

### DON'T MISS...

### 'Focus on workers' safety & awareness'

The 54th National Safety Week celebrations began with great enthusiasm in Vijayawada. The event was inaugurated by Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash, who unfurled the flag at the Railway Community Hall. The District Collector and several other officials attended the event. In his address, the Minister thanked the Kondapalli Industrial Association for their initiative in organising this event, and stressed that it was their responsibility to raise awareness about safety, not only among workers but also among the general... -PAGE: 2

### SKAT's air show in Andamans

The Indian Air Force's elite Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) on Wednesday performed a spectacular air show over Marina Park facing the Ross Island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The air show started at 3.30 pm and ended at 4.15 pm. A large number of local people and tourists gathered at Marina Park in Port Blair to witness the spectacular air show. The SKAT team was led by Group Captain Ajay Dasarathi with Group Captain Sidhesh Kartik as deputy leader. "The aircraft of the team flew remarkably ... -PAGE: 5



Retail inflation slipped to sevenmonth low of 3.61 per cent in February mainly due to easing prices of vegetables, eggs, and other protein-rich items, creating space for the RBI to go for another cut in interest rate next month. The consumer price index-based retail inflation was at 4.26 per cent in January and 5.09 per cent in February 2024. The previous low was witnessed in July. The consumer price index (CPI) has been in the comfort zone of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) since November 2024. -PAGE: 8

# Target is to transform 1.75L women into entrepreneurs by next year

### WOMEN EMPOWERMENT HAPPENED AFTER TDP'S FORMATION: CM

### PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu stressed the importance of women empowerment for sustainable development in a speech on Wednesday, asserting that progress is only possible through the active involvement of women. During his address in the Assembly, the CM highlighted the TDP's long-standing commitment to the empowerment of women, which he stated began

with the formation of the party. Recollecting the contributions of late TDP founder NT Rama Rao, chandrababu pointed out that NTR's policies, such as granting women equal rights to property and found-ing the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), paved the way for women's economic growth. He reiterated the party's dedication to further advancing women's rights and status in society.

With women constituting 50 per cent of the State's population, Chandrababu announced a target to transform 1.75 lakh women into entrepreneurs within the next year. However, he expressed regret that gender discrimination persists despite the country's long history of independence. He credited the TDPled NDA government, under Prime



Minister Narendra Modi, for its continued focus on women's welfare. The CM also referenced a significant shift in women's rights during

the tenure of NTR, who had enacted several welfare programs to benefit women. Despite progress, he expressed concern over the ongoing challenges women face and the societal prejudices they still endure. In a pointed remark, he criticised former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for not offering his

mother and sister a share in his roperties, drawing attention to his lack of credibility in advocating for women's rights.

Acknowledging the crucial role women played in the development of Amaravati, Chandrababu praised the voluntary donation of 34,000 acres of land by 29,000 farmers for the capital's construction. He called it a world record and lamented the obstacles posed by the previous government in advancing

Amaravati's development

The CM also underscored the TDP government's efforts to reform the education system, particularly to encourage female students to pursue higher education. He noted that the introduction of 33 per cent reservations for women in education, employment, and political appointments, despite criticism at the time, has led to significant advancements for women in various fields.

Amaravati's development.

Acknowledging the crucial

role women played in the

Amaravati, Chandrababu

donation of 34,000 acres

of land by 29,000 farmers

construction. He called it

lamented the obstacles

government in advancing

posed by the previous

praised the voluntarv

development of

for the capital's

a world record and

was also willing to debate

for arrears, says Lokesh Slams YSRCP for protests, asserts govt is ready for discussions on all matters

the arrears left behind by the pre-

to rename the issue as a 'Fee Poru'

when it had become a 'Yuvatha

Poru' without clarity on what the

YSRCP was fighting for. He point-ed out that people were laughing

over the confusion surrounding

Lokesh shared the story of a per-

son who was taken to the Hindupur

He remarked that it was strange

vious administration.

the YSRCP's stance.

FEE REIMBURSEMENT ISSUE

Jagan regime responsible

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Education and IT, Nara Lokesh, has criticised the YSRCP for holding protests over fee reimbursement arrears, claiming they were responsible for the arrears. The YSRCP members raised an adjournment motion in the Legislative Council regarding issues such as job creation, unemployment dole and pending fee reimburse-ment payments. However, the Council Chairman rejected the motion for a debate. In response, YSRCP members obstructed the Question Hour. Minister

arrears, job creation, and

employment opportuni

He empha-

sised that

the gov-

ernment

court and cried before the judge, claiming he had no parents and was a victim of injustice. The judge questioned the police as to why they had brought such an innocent person to court, only for the police to reveal that the person was Lokesh responded by saying that responsible for killing his the government was ready for discussions own parents. Lokesh comon all matters, including fee reimbursement

pared this scenario to the way YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's government acted, accusing them of creating the problem of fee reimbursement arrears and then holding protests over

Peddireddy's followers involved in Madanapalle case, says Anitha

Speedy investigation to be conducted under Annamayya District SP

### PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Minister responded to ques- suspects (A1, A2, A3) in the case. tions raised by Members of the Legislative Council Tirumala Naidu

It was revealed that during the tenure of former RDO



Vijayasai urges him to



Manchester United (MU) unveiled plans on Tuesday to build the "world's greatest" soccer stadium A proposed 100,000-seater arena, costing around 2 billion pounds (\$2.6 billion), would be built next to United's current Old Trafford home and surpass Wembley Stadium as the biggest in the United Kingdom, "Manchester United is the world's most favorite football club and, in my view, is the biggest and deserves a stadium fitting of its stature," part owner Jim Ratcliffe said. Work could begin as early ... -SPORTS

### differentiate between truth and deception

### PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former YSRCP leader V Vijayasai Reddy said on Wednesday that party chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy will have a future only if he frees himself from the coterie allegedly misleading him. Otherwise, "the future will be very difficult," he warned.

it is 'favourable' to this coterie.

"The day he frees himself from

this coterie, he will have a future.

Otherwise, the future will be very

difficult. I can't say more," he told

reporters, adding that access to the

former CM and key information

is controlled by second-rung lead-ers surrounding him.

of 'autonomous hydraulic pow-

ered robot'. The robot can remove

5,000 cubic metres of soil per

hour, it said. The release also said

personnel belonging to 12 Central

Vijayasai Reddy, who recently exited YSRCP and resigned from the Rajya Sabha, claimed that any information meant for YS Jagan Mohan Reddy reaches him only if

noted.

Vijayasai Reddy claimed that this coterie had successfully creat-ed a rift between him and Jagan Mohan Reddy.

If anyone wishes to meet the YSRCP supremo, Vijayasai Reddy alleged they must navigate this took downward allowed others to coterie, often by dubious means, including bribery, to secure an rise-it benefited them," he claimed.

appointment. Without naming individuals,

the former Parliamentarian urged Jagan Mohan Reddy to differentiate between truth and deception to serve the people effectively.

'Listen to those around you, but don't be misled. Understand who speaks the truth and who deceives. Ônce you discern that, make your decisions wisely-only then will you be of true value to others," he

"For three and a half years, I endured insults, and every step I

**Continued on Page 2** 

says Jagan PNS VIJAYAWADA Reiterating that YSRCP will be

of the voiceless

the voice of the voiceless, party president and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said the party took birth out of struggle and fighting against injustice is not new and highlighted the failures of the coali-Annamayya District SP. tion government.

Speaking at the party forma-tion day function held at the party office here on Wednesday, Jagan said of these 15 years, the party was in the Opposition for 10 years and has been with the people speaking on their behalf. The party owns up people's plight as its own and has been with the

people always. Thanking the cadre for the sup-port throughout the journey, Jagan said concurrent to the party formation day, they are also protesting against the government failure to clear the fees reimbursement dues putting students in hardships. Continued on Page 2

revealed that former Minister Peddireddy's followers were involved in the Madanapalle files torching case. She clarified that RDO Murali, new RDO Hariprasad and junior assistant Gautam Tej have already been suspended after a preliminary investigation in the case of a fire in the Sub-Collector's office and the burning of key files. She said that a speedy investigation will be conducted under the leadership of

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha

Additional benefits for house construction



### PNS VIJAYAWADA

The State government has presented a significant opportunity for individuals in poverty who struggle to achieve their aspiration of home ownership due to rising costs. The government has issued GORT No.9, which grants an additional benefit of Rs.1,80,000 to beneficiaries across various categories engaged in house construction under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural and Urban) 1.0.

On Wednesday, Collector Lakshmisha addressed a press conference at the Collectorate Video Conference Hall, accompanied by officials from the Housing Department. He encouraged beneficiaries to seize this opportunity to finalise their house construction and fulfil their dream of homeownership. He emphasised that this addi-tional benefit would help make the dream of owning a home a reality for the underprivileged. Moreover, he stated that an extra

D Ramarao and Parchuri Ashok Babu on Wednesday. The investigation is underway and individuals including Junior Assistant Gautam

Teja, PA Tukaram, Madhav Reddy and others associated with former spiracy behind the fire has been Minister Pedireddy

have been

named as

ment.

79,107 acres of assigned land were illegally released from the 22A records under the freehold category. During a reassessment at the Sub-Collector level, it was found that the rules were violated concerning 22,523 acres of land. A preliminary report has been submitted and an official report is awaited, said the Home Minister. Anita further stated that the con-

uncovered by the ruling govern-

**Continued on Page 2** 

ECET on May 6, ICET on May 7

### PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) has announced the examination dates for AP ICET 2025, AP EAPCET 2025 and AP ECET 2025. According to the schedule, AP ICET will be held on May 7, AP ECET on May 6 while AP EAPCET will take place from May 19 to May 27.

The online application process for AP ICET will begin on March 13, with the last date to apply without a late fee being April 9. Candidates can still apply with late fees until April 28. Hall tickets will be available from May 2, and the preliminary key will be released on May 10, with objections accepted until May 12. Results will be declared on May 21.

For AP EAPCET, applications start on March 15, with the last date without a late fee on April 24. The final deadline with a late fee is May 16. Hall tickets can be downloaded from May 12.

The exam for Agriculture and Pharmacy will be held on May 19 and 20, while the Engineering exam is scheduled from May 21 to 27. The preliminary key will be released on May 28, and the final

key on June 5. AP ECET applications open on March 12, with the last date without a late fee on April 7. The final deadline with a late fee is April 28. Hall tickets will be available from May 1, and the preliminary key will be released on May 8, with objections accepted until May 10.

**Continued on Page 2** 

### **TUNNEL COLLAPSE** Search ops to get boost with deployment of robot

### PNS NAGARKURNOOL

The search for seven persons trapped inside the partially collapsed SLBC tunnel here will get a boost following the deployment of a robot, officials said on Wednesday.

A Hyderabad-based company has taken an 'autonomous hydraulic powered robot' to the accident site and it would carry out activities like removal of debris and digging, an official statement said. The robot can go to "dangerous

places" (inside the tunnel) where humans cannot reach and it can also work with 15 times more capacity than humans, it quoted officials as saying. The robot is being deployed to overcome the hurdles being faced in the search operation and to conduct it with more speed, it said. The challenging conditions inside



the tunnel include debris, mounds and state government organisations of soil and low levels of oxygen. are carrying out the search opera-Slush would be removed by tion round the clock. using a 40 HP pump with the aid

State Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar, who has been supervising the search operation, held a meeting with officials of different organisations involved in the search operation, the release added.

### Victim's body sent to Punjab, family gets Rs 25 L

### PNS HYDERABAD

The body of Gurpreet Singh, an erec-tor operator of Robbins India, who tragically lost his life in the SLBC Tunnel accident in Domalapenta in Nagarkurnool district, was sent to his hometown in Punjab.

Confirming the development, Nagarkurnool Collector Badavath Santosh said that the deceased's body was handed over to his wife, Rajvinder Kaur, and that the Telangana Government has granted an ex-gratia compensation of Rs 25 lakh to the bereaved family.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana beneficiaries to get Rs.1,80,000

subsidy has been approved to support beneficiaries in completing their house construction swiftly, allowing them to proudly move into their new homes. Beneficiaries from SC and BC categories will receive Rs.50,000, while ST beneficiaries will be granted Rs.75,000, and PVTG Hill Scheduled Tribes) will receive Rs.1 lakh in additional assistance. He noted that there are currently 3,822 houses for SCs, 556 houses for STs,

stages of construction. Additionally, he mentioned that the remaining beneficiaries would also receive the extra funds. This amount will be provided by the government on top of the unit value of Rs. 1.80 lakhs and should be utilised to expedite the completion of house construction.

and 4,018 houses for BCs at various



# vijayawada 02

# **98% issues during land** re-survey resolved: Min

### Problems arose because previous government did not implement re-survey scientifically

### PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Revenue, Registration and Stamps Anagani Satya Prasad has said that more than 98 per cent of the issues raised in the re-survey conducted during the previous government's tenure have been resolved. Addressing the questions posed by MLAs in assembly on Wednesday, he said that landowners faced difficulties in mutation of their lands due to problems in joint LPMs, and these problems arose because the previous government did not implement the re-survey scientifically. The Minister further

explained that the presence of multiple landowners within a single JLPM created obstacles for them in registering or mutating their properties until those parcels were individually subdivided. He said that to mitigate these problems, the government has launched online subdivision services in village and ward secretariats, facilitating easier registration.

further mentioned that a total of 85,571 applications for subdivisions have been filed thus far, with 69,142 of them already resolved. In reference to the re-survey

landowners applying for subdivision, effective from January 1, 2025, for a period of six months.

that to correct boundary errors as per the requests from landowners, the government activated provisions under BSO 34 Para Number 8. He



Minister Sathya Prasad said that as a part of the government's special measures, a fee waiver has been announced for issues, the minister stated that

the previous government had The Minister mentioned conducted re-surveys in 6,688 villages, which became riddled with errors. He criticized the prior administration for failing to notify landowners regarding the re-survey, shortening the

merely 21 days post-completion, and conducting the survev recklessly without proper adherence to regulations.

Sathya Prasad stated that in an effort to rectify these issues, the coalition government has conducted Gram Sabhas (village assemblies) in all villages where the re-survey was completed, receiving nearly 279,712 applications, of which around 273,296 nearly 98 per cent have been resolved.

Sathya Prasad stated that the government recommenced the and re-survey process on January 20, this time adopting n more systematic approach. He mentioned that WhatsApp groups have been established for all landowners within a block to keep them informed at every stage of the process. He further mentioned that for those who do not reside locally, information is conveyed via WhatsApp calls or video messages, giving them the chance to appoint a representative during the survey.

YSRCP's 'Yuvatha Poru'

seeks clearance of dues

# objection period from 60 to

Industrial Association for their initiative in organising this event, and stressed that it was their responsibility to raise awareness about safety, not awareness about safety, not only among workers but also among the general public. He also appreciated the coopera-tion of the department officials who supported the event. Subhash expressed his happi-ness at meeting workers referness at meeting workers, refer-

ring to them as part of his extended family since taking office as the State Labour Minister. He emphasised that the safety of workers is a responsibility he takes very seriously. The Minister highlighted

PNS VIJAYAWADA

attended the event.

The 54th National Safety Week celebrations began with great enthusiasm in Vijayawada. The event was inaugurated by Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash, who unfurled the flag at the Railway Community

Hall. The District Collector

and several other officials

In his address, the Minister thanked the Kondapalli

that the National Safety Week was aimed at inculcating awareness about safety not only among workers but also among students and the public. To this end, various competitions were organized in schools to educate students 54<sup>th</sup> National Safety Week celebrations begin



ers to always remember that

their families are waiting for

The Minister also men-

tioned that Chief Minister

them to return safely.

about safety. Subhash congratulated the winners of these emphasised the importance of personal protective equipment (PPE), urging all workers to competitions. The theme of this year's National Safety Week was "Safety and Well-Being are Crucial for Vikasit wear safety gear, such as hel-mets, while working. He recalled an instance when a worker avoided wearing a hel-He stressed that the safety of met because it might ruin his workers is directly linked to the hair, reminding everyone that safety of the state. A secure life is more valuable than hair. Minister Subhash urged work-

Focus on workers' safety and awareness: Min

workforce is key to realising the dream of a prosperous Andhra Pradesh, and this message was reflected in the theme of the week. He also urged management to take more responsibility for ensuring the safety of workers, noting that when a worker steps into an industry, their life is in the hands of the management.

Bharat 2047.'

The Minister further committee's report is expected

in a month, and based on it the government will implement all necessary safety measures.

The Minister expressed his gratitude to the District Collector Dr G Lakshmisha, Kondapalli Industries President Krishna Reddy, Industries Associate Representative Ramachandra Rao, Rams Plant Head Ashish Kumar, KCP Plant Head Madhusudan Rao, Joint Chief Inspector Mohan Rao, Usha Sri, DCIP Shivakumar Reddy, local public representatives, and leaders

Chandrababu Naidu had for their participation. formed a committee, led by Earlier in the day, a Unity Vasudha Mishra, to recom-Walk was organised on BRTS mend measures for preventing Road in Vijayawada, with students and workers marching accidents in industries. The together with great enthusiasm.

Subsidised yarn for DWCRA

weaving women

Minister for Handlooms and

Textiles Savitha has announced

that high-quality yarn is being

provided to handloom work-

PNS VIJAYAWADA

# Suspension of 3 IPS officers extended

### PNS VIJAYAWADA

The State government has extended the suspension of three senior IPS officers P Ŝitharama Anjaneyulu, Kanthi Rana Tata and Vishal Gunni for an additional 180 days, until September 9. The decision follows a recommendation from a review committee that assessed their roles in a controversial case registered at the Ibrahimpatnam Police Station in NTR district. The officers were suspended under Rule 3(1) of the All-India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969, for alleged misconduct in handling a case involving a Mumbai-based actress. Anjaneyulu was accused of fast-tracking the investigation without proper scrutiny, while Tata and Gunni were found to have failed to properly supervise the case before proceeding with arrests.

The review committee, which met on March 6, also noted that the officers were under investigation in another case. The Director General of Police (DGP) reported that the investigation had reached a critical stage and that the officers could potentially influence proceedings. As a result, the committee recommended extending their suspensions. The State governs acted on the commi ommendation, extending their suspension until further notice. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta has been directed to ensure compliance with the order.

### PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

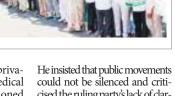
Former Minister Gudivada Amarnath has strongly urged the State government to fulfill its election manifesto commitments without delay. He demanded the clearance of Rs 4,000 crore in pending dues under the fee reimbursement scheme, along with the immediate rollout of a Rs 3,000 monthly unemployment allowance for jobless youth.

Responding to a directive from the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) State committee, party leaders and supporters staged a large-scale protest rally named 'Yuvatha Poru'. The rally, which began at Zilla Parishad Junction, aimed to highlight the plight of students and unemployed youth while criticising the policies of the Chandrababu Naidu-led government. However, the protest Also demand immediate rollout of Rs 3.000 monthly unemployment allowance



ers, including former Minister against any attempts to priva-Amarnath, Mayor Hari tise State-established medical Venkata Kumari, Kannababu, colleges, originally envisioned and several former MLAs, by former Chief Minister YS were eventually permitted Jagan Mohan Reddy. inside to submit their demands.

Criticising the administration's failure to uphold its promises, Amarnath led the delegation Amarnath remarked, "Babu's in presenting a formal petition Collector MN infine of



cised the ruling party's lack of clarity on student welfare programmes. The protest witnessed mas-

sive participation from key YSRCP figures, including concoordi



### 100-bed hospital in Mangalagiri on par with corporate standards: Lokesh

### **Recommends lifts** for emergency patients and ample parking space PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Education, IT and Electronics, Nara Lokesh, said the construction of a 100-bed hospital at Chinakakani near Mangalagiri will be carried out with stateof-the-art infrastructure, comparable to corporate hospitals. The Minister directed officials to ensure the hospital is built with the latest facilities.

Lokesh reviewed the progress of the hospital construction in Manga lagiri and

ers and DWCRA (Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas) one of the best in the nation. women involved in handloom weaving at a 15 per cent sub-sidy. She made this statement He directed officials to ensure that patients and their relatives coming from various parts of Mangalagiri constituency do not face any inconvenience. He also recommended provisions such as lifts for emergency patients and ample parking space for vehicles. The hospital will span a vast area of 114,075 square feet, covering both the ground and

first floors. The construction should be modelled after national-level renowned hospitals, with an emphasis on high-quality infrastructure and patientcentric design.

Lokesh

in response to a question raised by members in the Legislative Council on Wednesday. The Minister clarified that under the raw material supply scheme, quality yarn is being supplied to handloom workers and DWCRA women at a 15 per cent sub-sidy. In addition to the yarn subsidy, a transportation subsidy ranging from 1 per cent to 10 per cent is also being provided. Specifically, 10 per cent transportation subsidy is being offered on jute/coir

### Peddireddy's...

### **Continued from Page 1**

The fire incident, which took place in the Madanapalli RDO office was allegedly caused by an attempt to illegally occupy land by violating regulations and this was orchestrated by Pedireddy and his associates. The Home Minister said that while files may have been destroyed in the fire, the truth cannot be hidden. She assured that strict legal actions would be taken against those responsible for the wrongdoing and those who assisted them.

