continues to exert

undue influence in its former colonies, and European financial institutions dictate the economic policies of entire regions. The same Europe that lectures Russia on sovereignty had no qualms about redrawing borders, toppling governments, and instigating wars to maintain its grasp on power.

But this project is now crumbling under its contradictions. The rise of multipolarity-with China, Russia, and the Global South forging alternative economic and political alliances-signals the twilight of Western supremacy. Europe, so accustomed to imposing its will on others, now finds itself adrift: incapable of self-reliance, bereft of true leadership, and, most damningly, out of time.

Macron's recent overtures regarding European nuclear deterrence-an implicit admission that American security guarantees are no longer sacrosanct-reveal a bloc scrambling for existential answers. Yet even now, the European elite refuse to acknowledge their culpability in this crisis. Instead of introspection, they escalate their reckless adventurism, funnelling billions into Ukraine in a deluded attempt to 'bleed Russia dry'-a strategy eerily reminiscent of Cold War-era hubris, but one that now imperils Europe itself.

As a result, inflation, energy crises, deindustrialisation, and mounting social unrest are becoming the new normal. The EU, having sanctioned itself into economic paralysis, is watching its industrial base erode while American corporations feast on the carcass of what was once the world's most formidable economic bloc. Germany, the economic engine of Europe, is faltering under the weight of its self-imposed dependence on American diktats. The Franco-German axislong heralded as the linchpin of European unityis fracturing under competing interests. Southern Europe resents Northern Europe's austerity, Eastern Europe is increasingly questioning Brussels' authority, and Britain has already jumped ship.

This is Europe's moment of reckoning. It must either embrace true emancipation-breaking free from the yoke of outdated political dominion, reconciling with Russia, and forging a future dictated by its sovereign interests-or continue its descent into irrelevance. The choice is stark. The EU can either learn from history or become its latest tragic casualty.

The lesson of the USSR should not be lost on Europe. Superpowers do not fall in a day-they rot from within, weakened by arrogance, strategic miscalculations, and a failure to adapt to shifting geopolitical realities. Europe stands at that precipice now. The only question that remains is whether it dares to step back before the abyss swallows it whole.

(The (The writer is a journalist and a policy analyst.

## How Three New Societies Are Shielding Agriculture from Global Trade Shocks

in global trade as the US tariff war disrupts supply chains and reshapes agricultural exports. Countries that once relied on established trade routes are now facing uncertainty, forcing them to look for alternative suppliers. In this evolving landscape, many fear that India's agriculture exports might be affected, but the reality is different. India is not just insulated from these shocks: it is positioned to thrive. The reason behind this resilience lies in a historic transformation—the creation of three new multistate

cooperative societies. These cooperatives are more than just policy initiatives, they are a strategic shield, ensuring that Indian farmers, agribusinesses, and exporters do not become victims of global trade volatility. Instead of fearing disruptions, India is using this moment to expand its global agricultural footprint, leveraging the power of cooperatives to make its exports stronger, more competitive, and more farmer-centric. The US has been engaged in a prolonged trade war, particularly with China and the European Union.

American tariffs on Chinese goods led to retaliatory measures, including high tariffs on US agricultural products such as soybeans, corn, and pork. These policies disrupted global supply chains, forcing importing countries to search for new suppliers. Historically, such trade wars create volatility, where smaller agricultural exporters struggle to compete with larger economies.

Many feared that India, which is still building its export infrastructure, might lose out in the global realignment. However, this time, India has turned the challenge into an opportunity—by strategically strengthening its cooperative economic framework to ensure that Indian agriculture emerges stronger, not weaker.

The government's bold decision to establish three new multistate cooperative societies has changed the game for Indian agriculture exports. These cooperatives are not just support structures; they are economic engines, ensuring that Indian farmers and agri-businesses are directly connected to global markets without dependency on middlemen or volatile international policies. The National Multi-State Cooperative Export Society is the backbone of India's new export strategy, enabling farmers to directly participate in exports, giving them better prices, and eliminating exploitative middlemen.

By standardising quality, improving logistics, and ensuring compliance with global trade requirements, this cooperative will make India a reliable alternative to disrupted supply chains elsewhere. The National Multi-State Cooperative Organic Society will capitalise on the growing demand for organic and chemical-free produce, helping Indian farmers secure premium prices

⊣he world is witnessing a major realignment in global trade. This structured, cooperativedriven supply chain will allow India to emerge as a leading supplier of organic food. The National Multi-State Cooperative Seed Society will strengthen both domestic productivity and India's growing seed export market by ensuring that farmers have access to high-quality, export-

> By reducing dependency on foreign seed corporations, India will minimise trade risks and position itself as a global leader in agricultural

inputs.Unlike previous trade disruptions where Indian farmers suffered from price fluctuations, this time, India is protected by a cooperative-led economic framework that ensures direct market access, diversified global partnerships, and better price stability. **ANAND** 

With cooperatives facilitating direct exports,

India's agricultural trade is less dependent on traditional intermediaries, making it immune to tariff shocks. While many countries struggle due to over-dependence on the S or China, India has expanded trade agreements with the Middle East, Africa, and Southeast Asia, ensuring multiple market opportunities. By focusing on processed and high-value agricultural goods, India is building a resilient trade model that

ithstands market fluctuations. Moreover, removing middlemen and securing better trade deals through cooperatives guarantees that farmers are not at the mercy of international price crashes. The rising global demand for organic and speciality agricultural imports further strengthens India's position as a key supplier, allowing the country to fill the supply gaps created by disrupted trade routes. While many countries are struggling with the effects of the US tariff war, India is building a future-proof agricultural

The creation of these three multistate cooperatives is not just a response to global trade challenges—it is a proactive step towards making India the world's next agricultural export powerhouse. By embracing cooperative-led trade, direct farmer participation, and a strong focus on value addition, India is proving that no tariff war can derail its agricultural success story.

Instead of being vulnerable to shifting trade policies, Indian farmers are now in control, charting a new course for global leadership in agriculture. This transformation is not just about increasing exports; it is about reshaping the very foundation of India's rural economy through cooperation. As the world looks for stable, reliable,

and high-quality agricultural suppliers, Indiapowered by its new cooperative revolution—stands ready to meet this demand. However, the success of this model will depend on the cooperation among cooperatives, ensuring that they work in harmony to create a seamless economic framework that benefits farmers at every level. The cooperative economic framework is not just about collective trade—it is about collective prosperity.

It is a movement that redefines how India participates in global trade, ensuring that its farmers are not just contributors but decision-makers in the global agricultural economy. By fostering deeper collaboration between cooperatives, ensuring knowledge-sharing, and building an ecosystem of trust, India is setting an example for the world on how cooperation can drive economic strength.

#### Conclusion

India's response to global trade disruptions is not just defensive—it is transformative. By establishing three powerful multistate cooperative societies, the country has ensured that its agricultural exports are resilient, competitive, and farmer-dri-

These cooperatives are more than economic instruments; they are a strategic shield that insulates Indian agriculture from tariff shocks and volatile global policies. Instead of relying on traditional supply chains, India is proactively building new trade alliances, particularly in the Middle East, Africa, and Southeast Asia. By focusing on high-value and organic products, streamlining logistics, and removing exploitative middlemen, the country is positioning itself as a reliable glob-

al supplier. The National Multi-State Cooperative Export, Organic, and Seed Societies collectively empower farmers, giving them direct market access and better price stability.

As the world searches for stable agricultural partners, India is emerging as a global leader, proving that cooperative-led trade is the key to sustainable growth. This is not just about increasing exports; it is about reshaping India's rural economy and ensuring that farmers are at the center of global trade. The cooperative movement is India's answer to economic resilience, making its agriculture future-proof.

This is not just a policy shift; it is a transformation that will define the future of Indian agriculture for decades to come. Cooperation is not just a principle—it is the foundation of India's new economic resilience.

Jai Kisan! Jai Cooperative Movement!

(The writer was a member of the high level MSP committee. Ministry of Agriculture. Views expressed are personal)

## The Qualities That **Shape Our Destiny**

RAJYOGI BRAHMKUMAR

NIKUNJ JI

not have any one of these divine qualities, then it means he/she has the opposite-the demoniacal qualities-which, as everyone knows, result in peacelessness, disease, sorrow, and suffering. Most people do not yet know that the absence of one or the other divine quality is the cause of one or the other kind of

human misery. They, therefore, try to find out its cause in the political, economic, cultural, or social system. The truth, however, is that positive or negative qualities manifest themselves through human behaviour or human activity, whether it be a political, economic, cultural, or social activity. One should, therefore, try to trace the negativity and work for positivity in human behaviour rather than search for the cause elsewhere.

The present society has made marvellous progress in various fields, but emotionally, it is much weaker.

Man has not been able to control his impulsiveness, ambitions, anger, and anxiety. There is thus a lot of imbalance created by rapid and great advancement in science and technology on the one hand and a lack or absence of parallel progress in emotional maturity, self-control, and ethical abilities on the other hand.

This has resulted in many problems that we are facing today. It can thus be said that the qualities in man determine the quality of his life and his peaceful and happy, or peaceless and sorrowful state. But it is a pity that man has been trying to find happiness in ruling over big territories, possessing a lot of property or wealth, and having a great many comforts.

He has, therefore, been making efforts to have economic prosperity even by adopting demoniac qualities. He has been trying to achieve success, name and fame, or political and economic power even if his soul had to give up the divine qualities and resort to negative or demoniacal qualities. This has led to the corruption of the soul, degeneration of society, and peacelessness and suffering of various kinds.

If we accept this analysis of our present predicament, then we have to admit that we have had a fall in moral values and divine qualities, and what we require today is to extricate and uplift ourselves from this situation with the help of education that can restore the divine qualities in us. Our other efforts to make the world a better place to live in would be of no avail unless and until there is a qualitative change in our nature and

Complete peace, it should be remembered,

ccording to scriptures, there are about 36 comes from complete purity or full-fledged divine qualities (36 Gunas), and if one does divine nature. Even a fraction of one demoniacal quality leads to a lessening of peace in that proportion, if not more.

It should also be noted that demoniacal qualities have linkages among themselves, even as divine qualities are connected among themselves

inner happiness.

and strengthen and sustain each other. So, liberation from one negative quality leads to at least some liberation from other negative qualities. Thus, even our little effort to inculcate, in ourselves, some divine qualities ultimately leads to a great overall change in our nature and results in enhancement in the quality of our

In the current state of the world, where materialism is often prioritized over spiritual growth, the loss of divine qualities has become more evident. People are increasingly finding themselves trapped in cycles of stress, competition, and dissatisfaction, despite their material success.

This is because material achievements, while significant, cannot replace the profound peace and contentment that come from living a life grounded in divine principles. The more we focus on accumulating wealth and power at the expense of our inner values, the more we drift away from true happiness. Moreover, demoniacal qualities such as greed, envy, and pride not only harm the individual but also have a ripple effect on society as a whole. They lead to corruption, injustice, and conflicts that disrupt social harmony and undermine collective well-being. In contrast, divine qualities like compassion, humility, and selflessness create an environment where mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation can flourish. This, in turn, lays the foundation for a society that is not only prosperous but also peaceful and just.

One must, therefore, in one's interest and in the interest of building a better world, pay attention to the task of restoration of divine qualities and elimination of devilish qualities or negative traits. In this lies not only the hope for our liberation but also the key to improving the overall conditions of the world.

To conclude, the true happiness and peace stem from divine qualities, not material success. The pursuit of wealth and power at the expense of inner values leads to suffering and societal decay. By cultivating compassion, humility, and selflessness, we can restore harmony, uplift humanity, and create a just, peaceful world for future generations.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and a popular columnist



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## IN BRIEF



#### **Rupee settles 10 paise higher** at 87.21 against US dollar

he rupee recovered from steep losses and settled with a gain of 10 paise at 87.21 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday as the American currency index fell to its fourmonth low level and crude oil prices also stayed subdued. A volatile trend in domestic equity markets and outflow of foreign capital amid fear of recession in the US and trade-related uncertainties restricted the recovery in the local currency, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 87.37 and touched the day's low of 87.39 against the greenback. The unit also strengthened up to 87.17 before ending the session at 87.21 (provisional) against the dollar, 10 paise higher compared to its previous closing level. On Monday, the rupee crashed 36 paise to close at 87.31 against the US dollar Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, attributed the rupee's recovery to weak tone in the US dollar index and a decline in the US 10-year treasury yields.



#### PhonePe crosses 60 cr registered users

intech major PhonePe has crossed 60 crore registered users on its platform, the company said on Tuesday. The milestone for the country's largest fintech firm coincides with its preparation for initial public and in the 10th year of its operations. "Reaching 60 crore registered users is a proud moment for all of us at PhonePe. Every milestone we achieve brings us a step closer to realising our vision of building a truly inclusive financial ecosystem. We will continue building homegrown solutions to meet the evolving needs of our users and help drive India's digital transformation," PhonePe Co-Founder and CEO Sameer Nigam. In the 10 years, the company has diversified its operations to wealth management, e-commerce with Pincode etc. The company was valued at USD 12 billion during its last funding round held in 2023. The PhonePe digital payments app, was launched in August 2016. As of March 2025, payments acceptance network spread across over 4 Crore



### CG gets Rs 450 cr order to make **products for Vande Bharat**

G Power and Industrial Solutions on Tuesday said it has secured an order of Rs 450 crore for supply of railway products for Vande Bharat trainsets. Apart from this purchase order, a separate 35-year service order is also a part of the long-term agreement, a company statement said. " CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd (CG) has entered into a long-term supply agreement with Kinet Railway Solutions Limited for supply and servicing of railway products including propulsion kits with motors, transformers and various other items," the company said in a BSE filing. The first purchase order, ranging between Rs 400-450 crore, has been secured by the company for supply of railway products for 10 Vande Bharat trainsets. Since its inception 86 years ago, CG has established a strong foothold in the railway industry, offering a comprehensive portfolio that includes traction machines & systems, rail transportation traction electronics, among others

## Govt working on 'template model' for setting up more airports: Naidu

PNS NEW DELHI

With increasing air traffic and expanding aircraft fleet, the government is planning to put in place a "template model" for setting up more airports, including those dedicated for cargo and flying training

organisations.
India, one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation

markets, currently has 159 operational airports while domestic airlines have placed orders for over 1,700 planes.

Against this backdrop, Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu on Tuesday said the ministry is "actively working on creating a tem-plate model where we can have

The idea is to have different categories of airports, including those for cargo and Flying Training Organisations

different kinds of airports".

On the sidelines of an event in the national capital, Naidu said the government is looking to create a multi-model system and that there are a lot of technical aspects involved.

To a query on whether more airports are set to be privatised, the minister said privatisation is a separate issue,

and the efforts are to create more airports,

"Land is a challenge in many places... we are trying to ensure air connectivity to all regions and wherever possible, we can taper down the land requirement... (for instance like having) a small airport where we can operate an ATR," he noted.

Domestic air passenger traf-fic stood at little over 16.13



crore in 2024 while the current fleet of domestic airlines is over 800 planes.

In response to queries related to certain recent incidents involving Air India, Naidu said whenever there are issues, those are discussed and feedback is also sought from the airline concerned.

"If there is any breaking of law, then we take action, penalise them and ensure that things happen in the right way. Whatever issues come up, we take necessary action," he

## India, US to hike mkt access, cut tariff, non-tariff barriers: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and the US are planning to negotiate a trade agreement and both countries will focus on increasing market access, reducing import duty and non-tariff barriers, and

and non-tariff barriers, and enhancing supply chain integration, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said that as on date, reciprocal tariffs have not been imposed by the US on India.

"Both countries plan to negotiate a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement. Both countries

Agreement. Both countries would focus on increasing market access, reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, and enhancing supply chain integration," he said. The US issued a memoran-

dum on reciprocal trade and tariffs on February 13, wherein the US Commerce Secretary and United States Trade Representative (USTR) are to take necessary actions to investigate harm to America from any non-reciprocal trade arrangements adopted by trading partners and provide a report with detailed proposed remedies for each trading partner. Tariffs are import duties imposed and collected by the government and paid by companies to bring foreign goods



into the country.

During the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington last month, India and the US announced their commitment to more than double the two-way commerce to USD 500 billion by 2030 and negotiate the first tranche of a mutually beneficial, multisector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by fall of

In 2023, the US-India bilateral trade in goods and services stood at USD 190.08 billion (USD 123.89 billion in goods and USD 66.19 billion in services trade). That year, India's merchandise exports to the US stood at USD 83.77 billion, while imports were USD 40.12 billion, leaving a trade gap of USD 43.65 billion in favour of India.

During 2021-24, America was India's largest trading partner. The US is one of the few countries with which India has a trade surplus.

Prasada also said that India continues to engage with the US to achieve enhancement and broadening of bilateral trade ties in a mutually beneficial and fair manner.

"This is an ongoing exercise and Indian exporters are working towards diversifying trade baskets and export destinations," he said.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal on Monday told a Parliamentary panel that nego-

tries are still on and no agreement on trade tariffs has been reached so far.

Barthwal briefed the Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs, on US President Donald Trump's recent claims that India has agreed to reduce its tariffs 'way down", while Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri briefed the committee on China and

Europe. In 2023-24, India exported engineering goods worth USD 17.62 billion to the US. The other major goods included electronics (USD 10 billion), gems and jewellery (USD 9.9 billion), petroleum products (USD 5.83 billion), textiles (USD 4.7 billion), marine products (USD 2.5 billion).

In a separate reply, the minister said India's tariff policy aims to regulate trade, protect domestic industries, and generate revenue through taxes on imported and exported goods.

Recent reforms have focused on streamlining the tariff structure and facilitating trade," Prasada said.

India is a member of the WTO (World Trade Organization) and bound to its maximum tariff that can be applied on a product category. The applied tariffs are generally below the bound tariff for a given commodity

## Sensex, Nifty recoup losses to settle almost flat

#### IndusInd Bank tanks 27pc on derivatives scare

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex recovered most of its losses to close marginally down in a volatile session on Tuesday even as private lender IndusInd Bank slumped 27 per cent and global markets declined on US

recession worries.
The 30-share BSE Sensex settled down by 12.85 points or 0.02 per cent at 74,102.32 with half of its constituents closing lower. The index opened sharply down and slumped further 451.57 points or 0.61 er cent to 73,663.60 in early deals following weak global trends. The barometer later recovered losses to close almost flat.

Analysts said late-buying in select blue-chips such as ICICI Bank, Reliance and Airtel helped recover losses.