#### TODAY ALMANAC Month & Paksham Sukla Paksha Tithi: Chaturdashi Mar 12 09:12 AM to Mar 13 10:36 AM Purnima: Mar 13 10:36 AM to Mar 14 12:24 PM Nakshatram: Purva Phalgun Mar 13 04:05 AM to Mar 14 06:19 AM Mar 14 06:19 AM Uttara Phalguni: to Mar 15 08:54 AM 1:55 PM to 3:24 PM Rahukalam: 6:29 AM to 7:58 AM Yamagandam: 02:17 PM to 04:04 PM Varjyam Gulika: 9:27 AM to 10:56 AM Amritakalam: 11:19 PM to 01:04 AM Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:01 PM to 12:49 PM

**VIJAYAWADA WEATHER** Forecast: Postly Sunny **Temp:** 38°

Humidity: 66% Sunrise: 6:17 AM Sunset: 6:17 PM

encountered stiff District tance from law enforcement, leading to tense clashes between the police and determined YSRCP supporters.

Despite police intervention, the protesters reached the District Collector's office and staged a demonstration at the main gate. Senior YSRCP leadeducation. He also warned

**Continued from Page 1** 

opportunities.

campaign,

Target is to...

Additionally, Chandrababu provided updates on

several initiatives aimed at promoting women

entrepreneurs. Agreements have been signed with

24 organisations to support women in business,

and training programmes for DWCRA women

have been set up to enhance their skills in both

ed under a global brand like Amul, they would

receive international recognition.

agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. The CM highlighted that if women's products were market-

To ensure women's safety, the government has

introduced the Sakthi app and formed 164 Sakthi

environment for women, allowing them to freely

move from rural to urban areas for employment

He also addressed the issue of online harass-

ment, stating that strict action would be taken

ceedings would be conducted with dignity.

against anyone making objectionable comments

on social media, emphasising that Assembly pro-

Chandrababu announced the supply of three

In line with promises made during his election

teams. Chandrababu promised to create a safe

Harendhira Prasad, stressing the urgency of the party's demands. Speaking to the media afterward, he accused the government of neglecting youth-centric initiatives and failing to allocate necessary funds for employment and

now become a fraud guarantee." He reaffirmed YSRCP's commitment to fighting until all promises were honoured. Uttarandhra Regional Coordinator Kurasala Kannababu echoed these concerns, condemning the government's alleged attempts to suppress dissent through police action.

Vasupalli Ganesh Kumar, KK Raju, Tippala Devan Reddy, Malla Vijayaprasad, Deputy Mayor Jiyyani Sridhar, former MLA Thainala Vijaya Kumar, Chintalapudi Venkata Ramaiah, ward presidents, party activists, and a sea of supporters.

stressed that the project should be completed within a year from the groundbreaking ceremony with systematic planning.

Lokesh further instructed that the hospital should be built to the highest standards in the country, ensuring it is

tioned that arrangements should be made to ensure no discomfort for the general public while accessing medical services.

He also suggested that separate zones be established for doctors, patients and visitors to ensure convenience.

Minister Savitha further stated that this subsidy is extended not only to handloom workers and DWCRA women, but also to cooperative societies, self-help groups, and traders involved in the handloom industry.

yarn, 1 per cent on silk yarn,

per cent on reg

and 2

sales.

### YSRCP is voice of the... Additional...

### Continued from Page 1

The Collector announced that extensive awareness programmes would commence in village and ward secretariats starting March 15 to inform beneficiaries who have yet to begin their house construction.

He indicated that the construction of houses could be initiated and completed in a phased manner. Engineering Assistants, Ward Amenity Secretaries, and others would visit homes to inform and motivate the beneficiaries. Housing construction personnel, along with village and ward secretariat staff, MPDOs, and municipal commissioners, have been directed to extensively promote this initiative and collaborate with the beneficiaries to expedite the completion of housing projects.

Furthermore, he mentioned that the State government has launched the Swarnandhra @ 2047 vision document, aligning with the aspirations of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. In this context, Collector Lakshmisha stated that the government is committed to fulfilling the goal of providing housing for all impoverished individuals.

### **Continued from Page 1**

"For 10 out of the 15 years after formation, the party was in the Opposition and has given a fitting reply highlighting the failures of the government. Sitting in the Opposition is not new and in the next bout we will be bouncing back to power," he said amid cheers from the gathering.

The coalition government has to clear Vidya Devena and Vidya Vasathi amount to a tune of Rs Rs 7,100 crore for both the years put together and it has been neglecting it. The government has allocated a meagre Rs 2,600 crore putting the students' career in jeopardy. YSRCP being the voice of the people has taken up the issue along with students and parents on the Formation Day, he said

The coalition has failed on all the fronts. Farmers, women, youth and all sections feel cheated as the Super Six promises made during elections were not being honoured. Education, health, agriculture and gover-

the past ten months, he said. On the other hand, YSRCP cadre can proudly go to any house and they will be welcomed with gratitude as our government has delivered welfare to every household in a transparent manner and adhering to the welfare calendar. People believe that YSRCP will upkeep all its promis-

nance are badly affected during

Taking to X, he said, the party was formed to take forward the welfare agenda of Dr YS Rajasekhar Ředdy. "I thank all the cadre who have lent their support to the Party during this 15-yearlong journey.

The party which began its journey with me had seen many ups and downs and went forward undeterred and it was in the hands of the people. After assuming power, we have shaped welfare and development agenda like no other state has done in the country and have improved the standard of living of the people and maintained a sustainable economic development.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.s: 59 TO 509/2024-25/A.T.O Dt. 06.03.2025 Name of the work: Providing drinking water facilities through 100% FHTCs o Un overed HH 442 habitations and O&M of 9 CPWS Schemes of Parvathipuran Manyam District. Estimate Cost: Rs. 6946.10 Lakhs. Tender document available date and time: 13.03.2025 11.00 AM to 27.03.2025 3.00 PM. For further details: www.apeprocurement.gov.in. Ph: 9100120759. 59. Sd/- Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Parvathipuram DIPR RO.No: 15457(CL/MDVTH112821-32, Dt 12.83.2825

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and published by B Krishna Prasad for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., Printed at Sree Seshasai Enterprises, D.No. New 3-88, Old 3-22, Chandra Theatre, Gosala, Penamaluru Mandal, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 521 151, Editor-in-Chief: Shobori Ganguli Resident. Editor: B Krishna Prasad, AIR SURCHARGE of Rs 2.00.

# Jagan regime...

### **Continued from Page 1**

He further questioned why the YSRCP was protesting over a fee reimbursement debt of ?4,271 crore that they themselves had created. He also pointed out that the government had increased electricity charges, yet the YSRCP was protesting about it. Lokesh demanded that the YSRCP provide answers for these arrears and made it clear that the government was ready for discussions. He added that there would even be brief discussions on these issues. Lokesh also suggested that a discussion be held on how many jobs were lost during the YSRCP's tenure. As the YSRCP members continued their protests, the Chairman of the Legislative Council adjourned the session for a while.

### Jagan has future only...

### Continued from Page 1

Pointing out that several individuals were part of this coterie, the former YSRCP leader emphasised that his exit from the party brought him no loss.

'I served this party with integrity and wholehearted dedication for as long as I was a part of it," said Vijayasai Reddy.

Even after leaving, he wished Jagan Mohan Reddy well but pointed out that the lower-rung leadership surrounding the YSRCP founder remains a concern.

"A leader should not fall for rumours. If they do, both the leader and the people will suffer-and so will the party. That is exactly what's happening," he alleged. Ruling out any return to YSRCP, Vijayasai Reddy stated that

he told Jagan Mohan Reddy there was no place for him in the latter's heart, making his continued presence in the party meaningless.

You are the top leader and have the experience of serving as the chief minister for five years. You should continue to serve the people in the future as well," said Vijayasai Reddy, advising him to be 'wary' of the coterie.

free cooking gas cylinders to households and the upcoming implementation of the "Talliki Vandanam" programme, which will be available to all women regardless of the number of children.

The Chief Minister urged all MLAs to take responsibility for promoting at least 1,000 women as entrepreneurs in their constituencies, and he called upon DWCRA women to capitalise on the incentives provided by the State government.

Through these comprehensive initiatives, the CM reiterated his government's commitment to the empowerment of women, both economically and socially, as key to achieving sustainable development in the State.

### Updated: March 12, 2025 5:00 PM



# vijayawada 03

# **Bring 9 villages of Vijayawada Rural** under one police station: MLA

### Measure aims to alleviate confusion experienced by residents, says Yarlagadda Venkata Rao

### PNS VIJAYAWADA

Government Whip and Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkata Rao raised an important issue in the Assembly on Wednesday, urging the gov-ernment to consolidate the jurisdiction of nine villages in the Vijayawada Rural Mandal within the NTR district under a single police station. This measure aims to alleviate the confusion experienced by residents, he said

At present, the Vijayawada Rural Mandal comprises 16 Gram Panchayats, with nine falling under the Gannavaram Assembly Constituency in Krishna district, while the remaining seven are associated tion of the State government.



with the Mylavaram Assembly Constituency in the NTR district. During the 'Zero Hour' of the assembly session, he highlighted this matter to the atten-

He elaborated that among the nine villages in the Vijayawada Rural Mandal under the Gannavaram constituency, two are currently served by the Kothapet Police Station, five by the Patamata Police Station, and the last two by the Nunna Rural (Payakapuram) Police Station. He asserted that unifying these villages under one police station would expedite

the resolution of public issues. Additionally, he informed the government that these nine villages collectively have approx-imately 94,000 voters and a pop-ulation of 1,70,000. The existing division of police jurisdictions has led to confusion, particularly given their locations within the NTR District Police Commissionerate.

Furthermore, he pointed out that there are instances of encroachment on common lands in real estate developments within villages adjacent to Vijayawada city. He cited a specific case involving Gandikota Seethaiah, the sarpanch of Ambapuram village, who faced legal action under the SC and ST Atrocity

that the existing confusion among the populace should be addressed by consolidating nine villages in the Vijayawada Rural Mandal under a single police station. Additionally, he requested that an investigation be carried out regarding the communal lands associated with the

ing areas.

Act for questioning the encroachment of common land in a venture located in Ambapuram village. He advised the government

developments in the surround-

secured positions with the company. These students have been appoint-These students have been appoint-ed as BPS Trainees with a salary pack-age of Rs.2.40 lakh per annum. The Principal of SDSMSMK, Dr N Kalpana, along with Special Officer Dr R Madhavi and Campus Recruitment Officer P Harika, com-mended the students for their achievements. Also, Siddhartha Academy President M Rajaiah, Secretary P Lakshmana Bao Secretary P Lakshmana Rao, Academic Officer LK Mohana Rao and others congratulated these stu-

# Ensure smooth conduct of SSC Exams: CS

### 3,450 exam centres set up; 6.19 lakh students to appear

### PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Secretary K Vijayanand has instructed district collectors, SPs, and education department officials to ensure the smooth conduct of the Class 10 public examinations, set to take place from March 17 to April 1. During a video conference on Wednesday, he empha-sized strict measures to prevent untoward incidents.

Vijayanand announced that only the Chief Superintendent would be allowed to carry mobile phones into the exam centres, with all other phones to be collected at the main gate. He also directed that the Section 144 restrictions be imposed within 100 meters in place, including flying

of examination centres and squads, sitting squads, and that Xerox and net centres dedicated control rooms. within these areas be closed during the exams.

The Chief Secretary also warned of strict action against anyone spreading rumours or fake news, including paper leaks, during the exams. District officials were urged to remain vigilant and investigate any such claims promptly.

State School Education Director V Vijaya Ramaraju provided an update on preparations, revealing that 3,450 exam centres have been set up, with 163 identified as sensitive and monitored by CCTV. Over 6.19 lakh students will take the exams, with special arrangements

lighted the provision of drinking water and first aid services at all centres, as well as ensuring uninterrupted power supply during the exams. The Open School

Vijaya Ramaraju also high-

exams for Class 10 will also run from March 17-28, with over 30,000 students expected to participate. Principal Secretary GAD Mukesh Kumar Meena,

CCLA G Jayalakshmi and several education department officials participated in this meeting. District Collectors, SPs,

JCs, DEOs and officials of related departments also participated in this meeting virtually.

### 19 SDSMSMK students placed by TCS PNS VIJAYAWADA

### A total of 19 third-year BBA and BBM

students from Sri Durga Malleswra Siddhartha Mahila Kalasala (SDMSMK) were chosen for employment at the Tata Computer Sciences (TCS) during the campus recruitment event held at the college campus on Wednesday. Out of approximately 38 students who participated in the written examination, 19 candidates successfully advanced through the online written test, technical interview and personal interview stage and



Collector demands tighter grip on sickle cell anaemia care

Local health services to see boost with new ambulances and X-ray unit

### PNS PARVATIPURAM

District Collector A. Shyam Prasad, has called for a more hands-on approach from medical professionals in the management of sickle cell anaemia, demanding they take personal responsibility for patient oversight. Addressing a review of the Medical and Health Department's performance at the District Collector's office on Wednesday, Prasad identified persistent challenges hindering effective disease control. He mandated that officials swiftly implement existing government initiatives aimed at improving the health and life chances of those affected. The Collector also placed a strong emphasis on the prompt registration of expectant mothers and the immediate provision of Ayushman Bharat Health Account



delivery

Prasad directed officials to accelerate the construction of additional hospital buildings in Bhadragiri, Saluru, and Kurupam. In a move to bolster healthcare accessibility, the Collector announced the imminent deployment of five new ambulances and a mobile X-ray unit. These resources are expected to sigdelivery within the district. (ABHA) IDs, a digital health S. Bhaskara Rao, the record system. He commend-District Medical Health ed medical officers for Officer, provided a compreachieving complete hospital hensive report on the current rates medical and health services in Mondemkhallu and other available. Programme Officer primary healthcare facilities, M. Vinod, Deputy DMHOs T. Jaganmohan Rao and Padmaja, RBSK District highlighting their success. Furthermore, he underscored Coordination Officer P. L. the critical nature of non-Raghu Kumar, Assistant communicable disease (NCD) surveys, praising the Officer Malaria Suryanarayana, and Malaria RRB Puram medical officer for their efficient execution of Consultant Ramachandra, these assessments. among others, attended the To improve infrastructure, meeting.

### Annual Brahmotsavams begin at Sri Kashi Visweswara Swamy temple with grandeur

### PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Sri Kashi Visweswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam, a temple with a rich history of 123 years situated in Nunna in the NTR district, has officially inaugurated its annual Brahmotsavams and Kalyana Mahotsavams with fervour. The three-day celebration commenced under the leadership of Sri Lalitha Tripura Sundari Devi Peethadhipathi Munindra Maharaj.

The Endowment Department, led by Executive Officer S Hemalatha Devi, performed special pujas along-Shivacharya Dr Mamillapalli Phani Kumar. The festivities began early in the morning with Gopooja, Ganapati Pooja, Punyahavachana, and Panchaganya Prasana, followed by Rakshabandhana, Deekshas Śweekarana, Akhanda Sthapana, and the Mahanyasapoorvaka Ekadasha Rudrabhishekham dedicated to Sri Kashi Visweswara Swamy.



### Investors invited for tourism development

### PNS VIZIANAGARAM

District Collector Dr. B.R. Ambedkar has invited investors to explore opportunities in the Public-Private (PP) model for tourism development in the district, assuring them of the necessary land and approvals. He emphasised the district's vast tourism potential and the profitability of investments in beach and temple tourism. ting of th hairing a m

Later in the evening, priests engaged in various rituals at the Yagasala. Upon entering the Yagasala, they conducted

the Vastu Homam, Vastu Puja, Ankurarpana, Kailasa Mandaparadhana, Agni Prathisĥta, Dhwajarohana, Harathi, and other ceremonial activities. A significant number of devotees gathered at the temple to partake in the special pujas. The celebrations included Sankirtans, Kolatas, dances, and Mangalavaidhyas, all taking place on the temple grounds in the presence of Shivacharya Gudur Gopikrishna.

On the first day, a large number of devotees visited

the temple and performed special pujas to the Sri Kashi Visweswara Swamy. To avoid the devotee's rush, the temple authorities arranged for volunteers. In the evening, devotees participated in the Dwajarohana and Harathi. Later, the temple priests presented Theertha Prasadams to devotees. During the event, Endowment Department Executive Officer Hemalatha Devi remarked that the annual Brahmotsavams and Kalyana Mahotsavams of Sri Kashi

Devasthanam are being observed over a span of three days. She noted that on March 13, the Divya Kalyana Mahotsavam and Rayabaram programmes for Sri Kashi Vishweshwara Swamy would be held.

Furthermore, she announced that a chariot festival would take place in the village on March 14, marked by great reverence. She explained that this day will also feature Dwaja Arohana, Deepotsavam, Dwadasa Pradakshina, Visweswara Swamy Varla Ekantha Seva, and Harathi.

District Level Tourism Council on Wednesday, the Collector outlined several proposals aimed at boosting tourism infrastructure. A major eco-tourism project at Gorrepati Buchi Apparao Tatipudi Reservoir, estimated at Rs 23 crore, has been planned.

The project includes the development of a ropeway, children's park, bird park, restaurant, clubhouse, openair amphitheatre, and other amenities across 10.63 acres.

### **Call for effective** implementation of Swarn Andhra, Swachh Andhra

Collector stresses sustained cleanliness efforts, public participation, and multi-sectoral coordination

### **PNS** VISAKHAPATNAM

District Collector MN Harendhira Prasad has directed officials to ensure the diligent and effective implementation of the Swarn Andhra, Swachh Andhra programmes, key State government initiatives aimed at enhancing sanitation and public hygiene. Stressing the importance of a well-structured action plan, the Collector underscored the need for sustained efforts to achieve tangible and lasting outcomes.

Speaking via video conference from his office, Prasad highlighted the significance of the 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign, observed on the third Saturday of each month, as a key driver in cultivating a culture of cleanliness. He emphasised that cleanliness efforts must not be confined to occasional activities but should be integrated as an ongoing responsibility. To this end, he directed officials to conduct extensive cleaning oper-



ations while ensuring align-ment with the broader objectives of the initiative. Additionally, he appealed to the public to curb plastic usage, underscoring collective responsibility in achieving Swachh Andhra Sadhana's vision. To reinforce these efforts, the Collector instructed various government departments to take an active role in cleanliness drives at critical locations, including both public and private offices, educational institutions, religious sites, parks, trans-port facilities, hostels, hospitals, and other communal spaces. He particularly stressed the need to uphold stringent sanitation standards in tourist hubs to enhance

their appeal and hygiene.

### Vijayasai's allegations part of diversion politics: Kakani Chandrababu orchestrated these remarks to create confusion

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy has reacted to the allegations made by former MP Vijayasai Reddy, stating that his comments were part of Chandrababu Naidu's diversion politics. He said that Vijayasai Reddy used to speak for hours with YS Jagan Mohan Reddy when he was the Chief Minister,

and now making such claims about a "coterie" was misleading.

Kakani further stated that Vijayasai Reddy's comments were a deliberate attempt to divert public attention from the success of YSRCP's Formation Day celebrations and the 'Yuvatha Poru" movement, which had received massive public support. He alleged that Chandrababu Naidu orchestrated these remarks to create

confusion among the people. Kakani also accused Vijayasai Reddy of having a secret friendship with Raghurama Krishnam Raju, questioning why he had rented out his house to him. He further stated that Jagan Mohan

Reddy's comments were made to serve the interests of Chandrababu Naidu. Kakani suspected a hidden agenda behind Vijayasai Reddy's actions, as resigning from the Rajya Sabha seat would benefit the Opposition alliance.

Meanwhile, YSRCP State SC Cell President and former MLA TJR Sudhakar Babu dismissed Vijayasai Reddy's allegations as baseless. Speaking at a press meet on Wednesday, he clarified that there was no connection between KV Rao and YV Subba Reddy and questioned why a case was filed against KV Rao if they were associated. He accused Vijayasai Reddy of simply reading out a script provided by others

Sudhakar Babu also criticised Vijayasai Reddy for frequently talking about a "coterie," stating that he himself had introduced many people to YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. He questioned why Vijayasai Reddy had rented out his house to Raghurama Krishnam Raju and why he was meeting opposition lead-Reddy never encouraged any coteries and that Vijayasai ers

### **Vishnu Dental College receives** bomb threat, found to be hoax



### PNS BHIMAVARAM

The Vishnu Dental College here on Wednesday received a bomb threat message and later found to be a hoax.

The College management said they received a message through email that a bomb was planted in the College

campus and they complained the same to the police.

A police bomb squad checked the college premises including the corridor, laboratory and ground with a sniffer dog and found no bomb in the premises. The police found that it was a hoax message and registered a case.

### 2 killed as two private buses collided

### restored traffic.

In a ghastly road accident, two persons were killed and 18 were injured, five of them seriously, when two private travel buses collided at Rayalpadu village in Annamayya district on Wednesday. Police said that two private

PNS 📕 KADAPA

buses collided head on in which two passengers were killed instantaneously and 18 persons were injured. The injured were admitted to the government hospitals in Kolar, Šrinivasapuram and Madanapalle where the condition of five of them is said to be very critical. The police shifted the bodies to the GGH for postmortem and removed the ill-buses from the road and

Meanwhile, Minister for Transport M Ramprasad Reddy expressed shock and grief over the collision of two private buses at Rayalpadu in Annamayya district and death of two passengers. He said that the injured were admitted to hospitals and being provided treatment. He conveyed sympathies to the bereaved families. He spoke to the district officials and directed them to provide better medical treatment to the injured.