The broader Nifty of NSE advanced 37.60 points or 0.17 per cent to close at 22,497.90, rebounding from the day's lows. The index rose by 61.8 points or 0.27 per cent to hit a



high of 22,522.10.

Shares of IndusInd Bank plummeted by more than 27 per cent to close at Rs 655.95 apiece on BSE after the private discrepancies in its derivatives portfolio.

During the day, the stock of Mumbai-based lender tanked 28 per cent to hit a 52-week low of Rs 649 per share. Additionally, the shares emerged as the major laggard on the 30-share BSE barome-

Infosys, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, Zomato, Hindustan Unilever, Power Grid, Axis Bank,

UltraTech Cement, Adani Ports, and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards in the Sensex pack.

On the other hand, Sun Bharti Airtel, HCL Technologies, Maruti Suzuki India, Larsen & Toubro, Reliance Industries, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Titan were the gainers.

"Despite significant sell-offs in the US and other Asian markets driven by concerns over an economic slowdown caused by the ongoing trade war, the domestic market is showing signs of a gradual

## Gold edges up to Rs 88,790 per 10 g

#### Silver drops by Rs 350

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Snapping its three-day losing run, gold rebounded to Rs 88,790 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid firm global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity rose by Rs 40 to Rs 88,790 per 10 grams from the last close of Rs 88,750

per 10 grams.
Gold of 99.5 per cent also went up by Rs 40 to Rs 88,390 per 10 grams.

However, silver prices eclined by Rs 350 to Re 98,900 per kg. The white metal  $\,$ had settled at Rs 99,250 per kg on Monday.

Comex gold futures for April delivery rose by USD 19.30 or 0.67 per cent to USD 2,918.70 per ounce in the global markets. Meanwhile, spot gold advanced 0.82 per cent to USD 2,912.43 per

"Gold traded higher as dollar index weakness and escalating tariff concerns in the US

signalled economic uncertainty. Safe-haven buying remained strong, with ETF inflows supporting the bullish sentiment," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said.



Comex silver futures in the Asian market hours traded 1.44 per cent higher at USD 33

According to HDFC Securities' Senior Analyst of Commodities Saumil Gandhi, market participants continue to monitor President Donald Trump's comments and assess how the tariff battle will play out in the near future.

## '1 million homes solarised under PM Surya Ghar'

PNS NEW DELHI

Over 1 million households have been solarised under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana so far, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said on Tuesday. The PM Surya Ghar: Muft

Bijli Yojana is the world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative transforming India's energy landscape with a bold vision to supply solar power to one crore households by March 2027. "India achieves a historic

milestone in solar energy! Under the visionary leadership of PM @narendramodi ji, the @PMSuryaGhar Muft iili Yojana has empowered 10 lakh homes with solar energy, driving a new era of sustainability, affordability, and self-reliance," Joshi said in an X post.

Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 15, 2024 with a budget outlay of Rs 75,021 crore, the initiative aims to provide free electricity to households by facilitating the installation of rooftop solar

## Airtel, SpaceX join hands for satcom service

PNS NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel on Tuesday said it has signed an agreement with Elon Musk-led SpaceX to offer the US-based company's high-speed internet services under Starlink to its customers in India.

The development assumes significance as Sunil Mittal-led Bharti Airtel was at loggerheads with Starlink over issues related to licence fees and spectrum pricing for satellitebased internet service providers. Airtel is also the single-largest shareholder with a 21.2 per cent share in Starlink's rival firm Eutelsat OneWeb.

OneWeb has received permission to start operations in India and is waiting for spectrum allocation to roll out ser-

Bharti Airtel Managing Director and Vice Chairman Gopal Vittal said that working with SpaceX to offer Starlink services to Airtel customers in India is a significant milestone and further demonstrates the company's commitment to next-generation satellite con-

collaboration enhances our ability to bring



world-class high-speed broadband to even the most remote parts of India, ensuring that every individual, business, and community has reliable internet. Starlink will complement and enhance Airtel's suite of products to ensure reliable and affordable broadband for our Indian customers wherever they live and work," Vittal said.

Airtel said that its agreement with SpaceX is subject to receiving authorisations to sell Starlink's satellite communications-based services in India, Airtel said in a state-

The agreement will enable Airtel and SpaceX to further explore how Starlink could complement and expand Airtel's offerings, and how Airtel's expertise in the Indian market could complement SpaceX's direct offerings to consumers and businesses.

Vijay Harsh Jha, Founder and

CEO of property brokerage firm VS

Realtors, said the NCR market has

become a hot destination with

demand for luxury homes at an all-

"The infrastructure development

around the National Capital and the

adherence to compliance due to

RERA have helped the real estate sec-

tor become a trusted investment

tool for income generation and

As per the PropEquity data, hous-

ing sales in Mumbai rose 13 per cent

#### **India, Qatar sign MoU for** economic, financial cooperation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Qatar have signed an agreement to promote and develop mutual collaboration in publicprivate partnership framework and investment, use of financing tools, as well as economic policies,

the finance ministry said on Tuesday. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on financial and economic cooperation was signed between the two countries on February 18 during the visit of Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani to India.

#### SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF T.G LIMITED Short Tender Notice No.08/2024-25

SLNa. 1 for Shifting at OTRs (SC Reserved), 2 for 1 WV Interlinking Line (ST Reserve at Champapad Distalon and 3 Enaction of New 33KV Feeder, 5 Supply of Stationary are Printing Nerts, 6 Supply of LT LINE SPACERS 3P-4WL (SU19027) at Circle Office and construction of FOC and Store Room of Injapus Section Office at Executive Engineer Ovil RR Zone-Il Division and Extension After SRNR Op Div7 Sp./io 03/24-25/SC Reserved at Samornagae Division. Further details Please visit www.tgsouthernpower.org Contact Phone No. 7961093649. Sdl-Superintending Engineer/Elec-OFF R.O. Ha: 1038-PRICLIGANTHISSINGS, Dr. 11-45-2025

## SHORT TENDER NOTICE

No. 08/EE/PDSZ- I/GHMC/2024-25, Dismantling of (47) Nos of affected Properties under Road Widening for propose 40 feet & 60 feet wide road from Bada Bazar junction to Bhavani Nagar main roa (Reserved for Waddera), Amount: Rs. 37.50 Lakhs. Bid doc. Download Start Date: 10.03.2025 @ 04.00 P.M., Download End : Date: 19.03.2025 @ 03.30 P.M. Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: Date: 19.03.2025 @ 04.00 P.M., Bid Opening: Date: 19.03.2025 @ 04.30 P.M., Name & Address Officer Cell: Sri. B Gopal, FE. PD SZ-I, GHMC, Abids, Hyderabad. 7995009112. For further details can e seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in

DIPR R.D.No: 11278-PRICL/ADVT/1/2824-25, Dt. 11-83-3025

Sd/- Executive Engiste Project Division SZ-I, GHMC

#### 🕝 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🚜

TENDER NOTICE NIT No.: 60/EE-28/SBZ/GHMC/2024-25

Name of the Work: Maintenance works, Others-01, Estimate amount: Rs. 9.90 akhs; Bid Submission Start date & Time / Bid Submission of Closing Date & ime: 11-03-2025 & 03.30 pm / 18-03-2025 & 03.30 pm, Name & Address officer Cell No.: Executive Engineer, 9154796465, 7331189186. For furthe details can be sent at e-procurement @ http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Enginee

DIPR R.O.No: 11251-PR/CL/ADVI/1(3834-25, DL 11-03-2025

#### Gurugram rose to Rs 1,06,739 crore in 2024 from Rs 64,314 crore in the

#### PNS NEW DELHI Housing sales across 9 major cities rose 12 per cent annually to Rs 6.73 lakh crore during the last year on high last year. demand especially for luxury homes,

according to PropEquity. Real estate data analytic firm PropEquity on Tuesday released data on housing sales of top 9 cities in terms of value for the 2024 calendar As per the data, total housing sales

to Rs 6,73,000 crore last year from Rs 6,00,143 crore in 2023. Among cities, housing sales in

across top 9 cities grew 12 per cent

preceding year. PropEquity did not mention the name of real estate companies that achieved strong sales in Gurugram

However, property brokers in the Gurugram area said DLF, Signature Global, Godrej Properties, M3M India along with its group firm Smartworld Developers, Elan Group, ATS Group and Krisumi Corporation

were among the top sellers.
In Delhi-NCR overall, PropEquity said the sales of residential properties  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1\right$ rose 63 per cent to Rs 1,53,000 crore in 2024 from Rs 94,143 crore in the preceding year.

Samir Jasuja, Founder & CEO of PropEquity, said, "In Delhi-NCR,



Housing sales in 9 cities rise to Rs 6.73 lakh cr in 2024

the weighted average sales price has gone up to Rs 12,469 per sq ft." "Rising prices and demand buoy-

ance in Delhi-NCR is due to the robust infrastructure development, ample employment opportunities as is evident from Delhi-NCR's rising dominance in office leasing," he said. With the new government in place in Delhi, and MPD 2041 likely to see the light of the day, Jasuja said the real estate market will further see a surge with entry of new supply.

growing corporate presence and

Gurugram-based property consultant InfraMantra co-founder Garvit Tiwari said, "The Gurugram market performed extremely well in 2024. The city within a short span, has emerged as the most preferred real estate destination for residential and commercial development."

Gurugram boasts of good returns leading to greater interest from

to Rs 1.38 lakh crore last year from Rs 1.22 lakh crore in the 2023 calen-

wealth creation," he said.

investors, he added.

time high.

# Hyderabad Contract Contr

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Wednesday March 12, 2025

## 'MARATHI MUSIC IS READY FOR A GLOBAL BREAKTHROUGH' **MUSICIAN AND COMPOSER** HYPERPOP. HE SHARES DHIRU, IN AN EXCLUSIVE **INSIGHTS FROM HIS TIME** CHAT WITH THE PIONEER **LEARNING UNDER CHARLIE OPENS UP ABOUT HIS PUTH, THE EVOLVING LATEST INDEPENDENT LANDSCAPE OF** MARATHI MUSIC, MARATHI TRACK, JEVLIS KA?, A AND WHY HE **PLAYFUL YET BELIEVES REGIONAL SOUNDS CAN HEARTFELT FUSION OF** RETRO FUNK, **TRANSCEND DANCE-POP** LANGUAGE AND **BARRIERS**

**TEJAL SINHA** tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

arathi music has seen a fresh wave of innovation in recent years, with artists blending traditional roots with global sounds. One such artist leading this evolution is Dhiru (formerly known as Dhirendra Mulkalwar), a seasoned music composer and sound designer who has worked on films like *Uri-The Surgical Strike* and *Article 15*. Now, stepping into the

Surgical Strike and Article 15. Now, stepping into the indie music scene, he presents Jevlis Ka², a track that transforms a simple everyday Marathi phrase into a dynamic, danceable pop anthem.

In an exclusive conversation with The Pioneer.

In an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer*, Dhiru takes us through his journey with *Jevlis Ka?*, the inspiration behind the track, and his vision for Marathi music on a global stage.

For Dhiru, Jevlis Ka? is more than just a song—it's a feeling, a playful yet heartfelt expression of love and care. The phrase itself, meaning "Have you eaten?" is something we hear daily, often from the people who matter most to us. "With this track, I wanted to take something so deeply ingrained in our culture and reimagine it in a way that feels modern, fresh and universally relatable," he explains. Sonically, the song blends retro funk, dance-pop and hyperpop influences while remaining distinctly Marathi at its core. "The track carries a vibrant, youthful energy—something instantly infectious yet comforting, much like the phrase Jevlis Ka? itself."

Dhiru has long been composing contemporary Marathi music, always striving to blend global influences with the richness of the language. A particularly transformative experience came when he attended a course with international pop artist Charlie Puth. "I had the opportunity to collaborate with 30 tal-

"I had the opportunity to collaborate with 30 talented music producers from across the world. As part of the program, we were each required to create two songs and I made a conscious decision to write and compose in Marathi while ensuring that the production carried a truly international appeal," he recalls.

However, due to his commitments to film and web series scores, it took him until 2025 to finally release his own independent music. Fortunately, the timing coincided with the success of recent indie Marathi hits like Gulabi Sadi and Taamdi Chaamdi, proving that audiences were eager to embrace new sounds in Marathi music. "The success of these songs reaffirmed that there is a vibrant audience open to fresh sonic directions in Marathi pop," Dhiru says. "It is truly exciting to contribute to this evolving landscape and to share my own artistic perspective with listeners." With songs like Gulabi Sadi and Taamdi Chaamdi gaining traction beyond Marathi-speaking audiences, there's a clear indication that regional music can transcend language barriers. "Music is an emotion before it is a language," Dhiru asserts. "A great melody, an engaging rhythm, and a strong sense of identity can make a song resonate with listeners far beyond its linguistic boundaries." Citing examples from Punjabi music's global rise, Tamil and Telugu tracks making waves internationally, and even K-pop's universal appeal, Dhiru believes Marathi music has the same potential. "If we continue to innovate while preserving our authenticity, our sounds will travel far beyond Maharashtra, connecting with people purely through musical energy and

The idea for *Jevlis Ka?* had been lingering in Dhiru's mind for a long time. "I kept hearing the phrase in a rhythmic, almost melodic way. That's when I knew it had the potential to be the heart of a song."

He built the song around this hook, infusing it with a retro funk groove and dance-pop energy to give it a fresh and modern feel. "The biggest challenge was making the lyrics feel effortless and natural and Akshay Shinde did a brilliant job of capturing that conversational charm," he adds. From composition to production, the process was about striking the right balance—keeping it youthful and dynamic while staying true to its Marathi essence. "In the end, Jevlis Ka? became exactly what I envisioned: a fun, catchy and heartfelt song that feels both new and familiar."

Dhiru's love for funk played a major role in shaping the sound of *Jevlis Ka?*. "The sheer groove of funk is irresistible—it makes anyone want to move or tap their feet." he explains

For this song, he wanted to capture that energy while blending nostalgia with a futuristic, contemporary twist. "That's why I combined disco's retro vibe with the playfulness of hyperpop, creating a sound that feels both familiar and exciting." The song naturally took on a bubblegum pop vibe, which also extended to its visual aesthetics, including the album artwork. "Music can act as a time capsule, carrying elements of nostalgia while embracing contemporary sounds. That's what *Jevlis Ka?* represents—a blend of familiar warmth and refreshing newness."

Having worked extensively on film scores, Dhiru acknowledges the stark difference between composing for films and creating independent music. "Film music exists to serve a narrative—it's a collaborative process where every note is shaped by the story, the characters, and the director's vision," he says.

characters, and the director's vision," he says.

Independent music, however, is boundless. "It's entirely personal, which is both liberating and daunting. With *Jevlis Ka?*, I had no external framework guiding me; I had to create my own world from scratch. This freedom allows for immense creativity, but it also demands a level of self-discipline—to know when to refine, when to experiment, and most importantly, when to stop and say. "This is it.""

Dhiru draws inspiration from Marathi music's deep history, from 'Abhangs' and 'Natyasangeet' to 'Tamasha' and 'Povadas'. "If we look closely, all these folk forms have one thing in common—they reflect the language and spirit of the common people in their respective eras." he notes.

With Jevlis Ka?, he wanted to bring that essence into today's world. "My approach is not to replace tradition but to build upon it—creating a sound that feels fresh while still carrying a sense of familiarity."

Dhiru is optimistic about Marathi music's future.

Dhiru is optimistic about Marathi music's future. "Artists like Ajay-Atul, AV Prafullachandra, Kratex, Sambata, Rocksun, Nihar Shembekar and Sanju Rathod are pushing boundaries and redefining the Marathi soundscape," he says.

"With audiences becoming more open to diverse sounds and the accessibility of global influences, the space for creative experimentation is growing. This evolution is paving the way for a bold, contemporary Marathi music scene that stays true to its roots while embracing new sonic landscapes." At its core, Jevlis Ka? is about simplicity. "Even though it's just a small phrase, it carries warmth and care, forming the foundation of deeper relationships with our loved ones," Dhiru reflects. By blending familiar emotions with a fresh, modern sound, Jevlis Ka? creates a sense of nostalgia while still feeling exciting and new. "I believe it's this simplicity and authenticity that strike an emotional chord with people," he says.

As Dhiru embarks on this new chapter in independent music, he remains committed to his artistic vision—staying true to Marathi identity while embracing the limitless possibilities of sound. *Jevlis Ka?* is just the beginning, and if this track is any indication, his journey in indie pop is one to watch.

# Sandeep Kewlani on 'Edge-of-the-seat thrills' & 'heartfelt thrills of *Sky Force*'

PNS|HYDERABAD

andeep Kewlani's directorial debut, *Sky Force*, is more than just a film—it's an immersive experience that brings the bravery and sacrifices of the Indian Air Force to life. With Akshay Kumar leading the cast, this high-stakes action drama has taken audiences by storm, making its mark as a standout entry in the 100-crore club.

Kewlani was captivated by the idea of *Sky Force* because there have been very few films about the Air Force in Indian cinema. The film offered a unique opportunity to explore the depth and intensity of an Air Force officer's life—showcasing not just their high-octane missions but also their deep-rooted sense of duty, camaraderie and the emotional sacrifices they make. "At its core, the film reflects the powerful mantra, "We never leave one of us behind.' We wanted to bring that emotional depth to the screen," he explains in a chat with *The Pioneer*. To enhance realism, the team incorporated real aircraft sounds, making sure the audience could feel the sheer power of high-speed jets and the intensity of the situations the officers navigate.

But more than just an action-packed spectacle, *Sky Force* is an emotional journey—one that pays homage to the unsung heroes who serve the nation.

For Kewlani, finding the right balance between action and emotion was crucial. "The film is emotionally driven, focusing on sacrifice and the grief of families, while the action sequences—especially the air combat—highlight the risks and courage of the Air Force."

One of the most poignant aspects of the film is its exploration of the families left behind when an officer goes missing in action. Inspired by the real-life story of A.B. Devayya, Sky Force captures the harrowing uncertainty that families endure—waiting endlessly for answers that may never come. "The goal was to create a thrilling yet deeply moving experience, where the emotion stays with the audience long after the action ends," Kewlani says. Developing the characters was a challenge, especially with

Developing the characters was a challenge, especially with limited information available on real-life pilots like O.P. Taneja, A.V. Devayya and Pakistani pilot Amjad Hussain. To ensure authenticity, the filmmakers collaborated with Air Force officers, including Wing Commander Abhijit Gokhale, who provided valuable insights into the officers' behavior, protocols, and body language. "We wanted to ensure that the emotional arcs felt natural and relatable," Kewlani says. Akshay Kumar's character, for instance, carries a certain vulnerability—mirroring real-life details like O.P. Taneja's chain-smoking habit, which Kumar accurately portrayed using herbal cigarettes.