The Minister instructed the officials to take efficient steps to ensure that such ghastly road accidents do not recur in the future. He told them to lay special focus on the private buses and intensify checking.









# **MP** appeals to Union Minister to sanction funds for subways, FOs

### PNS ELURU

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has appealed to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari to sanction funds for the construction of subways and flyovers on national highways in Éluru district to prevent accidents.

The MP submitted a formal request to the Union Minister

at his office on Parliament House Minister Chamber Road. MP Mahesh Kumar informed the Union Minister that the 24-kilometer road from Gundugolanu to Peddintlamma Temple passes through the Kolleru Lake area. He highlighted that the famous Peddintlamma Temple in Kolletilanka attracts pilgrims throughout the year and that tourists from around the world visit Kolleru Lake to see migratory birds.

He pointed out that the existing single-lane surface road runs parallel to the Agadalanka Channel causing inconvenience to the public and tourists. Therefore, he requested the sanction of Rs 109 crores for the construction of a double-lane road.

The MP urged the construction of a 2 km flyover at Bhimadolu, highlighting that people crossing the interchange at Kurellagudem face frequent accidents. He requested the construction of a 1,200-meter flyover from Ambarpeta ZP Road to Ambarpeta Polimerapunta and a 600-meter



MP Mahesh Kumar informed the Union Minister that the 24-kilometer road from Gundugolanu to Peddintlamma Temple passes through the Kolleru Lake area. He highlighted that the famous Peddintlamma Temple in Kolletilanka attracts pilgrims throughout the vear and that tourists from around the world visit Kolleru Lake to see migratory birds

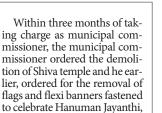
flyover at the interchange point from P. Kannapuram ZP Road to Kodurupadu ZP Road. He from P. Kannapuram to Pull. also highlighted the need for a To prevent accidents, he requested the construction of a flyover or subway at the con-1,200-meter flyover or subway necting point of the R&B road

and the national highway at Kaikaram interchange, which links two constituencies. Additionally, he requested the construction of a 1 km flyover or subway from Tallapuram Ponta Road via Chebrolu to the outskirts of Narayanapuram village to ease traffic congestion and prevent accidents.

The MP stressed the need for flyovers and subways at the seven identified blind spots on NH-216A and NH-16 and sought funds from the Union Minister for their construction. Mahesh Kumar requested funds for the construction of a flyover at Unguturu to prevent accidents caused by railway crossings

The MP also highlighted the need for a 4-meter-high box culvert or PUP/CUP at the Seethampeta junction in Denduluru Mandal, as well as the construction of a flyover bridge and a box culvert at Gundugolanu junction. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari responded positively to MP Mahesh Kumar's request and assured the sanctioning of funds for these projects.

being taken up in WG district in 15000 hectares. identify areas suitable for floriculture in the district adding that the initial investment for floriculture is somewhat high and if the flowers are harvested, the farmers would earn more income. She explained that term loans should be pro-



PNS BHIMAVARAM

'floriculture cultivation'.

able for flower cultivation. She

informed that floriculture is

She directed the officials to

the BJP leader lashed out. He also claimed that the Sunkulamma temple, located at the Municipal office, was also razed to the ground. The BJP leader warned of intensifying agitation in protesting against

floriculture to earn more income vided as investment for floriculture to be paid after 5 years and in addition to NABARD and DRDA loans. There are opportunities for jasmine cul-

Farmers advised to take up

West Godavari district Collector Chadalavada Nagarani has advised the farmtivation through NREGA. ers to take up floriculture to earn more income. An aware-"There is a good demand for ness programme was orga-nized here on Wednesday by decorative flowers in the country and abroad. The orchid flowers are being successfully the horticulture department on cultivated in five acres in Speaking on the occasion, Kapavaram, and Peravali mandal. I have also personally inspected them and I was told Collector Nagarani said that Andhra Pradesh is ranked 3rd in the country in terms of florithat each flower is sold at culture with 19,000 hectares, about Rs.30 to Rs.150. There adding that the flower cultivaare some more flowers which tion has been taken up by are also most expensive which farmers on a small scale and makes farmers earn profits," that the climate soils and abunthe Collector revealed. dant irrigation water are suit-

She told the officials to explain to the farmers about the cultivation of these flowers in poly house shades, adding that flowers can be cultivated from as little as 10 cents to one acre land and their cultivation can be increased in stages.

"India is in second place in flower cultivation in the world and China is in first place. The flower cultivation is carried out in 2,85,000 hectares in our country and 35 percent of the

world's flower cultivation is in India, 21% flower producers are from Tamil Nadu, 16% from Karnataka and 14% from Andhra Pradesh," the Collector explained. She said that there is a possibility of three times more

yield in poly house cultivation than in open field cultivation, stating that high value vegetables and flowers like capsicum, British cucumber, gerbera, orchid can be cultivated through poly house and profits can be made.

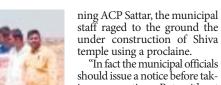
"The government will provide a subsidy of 50% of the cost of construction of a poly house with a maximum subsidy of Rs 16 lakh per acre. There is a subsidy of maximum Rs 5 lakh per acre for cultivation of flowers and vegetable crops in poly houses. The progressive farmers should take advantage of the opportunity," she mentioned. Horticulture officer R Devanand Kumar and Agriculture officer Z Venkateswara Rao were among those who attended the programme.

### PNS ANANTAPUR

The Bhajarang Dal and BJP leaders vehemently condemned the demolition of under construction Shiva temple at Kasapuram road in Guntakal town. The Bhajarant Dal, BJP and Vishwa Hindu Parishad leaders visited the demolished Shiva temple.

Talking to the media, BJP leader Vasam Ravi alleged that on the direction of Guntakal municipal commissioner Nayeem Ahmad and town plan-





ing any action. But without issuing a notice or providing intimation, the officials demolished the Shiva temple. The undemocratic act hurt the sentiments of lakhs of Hindus," he Mogul emperors, he regretted.

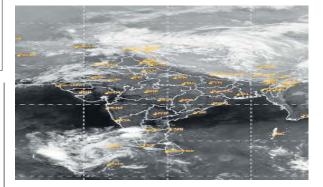
slammed. Recalling that during the Moghal emperor, Aurangzeb and Akbar demolished thousands of Hindu temples, he lamented that now a Shiva temple was demolished. Municipal Commissioner Nayeem Ahmad's act of demolishing

Shiva temple reminisced the

demolitions of temples by the

demolition of Shiva temple.

# Trough in easterlies influencing AP weather conditions



### YSRCP takes out rally demanding Two students drowned release of fee reimbursement arrears in irrigation canal



### PNS NARASARAOPET

Two students were drowned in an irrigation canal at Petlurivaripalem village in Narasaraopet mandal on Wednesday.

Police said that the deceased students Tej Kumar (22) and Gopi (22) entered the irrigation canal to have a bath and

were drowned. Tej Kumar was

studying diploma third year and he belonged to Ongole while Gopi was studying B.Tech third year and he belonged to Kurchedu village.

Narasaraopet for postmortem.

The bodies were fished out

from the canal. The police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH in

The YSRCP took out a huge rally here on Wednesday demanding the Government to release fee reimbursement

> arrears A Large number of stu-dents, YSRCP leaders and activists took part in the rally. They held placards and raised slogans denouncing the indifference of the Government in releasing arrears of fee reimbursement. They also opposed the government's decision of privatizing the Government medical colleges.

high school and reached the Collector's office. The YSRCP leaders and the students' union leaders submitted a memorandum to Collector Thameem Ansariya

The YSRCP leaders including MLAs Dr.Buchepali Shiva Reddy, Prasad Chandrasekhar, former MLAs Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy, Anna Rambabu, K Nagarjuna, ZP chairperson Buchepalli Venkayamma and former Minister Adimulapu Suresh were among those who took part in the rally.

PNS GUNTUR

a cyclonic circulation over the

West Equatorial Indian Ocean

and adjoining Maldives area

now runs up to the Southwest

Bay of Bengal off the Tamil

Nadu coast at 0.9 km above

mean sea level, the

Meteorological Centre report-

According to the daily

weather report, maximum

temperatures are expected to

ed on Wednesday.

gradually rise by 2-3 degrees Celsius in Coastal Andhra Tuesday's trough in easterlies Pradesh and Rayalaseema over that previously extended from the next five days.

Dry weather is likely to prevail across these regions for the next seven days. During the past 24 hours, rainfall occurred at isolated places in Rayalaseema, while dry weather persisted in Coastal Andhra Pradesh. The highest maximum temperature of 37.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Nandyal in Rayalaseema on Tuesday, the report added.

# KCR gifted 'financial cancer' to Telangana

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

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that former Chief Minister KCR presented 'financial cancer' as a gift to the state. "If the cancer is getting worse does it mean the state is bankrupt? How long will they hide the truth?" the CM asked.

The CM said the BRS government was not sincere in addressing the problems of the unemployed. The hard work and commitment of the unemployed in the formation of the People's Government' is praiseworthy, the CM said.

"When I disclosed facts, the opposition made a hue and cry and targeted me. The entire KCR family is uttering lies like the state on the basis of lies. I will share facts with you and try to develop the state. Your cooperation is required to build a bright future for coming gen-erations in Telangana," the CM said

wasted 12 years of their valu-



happy to say that the government provided a permanent solution to the unemployment problem which was one of the main factors behind the Telangana Movement, the CM said.

Chief Minister Revanth a family package. I will not run Reddy handed over appointment letters to the newly recruited 1,292 Junior Lecturers and 240 Polytechnic Lecturers on Wednesday in Hyderabad at a function held at the Ravindra Bharathi.

Speaking on this occasion, He said that job applicants the CM said the future of the country is in its classrooms. able time due to the negligence The future of the country's of the BRS government. The economy is linked to education. People's government' filled It is commendable that all of 55,163 posts in the first year you received appointment let- declining in government

Department. The CM said the government resolved the issue of transfers and promotions of teachers which had been pending for a long time and also introduced reforms in the Education Department.

The CM said that declining educational standards is a matter of great concern which is also embarrassing for the state. All newly recruited teaching staff should do their jobs well and raise educational stan-dards with the same drive they

showed during the Telangana Movement, Revanth said. The CM said that government schools and colleges should compete with private schools. Student enrolment is after assuming power. I am ters in the Education schools every year and increas-

"When I disclosed facts, the opposition made a hue and cry and targeted me. The entire KCR family is uttering lies like a family package. I will not run the state on the basis of lies. I will share facts with you and try to develop the state. Your cooperation is required to build a bright future for coming generations in Telangana"

ing in private institutions. I am appealing to the teaching staff to think seriously about this issue, he said.

The CM said spending money on students is not an expenditure but an investment in the future. There is a need to examine the reasons behind the decline in the number of students studying in government schools, he said.

The CM said the government is setting up 55 Young on loans taken by the BRS gov-India Integrated Schools to ernment," the CM said.

raise education standards in government schools and has allocated Rs 11,000 crore for it. He said the government is

setting up Young India Skills University to improve the skills of students and the unemployed. There is a need to develop Telangana so that it can compete with the world.

Along with the Young India Sports University, the Government is also setting up the Young India Sports Authority aiming to win medals at the Olympics. We are ready to encourage those who excel in sports, the CM said. The government relaxed rules and gave a job to interna-

tional cricketer Siraj. World boxing champion Nikhat Zareen was also given a DSP rank post in the police. A government job and house site was allotted to Deepti Jivanji who excelled in the paralympics, the CM said

Some people are talking about stature. Leaders who spoke about stature are lying on stretchers now. Stature is for posts and not for people. Our government inherited the debts and blunders of the KCR admin. The government has to pay Rs 6,500 crore every month to clear debts and the interest

# Police foil robbery attempt by arresting robbers

### PNS CHITTOOR

In a cinematic incident, the timely action of police thwarted the attempt of robbery by miscreants at gunpoint in a trader's house, located in Gandhi road, near Lakshmi cinema hall, here on Wednesday.

Police said that five robbers barged into the house of Pushpa Kids World shop owner Chandreasekhar at around 6 am. The robbers fired into the air with a revolver to threaten the inmates. They personnel rounded up the forced them to give gold jew-ellery and cash. Chandrasekhar through the rooftop.

suffered injuries in the incident. However, the wife and son Chandrasekahr managed to come out of the house and raised an alarm. They informed the police over mobile phones and alerted the local people. Within minutes, police led by DSP Manikantha reached the house and swung into action with sniffer dogs. Like a cinema incident, the armed police, including the OCTO-PUS wing personnel, scaled the compound wall and jumped into the premises. Some police

The police personnel apprehended all the five robbers in the house and seized revolvers and rubber bullets from them. It is learnt that the arrested robbers confessed to the crime. All the five robbers belonged to Karnataka and a north Indian State, police said.

However, the robbery incident took an interesting turn when the police got information that another trader, owner of SLV furniture, Subramanyam, hatched the robbery plan. The robbery house and entered the house incident panicked the denizens of the colony.



# Nation 05

Display of menu, rate list of food

items mandatory: Railway min

### **ACROSS THE STATES**



### J'khand govt hikes cess on mined minerals

he Jharkhand government on Wednesday decided to hike the cess on mined minerals up to four times to boost the state's revenue, an official said. The proposal was approved during the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Hemant Soren. "The cess on coal for per metric tonne dispatch was increased to Rs 250 from the existing Rs 100, while the same on iron ore was hiked to Rs 400 from the existing Rs 100," cabinet secretary Vandana Dadel said. Among others, the cess on bauxite (non-metallurgical grade) was increased to Rs 116 from Rs 70. As many as 31 proposals were approved by the cabinet, including a change in the rule requiring three years of service in the state after completing postgraduate courses in medical colleges. The rule requiring students to refund Rs 30 lakh and any scholarships or allowances if they don't serve for three years has been changed. "Now, after completing PG and serving one year in the state, if a student chooses not to continue, they will have to pay Rs 1.25 lakh per month for the remaining service months," an official said.



### Kerala police to take steps to check drug abuse

he Kerala Police have decided to implement T comprehensive and effective measures to strengthen the state-level anti-drug campaign in light of the increasing incidents of violence fueled by drug abuse. A high-level review meeting, chaired by ADGP (Law and Order) Manoj Abraham on Wednesday, decided to conduct intensive inspections of shops and other establishments near educational institutions. Inspections will also be carried out at the homes and hideouts of individuals previously involved in drug-related cases. Migrant workers' camps will be thoroughly checked, along with DJ parties in hotels and resorts where rampant drug abuse has been reported, an official release here said. The trial proceedings of commercial and mid-sized drug cases will be reviewed by district police chiefs once every two weeks. Investigations will also be intensified at railway stations to curb the smuggling of drugs from northern Indian states into Kerala, it stated.

### VIJAYAWADA | THURSDAY | MARCH 13, 2025

# **INDIA, MAURITIUS INK 8 PACTS PM Modi unveils 'MAHASAGAR'** vision



ence in the Indian Ocean.

and assistance to Mauritius in

minister said.

### PNS PORT LOUIS

India and Mauritius on Wednesday elevated their ties to 'enhanced strategic partnership' and inked eight pacts to boost ties in several sectors, including maritime security, and promote trade in local currencies, even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled an ambitious vision for growth and security of the Global South.

On the second and final day of his two-day trip to Mauritius, Modi graced the national day celebrations of the island nation as the chief guest and announced a raft of development projects for the strategically-located country. Following talks with his

Mauritian counterpart Navinchandra Ramgoolam, defence cooperation and maritime security are an important Modi announced India's new part of the strategic partnership vision for Global South and between the two countries. named it "MAHASAGAR" or 'Joint Vision for an Enhanced "Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Strategic Partnership' that out-

Growth Across Regions", a pollined the futuristic approach in icy approach that came against expanding bilateral cooperation the backdrop of China's relentin a range of areas including in less attempts to expand its infludefence and maritime security, trade, health and education, and 'We are committed to extend space and climate change.

The document noted that the full cooperation in the security of Mauritius' Exclusive two sides will enhance maritime Economic Zone," the prime cooperation through increasing deployment of ships and aircraft In the meeting, Modi reiter-ated India's continued support for joint maritime surveillance

and hydrographic surveys. It said the two leaders also augmenting its defence and resolved to deepen cooperation towards securing EEZ of Mauritius, including through security needs given the shared objectives of the two nations in enhanced utilisation of newly built runway and jetty at Agalega. The unveiling of the 'MAHASAGAR' vision came 10 the region. The PM said a free, open, secure, and safe Indian

Ocean is the common priority of India and Mauritius and that he and Ramgoolam agreed that years after the prime minister announced during his visit to Mauritius in 2015 New Delhi's SAGAR or Security and Growth for All in the Region policy that The two sides also unveiled a formed the bedrock for India's engagement with the Indian Ocean Region.

### Centre nod to **Bengal CM's UK visit**

PNS NEW DELHI

Wednesday.

### PNS KOLKATA

added.

The Centre on Wednesday approved West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's proposed visit to London later this month to deliver a lecture at the University of Oxford, a source at state secretariat Nabanna said.

Banerjee is slated to leave for London on March 21 and is scheduled to deliver the lecture on March 27, the source added. Pro vice chancellor of Oxford University, Jonathan Michie, had invited her in November 2023 when he was

in Kolkata for the Bengal Global Business Summit.



sented to passengers on demand," he said in a written food items and measures taken to improve hygiene, cleanliness and quality of food in trains, reply. "The rate list is also displayed in pantry cars. Further, to make the passengers aware of Vaishnaw said among important menu and tariff of catering sersteps taken are supply of meals vices over Indian Railways, SMS from designated base kitchens, to passengers with link to menu commissioning of modern base and tariff has been started," he kitchens at identified locations and installation of CCTV cam-Responding to the question eras in base kitchens for better regarding menu card, rate list of monitoring of food preparation.

According to Vaishnaw, shortlisting and use of popular and branded raw materials, like cooking oil, atta, rice, pulses, masala items, paneer, dairy products etc. for food production as well as deployment of food safety supervisors at base kitchens to monitor food safety and hygienic practices have been done.



# BJP sweeps Haryana civic polls

PNS CHANDIGARH

the ruling BJP swept the civic polls in the state on Wednesday, bagging nine of the ten mayoral seats. In the outgoing municipal corporations, BJP had its mayors in seven civic bodies.

The Congress, which was looking to turn around its electoral fortunes after suffering a defeat in the 2024 Assembly polls, failed to open its account. The party lost in Sonipat, where it had its mayor, and Rohtak, considered a stronghold of its stalwart and former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Independent candidate Inderjeet Yadav was the only non-BJP nominee to win a mayoral seat. She was elected from Manesar, where municipal elections were held for the first time.

Celebrations erupted in the BJP camp after the results, with party leaders in Chandigarh and many districts distributing sweets. There were early Holi festivities as jubilant BJP members applied 'gulal' (colour) to

each other. After the results, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said people have put their stamp of approval on the works and policies of the BJP government and formed a "triple-engine government" which will work at a fast pace to realise the resolve of 'developed Haryana-developed India".

# 'Tripura first in PDS among NE states'

### PNS AGARTALA

Food and Civil Supplies minister Sushanta Chowdhury on Wednesday claimed that Tripura stands first among the northeastern states in the Public Distribution System (PDS). Tripura has 9.83 lakh ration cardholders.

"Our PDS system is the first at a press conference here.

among the northeastern states and fourth all India when it comes to delivery of services to the people. Recently, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma spoke to me and wanted to know how the state provides pulses at subsidised rate. Later, he He said there was a meeting of

sent officials to our state to look food ministers of the northeastinto the matter," Chowdhury said ern states at Guwahati recently to review the PDS system in the

region where Tripura's PDS system was "highly praised". "Apart from distribution of

rice and atta, the state also provides pulses, mustard oil and spices to consumers. The Food and Civil Supplies department has finalised the tender for procuring mustard oil. We are waiting for the price of mustard

oil to reduce," he said

Why should I speak in

Less than six months after scoring a hat-trick of wins in Haryana Assembly elections,



### 'LVM-3 rockets to be built with private sector's help'

he government has approved the production of more than 60 LVM-3 rockets with the help of the private sector and the launch of a constellation of earth observation satellites to create demand for the country's nascent private space industry. Addressing the Bharat Space Conclave at FICCI here, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (INSPACe) Chairman Pawan Kumar Goenka said the production of more than 60 LVM-3 rockets, used to launch heavy satellites, will take place over the next 12-14 years. "We have approval to build 60-plus LVM-3 rockets, which will primarily be done with the help of the private sector. This will bring in about Rs 25,000 crore of business to the private sector," Goenka said. INSPACe has the mandate for promotion of the private space industry and also to authorise activities of non-government entities in the sector. India opened up the space sector for private participation in 2020, leading to the emergence of nearly 250 start-ups in the past few years. However, a concern often flagged by the industry is the lack of demand for space applications in the country, which could hamper growth in the sector.

# Will continue as CM for another five years, says Siddaramaiah

### PNS BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said that the Congress will be elected to power again and he would continue to hold the CM post for another five years.

Siddaramaiah was replying to the opposition BJP members in the Assembly who had trooped into the well of the House, alleging disrespect for the MLAs and the MLCs, as the government had appointed Congress workers as the guarantee committee chairpersons and members.

The Leader of the Opposition, R Ashoka, alleged that the Congress government and mee congress government was setting a wrong precedent and more challenging for the next government. Quickly, the chief minister rejected his argument.

The CM said, "We will not go. We will win again. You cannot win (election). There is no second view about it.'

Siddaramaiah reminded the opposition that they lost the recent Assembly bypolls in Channapatna, Shiggaon and



Sandur

"You people had challenged us before the Assembly election as to whether we have guts and strength. You saw the fate of your challenge. We will return to power again and I will be there (as next chief minister)," he quipped.

The CM's reply comes amid power tussle between Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar.

The opposition has been upset over the appointment of Congress workers as the chairperson and members of the guarantees implementation committees saying that these committee members have a

bigger say in the district administration than the MLAs and the **MLCs** 

The five guarantee schemes are 'Gruha Jyothi' offering 200 units electricity free to every household, 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme promising Rs 2,000 to every woman head of a family and <sup>'</sup>Anna Bhagya' offering 10 kg rice to every member of the BPL family a month. The 'Yuva Nidhi' scheme

promises Rs 3,000 dole to unemployed graduates and Rs 1,500 to unemployed diploma holders for two years (in the 18-25 age-group) and 'Shakti' scheme permits free travel for Karnataka women to travel within the state in government non-luxury buses.

The Congress government has established guarantee implementation committee in all the districts and appointed party leaders and workers to oversee the implementation, which the BJP alleged was a breach of privilege of legislators by the ruling party, and continued their agitation for the second day in the Karnataka Assembly.

# Marathi in Maharashtra?

### Telecom company staffer's rant sparks row

### PNS MUMBAI

BJP MLC Chitra Wagh on Wednesday called for promoting the use of local language in Maharashtra, a statement which comes after a video of a female employee of a prominent telecom company purportedly refusing to interact with a customer in Marathi went viral.

Wagh, who also heads the women's wing of Maharashtra BJP, stressed the importance of Marathi language, saying, "If one resides in Maharashtra, they must know Marathi. If they don't, they should at least be willing to iour. In the video, the employee reportedly asked, "Why should I speak in Marathi? Where is it written to speak Marathi in Maharashtra? You learn and respect the language"

Referring to the viral video, she said there has been an instance of "arrogance and rudeness at the Airtel gallery" by a female employee and demanded immediate action against her.

important to me. We live in 'Moreover, going forward, Hindustan and anyone can every manager and employee use any language.

in your galleries must be pro-Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M ficient in Marathi, and K Stalin on Wednesday recruitment should prioritise alleged that the NEP was a individuals fluent in the lan-Saffron policy aimed at develguage," she said in her mesoping Hindi and claimed that sage to the telecom company. the BJP, through the pro-There was no immediate posed delimitation exercise, official reaction from the was attempting to sustain company but officials termed power by winning in northern it as an unfortunate incident states. Addressing a public meet-ing, Stalin alleged that the BJP and said necessary measures have been taken.

The controversial video was trying to increase the number of its MPs in states of shot by an unidentified person shows that a local Airtel their influence and thereby gallery in Mumbai did not develop their party and assertresolve his complaint and resorted to unpleasant behaved that the DMK will stop it.

"We oppose NEP as it will completely destroy Tamil Nadu's education growth," Stalin said addressing the party rally to condemn the Centre.

The DMK president further claimed that the NEP "does not accept reservation, which is social justice." In name of vocational education, the Centre was attempting to introduce caste-based education, he alleged.

# SKAT's spectacular air show in Andamans

### PNS PORT BLAIR

The Indian Air Force's elite Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) on Wednesday performed a spectacular air show over Marina Park facing the Ross Island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The air show started at 3.30 pm and ended at 4.15 pm. A large number of local people and tourists gathered at Marina Park in Port Blair to witness the spectacular air show. The SKAT team was led by

Group Captain Ajay Dasarathi with Group Captain Sidhesh Kartik as deputy leader. The aircraft of the team flew



remarkably in close formation, maintaining a separation of less than five metres between them. Flying in their iconic red-and-white Hawk Mk-132 jets, the team performed loops, barrel rolls, inverted flying, and their signature DNA manoeuvre," a spokesperson of ANI command said.

The air show was held to motivate local youths to join the force. It will also be held on Thursday.

Speaking to PTI, a senior ANI Command spokesperson said, "Our SKAT is known as the 'Ambassadors of the IAF'. Today's air show was a tribute to India's aviation excellence,

inspiring the youth with a deep sense of patriotism. "The event was free of cost

and all residents of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, especially children, were invited to witness this thrilling performance. We are happy that it enthralled all the spectators with its breathtaking manoeuvres, precision flying, and a stunning display of aerial prowess."

"The SKAT has enthralled audiences at air shows and recently at Bangkok, Thailand,

celebrating the 88th anniversary of the Royal Thai Air Force. The unforgettable moment was globally appreciated," the spokesperson said.

### Akhilesh accuses BJP govt of protecting land mafia in UP PNS LUCKNOW erties, assaulting them, and issu-

should speak to me properly.

the outlet, the woman was

seen saying, "Marathi is not

As the senior staff reached

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday alleged that the BJP government was protecting land mafia and criminals in Uttar Pradesh.

Yadav, in a statement, said that under the BJP rule, land-grabbing incidents have surged, with the poor being harassed and forced to transfer their land under duress

"BJP is the biggest land mafia party. Since coming to power, BJP leaders have been terrorising the poor and forcibly snatch-



Ayodhya, exposed the reality of

the government's land policies.

cers are not being spared. Land

mafia are capturing their prop-

'Now, even retired Army offi-

said. The former UP chief minister cited the instance of a retired brigadier being allegedlv attacked when he opposed the illegal occupation of his land. The situation is deteriorating ing their land," he said. He alleged that land registra-tions in districts, including daily, and land mafia are flour-

favourites," he alleged.

ishing under government protec-tion in every district," he alleged. "The government itself is acquiring land from the poor and farmers at throwaway prices and handing it over to its

ing threats. The law and order

situation has hit rock bottom," he

### policy, alleges **TN CM Stalin**

**NEP** a Saffron

### PNS CHENNAI



# **OPINION** 06

# **E**ditor's TAKE Mark Carney to take on Voldemort

A known Trump critic, Mark Carney replaces Justin Trudeau as Canada's Prime Minister

a historic political shift, Mark Carney has been announced as the next leader of the Liberal Party and the 24th Prime Minister of Canada, succeeding Justin Trudeau. Carney won the leadership race decisively, securing 131,674 votes, approximately 85.9 per cent of the ballots. His transition into office marks a significant turning point for the Liberal Party and Canada's future, particularly in its economic policies and international relations. Carney brings a wealth of economic expertise to the position, having previously served as the Governor of both the Bank of Canada (2008-2013) and the Bank of England (2013-2020). He is widely credited with steering Canada through the 2008 financial crisis, earning him a reputation as a pragmatic and reliable leader. His experience on the global financial stage, positions him as a leader with strong economic acumen. A former Goldman Sachs executive, Carney has long been seen as a steady hand in times of crisis, making him an ideal choice to ensure stability and economic resilience in the face of global uncertainties.

One of Carney's most immediate and critical challenges will be navigating Canada's relationship with the United States, particularly with former President Donald Trump returning to power. Trump's previous tenure was marked by a disdainful approach toward Canada, imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum, challenging trade agreements, and openly criticising the country's economic policies. In his second term, Trump has become even more vitriolic towards Canada. Carney's economic background makes him suited to address Trump's aggressive trade tactics. Having managed financial stability through turbulent times, he is likely to adopt a measured yet firm approach in negotiations. His experience in global financial leadership suggests he will prioritise economic diplomacy, leveraging Canada's trade alliances, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Canada-European Union trade deal, to counterbalance US pressure

However, Carney's personal history with Trump presents an interesting dynamic. In the past, he has been openly critical of Trump's economic policies and even likened him to Voldemort, the infamous antagonist from Harry Potter. While this past remark may resurface in political discourse, Carney is expected to adopt a professional stance, emphasising economic pragmatism over political rhetoric a stark departure from his predecessor.

Carney's leadership is expected to focus on economic stability, climate change initiatives, and maintaining Canada's social programs. Given his strong advocacy for sustainable finance, his administration may prioritise green investments, aligning Canada's economic policies with global climate commitments. Trade diversification will be another key aspect of his strategy. To mitigate the risk of overreliance on the US market, Carney may seek to strengthen economic ties with Europe, Asia, and emerging markets, reducing Canada's vulnerability to American protectionism.

Mark Carney's rise to Canada's highest office brings a shift from Trudeau's leadership style to one deeply rooted in financial expertise and economic strategy. Under Mark Carney's leadership, Indo-Canada relations are expected to take a pragmatic and economically driven turn. He is likely to prioritise trade, investment, and economic collaboration with India. Canada may seek to expand its role in sectors such as technology, clean energy, and natural resources, aligning with India's rapid economic growth. However, political tensions, particularly surrounding issues like Khalistani separatism, could remain a challenge. Carney's diplomatic approach will likely focus on de-escalation and fostering stronger ties through economic partnerships rather than ideological confrontations. His leadership presents an opportunity for renewed negotiations on a long-pending free trade agreement, which could significantly enhance bilateral trade.

# **Delhi's bold step towards sustainability**

The newly elected Delhi government is setting ambitious goals for environmental sustainability and disaster resilience, with a strong focus on cleaning the Yamuna River, pollution control, and waste management

leaning the Yamuna river, pollution control, garbage management, and addressing climate and disaster resilience to ensure sustainable development are among the top priorities of the newly elected Delhi government. However, these ambitious goals can only be achieved with active community participation. Raising awareness and fostering public engagement are crucial to creating a more sustainable and disaster-resilient future. In this context, a Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Environmental Sustainability, known as "Yamuna- Apda evam Jalvayu Parivartan Nyunikaran Adhisthan (YAJNA)" meaning- Yamuna -Institute for Disaster and Climate Change Mitigation, is proposed. This centre will serve as a hub for education, collaboration, and action, setting an example for other states to follow

Delhi, the national capital of India, faces a complex web of hazards. From earthquakes and floods to human-induced crises such as severe air and water pollution, road accidents, and inefficient waste management, the city's vulnerabilities are escalating. Rapid urbanisation and a dense population further compound these risks, leading to widespread environmental degradation and public health crises. Despite existing efforts by multiple agencies, a significant gap remains in public engagement, coordination, and proactive action. A dedicated awareness centre like Yajna will bridge this gap by equipping citizens with the knowledge and tools to become active participants in resiliencebuilding.

Disaster management museums cum knowledge centres worldwide have demonstrated their potential to drive awareness and preparedness. The Kobe Earthquake Memorial Museum in Japan and the Tsunami Memorial Museum in Thailand have played pivotal roles in educating the public on natural and human-induced hazards and mitigating the risk with better response strategies. In India, the Earthquake Museum in Bhuj, Gujarat, serves as a model for enhancing public understanding of seismic risks. Inspired by these global and national examples, the proposed centre in Delhi will not only focus on disaster risk reduction but also integrate environmental conservation, climate change mitigation, and pollution control efforts, with a special emphasis on cleaning the Yamuna River.

Yamuna, the lifeline of Delhi, has been battling severe pollution for decades. Industrial waste, untreated sewage, and rampant encroachments have turned this once-pris-



tine river into a toxic water body. The newly elected government has placed Yamuna's rejuvenation at the forefront of its agenda, recognising that a clean river is fundamental to public health, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable urban development. However, government initiatives alone cannot restore the Yamuna. Without widespread community participation, even the most well-intentioned policies will fall short. The proposed centre will be crucial in mobilising citizens, educating them about the importance of river conservation, and providing actionable solutions for sustainable

water management. Environmental sustainability and disaster resilience are deeply interconnected. Poor waste management contributes to urban flooding, air pollution exacerbates respiratory diseases, and deforestation heightens vulnerability to climate-induced disasters. The centre will function as a convergence point where experts, policymakers, students, and local communities come together to find innovative and practical solutions. Through interactive exhibitions, hands-on training, and community-driven campaigns, the centre will empower people to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives. It will promote waste segregation, composting, and recycling, significantly reducing Delhi's landfill burden. Additionally, it will advocate for green energy solutions, urban afforestation, and pollution control measures, aligning with India's commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for

Disaster Risk Reduction.

Public engagement will be at the heart of this initiative. Schools, colleges, resident welfare associations, and corporate sectors will be actively involved in awareness campaigns, training sessions, and workshops. The younger generation, in particular, will be encouraged to take ownership of environ-



hub, providing scientific insights and data-driven recommendations to strengthen urban resilience. It will facilitate collaboration between various gov ernment agencies, research institutions, and civil society organisations to develop integrated strategies for disaster preparedness and environmental sustainability. With realtime monitoring of air and water quality, the centre will enable authorities to take proactive measures in pollution control and disaster risk reduction.

This initiative is not just about creating another institution-it is about transforming

Delhi into a model city for resilience and sustainability. By integrating disaster risk reduction with environmental conservation, the centre will facilitate enhancing public safety, improve air and water quality, and promote sustainable urban planning. The direct economic benefits in the form of revenue will be significant as well. Similar to the Bhuj Earthquake Museum, which has become a successful revenue-generating centre, YAJNA is expected to attract students, researchers, policymakers, and industry professionals from across the country and beyond. Educational programs, training courses, and consultancy services will generate revenue, ensuring the centre's long-term viabil-

As Delhi embarks on a new chapter under the leadership of the newly elected government, the time to act is now. The commitment to cleaning the Yamuna, controlling pollution, managing waste effectively, and building climate resilience must be translated into concrete actions. This initiative offers a comprehensive and practical roadmap to achieve these goals. By bringing together the government, experts, and citizens, the centre will ensure that resilience and sustainability become embedded in Delhi's development journey. A resilient Delhi is not just a necessity-it is a responsibility we owe to future generations.

(The writer is former executive director, Nationa Institute of Disaster Management. Views expressed are personal)

## The delicate strength of relationships





to speak a few words. Eloquence is not my engineer has made me too rational and logical. I often find wife as she starts talking about something bothering her, a situation that I may feel is beyond her control. I conveniently forget my learnings over a lifetime, till she reminds me that she is aware of the impossibility of the situation. She wants me to let her vent her frustrations. I realise there is a lot I need to work on.

### Leaderspeak

Today, Prime Minister Navin Chandra Ramgoolam and I decided to give the India-Mauritius partnership the status of 'Enhanced Strategic Partnership'. We decided that India will cooperate in building the new Parliament building in Mauritius. This will be a gift to Mauritius from the Mother of Democracy. India and Maurities are connected not just by the Indian Ocean but by shared culture and values. We are each other's partners on the path of economic and social progress.

NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

### Opinion

elationships are beautiful. However, I often view them through the lenses of the bound-Raries deeply ingrained during childhood and over the decades. I fail to grasp that human relationships are pure and unadulterated emotions. They cannot follow any scientific formulae. I also need to curb my tendency to judge the raw emotions and reactions of others solely based on my experiences.

I am the oldest child of my generation in the entire family. A lesson deeply ingrained into my psyche by my elders was that I needed to be mindful of the youngsters and guests came first. I discharged my responsibilities with the utmost care till I had my first setback in my early teens. A much younger cousin was playing with my sister. Like all children, they also started fighting for the same toy. It fell upon me to mediate. My sister did not say anything but burst into tears when I tried to explain that it was our responsibility to take care of the younger guest. Her tears taught me an important lesson. We have tried hard not to burden our daughters with unnecessary baggage.

A few days into my first posting in the railways, I was asked to chair the farewell meeting of a retiring staff. I was the seniormost official in the gathering at the relatively young age of 25. I was taken aback when I was asked



brooding, over a long drawn flowery speech. I remember my impromptu words even four decades later. I compared the professional journey of everyone from the time of joining till retirement to the life of a rose and the fragrance that it spreads till the end. I also compared the new life that the staff would embark upon from the next day to the blooming of a new flower. The staff had tears of gratitude in his eyes. The supervisors

applauded me for words well said. It was Bengal where words spoken from the heart are also received with utmost sincerity. I had developed an instant connection and lasting relationships with them. They recognised me as a sensitive soul they could uninhibitedly approach for help. I may not always have been of much assistance, but it was enough for the person to unburden.

A young neighbour told me that she finds me unduly sensitive to certain situations. She said that she, and probably many more, look up to me for guidance. She went on to mention that I need to curb my impulsive reactions. My response was that I am an extremely sensitive and emotional person, and I have spent a lifetime worrying about others. It is now time for me to be myself. I rather flippantly concluded, "This is what I am."

This is a lesson I sometimes forget when imparting my words of wisdom to those dear to me. A long time as an

In author Mignon G Eberhart's words, "The complexity of human relationships is never simple to follow; it is like intricate lacework, but lacework made of steel."

To conclude, relationships are intricate, shaped by personal experiences, emotions, and deep-seated values. My journey has been one of constant learning-understanding that relationships cannot be governed by rigid logic but by sensitivity and empathy. From childhood lessons of responsibility to professional experiences that connected me with people on a deeper level, I have realised that emotions must be acknowledged, not judged.

Over the years, I have also recognised my own need to evolve. While my rationality has served me well, it sometimes overshadows the simple act of listening. As my wife often reminds me that not every problem requires a solution-sometimes, people just need to be heard. As I continue to navigate relationships, I strive to embrace emotions without overanalysing them.

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing. Views expressed are personal)

# Letters to the Editor

### **From Goddesses to Subjugation**

Madam — The editorial 'Beyond the rhetoric' should sensitise all the concerned. History presents the picture of women placed in high esteem and treated with dignity and honour. Even where men were ruling women were guiding them in the fields of diplomacy, finance and social issues. We have many women rulers who have been envied by others for their value, popularity they enjoyed, ability to rule to the satisfaction of all their subjects. It is even said that before the male God's came in the scene it was Goddesses who were actually worshiped.

However, in due course of time they have yielded to the dominance of men. Even today the society worships goddesses but keeps women in a tamed status. In spite of their fine and valuable contributions they should not learn and recite Vedas.

But women are springing up today proving themselves to be the best in every field. There are scenes of rape and denial their due rights also, which are the fallouts of the impulsive rulers' who still view the women gender as a subjugated section. Some sections justify this by calling them the dictum of the Gods.

If the government is really serious it can implement the deterrent provisions to stop the spate of rapes. Women are paraded nude in public, raped and murder in Manipur.

AG RAJMOHAN | ANANTAPUR

### **India Fights Cancer**

Madam—It is with reference to the news " BJP to open 200 day care cancer centres this year: Nadda". Central government's proposal of opening 200 day cancer centres in the country in 2025- 26 to provide basic facilities to cancer patients is a welcome move. It has also been planned to establish such centres in all districts in the next three years to treat cancer patients. In India, the number of cancer patients is rising and the country needs to improve access to cancer care. It is estimated that one in nine persons in India are likely to develop cancer in their lifetime.

Among the new cases breast, cervix and lung cancer are the most frequently reported. Though India has some of the most advanced cancer treatment methods and technology, there are still gaps in access and affordability. There are also shortage of cancer care facilities, manpower and training. Early detection, screening, education, health promotion and tobacco control are important to prevent and control cancer. It is estimated that by 2050, there will be an 85 per cent increase in the number of new cancer cases and deaths in the WHO'S South East Asia region. It is unfortunate.

Therefore, there is an urgent need for continued efforts from clinicians, researchers and policy makers to collaborate and find the most effective strategies to serve cancer patients in the best way possible.

P VICTOR SELVARAJ | TIRUNELVELI

### Self-Defence or Self-Reliance?

Madam -- The recent report from the Stockholm Peace Research Institute which highlight the Arm Import by the countries has revealed some of the really interesting facts. The report designate India as the second largest arms importing country after Ukraine, followed by Qatar. Although, the fact is not shocking that India is the major arm importing country, because we had a long history of it. There is no such big problem in such imports, but the shocking part of the story is that India fails to implement its so called state of the art plan of Aatmnirbhar Bharat idea of domestic arm manufacturing.

Whereas, China make a drastic shift of altering its import status. It successfully managed to keep itself out of the top ten importer ranking, paving the way for domestic manufacturing of such critical arms and ammunition in their own country

Arms are the basic need for self defence for any nation, which no country could ever think to avoid for. It is welcoming that despite India stand at the second position in the arm importing list, the import goes 9.3 per cent down in 2020-2024, compared to the arm trade figures of 2015-19.

In a bid to incline for self defence on our own, it is required that India must start satisfying its arm need on its own. We need to be self reliant for our self defence.

KIRTI WADHAWAN | KANPUR

### SUPREME COURT MOOTS FOR DISABLED FRIENDLY PRISONS

Tupreme Court had expressed concerns over the plight of disabled prisoners which is against the Disability Act 2016 passed by the Parliament and it is worth mentionable that during that Parliament session there was pandemonium and Disability bill was passed and all parties supported the bill and the Supreme Court said a petition highlighting the trauma and inhumane conditions suffered by Professor G Saibaba and the elderly Stan Swamy raised a "serious" issue about the lack of disabled-friendly accommodation and facilities in prisons across the country While Stan Swamy had passed away

while lodged in jail as an undertrial prisoner, Saibaba had passed away last year a few months after he was acquitted and released from jail. The Supreme Court sought the response of the Central government to a PIL seeking adequate facilities for disabled prisoners in iails

The PIL cited the instances of treatment meted out to Professor GN Saibaba and Father Stan Swamy to highlight the severe

neglect of disabled prisoners and lack of disabled-friendly accommodation, washrooms and other facilities in jails.