The families of Taneja and Devayya were deeply moved by the authenticity, expressing gratitude that their loved ones were represented with such care and accuracy.

A film of this scale demanded top-tier visual effects and action choreography. The team conducted extensive research on aircraft capabilities—understanding the strengths and weaknesses of different fighter jets.

strengths and weaknesses of different fighter jets.

Collaborating with action director Craig (a pilot himself) and Wing Commander Gokhale, the filmmakers choreographed the aerial combat scenes with precision. The visual effects were handled by industry giants DNEG and Prime Focus, bringing Hollywood-level expertise to

In a candid conversation with *The Pioneer*, Sandeep Kewlani, the director of the blockbuster film Sky Force, shares the inspiration behind the movie, the meticulous research that shaped its authenticity and the challenges of bringing largescale aerial combat sequences to the big screen. Kewlani's passion for storytelling and his dedication to honoring the heroes of the Indian Air **Force shine through in this** exclusive chat

the project. With shoot locations spanning London, Hyderabad and Mumbai, the team worked tirelessly to create action sequences that felt dynamic and real. "A dedicated team of 1,000-1,500 people worked behind the scenes to bring these intense moments to life," Kewlani reveals. In today's fast-paced entertainment industry, holding the audience's attention is a challenge. Kewlani ensured *Sky Force* was a tight, gripping experience. "We kept the film at a crisp two hours, knowing that attention spans are shorter. Every scene—whether action-packed or emotional—was strategically positioned to maintain momentum."

From the screenplay to the sound design, every element was fine-tuned to keep viewers immersed in the story. "The goal was to make the audience feel the reality of the film, keeping them captivated from start to finish."

Filming *Sky Force* came with its fair share of challenges. One of the most difficult sequences was the high-intensity train scene shot in Jaisalmer. With a moving train, bullets flying and an aircraft circling above, coordinating the action was a logistical nightmare. The extreme heat added to the struggle, with half the crew hospitalised on the first day. "The climax was also a massive challenge. We had only one day to shoot it, so we used 5-6 cameras to capture every angle. There was immense pressure, but Akshay Kumar's performance.

especially in the emotional moments with Tabby's story, made it all worthwhile." When the audience gave a standing ovation, it was clear that all the hard work had Akshay Kumar's involvement was instrumental in bringing *Sky Force* to life. "He's naturally jovial and keeps the atmosphere light, but his performance in *Sky Force* was intense and deeply emotional," Kewlani shares. Kumar's ability to balance action and subtle nuance made his portrayal one of his most powerful to date.

His return to action films post-COVID was highly anticipated, and his star power played a crucial role in drawing audiences back to theatres. "His loyal fanbase ensured strong engagement, reaffirming his reputation for delivering box-office hits." Making *Sky Force* was a relentless journey. "We worked tirelessly for 3-4 years, dedicating every day—including Sundays—to perfecting this film," Kewlani says.

He credits the film's producers—Dinesh Vijan, Jyoti Deshpande, Poonam Vijan and Amar Kaushik—for their unwavering support. Special mention goes to his codirector Abhishek, first AD Sunil Shetty, assistant director Jeet Desai, cinematographers Santha, action director Parvez Sheikh, costume designer Shivank Kapoor, and the VFX team at Prime Focus.

"It was surreal to have our producers trust us with such a big-budget project," he adds. The cast, which includes Nimrat Kaur, Sara Ali Khan, Veer Pahariya, Sharad Kelkar and Manish Choudhury, also contributed significantly to making the film a reality.

Kewlani was especially impressed with Veer Pahariya, who made his industry debut with *Sky Force*. "He brought a unique depth to his character, and I have no doubt he will go on to achieve great things in the industry."



## Optimising resource allocation in large-scale construction projects



he construction industry is the backbone of infrastructural and economic growth across countries. As a leading engineering, procurement, and construction company, B L Kashyap & Sons has witnessed firsthand how the effective allocation of resources can determine the success or failure of large-scale construction projects. In an era where timelines are stringent, labour is scarce, costs are scrutinised and sustainability is non-negotiable, optimising resource allocation is no longer a choice but a necessity.

Large-scale construction projects are intricate ecosystems involving a multitude of variable resources—human capital, materials, machinery and finances. Each of these resources is interdependent, and their mismanagement can create bottlenecks, leading to delays, budget overruns, and compromised quality. A major challenge is the dynamic nature of construction projects. Weather conditions, unforeseen ground realities, labour shortage or fluctuating material costs can disrupt even the most meticulously planned schedules. To navigate these challenges, resource allocation must be adaptive and data driven.

Technology is slowly emerging as a game-changer in

optimising resource allocation. Tools like Building Information Modelling (BIM), Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software, and predictive analytics are slowly transforming how construction companies plan and execute projects. By creating detailed 3D models, tracking resources in real time and leveraging historical data for forecasting, companies can enhance coordination among stakeholders, minimise wastage and anticipate resource requirements at every stage. These advancements ensure that decisions are informed and timely, reducing inefficiencies and ensuring better outcomes. The effective implementation of any technology is fundamentally reliant upon the quality of its

While technology plays a pivotal role, the human element remains irreplaceable. Skilled workers are the backbone of any project. Investing in training and upskilling ensures that the workforce is not only efficient but also adaptable to new technologies and methodologies. Fostering a culture of collaboration and transparency among teams improves communication, reducing the chances of errors and misallocation. Empowering teams to take ownership of their tasks often leads to better resource utilisation and successful project execution.

In today's context, optimising resources goes beyond efficiency; it's about sustainability. The construction industry significantly impacts the environment, and responsible resource allocation can mitigate this. Adopting green building practices, sourcing materials locally and utilising renewable energy sources ensure that projects align with environmental goals. Recycling construction waste and reusing materials not only reduce costs but also

minimise the ecological footprint. Sustainability is not just a responsibility but also an opportunity to create long-term value for customers and communities.

Optimising resource allocation also has a

profound impact on business performance. Effective resource management ensures projects are delivered on time and within budget, which directly contributes to profitability. Furthermore, it enhances client satisfaction by meeting expectations reliably, fostering trust and repeat business. By reducing wastage and improving operational efficiency,

companies can allocate savings

towards innovation and growth. In a competitive market, these advantages enable businesses to maintain an edge while also attracting investments by demonstrating a

commitment to responsible and efficient practices.

Neglecting resource optimisation can have significant downfalls. Poorly managed resources can lead to frequent delays, inflated costs, reduced quality, ultimately harming the project's reputation and profitability. Over time, this can erode client trust, affect team morale and tarnish a company's brand. Moreover, the inability to adapt to unforeseen challenges can result in resource wastage, missed opportunities and non-compliance with sustainability goals, putting long-term growth at risk.

Reflecting on our experience at B L Kashyap, it is evident that the early planning and assessment of risks has played a crucial role in resource optimisation and successful commissioning of our projects. Real-time monitoring and flexibility in resource allocation help address unexpected challenges without disrupting project timelines. Continuous improvement through post-project analysis ensures that lessons learned contribute to better planning and execution in the future. Collaborating with all project stakeholders to define sustainability goals and assess their environmental, costs and effectiveness, fosters transparency, ultimately benefiting the project. These practices underline the importance of adaptability and foresight in managing resources effectively.

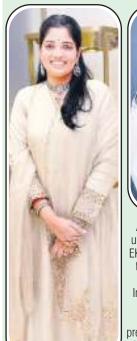
As India's construction industry grows, the scale and complexity of projects will continue to increase. Companies must embrace innovation and adaptability to stay

competitive. At B L Kashyap & Sons, we have consistently strived to set benchmarks in resource optimisation, ensuring that our projects are delivered on time and within budget while positively impacting the communities we serve. Optimising resource allocation is not just about managing assets; it is about creating value. By leveraging technology, nurturing skilled teams, and prioritising

uring skilled teams, and prioritising sustainability, the construction industry can build a culture leading to a future that is efficient, resilient and responsible.

(The author, Saurabh Kashyap, is the Director Operations, at B L Kashyap







Ananth Diamonds is proud to unveil its latest masterpiece, the EKAM Collection, a tribute to the timeless beauty, strength, and individuality of every woman. Inspired by the belief that every woman is as unique as a gemstone and as rare and precious as a diamond, the EKAM Collection celebrates femininity, elegance, and heritage.











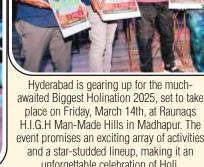




The Telangana Tea Championship 2025, in its 4th edition, was held at the HICC Novotel in Hyderabad, showcasing 187 unique teas brewed by women participants, highlighting their creativity and passion for tea. Distinguished guests such as Abyasachi Ghosh, Special Chief Secretary of the Animal Husbandry Department, Karuna Gopal, President of the Foundation for Futuristic Cities, and several industry leaders attended the event, which featured 14 rounds of tea brewing.