While Stan Swamy passed away in 2021 while lodged in jail as an undertrial prisoner in the Bhima Koregaon violence case, Saibaba passed away last year a few months after he was acquitted and released from prison. The demise of Professor GN Saibaba, a scholar and human rights activist with disabilities, was directly attributable to his deteriorating health, exacerbated by prolonged incarceration and the inhumane conditions of his detention. Stan Swamy also struggled with disability due to Parkinson's syndrome and died while in prison. He was denied medical treatment and basic support," the petition submitted.

The PIL cited the instances of treatment meted out to Professor GN Saibaba and Father Stan Swamy to highlight the severe neglect of disabled prisoners and lack of disabled-friendly accommodation, washrooms and other facilities in jails.

YASH PAL RALHAN | JALANDHAR

Please send your letter to the letterstopioneer@gmail.com. In not more than 400 words. We appreciate your feedback



ANALYSIS 07

# **Logistics is Holding Back North India's Growth**

India's industrial landscape is marked by a stark regional imbalance, with western and southern states surging ahead while northern states struggle to keep pace. Without urgent intervention to rationalise freight costs and improve logistics infrastructure, northern states risk falling further behind



ndia's industrial growth narrative presents an alarming regional imbalance that cannot be ignored. While western and southern states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Telangana stand as formidable economic powerhouses, their northern counterparts state such as Punjab and Uttar Pradesh remain entrenched in stagnation. This disparity poses a significant threat to our ambition of achieving a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. A critical factor driving this divide is logistics. The lack of adequate access to seaports makes manufacturing in northern India prohibitively expensive, crippling competitiveness and driving away crucial investment. If we fail to rationalise freight costs, the industrial sector in landlocked states will perpetually struggle, deepening the economic chasm.

### Logistics: A Key Driver of **Industrial Inequality**

With a coastline stretching 4,316 km, southern and western states possess undeniable locational advantages that enable seamless exports to markets in China, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and throughout the ASEAN region. Tamil Nadu dominates India's automobile sector, while Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Telangana lead in engineering, IT, and textiles. Collectively, these five states account for a staggering 53 per cent of India's total factories, firmly establishing their dominance in industrial growth. Maharashtra's industrial sector has experienced explosive growth, achieving a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.77 per cent from FY 2021-22 to 2023-24-the highest in the nation. Tamil Nadu follows closely at 11.63 per cent, with Telangana at 11.47 per cent, Gujarat at 10.2 per cent, and Karnataka at 8.47 per cent. In stark contrast, northern states such as Haryana (7.1 per cent), Punjab (6.78 per cent), and Uttar Pradesh (4.7 per cent) are falling behind, as highlighted by the Economic Survey of these states.

The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2022-23 further underscores this imbalance. Maharashtra and Gujarat contribute nearly 40 per cent of India's industrial output, while Uttar Pradesh and Punjab generate a mere 8.5 per cent and 2.8 per cent, respectively. The exorbitant cost of transporting goods from landlocked northern states to coastal export hubs severely undermines competitiveness. This issue has dampened overall industrial sentiment, making these states far less attractive for both domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI) compared to their southern and western counterparts.

FDI trends paint a stark picture of this dispari-ty. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Maharashtra has emerged as the leading recipient of FDI from FY 2021-22 to 2023-24, attracting ₹5,32,429 Crore-an impressive 30 per cent of total FDI equity inflows. Karnataka follows with ₹3,89,483 Crore (22 per cent) and Gujarat with ₹2,99,624 crore (17 per cent). Together, these three and container depots are, on average, 1,400 km away



states command an astounding 69 per cent of India's total FDI, while the remaining states are left with a mere 31 per cent. This clearly illustrates how locational advantages significantly dictate industrial investment.

Export statistics serve as further evidence of this imbalance, with Gujarat and Maharashtra accounting for over 50 per cent of India's total exports, thanks to their robust seaport infrastructures. Without immediate and decisive intervention, this disparity will only continue to widen, threatening the future economic landscape of our nation.

### **Seaport-Led Industrialisation: A Global Perspective**

Seaports play a critical role in industrialisation. Some countries, like China, have successfully leveraged their coastal regions to expand manufacturing capabilities. In China, industrial hubs are strategically located near ports, minimising logistical costs. In contrast, India's hinterland dry ports from seaports, leading to significantly higher export and import costs. This distance compounds competition from China, which accounted for nearly 42 per cent of India's textiles and clothing imports, 40 per cent of machinery imports, and 38.4 per cent of electronics imports in 2023-24. Why Freight Costs Matter

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported in 2022 that India's logistics costs are already 14 per cent higher than the global average, disproportionately affecting manufacturers in landlocked northern states that rely on dry ports as critical trade gateways. Manufacturers in these areas face higher freight costs due to longer transit distances to seaports like Mumbai, Mundra, Kandla, and Chennai.

Dependence on road transport is 30-50 per cent

more expensive than rail. The lack of dedicated freight corridors slows transportation efficiency and increases operational expenses. Industries in northern states not only receive raw materials from coastal regions but also send finished products to markets using the same routes.

While dry ports have been established to bridge this gap, they often function merely as booking cen-tres rather than effective logistics solutions. As a result, northern manufacturers face a double freight burden, forcing many to relocate or shut down operations due to unsustainable costs. In contrast, industrial clusters in coastal states benefit from proximity to ports, enhancing their global trade competitiveness and generating employment.

Railway freight initiatives: The Indian Railways has successfully implemented targeted freight subsidies in select sectors. First, A 40 per cent discount is available for loading fly ash. Second, Traditional Empty Flow Directions (TEFD) rebate up to a 20 per cent reduction in costs for freight that moves along underutilised routes. Third, 157 'Kisan Rail'

services transport perishable goods and vegetables. A 50 per cent subsidy on railway freight, funded by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the "Operation Greens" scheme, has significantly boosted farm exports of agricultural commodities. Fourth, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) offers a 20 per cent Transport Incentive (TI) Scheme for finished goods transported via rail or the Inland Waterways Authority of India, from the port nearest to the location of industrial units in the North-Eastern Region (NER) to the buyers' area.

### How freight subsidy could be re-structured

Based on previous initiatives, a targeted Northern States Freight Subsidy Program could be a game changer and might be structured as follows: Subsidised Rail Freight Rates:

1.Offering up to a 30-40 per cent subsidy on goods transported from northern dry ports to major coastal hubs

2-Expanding Empty Flow Rebates: Extending TEFD rebates to northern states to make backhaul freight more economical.

3-Infrastructure Development: Investing in multimodal logistics parks and dedicated freight corridors in the northern states.

### **The Way Forward:**

The central government must not overlook its landlocked northern states to achieve inclusive industrial growth. Rail freight subsidies will support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), attract new investments, and create jobs.

While global trade regulations often scrutinise subsidies, the pricing autonomy of Indian Railways allows for strategic adjustments in freight costs without breaching World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules. By revising freight structures, northern manufacturers can enhance their global competitiveness. If we aspire for a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), it is essential to ensure balanced industrial progress. To conclude, India's industrial growth is marked by stark regional disparities, with southern states while northern states lag behind. A key driver of this imbalance is logistics, as landlocked states face high freight costs that hinder competitiveness and discourage investment.

Proximity to seaports has enabled coastal states to dominate exports, attract foreign direct investment, and develop thriving industrial sectors. To bridge this gap, India must implement a targeted Northern States Freight Subsidy Program, including subsidised rail freight rates, expanded empty flow rebates, and enhanced logistics infrastructure.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika ITL Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council, Views expressed are personal)

# **Reliance on Foreign Investments: The Role Of FDI & FII In Economic Stability**

# The Silent Crisis in **Education: Teacher Burnout**

ndia's economic trajectory under Prime Minister Narendra Modi blends rigorous analysis with bold policy moves. The BJP-led government has combined openness to foreign capital - through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) — with initiatives to boost self-reliance. Economists and policymakers alike recognise foreign investment as a pillar of economic stability, providing critical financing, technology, and market access across sectors. This balanced strategy favours pro-growth reforms while building domestic capacity.

### FDI AND FII: Temporary Boost For Long-Term Self-Reliance

Surging FDI inflows have strengthened India's growth and stability. Annual FDI hit a record \$83.6 Billion in FY2021-22, almost double the \$45 Billion in 2014. This reflects investors' confidence in India's reform agenda. Manufacturing FDI alone jumped 76 per cent in FY2021-22 after initiatives like Make in India, and even post-COVID FDI inflows were 23 per cent higher than pre-pandemic levels, underscoring sustained foreign trust during crises.

FII has been crucial in bolstering India's financial markets and boosting its economy. India has managed to extract maximum advantage out of FII Inflows to improve market liquidity and reinforce a strong balance of payments position. Moreover, the Modi government's economic policies have inspired considerable confidence in the Indian economy among global investors leading to ever-increasing inflows of capital that have further firmed up the Indian economy. Timely and proactive actions taken by policymakers from targeted liquidity infusions during the 2020 global crisis to automatic stabilisers have mitigated volatility and supported growth momentum.

This bolstered economic momentum, with its cadre of dedicated professionals, startups, and thriving industries, has catapulted India to a challenging, productive, and sustainable global positioning of higher foreign investments

### **Transformative Impact Across** Key Sectors

Liberalised foreign investment regulations have funnelled significant capital reserves into formative industries including information technology, manufacturing infrastructure, healthcare, agribusiness, and education.

Technology corporations have been top beneficiaries, with the software and hardware sector attracting approximately 25 per cent of all foreign direct investment inflows in fiscal year 2021-2022, underscoring India's emergence as a global technology leader. Manufacturing resilient economic power.

industries have gained momentum thanks to both foreign capital and domestic incentives designed to stimulate job creation and output. The innovative Production-Linked Incentive schemes introduced in 2020 have since incentivised ₹1.32 Trillion in new investments while expanding total production value by a staggering ₹10.9 Trillion, generating hundreds of thousands of well-compensated employment opportunities.

### Strategic Reforms **Boost Self**-Reliance

PM Modi has aligned the overarching policy goals of self-reliance with encouraging foreign investment. Prime Minister Modi has shifted policy to turn selfreliance into both a goal and an opportunity for foreign investors. Launched in 2020 with a

\$20 Trillion stimulus, the

Atmanirbhar Bharat mission epitomises India's pursuit for self-reliant growth; more efficient, competitive and resilient economies that welcome foreign participation which can strengthen the domestic base.

Defence manufacturing is a case in point. The FDI cap on it was raised from 49 per cent to 74 per cent to attract joint ventures and technology transfer. On a broader scale, substantive liberalisation of FDI across all sectors (from coal mining and aviation to insurance and the internet) along with simplifying investment rules has radically improved India's investor-friendly environment. Together with the Make in India initiative, this ensures that foreign investment enters the country in forms that are consistent with national goals and strengthen the industrial foundation

### **Self-Reliant Growth**

**MONICA B** 

SOOD

Continuing reforms and overall multi-sector growth should keep India firmly on the map as a global place for investment. Nearly constant inflows from abroad, gains in sectors besides heavy industry, and a market that has been proof of the strength of this strategy.

Consequently, strategic foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign institutional investors FII) will continue to play important roles in India's pursuit of balanced development. By keeping up steady government policies and forming international partnerships, India can achieve economic self-reliance. This formula for success will ensure that India is a strong and

### Conclusion

AS MITTAL

The challenge of balancing foreign investment with self-reliant economic growth in India has its roots in the socialist Nehruvian policies. Historically, India has oscillated between protectionist policies and open-market reforms. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the government has pursued a dual approach: encouraging Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) while simultaneously strengthening domestic industries. The core issue being tackled is how India can leverage foreign capital for growth without becoming overly dependent on external funding.

FDI brings in critical capital, technology, and expertise, which boost infrastructure, manufacturing, and technology sectors. Meanwhile, FII helps stabilize financial markets and improve liquidity. However, excessive reliance on foreign investments can lead to economic vulnerabilities, particularly during global downturns.

India has addressed this issue by implementing structural reforms such as Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and Production-Linked Incentives (PLI).

These initiatives ensure that foreign investments align with national priorities, fostering job creation, technological advancements, and industrial self-sufficiency.In essence, the problem being analysed is whether India can sustain high economic growth, attract global investments, and enhance self-reliance without compromising financial stability.

India's economic trajectory under Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflects a strategic blend of foreign investment and self-reliance.

The record-breaking inflows of FDI and FII underscore global confidence in India's reform agenda, strengthening financial markets, industrial growth, and employment generation. Initiatives like Make in India, Production-Linked Incentives, and Atmanirbhar Bharat have ensured that foreign investments align with national priorities, bolstering domestic capabilities while sustaining economic expansion.

The liberalisation of foreign investment regulations across key sectors such as technology manufacturing, and defense has attracted significant capital and fostered innovation.

The Modi government's pragmatic policies have mitigated global economic volatility, creating a resilient economic environment that can weather crises and sustain long-term growth. India's rise as a technology and industrial powerhouse is a testament to this strategic approach.

(The author is Chairperson - National Unity and Security Council. Views expressed are personal

eachers are more than just educators. They are mentors, motivators and role models who profoundly shape their students' lives. Teachers' ability to inspire, adapt, and create lasting impact makes them unique.

However, what saddens is that the fast-paced nature of education has left the teachers physically, emotionally and mentally exhausted.

Today, teacher burnout is real, and it is a growing crisis that affects not only educators but also students and the overall quality of education. Burnout, which is characterised by chronic stress, exhaustion and a loss of motivation, has led many skilled educators to leave the profession.

Several factors such as excessive workload, lack of support resources, wherein teachers work beyond their contracted hours, grading assignments, preparing lesson plans, attending meetings and handling administrative tasks, along with the expectation to constantly perform at high levels with limited time have resulted to overwhelming stress.

Many teachers, especially in under-

funded schools, are facing challenges such as overand inadequate support staff, which has forced the teachers to find alternative solutions, often at the cost of their time and money.

Teaching is an emotionally demanding job. Today, a teacher apart from just teaching has to support students academically and personally, often acting as mentors, counsellors and caregivers. They even have to deal with student trauma, behavioural issues and academic struggles, which, as per several studies, has taken a significant emotional toll. Studies also reveal that in many countries, teachers are underpaid when compared to other professionals with similar education levels. This has led to financial stress and has contributed to dissatisfaction and exhaustion.

Due to their demanding schedules, many teachers struggle to find time for themselves and their families. The inability to maintain a worklife balance has contributed to chronic fatigue and decreased job satisfaction, resulting in teacher burnout.

Teacher burnout has serious consequences, not only for teachers but also for the education system as a whole. It is quite certain that once the person develops chronic stress, it will lead to physical health issues such as headaches, high blood pressure and insomnia. Not only this, it will also increase the risk of anxiety, depression and emotional exhaustion. Such teachers will at the same time struggle to maintain the same level of enthusiasm, patience and creativity in their teaching, affecting student engagement and learning outcomes

Today, many dedicated educators are leaving this noble profession due to burnout, resulting in teacher shortages and the loss of experienced professionals

Consequently, schools are compelled to hire less experienced teachers, which impacts the overall quality of education. When teachers experience burnout, students feel less supported and motivated. A disengaged or emotionally drained teacher can create a negative learning environment, impacting student performance

and well-being. It is high time to address teacher

burnout through systemic changes at multiple levels, requiring action from schools, governments and society to create a healthier teaching environment. Reducing workload by implementing manageable schedules, providing administrative support and minimizing unnecessary paperwork can help alleviate stress.

Additionally, offering mental health resources, counselling services and stress management programs can support teachers in coping with emotion-

al challenges. Increasing salaries, providing financrowded classrooms, lack of teaching materials cial incentives and recognising teachers' efforts, can enhance job satisfaction and reduce financial

### Conclusion

Above all, promoting work-life balance by limiting after-hours communication, ensuring adequate breaks and offering flexible schedules is crucial. Furthermore, fostering a supportive work environment through strong leadership, collaboration, mentorship programs and professional development can make teachers feel valued. Lastly, granting teachers more autonomy by reducing excessive standardised testing and allowing them to design engaging, student-centred lessons can boost motivation and fulfilment.

There is no denying that teacher burnout is a serious issue that demands immediate attention. Without proper intervention, the education system risks losing passionate and skilled educators, which will ultimately affect students' success and the future of education.

Investing in teacher well-being is not just about improving their lives, rather it is about ensuring a better future for generations to come. To conclude, teachers are the backbone of education. Yet, the growing demands of the profession have left many educators physically, emotionally, and mentally drained. Teachers have a larger responsibility towards the society. If they are emotionally, mentally and physically fit they can deliver what it takes to build a nation!

(The writer is an educator. Views expressed are personal)





# IN BRIEF



### Rupee inches up 2 paise to close at 87.19 against US dollar

he rupee advanced 2 paise to close at 87.19 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday amid volatile global sentiment on tariff uncertainties and some recovery in the American currency index. Forex analysts said an upward move in crude oil prices also impacted the local unit and capped its gain as selling pressure in domestic equity and outflow of foreign capital continued. Also, market participants stayed cautious, awaiting cues from macroeconomic data to be released in India and the US later in the day. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 87.24 and touched the intraday low of 87.32 against the greenback. The unit also hit the day's high of 87.17 before ending the session at 87.19 (provisional) against the dollar, 2 paise higher from its previous session's closing level. The rupee ended 10 paise higher at 87.21 against the dollar on Tuesday, a day after losing 36 paise.



### Ecom Express launches 'Pragati' to upskill over 4,000 employees

-commerce logistics solutions provider Ecom Express on Wednesday said it has launched 'Pragati', a learning and development programme designed to upskill delivery center managers (DCMs) across its last-mile operations. Pragati aims to certify over 4,000 employees, both existing and new hires, in logistics, supply chain management and behavioural skills, the company said in a statement. The programme is a hybrid learning model with classroom sessions, virtual modules, and self-paced learning via E-Pathshaala, a comprehensive learning management system (LMS) to create scalable growth opportunities for the workforce. "By providing structured learning paths and certifications, we aim to create a culture of continuous development and operational excellence. This initiative not only supports our internal teams but also creates opportunities for fresh talent to join and grow with Ecom Express Through Pragati ommitted to

### VIJAYAWADA | THURSDAY | MARCH 13, 2025

# **EU retaliates against Trump's trade moves**

### Slaps tariffs on produce from Republican-held states

### PNS BRUSSELS

The European Union on Wednesday announced retaliatory trade action with new duties on US industrial and farm products, responding within hours to the Trump administration's increase in tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports to 25%

The world's biggest trading bloc was expecting the US tar-iffs and prepared in advance, but the measures still place great strain on already tense transatlantic relations. Only last month, Washington warned Europe that it would have to take care of its own security in the future.

The EU measures will cover goods from the United States worth some 26 billion euros (\$28 billion), and not just steel and aluminum products, but also textiles, home appliances and agricultural goods. Motorcycles, bourbon, peanut butter and jeans will be hit, as they were during President Donald Trump's first term.

The EU duties aim for pressure points in the US while minimising additional damage to Europe. The tariffs — taxes on imports — primarily target Republican-held states, hitting soybeans in House speaker Mike Johnson's Louisiana, but also beef and poultry in Kansas and



Nebraska. Produce in Alabama, Georgia and Virginia is also on the list.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a statement that the bloc "will always remain open to negotiation".

As the US are applying tariffs worth 28 billion dollars, we are responding with countermeasures worth 26 billion euros," she said. The commission manages trade and commercial conflicts on behalf of the 27 member EU countries. "We firmly believe that in a

world fraught with geopolitical and economic uncertainties, it is not in our common interest to burden our economies with tariffs," von der Leven said. Trump said his taxes would

house price movements, flagship programmes of GoI in the

help create US factory jobs, but von der Leyen said: "Jobs are at stake. Prices will go up. In

### Housing loans outstanding stood at Rs 33.53 lakh crore: NHB

### PNS NEW DELHI

Individual housing loans outstanding stood at Rs 33.53 lakh crore at the end of September, a growth of 14 per cent yearon-year, with the MIG segment accounting for the maximum credit, according to National Housing Bank

(NHB). NHB, a statutory body under the Government of India, has released the Report on Trends and Progress of Housing in India. "As on September 30,

2024, EWS and LIG accounted MIC housing sector, role of Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs) in providing housing credit, performance of Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) and outlook for the sector. "Major initiatives of GoI,

such as PMAY-G, PMAY-U, impact assessof

ment PMAY-U, Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF), Affordable Rental Housing

Complexes

(ARHC)

22,329.55.

scheme, etc. From th

Gold slightly up on retail buying, silver rallies Rs 1,300

### PNS NEW DELHI

Gold prices were marginally up in the national capital on Wednesday amid modest retail buying as well as jewellery offtake, as well as jewenery offtake, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of

99.9 per cent purity rose by Rs 60 to Rs 88,850 per 10 grams. It had closed at Rs 88,790 per 10 grams on Tuesday

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity advanced by Rs 60 to Rs 88,450 per 10 grams. Silver price climbed by Rs 1,300 to hit nearly a three-week high of Rs 1,00,200 per kg. It had settled at Rs 98,900 per kg in the previous market close.

In the international markets, spot gold in the international markets traded flat at USD 2,915.73 per ounce.

Also, Comex futures for April delivery traded higher at USD 2,921.30 per ounce.



Canada will

announce more than

\$20 billion in tariffs

PNS TORONTO

nanada will announce

Canadian \$29.8 billion (\$20.7 billion) in retaliatory

tariffs in response to the 25%

steel and aluminum tariffs that

has levelled, a senior Canadian

Wednesday. The official spoke

authorised to speak before the

announcement. The European

Union on Wednesday also

announced retaliatory trade

action with new duties on US

industrial and farm products,

increase in tariffs on all steel

Trump administration's

and aluminum imports to

25%

responding within hours to the

US President Donald Trump

government official said

on condition of anonymity

because they weren't

"We deeply regret this mea-sure. Tariffs are taxes. They are bad for business, and even worse for consumers. These tariffs are disrupting supply chains. They bring uncertainty for the econ-omy," she said.

# Sensex falls for 4<sup>th</sup> day as IT pack tumbles on US growth concerns

### PNS NEW DELHI

Benchmark BSE Sensex dropped by 72 points on Wednesday, extending its losing run to the fourth day as IT shares retreated due to concerns over US growth.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 72.56 points or 0.10 per cent to close at 74,029.76. During the session, it tumbled 504.16 points or 0.68 per cent to touch a low of 73,598.16.

The NSE Nifty slipped 27.40 0.48 per cent, while the midcap index slipped 0.57 per cent. Among the BSE sectoral points or 0.12 per cent to end at 22,470.50. In the session, it fell 168.35 points or 0.74 per cent to hit an intraday low of Realty, Telecommunication,

Metal, Capital Goods, Services, and Ind

Inflation falls below 4% target, opens space for another rate cut

2023," NSO said.

A significant decline in head-

line inflation and food inflation

during February has been

mainly attributed to decline in

inflation of vegetables, egg,

meat and fish, pulses and products, and milk and products. Key items having lowest

year-on-year inflation in

February were ginger (-35.81 per cent), jeera (-28.77 per cent), tomato (-

cent).

gold (35.56 per cent), silver

(30.89 per cent), and onion

Data on urban inflation

showed a significant decline

from 3.87 per cent in January 2025 to 3.32 per cent in

February. A similar decline

was observed in food inflation,

which decreased from 5.53 per

(30.42 per cent).

28.51 per cent),

cauliflower (-21.19 per cent), garlic (-20.32 per

On the other

hand, top items

with highest infla-

tion were coconut

oil (54.48 per

cent), coconut

(41.61 per cent),

Money 08

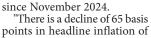
### PNS NEW DELHI

Retail inflation slipped to seven-month low of 3.61 per cent in February mainly due to easing prices of vegetables, eggs, and other protein-rich items, creating space for the RBI to go for another cut in interest rate next month.

The consumer price index-based retail inflation was at 4.26 per cent in

January and 5.09 per cent in February 2024. The previous low was witnessed in July.

The consumer price index (CPI) has been in the comfort zone of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)



February 2025 in comparison to January 2025. It is the lowest year-on-year inflation after July 2024," the National Statistics Office (NSO) said while releasing the CPI. Year-on-year food inflation

for February was 3.75 per cent. "A sharp decline of 222 basis points is observed in food inflation in February 2025 in comparison to January 2025. The food inflation in February 2025 is the lowest after May

cent to 3.20 per cent in February. A sharp decline in headline and food inflation in the rural sector was also observed in February to 3.79 per cent from 4.59 per cent a month earlier.

BSNL, MTNL raise Rs 12,984 crore from asset monetisation

### PNS NEW DELHI

State-owned telecom firms BSNL and MTNL have earned a total of Rs 12,984.86 crore from monetisation of land, buildings, tower and fibre since 2019, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

According to data shared by Minister of State for Communications Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar in Lok Sabha, BSNL has earned Rs 2,387.82 crore and MTNL Rs 2,134.61 crore up to January 2025 from monetisation of lands and buildings. "BSNL and MTNL are

future-ready workforce that aligns with our mission to redefine logistics in India," Ecom Express CHRO Swati Mor said



### **Govt to auction mining** licences today

he government will launch the first-ever auction of exploration licences on Thursday, ahead of putting 13 blocks on sale to tap mineral resources like zinc, diamond and copper. With the enactment of the MMDR Amendment Act, 2023, exploration licences were introduced to allow private participation in reconnaissance and prospecting for 29 critical and deep-seated minerals, including lithium, copper, cobalt, gold and silver. The move is likely to accelerate exploration, increase private sector participation, and bolster country's mineral security and self-reliance in critical minerals, the mines ministry said in a statement. In the first phase, the government will auction 13 blocks of minerals like zinc. diamond and copper, through an online bidding process, it said. The auction will be launched in Goa. The programme will also feature a roadshow on the fifth tranche of critical mineral blocks and the launch of Al Hackathon 2025, a mineral exploration hackathon focused on 'mineral targeting using Al'.

ed for 44 per cent and HIG report," it said.

accounted for 17 per cent of It also said the outlook for outstanding individual housthe housing sector remains ing loans," the report said. promising, driven by budget It further said individual announcements on PMAY 2.0, urbanisation, transit-orienthousing loan disbursements during the half year ended ed development, digitisation September 2024 were Rs 4.10 and other factors.

lakh crore while disburse-The report further said ments during the year ended housing finance companies March 2024 were Rs 9.07 lakh (HFCs) have played a pivotal role in the Indian housing sec-The report broadly covers tor by catering to the diverse needs of homebuyers. the housing scenario and

Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Nestle India, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, Axis Bank, Zomato, Hindustan Unilever, and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards.

On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, ÍTC, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finserv and UltraTech Cement were the gainers.

ustrial the major laggards.

The BSE Smallcap gauge fell

indices, Focussed IT, IT, Teck,

were among

In contrast, Energy, FMCG, financial services, Healthcare, Utilities, Auto, Bankex, Consumer Durables, Oil & Gas, and Power were the gainers. IT stocks declined more than 5 per cent amid growing

concerns over the US economy entering recession. Shares of Bharti Airtel as well as Reliance Industries settled on a mixed note on the BSE after the two firms announced their partner-

BSE-listed firms slipped by Rs 1,40,922.64 crore to Rs 3,92,84,618.08 crore (USD 4.50 trillion). Meanwhile, official data released after the market hours showed that retail inflation slipped to 3.61 per cent in February mainly due to the decline in the rate of price rise in vegetables and protein-rich items, creating space for the Reserve Bank of India for second reduction in interest rate next month.

ships with Elon Musk's SpaceX

for providing high-speed inter-

As many as 2,491 stocks

declined while 1,494 advanced

and 137 remained unchanged

net services in India.

on the BSE.

The mark

nonetising only those la and building assets which are not required for their own use in the foreseeable future and for which it has the rights to transfer the ownership," Sekhar said in a writ-

ten reply. BSNL has earned Rs 8,204.18 crore and MTNL Rs 258.25 crore from monetisation of close assets comprising tower and fibre up to January 2025, as per the reply.

### IT industry to see 4-6 pc revenue growth: ICRA

### PNS NEW DELHI

crore.

Indian IT companies are expected to see moderate revenue growth of 4-6 per cent in FY26, with hiring likely to remain subdued until growth accelerates towards the end of the fiscal year, according to credit rating agencyICRA.

The agency projected attrition level to average 12-13 per cent over the near term.

"Icra projects its sample set of Indian IT services companies (which account for 60 per cent of the industry in revenue terms) to witness a moderate 4-6 per cent revenue expansion in USD terms in FY2026.

"Moreover, hiring is likely to remain low until the growth momentum picks up by the end of FY2026," it said.

Icra's sample set recorded a vear-on-year revenue growth of 3.6 per cent in USD terms during the first nine months of FY2025.

This growth was part of a gradual recovery over the past three quarters, aided by a lower base from FY2024. Additionally, there was a slight increase in discretionary spending by customers in the BFSI and retail sectors in certain markets, along with investments in Generative AI initiatives that led to new



The sample set includes Birlasoft, Coforge, Cyient, HCL Technologies, Infosys, LTIMindtree, L&T Technology Services, Mastek, Mphasis, Oracle Financial Services Software, Persistent Systems, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, and Zensar

Technologies. Icra Vice President & Sector

Head Deepak Jotwani said the growth momentum for ICRĂ's sample set of IT services companies is likely to remain muted over the near term, owing to the looming uncertainty related to the imposition of the US trade tariffs and macroeconomic headwinds across the key markets

of the US and Europe. Policy changes by the US government for key sectors catered to by Indian IT services companies as well as future interest rate trajectory will remain the key monitorables, he said.

# Mfg sector pushes industrial output growth to 5pc

### PNS NEW DELHI

India's industrial production growth accelerated to 5 per cent in January 2025, driven by a rebound in manufacturing activity, according to official data released on Wednesday.

The government has also revised the December 2024 industrial output figure to 3.5 per cent from the provisional estimate of 3.2 per cent released in the previous month, an official statement said.

The IIP growth in November 2024 was 5 per cent.

The pace of factory output growth stood at 5 per cent in January 2025.

The country's factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), witnessed 4.2 per cent growth in January 2024.

The data released by the National Statistic Office (NSO) showed that the manufacturing sector's output grew by 5.5 per

cent in January 2025, up from 3.6 per cent in the year-ago month.

Mining production growth declined to 4.4 per cent from 6 per cent year-on-year. Power output growth slowed

from 5.6 per cent a year ago. In the April-January 2024-25 period, the IIP grew 4.2 per cent, slower than 6 per cent recorded in the year-ago peri-

to 2.4 per cent in January 2025

od. As per use-based classifica-

tion, the capital goods segment growth accelerated to 7.8 per cent in January 2024 against 3.2 per cent in the year-ago period. Consumer durables (or white goods production) grew by 7.2

per cent during the reporting month against a growth of 11.6 per cent in January 2024.

In January 2025, consumer non-durables output contracted 0.2 per cent compared to a growth of 0.3 per cent a year ago.

According to the data, infrastructure/construction goods reported a growth of 7 per cent in January 2025, up from a 5.5 per cent expansion in the yearago period.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods logged a 5.5 per cent growth in January 2025 against 2.9 per cent a year earlier.

The expansion in the intermediate goods segment was 5.2 per cent in the month under

# Equity MFs inflow drops 26 pc to Rs 29,303 crore

### PNS NEW DELHI

Inflow in equity mutual funds dropped 26 per cent to Rs 29,303 crore in February, primarily due to a significant decline in investments in small and midcap schemes, amid continued market volatility.

This was the second consecutive month of decline in inflow in equity funds. The latest fund infusion by investors also marks the 47th consecutive month of net inflows into the segment.

Moreover, inflows into systematic investment plans (SIP) came at Rs 25,999 crore in February, making it three months low. Before this, SIP inflow was Rs 26,400 crore in January

and Rs 26,459 crore in December. According to data released by Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) on Wednesday, equityoriented mutual funds saw an inflow of Rs 29,303 crore in February, way lower than Rs 39,688 crore registered in January and Rs 41,156 crore in

December. However, the pace of investments moderated compared to the previous month due to increased market uncertainty and a broader correction in equities. Also, the sharp decline was attributed to reduced inflows in mid and small-cap funds, which saw a drop to Rs 3,406 crore and Rs 3,722 crore in February, compared to Rs 5,147 crore and Rs 5,720 crore in



January, respectively. In large-cap funds, inflows totalled Rs 2,866 crore, down from Rs 3,063 crore in January.

Within the equity categories, sectoral/thematic funds witnessed the highest net inflow of Rs 5,711 crore, followed by Flexi Cap Funds with Rs 5,104 crore.

Apart from equities, gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) saw an inflow of Rs 1,980 crore against Rs 3,751 crore in January.

However, debt mutual funds registered an outflow of Rs 6,525 crore last month in February, a sharp reversal from the strong inflows of Rs 1.28 lakh crore in the preceding month



# what's brewing?

# **ANURAG BASU'S ANTHOLOGY METRO...IN DINO TO RELEASE**



characters before, but Ranatunga is

pure evil. He's violent, unhinged and

operates with a kind of brutality that

even shocked me while performing

it. Jaat is a film that dives into a world

of raw, unapologetic crime, and my

character sits at the center of that

storm. I think out director

Gopichand Malineni was so verv

clear about how he envisioned this

character and I completely took on

what he has imagined for this role."

With Jaat, Randeep Hooda is set to

push the boundaries of villainy,

¬ilmmaker Anurag Basu's anthology starring names such as Aditya Roy Kapur and Sara Ali Khan titled Metro... In Dino has been locked for a July 4 release. Along with Aditya and Sara, the film also stars Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sen Sharma, Ali Fazal and Fatima Sana Shaikh.

The makers of the film took to Instagram, to make the announcement. A caption read by T-Series Films on the photo-sharing ap read: "When love, fate and city life collide magic is bound to happen! #Metro... In Dino brings the stories of heart from the cities that you love! Experience it on #July4th in cinemas near you"

Presented by T-Series and Anurag Basu Productions, the film beautifully captures the essence of modern-day relationships, their complexities, joys

and bittersweet realities. With Pritam's soulful music enhancing the narrative. Metro... In Dino is the spiritual sequel to Anurag Basu's previous critically acclaimed hit film *Life in a...* Metro, which was released in 2007. The film's dialogue are written by Samrat Chakraborty. The film is an anthology of 4 different heartwarming stories of contemporary couples. The film draws its title from the song In Dino from Life in a... Metro.

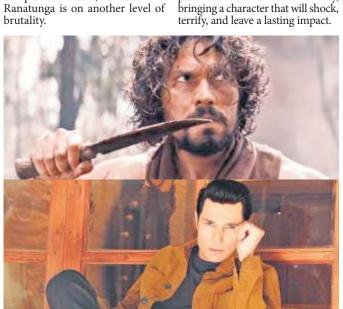
Gulshan Kumar & T-Series in association with Anurag Basu Productions Pvt Ltd present *Metro* .. In Dino. Directed by Anurag Basu, music by Pritam, produced By Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, Anurag Basu

and Taani Basu the film will release on July 4, 2025.

### **Randeep Hooda embraces** his darkest role yet in Jaat Speaking about his role, Randeep shared, "I've played dark and layered

Randeep Hooda is set to unleash his most menacing avatar yet in the upcoming crime action thriller *laat*. The makers recently revealed the first-look character poster of Randeep, and it's nothing short of chilling and gory. Fans are in for a shocking transformation as Randeep steps into the role of Ranatunga, a ruthless gang-ster who will go head-to-head with Sunny Deol in what promises to be a high-octane showdown.

Known for his intense performances, Randeep has played many complex characters, but he admits Ranatunga is on another level of brutality



### 'I'm grateful that I get to do the work I love'

hreya Chaudhry, who recent- ed to scream and dance! I am Sly won the best actress award for *Bandish Bandit Season 2* at IIFA 2025, opened up about Chaudhry shared her

the challenges of being compared to star kids in the entertainment industry. In a candid conversation, Shreya opened up about navigating the pressures of fame, while also addressing the rising influence of social media stars and

star kids in the industry. When asked about the pressures of making her mark in an environment increasingly dominated by influencers and star kids, the actress expressed a refreshing sense of self-assurance. Shreya shared, "I've always

believed that comparisons don't help. My mom once told me that no one's shine can dim mine, and I live by that. Everyone's journey is unique, and I just focus on giving my best. As long as I'm working hard and staying true to myself, I'm happy," Speaking about winning the IIFA award, Chaudhry stated, "It's

absolutely a dream come true. I am so grateful to the entire IIFA team, the jury, everyone who voted for me, and the audience. It was a big dream of mine. When I

started my journey, I used to imagine that one day I would get an award. When it actually happened, I was so shocked and nervous that I barely managed to compose myself to give a speech. Deep down, though, I just want-

truly happy and grateful." Further, Shreya

thoughts on the challenges of stepping into the second season of Bandish Bandits. When asked if she felt the pressure to outdo herself, the actress mentioned. "I wasn't stressed about outdoing myself. I just really wanted to do justice to the beautiful writing and was excited for people to watch it. I'm grateful that I get to do the work I love, and I'm

especially thankful to the audience for waiting patiently for the show despite the gap between seasons?

Bandish Bandit Season 2, directed by Anand Tiwari, also stars Ritwik Bhowmik, Naseeruddin Shah, Divya Dutta, Sheeba Chaddha, Atul Kulkarni, Rajesh Tailang and Kunaal Roy Kapur.

The first season of Bandish Bandits was released in August 2020.

FUN



### **Sonam Bajwa brings** the fire in Deewaniyat

ctress Sonam Bajwa says she is "thrilled to bring the fire" in the upcoming film Deewaniyat, A where she will be seen starring alongside actor Harshvardhan Rane.

Sonam took to Instagram, where she shared a motion poster of the film, with the actress saying the lines: Tera pyaar pyaar nahi teri zid hai, jisse tu paar kar raha hai woh har hadd ki hadd hai. Jal jaaungi mit jaungi par khaati hoon main kasam. Tere ishq main jhuk jaaoon main nahi woh sanam. Tere liye mere dil main mohabbat nahi nafrat hai tujhe tabahh jo kardegi woh meri Deewaniyat hai." Taking to the caption section, she wrote: "So thrilled to bring the fire of love to *#Deewanivat!* 

An intense saga of passion & heartbreak, starring alongside the amazing @harshvardhanrane! Directed by @milapzaveri, produced by @amulvmohan and @anshulmohan under @vikirmotionpictures. Written by @mushtaqshiekh and #MilapZaveri.

Rolling soon. Releasing late 2025! Can't wait for you all to witness this madness of love!" Sonam, who is celebrated star in Punjabi cinema, also has Hindi films Housefull 5 and Baaghi 4 in her kitty. According to a statement, Deewaniyat is not just a love story, it's a film where music plays a significant role in bring-

ing its emotions to life. Produced by Amul V. Mohan and Anshul Mohan under Vikir Motion Pictures, the team behind the acclaimed The Sabarmati Report and directed by Milap Milan Zaveri known for his emotionally charged storytelling.

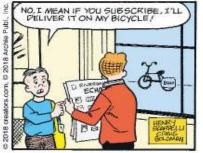
The film is written by Mustaq Sheikh and Milap Milan Zaveri. Deewaniyat is set to go on floors in the coming months. The film is gearing up for a theatrical release in late 2025.

Talking about *Baaghi 4*, the actress will be seen alongside Tiger Shroff. It was December 2024, when it was announced that Sonam will be joining the cast of the film, which also stars beauty queen Harnaaz Sandhu.

### ARCHIE





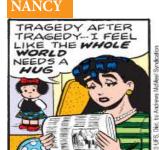


### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**



### GARFIELD







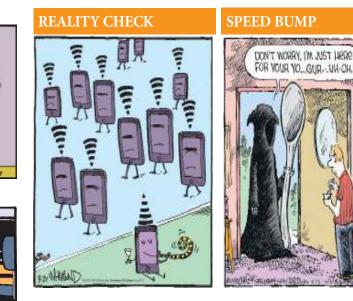
### GINGER MEGGS







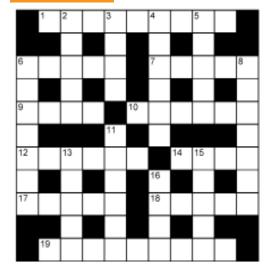
Superi



### **SUDOKU**

1						7			Ŋ	Yesterday's solution									
4						1			4	1	8	9	1	5	6	7	2	3	
2				7	9				7	7	6	3	2	9	4	1	5	8	
		8	1				6	Δ	5.0	ž.	1	2	3	8	7	9	4	6	
		0		_	_		<u> </u>		3	3	2	1	5	6	9	4	8	7	
					5	1		2	6	3	7	4	8	1	3	2	9	5	
	-				-	· ·	4	-	5	9	5	8	4	7	2	6	3	1	
	5						4		8	3	4	7	9	3	1	5	6	2	
1		2	6							2	3	6	7	4	5	8	1	9	
7	9				1	8			R	195628374 Rules									
			7	4				5	•	<ul> <li>Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9)</li> </ul>									
		3						7	•	<ul> <li>exactly once.</li> <li>The sum of all numbers in any row or column must</li> </ul>									
DIFFICULTY RATING:										any row or column must equal 45.									