To promote women's empowerment, Siri Institute of Painting organized an art exhibition under the guidance of Siri Swami, which was held at Jawaharlal Nehru Fine Arts & Architecture University (JNAFAU) in Masab Tank, Hyderabad. The event, which celebrated the creativity of women, was attended by Lions Club District 320A Vice Governor Dr. Mahendra Kumar Reddy and Dr. Padma







Swadesha special celebration honoring Women Champions of Craft & Creative Traditions at its flagship 20,000 sq. ft. store in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. Under the visionary leadership of Nita Ambani, Swadesh continues its mission of preserving and promoting India's artisanal legacy, providing a platform for master craftswomen to showcase their artistry and share their inspiring journeys.



TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud praised the initiative to recognize and honor individuals who have made significant contributions to community welfare and service. On Tuesday, a wall poster related to the Sports Excellence Awards was unveiled in his office as part of the Rising Telangana CSR Awards, organized under the auspices of JMG Groups. The awards aim to recognize those who have rendered exceptional services in the fields of education, medicine, sports, business, and women's empowerment.

#### **ARCHIE**







## **CALVIN AND HOBBES**

LIGHTNING FLASHES! THUNDER RUMBLES ACROSS THE SKY!





HORRIBLY, CALVIN HAS BEEN





#### **GARFIELD**







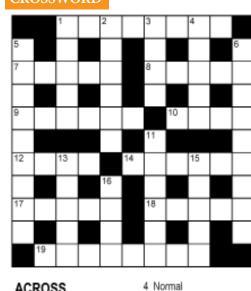
#### **REALITY CHECK**



#### SPEED BUMP



#### **CROSSWORD**







## **GINGER MEGGS**







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#### ACROSS Calm and quiet

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- 9 Oboe player
- 10 Applaud

an audience

- 12 An area of cut grass
- 14 A box for a body
- 17 Once more
- 18 Heartbeat 19 Practise something
- before doing it for



5 A student might carry

6 Someone who makes

things out of wood

11 A reddish-brown metal

13 The largest mammal

this (6,3)

15 Untrue

16 Leg joint



1 A keyboard instrument 2 From one side to the other

3 Simple to do

## Hrithik's leg injury delays dance number with Jr NTR in *War 2*

NTR, who had been stationed in

Mumbai for the filming, is now

returning to Hyderabad because of

the delay, a source revealed. Most

sequences and dialogue portions,

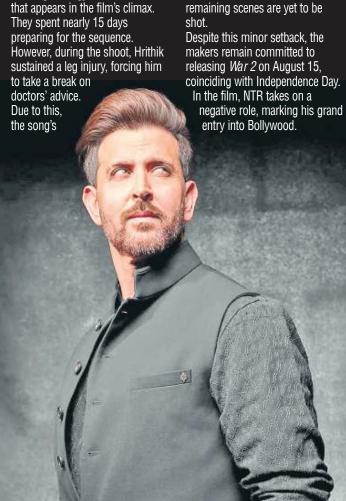
has already been completed. Only

this dance number and a few

of the film, including its action

r NTR is all set to make his Hindi film debut with *War 2*, starring alongside Hrithik Roshan. Directed by Ayan Mukerji and produced by Aditya Chopra, the film has been generating a lot of

NTR and Hrithik started rehearsing for a high-energy dance number that appears in the film's climax.



## 'SUCCESS OF KA WARRANTS A PAY HIKE'

**SURESH KAVIRAYANI** sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

ctor Kiran Abbavaram is known for speaking from the heart without overthinking his words. In a candid conversation, he shared insights about his upcoming film *Dilruba*, the current state of cinema, his remuneration,

upcoming projects, and more.
Following the success of KA, Kiran is now gearing up for Dilruba, co-starring Rukshar Dhillon and directed by Vishwa Kanu. Set to release on March 14, the film is a fresh attempt at a new-age commercial entertainer. "We have already revealed a lot about the story in different interactions," Kiran shared, adding that the film respects women and will resonate strongly with female audiences. "I am confident that the female audience will enjoy this film a lot," he asserted.

Reflecting on KA,

**Actor Kiran** 

**Abbavaram speaks** 

his heart without any

about his upcoming

present scenario of

the films, about his

upcoming projects

and many other

topics...

film *Dilruba*,

where he opened up about his personal life, childhood struggles, and emotional experiences, Kiran dismissed the idea that it was a strategy to gain sympathy. "I don't like the word 'sympathy." We took a lot of risks to reach this point. When I spoke about my mother and her struggles, people called it a sympathy move, but I disagree. It wasn't sympathy that worked for the film-it was the content," he explained. "If sympathy could make a film collect Rs 50 crores, I'd sit and cry for hours, but that's not how it

works," he added.

When asked why he appeared more relaxed about *Dilruba* compared to *KA*, Kiran admitted, "To be honest, my mindset was different a month ago. But after watching Dilruba, I became confident that it will entertain the audience." He acknowledged that recent films like Sankranthiki Vasthunnam and Dragon had similar narratives involving an ex-girlfriend taking care of the protagonist, but he is confident in Dilruba's unique storytelling. "I accepted this project before those films were even announced. While shooting, we learned about their stories and watched them, but our film is narrated in a completely fresh way, so there's no comparison," he said.

Addressing whether he has increased his remuneration after KA's success, Kiran responded frankly, "Yes, I have to hike my salary. Earlier, a few thousand rupees were enough, but now expenses have risen into lakhs, so it's necessary." He also shared his concerns about the current state of cin-

ema, saying, "The industry is going through a tough phase. I hope things improve, but right now, cinema depends heavily on the theatrical business. If a film does well in theaters, only then does it succeed. I believe everyone needs to focus on creating quality cinema—otherwise, only ten to fifteen films will perform well in theatres." With *Dilruba* releasing during

exam season, Kiran acknowledged the risks involved. "Yes, I am a bit nervous about the openings, but I couldn't delay the release any further it should have been released earlier," he said. Speaking about the success of re-released films, he remarked, "Those films have massive fan bases. Their re-releases feel like a reunion, where audiences relive memo-

ries from the past."
When asked about actors calling the straight forward from shots in the industry, Kiran clarified, don't know thoughts. He speaks about others, but for me, I like to be involved wherever necessary. Since my name is associated with the film, I feel responsible. remuneration, his However, the producer oversees everything and I respect that it's because thanks to producers that I've come this far." His experi-

> has sharpened his judgment. "Now, I can assess a director's narration. Some narrate well, but execution is key. My upcoming films will reflect this understanding, ensuring a minimum guarantee of quality," he stated.
>
> Discussing Telugu cin-

ence in the industry

ema's reception in other industries, Kiran pointed out a disparity. "When a hit film from another language gets dubbed in Telugu, our audience eagerly watches it. But when Telugu films are dubbed in Malayalam or Tamil, they don't receive the same enthusiasm," he observed. Despite this, he admitted to casting Tamil and Malayalam actors in some of his films. "I'm not a big star, so I included actors from other industries to gain visibility there. However, if you look at my films, I have introduced nearly 40 people, including technicians and artists," he added.

Director Vishwa Karun, a fan of Puri Jagannadh, has incorporated elements of Puri's style into *Dilruba*. "Some dialogues and

scenes reflect his influence," Kiran revealed. He also teased the depth of his character, Sidhu, saying, "Sidhu's beliefs and dialogues will make the audience think. Why doesn't he say sorry or thank you? What hap-

pened in his family's past? These intriguing aspects drive the Looking ahead, Kiran plans to

release two films this year and increase his output to three films annually from next year. "After Dilruba, I have a K-ramp movie coming up immediately," he confirmed, revealing that he has already signed four more projects. He admitted to taking on some films in the past out of obligation.

"I don't regret those mistakes, but moving forward, I will be more selective. After KA, the audience sees me differently—they recognize my genuine effort to make quality films," he said.

On a personal note, Kiran shared exciting news about his family. He and his wife are expecting their first child in May. When asked if he was hoping for a boy or a girl, he smiled and said, "I want it to be a

## Aadi Sai Kumar returns in a khaki avatar with *Shanmukha*

hiatus with his upcoming film a-half-year gap, my film Shanmukha is finally releasing on March 21." he shared. Aadi expressed his excitement about the project, particularly highlighting the contribution of renowned music composer Ravi Basrur, known for his work in KGF and Salaar. "He has taken this film to

the next level,"

Aadi remarked

that the film's

digital, satellite

and theatrical

rights have

been sold

He also revealed

Giving credit to the film's director and acknowledged his relentless hard work. "He is the one who convinced Ravi Basrur to compose the music, thanks to his rapport with the music director," Aadi said. The film stars Avika Gor as the female lead. "She has been a child artiste for years and it was a pleasure working with her. I would love to future." he added.

collaborate with her on more projects in the Aadi's father, Sai Kumar, is widely recognised for his iconic police roles. narticularly character graphics."

never try to imitate my father, but I was fortunate to play a police officer in this film also revealed that Shanmukha has a mythological touch toward the end, along with some horror elements Avika Gor, speaking about the project, described it as a special film in her career. "I am eagerly waiting for the release. Doing a devotional film has been an exciting experience. I got to play a dream role that every artist wishes for. Aadi is a fantastic coactor, and working with Ravi Basrur was a dream come true," she said. Director-producer Shanmugam added, "The Hindi digital and theatrical rights for other states have already been sold. Aadi plays a powerful police officer and we have crafted the film with stunning visuals and exceptional



Puri Jagannadh struggles to find a lead actor for his next film

nce a top director in the industry, Puri Jagannadh is now facing difficulties in finding an actor for his next film. According to sources, the director has approached several actors, including Nani, but has yet to secure a lead. Following the failures of *Liger* and *Double iSmart*, Puri Jagannadh is no longer in the limelight, making it challenging for him to attract big stars.

Adding to the issue, Puri has been spending most of his time in Mumbai, which has distanced him from many in the Telugu film industry. Reports suggest that he recently approached Nagarjuna with an interest in narrating a script to Akhil Akkineni, but Nagarjuna, currently busy with Kuberaa and Coolie, does not seem keen. Akhil, too, has already committed to two upcoming projects and is focused on completing them first. Other actors like Ram Pothineni, Nithiin and Sai Dharam Tei are also tied up with their respective commitments, leaving Puri still searching for a lead. With no major stars available, the industry is now curious to see who will take on the lead role in Puri Jagannadh's next film.

## Kayadu Lohar stars alongside Ravi Teja

ayadu Lohar, who made her Telugu debut in Alluri alongside Sree Vishnu, is now set to star opposite Ravi Teja in an upcoming project. Though Alluri was released in 2022, Kayadu's presence in the film was limited mostly to songs and she didn't gain much recognition. However, after appearing alongside Pradeep Ranganathan in the recently released Return of the Dragon, which turned out to be a success, she has caught the attention of filmmakers.

According to sources, Kayadu has been roped in to play the female lead opposite Ravi Teja in a film directed by Kishore Tirumala. Ravi Teja is currently working on Mass Jathara, an action drama helmed by Bhanu Bhogavarapu. His next project with Kishore Tirumala is expected to be a family entertainer with a strong emotional core. Along with Kayadu Lohar, the film will feature another female lead. Reports suggest that Malayalam actress Mamitha Baiju, who gained popularity with *Premalu*, has been cast in the second lead role.

# in upcoming film

is *Court*, directed by Ram Jagadish. The film's tagline, State Vs A Nobody, hints at a gripping courtroom drama Nani's sister, Deepti Ghanta, is co-producing the film alongside Prashanthi Tipirneni. The story is inspired by a real incident in Tamil Nadu, with some cinematic liberties taken to enhance the narrative. Priyadarshi plays a lawyer, while newcomers Harsh Roshan and Sridevi play the lead roles. This marks Sridevi's debut. The film

ctor Nani is keeping busy both in front of and behind

The camera. While he is

acting in *Hit 3* directed by Sailesh

Kolanu, he is also producing

multiple projects. One such film

in key roles. Despite Nani's aggressive promotions, sources suggest that Court is primarily aimed at an OTT release. Historically, courtroom dramas haven't performed well in Telugu cinema and the film's lead pair-being relatively new-may not be strong

also features Sivaji, Sai Kumar, Rohini and Subhalekha Sudhakar

appears to have strategically planned for the film to be released on streaming platforms

crowd-pullers for a theatrical instead. During a promotional release. Recognising this, Nani event, Nani made a bold statement: "If you don't like this film, don't watch Hit 3." While such remarks have created a

Nani's court drama to skip

theatrical release and head to OTT?

buzz, it remains to be seen whether audiences will be drawn to this courtroom drama in theaters or prefer to watch it



## Sports ministry revokes suspension imposed on WFI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi

the Sports Ministry has revoked the suspension imposed on the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), ending the months of uncertainty surrounding the sport and paving the way for resumption of activities, including selection trials for the upcoming Asian Championship in

The ministry had suspended the WFI on December 24, 2023 for lapses in governance and procedural integrity by the new body, which was elected on December 21. It had asked IOA to form an ad-hoc panel to run the affairs of the

The Sanjay Singh-led body had announced the conduct of Under-15 and Under-20 National Championships in Nandini Nagar, Gonda — the stronghold of former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh — and the choice of venue irked the government since the former BJP MP was facing charges of sexual harassment.

The ministry, in its order issued on Monday, said that the WFI has taken compliant measures, so in larger interest of the sport and athletes, the ministry has decided to lift the suspension.

There were complaints that the WFI was still operating from the residence of Brij Bhushan, prompting the ministry to form a verification committee, which performed a spot inspection and found that the Federation had shifted its office to East Vinod Nagar in New Delhi.

The ministry was satisfied with the corrective measures taken and considering that not having a competent body in place will affect Indian wrestlers' medal chances at 2026 Asian Games and 2028 Olympic Games, it ended the suspension.

"I thank the government for taking this step. It will allow us to function smoothly. It was needed for the sake of the sport. The athletes were suffering for lack of ompetitions," Sanjay Singh said.

The ministry, though, has asked the WFI to follow certain directions, such as the Federation has to ensure that there is a balance of power among the elected office bearers, and it keeps itself disassociated from the suspended/terminated

It may be noted that Prem Chand Lochab, the new general secretary, was elected from the rival camp and the ministry's directive could be understood in that context.

I thank the government for taking this step. It will allow taking this step. It will allow us to function smoothly. It was needed for the sake of the sport

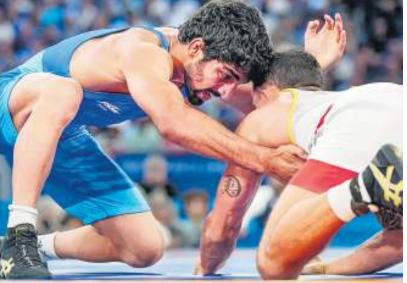
undertaking in this regard within 4 weeks. Any violation of the undertaking will invite appropriate legal action, including the action under the Sports Code," the ministry said in its order.

It also said that the WFI must ensure that the selection for all international events should be done in a free, fair and transparent manner as per the extant provisions of the Sports Code and the other latest instructions issued in this regard along with regulations issued from timeto-time by the UWW (United World Wrestling).

The WFI president said there is nothing that can't be followed.

We have already shifted to a new office and soon we will call for an EC meeting and also issue a circular for the selection trials. We have no issues in following these instructions," he said.

The Asian Championship is scheduled to be held in Amman, Jordan from March 25. The Indian wrestlers missed out on "The EC of the WFI must give an competing in Ranking Series tourna-



ments in Zagreb and Albania due to the ministry's suspension and the court cases filed by prominent wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia and Satyawart

The Indian wrestlers could have missed participation in the World Championship

also last year but after they protested outside the residence of Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, they were allowed

to participate. The wrestlers, who had led the protest against Brij Bhushan, had contended that the WFI did not have the authority to pick

national teams since it was suspended.

The court had directed the Indian Olympic Association to restore the ad-hoc panel for managing the WFI but the sports body had refused, saying UWW, the world governing body, recognises only the WFI and won't accept entries from the ad-

The UWW, which lifted its suspension on WFI on January 13, 2024, had threatened IOA to suspend WFI again if there was interference in its governance.

We are so relieved that this suspension has been lifted. There was a compete lull, the young wrestlers were suffering for no fault of theirs. They were missing tournaments, there was no national camp. The suspension should have been lifted long back," said a coach associated with a leading training centre in Haryana.

Vinesh, Bajrang and Sakshi Malik had accused Brij Bhushan of sexual abuse of junior wrestlers and held a long protest at Jantar Mantar. An FIR was lodged and the former BJP MP is facing a trial in the case.

Brij Bhushan has denied the charge. Vinesh later joined the Congress and

won the Julana seat during the Haryana state elections last year. Bajrang was appointed chief of All India Kisan Congress (AIKC).

## **New Zealand rest T20 regulars for** series against **Pakistan**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Wellington

ew Zealand have rested a majority of their T20 regulars for the home series against Pakistan with the IPL around the corner.

The series, comprising five T20Is, begins March 16 while the IPL begins March 22.

Michael Bracewell, who was one of the main performers for New Zealand in the Champions Trophy (CT), will lead the side in the absence of Mitchell Santner.

Besides Bracewell, six more players in the T20 squad featured in the 50-over Champions Trophy. New Zealand lost the final to India on Sunday.

Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra and white-ball captain Santner were unavailable for selection due to IPL commitments. Kyle Jamieson and Will O'Rourke have been included only for the first three games of the series, as the selectors seek to manage the workload of the pace bowlers returning from the Champions

Matt Henry, who finished as the leading wicket-taker in the tournament despite missing the final through injury, has been selected for games four and five, subject to further assessment once the ODI arrives home on Wednesd

Bevon Jacobs, who was part of the squad for the recent T20 series against Sri Lanka, was unavailable due to IPL commitments, while Kane Williamson wasn't considered for selection after making himself unavailable.

Selector Sam Wells said the Pakistan series was important for several reasons. "We're certainly starting to narrow our sights on the ICC T20 World Cup in India next February and March," he said.

"We made it clear in our planning and communication with players that availability for that tournament and the build-up to it was required to be considered for this series against Pakistan.

"Half of this squad is only returning from the Champions Trophy on Wednesday and so we're going to need to manage those players really carefully," he

## Focus on playing for country: Pant to budding cricketers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi

ndia wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant feels the lure of the IPL is understandable but budding cricketers should always focus on playing for the country as "everything else" follows

Pant, who was part of India's triumphant Champions Trophy squad but did not get a game, made his internation-

"Since childhood, I had only one dream-to play for India. I never even thought about playing in the IPL. I think today, people are more focused on the IPL. Of course, it's a great platform, but I believe that if your goal is to play for your country, everything else-including the IPL-will eventually fall into place," Pant told JioHotstar.