### **CROSSWORD**



### ACROSS

1	A four-sided shape
6	A month
7	A number of people or
	things together
9	Change direction

10 A road in a town 12 To tremble or

shake a little

15 Make laugh 16 A baby sheep

5 Baggy

11 Middle 13 Thoughts

6 An old object

8 Someone sick

in hospital

- 14 Female horse 17 Choose by votes
- 18 A grown-up
- 19 Put together from parts

### DOWN

- 2 Mistake 3 Chatter
  - 4 These are longer in winter

		P	E	А	С	E	F	U	L	
\$		1		C		А		5		C
Ċ	н	A	1	R		\$	A	U	Ν	A
н		Ν		Ö		Y		A		R
0	В	Ô	1	8	T		Ċ	L	A	Р
0				8		C				Ε
L	A	W	Ν		C	0	F	F	١	Ν
в		н		К		۳		A		Т
Α	G	A	1	Ν		Ρ	U	L	8	Е
G		L		Ε		Е		5		R
	R	E	н	Ε	A	R	5	E		

SOLUTION

# 差 the pioneer 1]ayawada

Follow us on @TheDailyPioneer facebook.com/ dailypioneer

Thursday March 13, 2025

# **BEYOND WILLPOWER, A QUEST AGAINST JUST 'ONE PUFF**

### FATIMA HASAN hasanfatimafax@gmail.com



very year, on the second Wednesday of March, No Smoking Day is observed to raise awareness about the importance of quitting smok-ing. This year, No Smoking Day carries the theme "Unmasking the Appeal"-

allure of smoking and encouraging people to see through its false glamour. On this occasion, *The Pioneer* had an exclusive conversation with Dr. V.S.

Gideon, Managing Director of Living Sober Rehabilitation Center, to understand how smoking develops as an addiction, the importance of quitting and the ways to successfully overcome

Dr. Gideon explains that smoking is an addiction that affects the brain. It is classified as a brain disorder and there is no known cure for it. He elaborates that addiction is driven by dopamine, a chemical in the brain that generates a feeling of satisfaction. "Every person has dopamine, which is also known as the 'feel-good' factor. When you experience pleasure from smoking, dopamine is released. Over time, this leads to addiction," he says. Initially, smoking may start voluntarily,

often due to peer pressure or pas-

sion, but over time, the brain begins to crave that pleasurable feeling. "An extra release of dopamine makes the brain recognize smoking as a source of increased happiness. Eventually, the brain rewires itself, sending altered messages that say: If I don't smoke, I cannot function."

Many believe quitting smoking is simply about willpower, but Dr. Gideon dismisses this notion. He asserts that there is no medicinal cure for smoking addiction. Some organizations may prescribe medicines, but even the World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that there are no medications that can permanently eliminaté smoking addiction. "At our rehabilitation center, we don't just



medicines. Instead, we follow a compassionate approach, sitting with smokers, understanding their addiction, and identifying their triggers," he explains. The Living Sober Rehabilitation Center focuses on creating awareness about addiction and helping individuals recognize their vulnerabilities

rather than simply offering a quick fix. One of the biggest challenges of quit-ting smoking is dealing with withdraw-al symptoms. These include palpitations, tremors, sweating, hallucina-tions, sleeplessness, irritability, and aggression. Dr. Gideon emphasizes that quitting smoking must be an abrupt decision. "If a person smokes ten cigarettes a day and tries to reduce it gradually, the brain will still demand the original quantity. More often than not, people relapse and end up smoking even more," he warns.

Instead of slowly cutting down, he advises quitting entirely and seeking professional sup-port to manage withdrawal. The rehab center provides holistic programs such as meditation, yoga, and therapy sessions to help individuals and therapy sessions to help individu cope with cravings and maintain long-term sobriety. "Meditation calms the brain and helps people quit smoking,

but it does not work unless they are fully committed," he states. While support from family and friends is important, quitting smoking is ultimately an individual com-mitment. He asserts, "A person

makes the decision to smoke, and similarly, the decision to quit must come from them." That said, family members play

a key role in providing moral support. They need to understand that smoking addiction is a brain disorder and support their loved ones in their recovery journey. A positive social circle can encourage a person to quit, but the effort must

come from the individual. Dr. Gideon strongly discourages substitut-ing cigarettes with e-cigarettes or vaping, call-ing it an ineffective solution. "When a person is addicted to one substance, their brain records that addiction. Switching to another substance does not help because the brain still craves the original source of pleasure," he explains. Instead, quitting must be absolute and final, with no alternatives.

One of the most difficult aspects of quitting smoking is the possibility of relapse. Ďr. Gideon emphasizes that the brain forgets never addiction. Even years after quitting, certain situations can trigger intense cravings.

In an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer*, Dr. V.S. Gideon, Managing **Director of Living Sober Rehabilitation Center, breaks down** the science of smoking addiction, the struggles of withdrawal and why quitting requires more than just willpower

"Patients need to understand that addiction is a lifelong battle. That's why we tell them that quitting smoking is a maintenance program, not a one-time cure," he explains. To suppress cravings, individuals must follow structured sobriety techniques. If they consistently apply these techniques, they send a strong message to their brain that they have quit smoking for good. A common concern among those quitting smok-ing is weight gain. Dr. Gideon dismisses this as a misinterpretation of health recovery. "Smoking deteri-orates physical health. When a person quits, their efficiency improves, their appetite returns and they eat better. It's not about gaining weight—it's about regaining health," he says. While quitting smoking is a personal decision, government intervention is necessary to reduce smoking rates. Dr. Gideon criticizes the lack of strict implementation of smoking bans. "The government imposes fines and penalties for smoking in public places, but how many people are actually penalized?" he questions. He believes stronger policies, stricter enforcement, and better awareness initiatives are needed to truly

combat smoking addiction. Dr. Gideon urges smokers to make the decision to quit and follow through with determination. "Addiction is powerful, but your will to quit can be stronger. The first step is believing in yourself," he says.

For those struggling to quit, he strongly advises seeking professional counseling. "Meeting a de-addic-tion counselor is the first and most effective step to overcoming triggers," he adds. At Living Sober Rehabilitation Center, individuals receive personalized therapy and structured recovery programs that focus on long-term sobriety rather than temporary solutions. "It's not just about quitting for a few weeksit's about quitting for life," he concludes.

## Add touch of tradition to your Holi feast

The vibrant festival of Holi is approaching, bringing with it the perfect opportunity to gather with loved ones, celebrate the joy of colours and indulge in delightful traditional Zaikedar delicacies that make the occasion even more special. Zeeba Basmati Rice is the ideal component for creating delectable dishes that will enhance your Holi feast with its exceptional quality and unpar-alleled texture.

Enjoy a range of delicious recipes that will bring everyone to the table this Holi and make your celebrations unforgettable with it. Enjoy Holi with ideal combination of tastes and colours!

Basmati Rice to make a vibrant and nourishing vegetable biryani this Holi. The combination of long, slender grains, aromatic spices and fresh veggies will not only be a visual feast but also please all palates.

A warm, sugary bowl of Gulabi Gud Chawal is the epitome of jubilation. This dish, made with is cooked with jaggery, ghee, car-damom and saffron, giving it a wonderful aroma and the perfect amount of sweetness. A musthave to make your Holi festivities sweeter.

This festive Holi Special Pulao, cooked with rice, is infused with dried fruits like cashews, almonds, and raisins. The superior quality of the rice combined with the richness of the dry fruits makes it



an ideal dish for a Holi feast. Make a traditional Kheer using rice to end your Holi meal on a delicious note. With its thick, creamy texture, fragrant cardamom and saffron flavors, and a sprinkle of crushed nuts, this dessert is a decadent and comforting treat to share with your loved ones.

Holi is a season of joy, togeth-erness and of course, Zaikedar delectable cuisine. By preparing tasty dishes that bring joy and happiness to your celebrations, you can make your Holi even more memorable.

Make it the main component in all your Holi dishes, from colorful pulaos to delectable puddings and enjoy with your family and loved ones.



R CH

# Making far-reaching changes in intl trade

### PNS|HYDERABAD

prescribe

his young visionary is changing the face of international trade with a sharp sense of opportunity and a talent for leadership! This young entrepreneur, Nikhil Agrawal, has raised one of the biggest seed rounds in the sector because of his special combination of technological know-how and business savvy. His leadership has changed how companies handle international trade by fostering innovation and creating high-performing tech teams. He is dedicated to breaking down barriers to international trade and realising India's potential, having traveled much and developed a love for empowering entrepreneurs. Excerpts from the interview:

### Your path—from computer science and business studies to co-founding a firm funded by Y Combinator and then creating Pazago—indicates a unique combination of technical expertise and strategic vision. In retrospect, do you consider yourself more of a businessman who understands technology or a technologist who understands business?

I've always worked at the nexus of business and technology, which are inextricably linked. I consider myself as a business developer with a thorough understanding of technology, not only as a tool but also as a force multiplier capable of radically altering entire sectors. I seen firsthand how technology could streamline intricate financial decisions at Alinea Invest. I discovered at Credit Karma how automation and data may generate enormous efficiencies on a large scale. An continuation of that idea is Pazago, which transforms a dispersed, relationship-based sector into an organised, data-driven ecosystem. This viewpoint has influenced my leadership style. I don't just build technology; we make technology that solves practical problems, boosts commercial results and builds confidence in a historically untrustworthy industry.

### You grew up observing your father as he experienced the highs and lows of being an entrepreneur. Was there a specific instance-perhaps a crisis he handled or a choice he made-that influenced your perception of what starting a business actually entails?

One of my first experiences with true entrepreneurship was observing my father manage a supply chain issue in his company. There was no clear indication of when a shipment that was delayed would be fixed. Businesses depend heavily on connections, trust and sometimes, uncertainty. I recall witnessing the irritation, the phone calls and the continuous back and forth. That experience stayed with me. In trade and supply chains, where companies are compelled to rely on hope instead of procedure, visibility and certainty, it made me acutely aware of the problems.

Having studied in Boston and London, worked in Silicon Valley and now run a business in India, you have been exposed to a variety of entrepreneurial cultures. What do Indian entrepreneurs frequently misunderstand about global scaling? The most common misperception

about India is that its economy still

mostly relies on services. In actuality, India is quickly developing into a product-driven, deep-tech ecosystem. It's an antiquated notion that Indian businesses excel at execution but struggle with creativity. The finest solutions in India aren't simply catching up; they're setting global standards. Take a look at how the country jumped ahead in fintech, digital payments and supply chain technology. However, Indian businesspeople frequently misjudge how difficult it is to scale internationally. Regulatory environments, purchasing patterns and market expectations differ greatly and what works in India does not necessarily apply to other countries. Expanding is only one aspect of scaling worldwide; another is deeply localising without sacrificing operational effectiveness.

### How do you handle the conflicting demands of being a youthful founder, where you must not only be fearless and innovative but also win over seasoned investors and business experts who might doubt your background?

In a conventional, high-stakes business like cross-border trading, the only way to gain trust is to produce outcomes, both regularly and in large quantities. Until you demonstrate that you know the business better than everybody else in the room, age is merely a consideration. In addition to discussing transformation, we have built it by putting it into practice. I collaborate with leading exporters from a variety of industries, have helped our clients cut shipment delays by more than 30% and have developed an end-to-end fulfillment infrastructure that applies process rigour to a previously disjointed industry. People want you to be disruptive when you're vound, but true disruption comes from creating something that functions better rather than just creating noise. We have gained the confidence of investors and industry participants in this way.

#### Many business owners talk about having a "lightbulb moment"—a singular realisation that a system is flawed and ready for change. When did you have that encounter?

It was the identification of patterns in hundreds of exporter discussions, not a single instance. Every company I talked to had the same problems: they didn't know what their orders were, they didn't have a systematic method for handling logistics or quality control and delays and cost overruns were just "part of the business." It dawned on me then: a \$400 billion industry that relies on WhatsApp chats, Excel sheets and intuition. Rebuilding the entire process from the ground up with technology, structure and openness was the goal, not just fixing one inefficiency.

### Which tactics have been successful in changing attitudes?

Showing people how technology works is more difficult than persuading them that it does. Exporters don't mind change; they just object to it if it seems dangerous, difficult, or unrelated to their processes. Our approach has been to demonstrate benefit right away and onboard people gradually. We begin by addressing one issue at a time, such as visibility, quality control, or order management efficiency,



rather than expecting them to completely revamp their operations overnight. Naturally, they embrace the entire stack after realising the impact.

### How do you envision fostering trust in an industry that has historically been dominated by interpersonal interactions?

I prioritise responsibility and predictability over technology. Consistent execution: All exporters are certain that their orders will be fulfilled accurately and that we will identify problems before they become serious ones.

Partnership mentality: We're an extension of their company, not just a platform, making sure that quality assurance, logistics and currency risk management run well.

Human touch: We strengthen the relationship layer with data-driven decision-making and real-time support, rather than eliminating it when we automate procedures.

### Many founders discuss "building with impact, < but what does that imply in real life, in your opinion?

Impact, in my opinion, is more about tangible results than lofty declarations. There will be a significant impact if we can increase trade's predictability, effectiveness and profitability for companies. It involves tackling significant, real-world issues on a large scale. Every choice made is motivated by the same question: Does this make life easier for exporters? An impact occurs if a Mumbai seafood exporter avoids cargo rejection as a result of our technology anticipating a possible quality issue. There will be an impact if a business owner can stop chasing around freight forwarders, shipping lines and suppliers via email and WhatsApp in order to follow an order. There will be an effect if a Gujarati factory receives payment more guickly as a result of our integrated financial solutions streamlining trade financing

### What would the perfect future look like, where your vision is completely realised?

Imagine a world in which cross-border trade functions with the same accuracy and predictability as an online purchase, free from delays, quality rejections and supply chain inefficiencies. That is the future we are creating! Every stage of an export order is automated, transparent and completely integrated in this world, from sourcing to fulfillment to payments. Exporters no longer have to spend weeks tracking down information, resolving conflicts, or figuring out complicated compliance issues. Rather, their integrated financial solutions, Alpowered suggestions and real-time insights make international trade simple. Which prediction is the most audacious? Technology will make exporting as simple as domestic sales within the next ten years. Trade finance will be quick and integrated into transactions and AI will predict disruptions before they occur.

elebrate the festival of colours with a breathtaking long weekend getaway! Whether you're looking for serene backwaters. lush green hill retreats, or coastal escapes, these five destinations are perfect for creating vibrant Holi memories. Plan your escape and capture the essence of Holi at these stunning, Instagram-worthy locations.

#### Niraamaya Retreats **Backwaters & Beyond, Kumarakom**

Set on the tranguil banks of Lake Vembanad, it offers an idvllic escape amidst 8 acres of lush tropical gardens. Enjoy the serenity of Kerala's backwaters while indulging in luxury at this five-star Ayurveda resort. From world-class wellness therapies and gourmet dining to sunset boat rides, this retreat is a picture-perfect setting for your Holi weekend getaway. Capture the beauty of backwaters with dreamy sunset cruises, relax in a luxury Ayurveda spa and indulge in gourmet regional and international cuisine with scenic views.

### **The Tamara Coorg**

For those who love nature and aesthetic landscapes, it offers a dreamy setting amidst coffee and spice plantations. Wake up to the soothing sounds of waterfalls, enjoy gourmet meals, and relax with luxury spa treatments-all while soaking in the natural beauty perfect for your Holi weekend content. Stroll through stunning plantation trails, hike to hidden waterfalls, indulge in gourmet dining, and immerse yourself in Holi celebrations set against a lush green backdrop, making every moment truly picture-perfect.

#### **The Tamara Kodai**

Nestled in the charming hill station of Kodaikanal, it blends colonial elegance with modern luxury, making it a perfect escape for a picture-perfect Holi getaway. Breathe in the crisp mountain air, capture serene landscapes and indulge in gourmet dining with breathtaking panoramic views. Experience rejuvenation at the Elevation Spa, embark on scenic nature trails, and savor gourmet meals on long weekend, all set in a luxurious hilltop retreat that offers the perfect balance of relaxation and indulgence.

### **Niraamaya Retreats Surya** Samudra, Kovalam

Experience a beachside Holi like never

before at this luxurious cliffside retreat in Kovalam. With private heritage cottages. an Avurvedic sna, and breathtaking ocean views, this wellness resort offers an unforgettable experience on long holi weekend and stunning seaside content. Enjoy rejuvenating wellness treatments at the Avurvedic spa. indulge in private candlelit dinners by the pool and take in panoramic sea views from secluded beaches-perfect for capturing goldenhour shots and making lasting Holi memories

#### **DoubleTree by Hilton Goa** Panaji

Located along the Mandovi River, it offers a peaceful winter escape. The property's modern amenities riverside dining and proximity to Paniim's vibrant culture create a perfect blend of relaxation and exploration. Immerse yourself in festive colors, relax amidst stunning landscapes and experience warm hospitality. Whether you're seeking vibrant celebrations or tranguil moments, this destination promises the perfect blend of excitement and relaxation.



### **Novotel Goa Resort & Spa**

A short four-minute drive from Candolim Beach, it is a tropical escape with Baliinspired aesthetics and lush greenery. Overlooking paddy fields and hills, this resort features serene water bodies, a vitality pool with private cabanas, and Goa's only Turkish Hammam at the Warren Tricomi spa. With 121 bright and comfortable rooms, a supervised kids' club, and diverse dining optionsincluding a swim-up pool bar-this resort blends luxury, adventure and relaxation for the perfect Holi weekend retreat.

# **SPORTS** 11

# Manchester United to build 'world's greatest' soccer stadium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA London

anchester United unveiled plans on Tuesday to build the world's greatest" soccer stadium. A proposed 100,000seater arena, costing around 2 billion pounds (\$2.6 billion), would be built next to United's current Old Trafford home and surpass Wembley Stadium as the biggest in the United Kingdom.

The Pioneer

VIJAYAWADA | THURSDAY | MARCH 13, 2025

Manchester United is the world's most favorite football club and, in my view, is the biggest and deserves a stadium fitting of its stature," part owner Jim Ratcliffe said.

Work could begin as early as this year, with completion by the 2030-31 season, the club said

Ratcliffe, who is one of Britain's richest people, said the new venue could be a tourist attraction in the manner of the Eiffel Tower.

"We have 1 billion people around the world who follow Manchester United. They will all want to visit this stadium," he said. Designed by British architect Norman Foster, the first released images of the stadium include three giant tentpoles that would be seen from 40 kilometers (25 miles) away. They support a surrounding covered area, which he describes as "arguably the largest public space in the world?

Wembley is currently the biggest stadium in the UK, with a capacity of 90,000, and is home to England's national soccer teams. Twickenham, the national rugby stadium, holds 82,500.

### **Argentina puts** Maradona's healthcare professionals on trial

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Buenos Aires

n Argentine court on Tuesday started its trial of seven healthcare Approfessionals accused of negli-gence in the death of soccer great Diego Maradona, at age 60.

Maradona was under the care of those professionals when he had a cardiac arrest in a house outside Buenos Aires on Nov. 25, 2020.

Three judges will decide whether those charged, including a neurosurgeon, a psychiatrist and several medical staffers, are guilty of manslaughter. The maximum jail time for those sentenced is 25 years.

According to the prosecution, the accused professionals didn't provide adequate medical care.

Prosecutor Patricio Ferrari said he will provide evidence that, between Nov. 11-25 2020, Maradona was taken to a house in a private neighborhood in the town of outskirts of Bueno

# We are doing everything to bring two

Old Trafford is the country's biggest dedicated soccer stadium with a capacity of just over 74,000, but is dated in comparison to the likes of the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, which regularly hosts NFL games.

Old Trafford, which was bombed during World War II, has been home to United since 1910.

Under the plans, the 20-time English champion said it would not need to relocate during the construction process. It is estimated it would take around 12 months to disassemble Old Trafford once the new stadium is completed.

Ratcliffe paid \$1.3 billion for an initial 25% stake in United last year and made a new stadium one of his priorities.

'Today marks the start of an incredibly exciting journey to the delivery of what will be the world's greatest football stadium," Ratcliffe said. "Our current stadium has served us brilliantly for the past 115 years, but it has fallen behind the best arenas in world sport."

United has not set a start date yet but Foster said building work, which could include pre-fabricated parts and a "Meccano" type construction, could mean it is completed in five years.

The timing would likely rely on government involvement in what United wants to be part of a wider project to regenerate the surrounding Old Trafford area. It said it would be worth 7.3 Billion pounds (\$9.4 Billion) to the UK Economy, and the UK Government has already voiced its support for the project.

"Our long-term objective as a club is to have the world's best football team playing in the world's best stadium," United chief executive Omar Berrada said.

Managerial great Alex Ferguson said the club "must be brave and seize this opportunity to build a new home, fit for the future, where new history can be made." The announcement came days after thousands of United fans marched in protest against the club's ownership in the face of cost cuts, ticket price increases and ongoing failure on the field.

United is majority owned by the American Glazer family, which also owns the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Upon investing, Ratcliffe vowed to return the once-dominant club back to the summit of European soccer after more than a decade since it last won the Premier League.

But his first year in charge of soccer operations has been turbulent. United endured its worst-ever Premier League season last year and is on course to set a new low this term, with the team currently languishing in 14th position.

United has not won the league title since Ferguson's final season in 2013.

Berrada said the club was still focused on returning to the summit of European soccer. "We don't want to inhibit our ability to invest in the team, for us to continue being competitive while we are building a new stadium," he said.

Our number one goal is to get our teams winning and to get the men's team competing for all the titles consistently.

# sides together, says Jay Monahan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Ponte Vedra Beach

GA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan wants to get a deal done with the Saudi backers of LIV Golf provided it doesn't compromise what he considers the essence of the tour.

Monahan said on Tuesday that President Donald Trump's involvement makes the prospect of reunification "very real." Missing were details on how to get there, only a suggestion that the PGA Tour and the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia were at a standstill.

"We're doing everything that we can to bring the two sides together," Monahan said ahead of The Players Championship. "That said, we will not do so in a way that diminishes the strength of our platform or the very real momentum we have with our fans and our partners. So while we've removed some hurdles, others remain.