"If you have that bigger mindset, success will follow. I always believed that I would play for India one day, and God has been kind. At 18, I got the opportunity to make my debut, and I am grateful for that," said the 27-year-old.



play and some of his trademark shots include a one-handed six with the bat often slipping out of his hands. He explained why that happens frequently.

nl for that," said the 27-year-old. "I think it mostly happens because I Pant is known for flamboyant style of hold my bottom hand very lightly. I

mainly try to use my bottom hand for support because, at times, it starts dominating. So, I focus on gripping my top hand tightly," said Pant.

"But when I overreach—especially when the ball is too wide or too short—

it's not always in the ideal hitting zone. Sometimes, the shot I attempt may only have a 30-40 per cent success rate, but depending on the match situation, I'm willing to take that risk. That's my

"When I take that chance and overreach, I need to do something to maintain balance. At times, it may look like I'm throwing the bat, but in reality, I'm just trying to make the most of that delivery. If my bat slips, if it's not in my hand, or even if it hits my head-my only focus at that moment is finding the boundary."

Pant said being a gymnast in his younger days has also helped him as a

"I used to do gymnastics as a kid. My gymnastics coach always told me that it would come in handy in life.

"Basu Sir, our Indian team trainer, once told me in 2018-19, 'Thank you to your gymnastics coach because what he taught you in childhood is still benefiting you today.

I kept practicing hand springs, and it has played a huge role in my fitness for

### **PCB** files formal complaint with ICC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA | Karachi

**◄**he Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is still waiting for a "formal clarification" from the ICC on the issue of not have their representative on stage for the closing ceremony of the Champions Trophy in Dubai.

India beat New Zealand by four wickets in the title clash on Sunday to win the tournament for the third time.

We have filed a formal complaint with the ICC as what happened is unacceptable to us," a PCB official said on Tuesday. The controversy erupted when Sumair Ahmed, who is the chief operating officer of the PCB and was also the tournament director of the Champions Trophy, was not invited on stage for the final presentation.

BCCI president Roger Binny presented the white jackets to India players and the medals to match officials, while ICC chairman Jay Shah handed the trophy to skipper Rohit Sharma and gave the medals to the winners.

The reasons being given for not having our COO and tournament director on stage for the final presentation make no sense to us

- PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia and New Zealand Cricket's CEO Roger Twose were also present on stage.

ing our COO and tournament director on stage for the final presentation make no sense to us. We are waiting for a formal clarification/apology," the PCB official

"We are appalled by this blatant disregard for Pakistan's role as the host nation," the official said. He said the PCB had informed the ICC about Sumair Ahmed's presence in Dubai for the presentation ceremony in advance and he also met and congratulated Jay Shah and some BCCI officials after India's win.

"Giving explanations that ICC only invites CEO's, chairmen, vice-chairmen or secretaries for the ceremony is illogical.

'We want a full public clarification and an assurance that such biased and unjust treatment will not happen again or we will push this matter to the board of governors," he added.

## Victorious Indian cricketers return home ahead of IPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

**◄** he Indian cricketers, led by Rohit Sharma, have made a quiet return home following their triumph in the Champions Trophy (CT) in Dubai. After leading India to their second ICC title in nine months, skipper Rohit landed back in Mumbai on Monday night.

The squad members have got a week off before they join their respective IPL teams ahead of the tournament beginning March 22.

All the players with families left from Dubai on Monday. There are some players who have stayed back for a couple of days," a BCCI source told

With players preferring to rest ahead of the two-month-long IPL, the BCCI did not plan a felicitation for the team like it did when the squad returned

from Barbados following the win in the met Prime Minister Narendra Modi following their return from Barbados via a special flight back in July.

Head coach Gautam Gambhir and pacer Harshit Rana landed in Delhi on Monday night. Superstar Virat Kohli had left the team hotel with wife Anushka Sharma right after the team returned from the Dubai International Stadium late on Sunday night.

Shreyas Iyer, who played a big role in the middle order, will captain Punjab Kings and will join the team on March 16. India beat New Zealand by four wickets to win their third Champions Trophy. They were the only unbeaten side in the eight-team tournament.

Though Pakistan were the tournament hosts, India played all their games in Dubai as per the agreed hybrid model.

## MCG to host a night match between Australia, England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Melbourne

Australia and England will be held under lights at the Melbourne Cricket Ground from March 11-15, 2027. Cricket Australia announced Tuesday that the historic match will be the first day-night men's test at the MCG.

The famous stadium on the edge of downtown Melbourne hosted the first cricket test in 1877 and the centenary test between Australia and England in 1977. Australia won by a 45-run margin in both of those matches.

"The 150th anniversary test at the MCG will be one of the great cricket events, and playing under lights will be a fantastic way to celebrate both our game's rich heritage and test cricket's modern evolution," Cricket Australia chief executive Todd Greenberg said. "It will also help ensure more people are able to attend and watch what will be a fan-

tastic occasion.

"The Centenary Test created many Hookes' five consecutive boundaries off Tony Greig, Rick McCosker batting with a broken jaw and Derek Randall's defiant century, and I'm sure the 150th test will create its own lifelong memories." Australia is hosting the 2025-26 Ashes series against England starting in November.

The Australian men's team, coming off a semifinal run at the Champions Trophy, is set to defend its World Test Championship title in a final against South Africa in England in June.

Australia has won 12 of the 13 daynight test matches — which are played with a pink ball and have day and night sessions daily - it has contested at home since introducing the concept in 2015. Eight of those tests have been in Adelaide, and none has started later than

## Challenging two-year cycle to start for coach Gautam Gambhir with England tour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA | New Delhi

eople who know Gautam Gambhir, describe him as someone "boringly consistent", someone who has not even changed his eating pattern in the last 20 years

An experiment is out of question. He loves wearing his denims for casual gatherings and it has not changed for

But when it comes to cricket, his brain is always ticking and seeking solutions to various strategic problems.

It has been eight months since Gambhir took charge of the national team after Rahul Dravid ended his stint with the T20 World Cup triumph in July. The man from Delhi's Old Rajinder

Nagar has witnessed some heartbreaking and baffling defeats as well as success. He has seen both ends of the spectrum with high of Champions Trophy (CT) and low of six Test losses.

The CT win has come like a breath of fresh air and 'Guru Gambhir' will get a chance to analyse the big picture as Indian cricket is expected to undergo a sea-change in the next two crucial years.

It won't be wrong to say that Gambhir has completed his probation period and will get into a phase where he would have three distinct challenges, starting with the

Test tour of England. That will be, as usual, right after the T20 spectacle known as IPL with no time for preparation.

His second big challenge will be the 2026 T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka where Suryakumar Yadav's men will be defending their title.

2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa, which will be a helluva challenge. If one segregates Gambhir's coaching

And last but certainly not the least is

across formats, he has already built a fabulous core for the T20 team with Surya at

Even as Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja walked into the sunset in shortest format, their absence was hardly felt as the new brand of cricket that India has been playing in T20 is earning them

He has unearthed a gem in Abhishek

When Varun Chakravarthy and Jasprit Bumrah would bowl during a global meet (World T20) those eight overs would be a nightmare for batters. Sanju Samson has found his mojo although Rishabh Pant will be around and so would be Yashasvi

There is a prolific powerplay wickettaker in Arshdeep Singh and at least three seam all-rounders in Hardik Pandya, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Shivam Dube.

Surya and Axar along with Hardik are old guards in this team. It is a team which has all its bases covered and is running on



auto-pilot with a tweak here and there. But it is the other two formats where Gambhir, the strategist, the disciplinarian and the man-manager would have to

merge for results. Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have made it clear that they are not retiring from ODIs anytime soon. Retirement is an indi-

vidual call and both have performed in Champions Trophy.

But during the 2027 World Cup Gambhir won't have the option of using four specialist spinners and create magic with totals in range of 240-250.

Scores will be on higher side and the question is if Rohit with his short and

aggressive bursts can do enough along with Kohli, who is now more of an anchor now.

Rohit has said that he won't retire but was also unsure of his participation in the 2027 World Cup. Here, Gambhir will have to step in. Gambhir's, 'team first' philosophy won't change.

He loaths the superstar culture. He has

immense respect for performers which is seniority neutral.

It will not be a surprise if he demands a bit of clarity both from the board as well as national selection committee as to how they plan to see Rohit in ODI scheme of things with only 27 ODI games ahead of World Cup.

Another issue to ponder over would be the next captain? Shubman Gill is a terrific ODI player and has been Rohit's deputy but Hardik Pandya is also a good leader, who believes in implementing the coach's

strategy to the 'T'. He did that well in Gujarat Titans with another football team-like head coach Ashish Nehra at the helm.

In immediate future, Gambhir will also have to deal with Test cricket squad where he would face the maximum challenge. In case Rohit plays and has Jaiswal and

KL Rahul in top-three, where will it place Shubman Gill, the Test cricketer. Will he get all three Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Mohammad Siraj

in best shape for the series where swing and

seam will be the order of the day. And what happens to that one middleorder slot that has been India's Achilles heel for some time. Shall Karun Nair fit in there or Shreyas Iyer should regain his Test

'Guru Gambhir' has some really tough choices to make but he has never been afraid of making bold decisions.