"But like our fans, we still share the same sense of urgency to get to a resolution." Monahan and Adam Scott met with Trump at the White House on February 4. The next meeting included Tiger governor behind LIV and its concept of and its \$1.5 Billion investment in a com-

6 He wants to see the game reunified. We want to see the game reunified. His involvement has made the prospect of reunification very real

– JAY MONAHAN, PGA TOUR COMMISSIONER

team golf. It was the second meeting where progress slowed. Monahan said no other meetings currently are scheduled.

"President Trump is a lifelong golf fan. He believes strongly in the game's power and potential and he has been exceedingy generous with his time and influence to help bring a deal together," Monahan said. "He wants to see the game reunified. We want to see the game reunified. His involvement has made the prospect of reunification very real.

"When you're in the midst of complex negotiations, particularly when you may be near a breakthrough, there are ebbs and flows in the discussion?

That began a year ago when several players accompanied Monahan to the Bahamas to start the conversation with PIF. The PGA Tour last year brought on Woods and Yasir Al-Rumavvan, the PIF the private equity Strategic Sports Group

mercial venture. That raised questions whether the tour even needed a deal with the Saudis. Driving the current discussion is how to repair the divide in golf, with players like Jon Rahm, Bryson DeChambeau and Brooks Koepka part of LIV Golf and banned from playing on the PGA Tour. The best players are together only four times a year at the majors.

Monahan invited more questions without providing answers when he said: "We believe there's room to integrate important aspects of LIV Golf into the PGA Tour platform.

We're doing everything that we can to bring the two sides together." That would not appear likely for the rest of the year. LIV Golf, which began in 2022 with a schedule that avoided some of the biggest events in golf, is playing this week in Singapore opposite The Players Championship, the tour's premier event with a \$25 million purse. Monahan has said over the past month that the priority of the meetings with PIF was about reuniting all the best players more often. He declined to say what "more often" meant or even if that required a financial investment from the PIF.



# **Bayern Munich victory** over Bayer Leverkusen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Leverkusen

arry Kane is one step closer to being a Champions League win-L ner, and he wants to enjoy Bayern Munich's statement victory over German rival Bayer Leverkusen.

"To beat this team 5-0 over two legs nows the type of team that told broadcaster Prime Video after scoring his 10th Champions League goal of the season in Tuesday's 2-0 second-leg win. "We're in the quarterfinal now where Bayern Munich should be and we want to keep pushing," Kane said. "We just want to enjoy this because it's not easy. Especially when you play your domestic rivals, there's a lot of pressure, there's a lot of intensity that goes into it." Kane added that Bayern hadn't wanted to protect its three-goal lead from the first leg, but instead wanted to put Leverkusen under more pressure by creating chances early on: "In the second half we knew they had to come out and try something and we punished them." Next stop in the Champions League is a quarterfinal meeting with Inter Milan. It will be tough," Kane said. "The San Siro's a really tough place to go but also, any team we play, we know that we can cause problems.

League quarterfinals, that wait could soon come to an end.

The coach who has got the best out of Kane and the players around him wasn't Bayern's first choice last year. Vincent Kompany isn't getting carried away with success. "I won't surf on a hype wave, no chance," Kompany said after beating

without being in "full use of his mental faculties" to decide on home hospitalisation. Ferrari said it was a reckless hospitalisation in which there was no control.

"After condemning him to oblivion in that house ... They deliberately and cruelly decided that he should die," he said.

The prosecutor showed an image of the former soccer star lying in the bed where he was found dead with his abdomen visibly swollen.

The tearful family of the 1986 World Cup winner were present at the courtroom. Maradona's oldest daughters, Dalma and Giannina, sat in the front row near Verónica Ojeda, former partner of the footballer, and Jana, another of his daughters. Minutes before the start of the trial, Ojeda shared a video on social media of Maradona's son Diego Fernando wearing a T-shirt with the face of the football star, and the word "justice."

The trial could last up to four months and there will be three hearings per week.

The spotlight is on neurosurgeon Leonardo Luque, Maradona's personal physician for the last four years of his life. He performed surgery to remove a blood clot from the former footballer's brain just weeks before his death.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Milan

arcus Thuram has emerged as one of Serie A's leading players this season. The Inter Milan forward is now doing it on the international stage.

Thuram scored a stunning early goal to set Inter on its way to a 2-1 victory over Feyenoord in the second leg of the Champions League round of 16 on Tuesday.

Inter advanced 4-1 on aggregate with Thuram also having scored in the first leg and will face Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals.

Thuram, the son of former Juventus defender and World Cup winner Lilian Thuram, could have added to his tally with more fancy footwork as he showed few ill effects from an ankle injury that has restricted his playing time of late.

"I've had a problem with my ankle for a month, sometimes it hurts more sometimes less," the 27-year-old Thuram said. "I'm not at 100 per cent yet."

However, he certainly seemed back to his best right from the start at San Siro.

Thuram emerges as one of Serie A's leading players

There was less than eight minutes on the clock when Thuram received the ball midway inside the Feyenoord half and the France forward then twisted and weaved his way to the edge of the area before unleashing a powerful effort into the top right corner.

That made Thuram only the second Inter player to score in both legs of a Champions League round-of-16 tie, and the first since Dejan Stankovic did so against Ajax in 2006.

Thuram almost repeated his exploits at the start of the second half, turning deftly on the edge of the area before his strike went narrowly over the bar.

He also rattled the crossbar in the 70th minute after again dribbling his way through a maze of Feyenoord shirts.

Thuram received a standing ovation from the San Siro crowd when he was substituted shortly afterward.

Thuram, in his second season at Inter, has become one of the league's top

players. He helped the team to the Serie A title last year. Known for his assists last season, the forward has developed into a top scorer in this campaign with 13 goals plus four assists in Serie A.

However, he had only scored once in the league phase of Europe's elite club competition, against Young Boys back in October.

Inter last won the Champions League in 2010 as part of a trio of trophies under Jose Mourinho along with the Serie A title and the Italian Cup.

The Nerazzurri are again on the treble hunt as they lead Serie A and are in the Italian Cup semifinal, where they will play city rival AC Milan. They face a crucial match at Atalanta on Sunday, with just three points separating the two teams at the top of the table.

"It's not that I believe it or I don't believe it," Thuram said when asked about Inter's treble chances. "It's that at Inter we play all the games to win it. And if you do that, then at the end of the season beautiful things arrive.

### Kane and Kompany

Kane's career has been defined by an abundance of individual awards and a lack of team trophies. With Bayern leading the Bundesliga by eight points from Leverkusen and into the Champions

### usen on Tue He praised Kane's contribution

"It obviously helps when you have a top player who only wants to run and fight for the team like a youth player," Kompany said. "That energy just helps." Leverkusen under strain

Xabi Alonso's team is no stranger to a busy schedule — Leverkusen played 53 games last season, losing only the Europa League final — but the extra strain of the Champions League has seemed to take its toll on his relatively small squad.

Both Leverkusen and Bayern lost their Bundesliga games last week after their Champions League first-leg game. That defeat in itself was a blow to Leverkusen's fading German title defense ambitions, but far worse was an injury to attacking midfielder Florian Wirtz, who is set to be out for several weeks.

Against Bayern on Tuesday, Alonso tried to shake up his tactics with more long balls and a starting spot for tall striker Patrik Schick, but the Czech international's main contribution ended up being an involuntary assist for Kane's goal as Leverkusen didn't have a shot on target until the 65th minute.

# Paris Saint-Germain defeats Liverpool in quarterfinals of Champions League

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Madrid

ianluigi Donnarumma came Through and Paris Saint-Germain defeated Liverpool in a penalty shootout to join Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Inter Milan in the quarterfinals of the Champions League on Tuesday.

PSG beat Liverpool 1-0 on the night to level the aggregate score at 1-1. Ousmane Dembélé scored 12 minutes into the second-leg match after a blunder by the Liverpool defense.

After extra time, Donnarumma stopped the penalty shots by Darwin Nunez and Curtis Iones to secure his team a 4-1 shootout win. Desire Doue scored the winning spot kick for PSG, which will face either Aston Villa or Club Brugge.

"It does not matter if we deserve the win. Both teams deserved to go through," PSG coach Luis Enrique said. "We were better in Paris and they were better here. My team showed great personality and character at Anfield." The French league leader seeking its first Champions League title had lost at this stage in five of the past eight editions. It lost to Borussia Dortmund in last come and go at both ends, with Liverpool

season's semifinals. "It was the best game of football I have ever been involved in," Liverpool manager Arne Slot said. "It was an incredible performance, especially if you compare it with last week. We were creating chances and then we were 1-0 down. We ran out of luck after last week."

Barcelona cruised past Benfica with Raphinha scoring twice and Lamine Yamal once in a 3-1 win at home.

The Catalan club advanced 4-1 on aggregate score after last week's 1-0 victory and will play either Borussia Dortmund or Lille in the quarterfinals.

After a 3-0 first-leg win, Bayern Munich had no trouble advancing past German rival Bayer Leverkusen. Bayern made it to the last eight a record 23 times in the Champions League era after a 2-0 win at Leverkusen to advance 5-0 on aggregate.

Inter moved on past Feyenoord with a 2-1 victory at San Siro to advance 4-1 on aggregate. Bayern and Inter will meet in the last eight.

### **PSG outlasts Liverpool**

A thrilling clash at Anfield saw chances



goalkeeper Alisson pulling off a string of saves to deny PSG, and with Liverpool substitute Jarell Quansah hitting the post in the second half.

Dembélé took advantage of mix up between Ibrahima Konate and Alisson to roll the ball into the empty net for the only goal of the game.

Premier League leader Liverpool, which did not make it to the Champions League last season, won the first leg 1-0 through Harvey Elliott's late goal in Paris last week.

Barcelona powers into quarterfinals Raphinha's double made him the leading scorer in the Champions League this season with 11 goals. He had scored the lone goal last week in Lisbon.

The Brazil forward put Barcelona ahead in the 11th, then Yamal added to the lead in the 27th before assisting in Raphinha's second goal in the 42nd to become the youngest player to score and assist in a Champions League match at 17 years, 241 days. "My teammates make things much easier for me," Yamal said. "It was a good goal but sometimes these things come off and sometimes they don't. For the assist, I tried to shoot and Raphinha turned it into a goal."

Nicolás Otamendi scored for Benfica in the 13th to become the third-oldest scorer in a Champions League knockout game at the age of 37 years, 27 days, according to UEFA. Yamal's goal meant he became the second-youngest.

### Kane leads Bayern

Harry Kane scored his 10th Champions League goal of the season and set up another as Bayern Munich cruised into the quarterfinals. Leverkusen never looked likely to overturn the three-goal deficit from the first leg, even before Kane bundled in the ball at a free kick in the 52nd

after Leverkusen's Patrik Schick misjudged an attempted clearance.

Kane set up Alphonso Davies for Bayern's second goal with a flicked cross in the 71st as the all-German rivalry became a one-sided contest. Bayern could have scored more as Jamal Musiala hit the crossbar with one shot and the post with another.

### Inter comfortably advances

A goal at the start of each half saw Inter easily advance, with Marcus Thuram scoring a stunning eighth-minute opener. The Inter forward received the ball midway inside the Feyenoord half and then weaved his way into the area before unleashing a powerful effort into the top right corner.

Jakub Moder leveled from the penalty spot shortly before halftime after being tripped by Hakan Çalhanoglu.

Inter restored its advantage on the night six minutes into the second half with a penalty of its own, which Çalhanoglu converted after Mehdi Taremi was fouled by Thomas Beelen right in the corner of the area.



# **RAM JAGADISH:** COURT IS INSPIRED BY CASES, **BUT A WORK OF FICTION**

I was inspired by many cases, but I wrote a completely fictional story. To ensure authenticity, I thoroughly studied the POCSO Act and consulted police officials, court authorities, and legal experts

am Jagadish is making his directorial debut with Court: State Vs A Nobody, featuring Priyadarshi in the lead role. Actor Nani, along with Prashanthi Tipirneni, is producing the film. The movie will be released tomorrow (March 14) and ahead of the release, the director shared his thoughts about the project. Ram Jagadish previously worked as an assistant director on Urvashi Rakshasivo and Ra Ra Krishnayya. He also made a short film that won him an award

Speaking about Court, he revealed that the film's backdrop revolves around the POCSO Act. "I came across a real case, and after reading about it, I became curious and started researching further. There are similar cases in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh that I wanted to address on screen. I studied multiple case files before crafting the story," he said.

However, he clarified that the film is not based on any specific individual or reallife incident. "I was inspired by many cases, but I wrote a completely fictional story. To ensure authenticity, I thoroughly studied the POCSO Act and consulted police officials, court authorities, and legal experts," the director added.

When asked what makes his film different from other courtroom dramas, Ram Jagadish pointed to its unique romantic subplot. "In my film, there is also a love story, which I believe is a first in the courtroom drama genre," he said. The director also shared how long he waited to narrate the story to Nani. "I waited nearly eight months to get a chance to narrate my story to Nani. When the moment finally came, I presented it for two and a half hours and he patiently listened. Once I finished, he simply said, 'Welcome to Wall Poster Cinema.' That was a huge moment for me." he recalled.

He further explained that many people are unaware of the POCSO Act, which is why he wanted to explore it in-depth through this film.

Roshan and Sridevi play the lead roles in the film. "We held auditions before finalizing these actors. Roshan, who plays Chandu, worked extremely hard for the role. For Jabilli's character, we struggled to find the right actress. We needed a Telugu-speaking newcomer with a passion for acting. After an extensive search, a friend of mine sent me Sridevi's Instagram profile, and I immediately felt she was perfect for the role," he shared After auditioning her, he was convinced she was the ideal choice for Jabilli. Actor Priyadarshi shares a close bond with Ram Jagadish. "I shared everything with him. When I first told him about this story, he instantly wanted to be a part of it and even asked me not to narrate it to anyone else. That's how he came on board," the director revealed

Sivaji also plays a crucial role in the film. "His character is something everyone will relate to because we all have someone like him in our families," he added. Ram Jagadish believes Court is a film that will connect with all audiences. "This story belongs to everyone, and people should watch it to reflect on their own lives," he said

He also shared Nani's reaction after watching the film. "He told me, 'I am proud of you, Jagadish,' which was the best compliment I have ever received," he concluded.



elangana Film Development Corporation (TFDC) Chairman Dil Raju held a media conference to

provide updates on the upcoming Gaddar Film Awards. He announced that a committee had finalised the guidelines for these prestigious awards. "For films released between June 2014

and December 2023, we have decided to present a Best Film Award," said Dil Raju. Starting from 2024, the awards will expand to include all major categories across different departments of filmmaking. He confirmed that the event is scheduled to take place in April.

"We are working to make this a grand event with the full support of the TFDC and the film industry. The government has requested us to organise a large-scale

ing the previously planned Simha Awards under the BRS government. "After the formation of Telangana, some filmmakers applied for Simha Awards and even paid fees to the TFDC. However, the awards never materialised. We are now refunding the amounts that were paid at that time," he clarified. A dedicated committee of industry professionals has been formed to oversee the awards process. "The jury will be finalized within a week, after which they will begin their work," Dil Raju stated.

He also mentioned that the Gaddar Award trophy design would be finalised

within the same timeframe. When asked about the Telugu Film

event, so we are starting preparations immediately," he stated. Dil Raju also addressed concerns regardare not competing with the government awards. Anyone can give awards and there is nothing wrong with that," he said. He also noted that while not everyone

may support the initiative, the majority are in favour of it. "If 51% of people are speaking positively about the awards, that's a good sign. For everything, 49% will always be against it, but that doesn't mat-ter—the majority support is what counts," he concluded. There are awards in honour of Telangana pride Paidi Jayaraj and late actor Kantha Rao in this Gaddar Film Awards. Dil Raju said apart from Telugu cinema, they are also giving importance to Urdu Cinema.

# Nani, Vijay end rivalry rumours with a reunion pose

ver the past few days, a war of words has erupted between the fan groups of actors Nani and Vijay Deverakonda. Social media has been buzzing with heated arguments, with both sides posting negative comments about the actors, sparking widespread discussion in the film industry. Despite multiple appeals from actors urging fans to stay united and refrain from negativity, fan wars have continued. A few days ago, tensions escalated as the clash between Nani and Vijay Deverakonda's supporters intensified on social media.

Vijay Deverakonda first gained recognition through his role in *Yevade Subramanyam* (2015), where Nani played the lead. The film, directed by Nag Ashwin and featuring Malavika Nair as the female lead, was released on March 21, 2015. As it marks its 10th anniversary, the movie is set to be re-released on the same date this year.

To commemorate the milestone, Nani, Vijay Deverakonda and Malavika Nair reunited to recreate the iconic bike scene from the film. The gesture comes as a strong message to their fans, putting an end to rivalry rumours and emphasising their camaraderie.

Since his breakout roles in *Arjun Reddy* and *Geetha Govindam*, Vijay Deverakonda has risen to Pan-India fame, while Nani has continued to grow as a star in Telugu cinema. Seeing both actors come together for this special moment sends a clear message that there are no differences between them. The reunion picture of Nani, Vijay and Malavika is now making waves on the internet, proving that true

friendships in the industry remain strong despite fandriven rivalries.



# Samantha returns to Telugu cinema with

Soundarya's husband clears air on land dispute, defends Mohan Babu

ate actress Soundarya left an indelible mark on Telugu cinema with her exceptional performances. She acted alongside all the leading actors of her time and was regarded as one of the top actresses of her era. She one of the top actresses of her era. She lost her life in a tragic helicopter crash on April 17, 2004, while travelling for a political campaign supporting her brother's entry into politics. At the time of her passing, she was set to work on two films—one with Mahar Pakuwa two films—one with Mohan Babu and another mythological film with Balakrishna.

Years after her demise, Soundarya's name has resurfaced in the news following a complaint filed by a resident of Khammam. The individual approached the district collector and police, alleging that actor Mohan Babu had illegally occupied Soundarya's land in Jalpally and constructed a house on it. Furthermore, the complainant accused Mohan Babu of conspiring in her death and demanded an investigation, urging authorities to reclaim the property for the government.

Amidst these serious allegations, Soundarya's husband, G. S. Raghu, has



issued an open letter refuting all claims. He firmly stated that neither he nor his late wife had any land or property dealings with Mohan Babu.

In his letter, Raghu expressed his long-standing association with Mohan Babu, calling him family and asserting that the actor never wished harm upon Soundarya or their family. He urged the public not to believe the false rumors and to put an end to the misinformation. "For the past few days, false news has been circulating regarding property in Hyderabad involving Mohan Babu sir and my wife, the late Soundarya. I want to categorically deny these baseless rumors. To clarify, I confirm that Mohan Babu sir has not illegally acquired any property belonging to my wife," Raghu stated.

He further requested the media and public to stop spreading such unverified news. "Since this is completely false, I request everyone to stop sharing and believing these unfounded claims. Let this matter be put to rest once and for all," he concluded



Sam CS to elevate Jack: Konchem Krack with his signature background score

Siddhu Jonnalagadda, widely recog-nized as *DJ Tillu* from the block-buster *Tillu Square*, is gearing up for his next film, Jack: Konchem Krack. Directed by Bommarillu Bhaskar, the film features Vaishnavi Chaitanya of Baby fame as the female lead and is set to release on April 10. The teaser hints at a fresh and exciting genre explored by Siddhu and Bhaskar.

Adding to the excitement, renowned music composer Sam CS has been brought on board to score the film's background music. Sam CS recently worked on select portions of the background score for Pushpa 2, starring Allu Arjun and directed by Sukumar. He has become one of the

most sought-after music directors in South Indian cinema, and now, his music will enhance Jack: Konchem Krack.

Sam CS has earned immense popularity with a series of hit compositions. His recent work on the sensational blockbuster Pushpa 2 and the web series *Suzhal 2* has captivated audi-ences, showcasing his musical bril-liance. With him on board, fans are eager to see how he will elevate Siddhu Jonnalagadda's on-screen presence and enhance his signature swag with a dvnamic score.

Produced by BVSN Prasad, the film also features Prakash Raj, VK Naresh, and Brahmaji in key roles.

### an impactful cameo in Paradha

irector Praveen Kandregula, known for his critically acclaimed Netflix film *Cinema Bandi*, is set to return with his latest project, Paradha. Backed once again by renowned filmmakers Raj and DK, the film has already generated buzz with its eerie and intriguing teaser. Starring Anupama Parameswaran in the lead, Paradha delves into the disturbing and archaic practice of Sati in remote villages. The film also features Sangita and Darshana Rajendran in key roles. With its gripping premise and intense storytelling, Paradha has piqued the curiosity of

audiences.

In an exciting update, sources close to the project have revealed that actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu will be making a special cameo appearance in the film. It has been a while since Samantha was seen in a Telugu film, making this cameo highly anticipated among her fans. Her role is said to come at a crucial point in the narrative, delivering an unexpected twist that will leave the audience captivated. The scene featuring Samantha is expected to be shot soon and insiders sug-gest it will be one of the film's standout moments. With Paradha nearing completion, the addition of Samantha's cameo has only heightened excitement for the film. Fans are eagerly awaiting to see how her character will contribute to the storvline and the overall impact of the film.