A RECIPE FOR DISASTER'



VIJAYAWADA DELHI LUCKNOW **BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN HYDERABAD** \*LATE CITY VOL. 4 ISSUE 286 \*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

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RUKSHAR DHILLON: SIMPLE, STRAIGHT & CHILL Page 12

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#### MP TO RADIO COLLAR LEOPARD. HYENAS TO UNDERSTAND THEIR BEHAVIOUR

he Madhya Pradesh government will radio collar 10 leopards and as many hyenas in its Kuno National Park to understand their behaviour and interaction with cheetahs set to be introduced there, Chief Wildlife Warden J S Chauhan said Thursday. It has asked the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to provide the radio collars along with a team of specialists for this. Last month, India and Namibia signed an agreement for the reintroduction of cheetahs, declared extinct in the country in 1952. Namibia has the world's largest population

#### **HOW MUCH IS ZUCKERBERG WORTH? CARD COLLECTOR COULD FIND OUT**

hen camp counsellor Allie Tarantino was flipping through a Magazine years ago, he came upon a familiar name: Mark Zuckerberg. He rifled through boxes of memorabilia in his basement, running his fingers over old photos, newspapers and bus maps before finding a baseball card featuring a very young Zuckerberg grinning in a red jersey and gripping a bat. Three decades later, Tarantino is hoping that a signed baseball card featuring one of the richest men in the world will bring a fortune when it is put up for auction next month. It's like my version of a midlife crisis. I'm 50 years old what am I going to do with this?

#### 14 YEARS AFTER FIR, COURT ACQUITS TRIO FROM MURDER AND DACOITY CHARGES

ourteen years after police booked three accused for the charges of murder and dacoity, a Delhi court has acquitted them saying that the testimony of the prosecution's sole eye witness was highly doubtful. The judge granted relief to the trio, who were accused of murdering two people, while committing dacoity in July 2008 at Lajpat Nagar in South East Delhi. The court observed that since the reported eye witness was also an accused in the same police station in another case, it was possible that police planted him as an eve witness.

#### 26/11 TERROR ATTACK: YOUNGEST **SURVIVORS MOVES HC SEEKING HOUSE**

evika Rotawan, who as a nine-year-old witnessed first hand the November 2008 terrorist attack on Mumbai, has moved the Bombay High Court seeking a house from the government. This is the second time that Rotawan, now 23 years old, has approached the court. In 2020, she had filed a similar petition and in October that year the high court directed the Maharashtra government to consider her plea. After the state government rejected her application, she moved the court again. On Thursday, additional government pleader Jyoti Chavan, the Maharashtra government lawver, told a division bench.

## **Purported nude video of YSRCP MP** goes viral, triggers political row

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP MP from Hindupur, Gorantla Madhav, was caught and landed in a tight spot after a video in which he allegedly made a nude video call to a woman flashing his genitals surfaced on

Thursday morning.
The video which Madhav later claimed was fake went viral on social media platforms. He lodged a complaint with the district police and also cyber cell alleging conspiracy by the opposition TDP and a section of the media to defame him. Responding to the incident, YSRCP general secretary and Government Advisor Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy said that the party will take action against the MP if the probe by the police proved the MP was guilty.

Talking to reporters in Delhi after the video went viral, Madhav The Hindupur LS member says the video was morphed, lodges complaint

Govt Advisor Sajjala says action will be taken against the MP if found guilty

had shown a video in which he was

seen working out in a gym. He said

that his distractors had morphed

that video and spread it on social

media to defame him as he comes

was allegedly seen initially talking

In the alleged video Madhav

from a backward class.



The YSRCP MP alleged that TDP leader Chintakayala Vijay and Ponnru Vamshi were behind the circulation of the video. He offered to face any inquiry on the video.

to a woman in a video call without his shirt and later flashed his genitals.

The Hindupur MP alleged that TDP leader Chintakayala Vijay and Ponnru Vamshi were behind the circulation of the video. Gorantla Madhav dared to face any

inquiry on the video.

**SNV SUDHIR** 

VIJAYAWADA

Meanwhile, the MP's alleged nude video triggered a political slugfest in the State as the TDP leaders came down heavily on the MP and demanded stringent action against him by the govern-

Andhra Pradesh has set its sights to attract investments worth USD \$4

b in the Electric Vehicle (EV) seg-

ment. And in that endeavour

Andhra Pradesh will be holding a

high-level virtual meeting in which

a total of 60+ companies, which would be a mix of traditional/

conventional players as well as

recent, potential start-ups expect-

ed to participate on Friday. With

this AP joins the first movers'

## Jagan launches interaction with cadre from Naidu's home turf



AP sets sights on \$4 b in EV space

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP supremo and chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy who had got into poll mode two years before the general polls, on Thursday launched a programme to interact with the party workers of each Assembly segment.

On Thursday, Jagan, who had taken his battle right into the home turf of Opposition leader, N Chandrbabu Naidu, interacted with the party workers of Kuppam.

Naidu has been representing Kuppam in the State Assembly for

more than three decades. On Thursday, Jagan said that Kuppam is as important to him as his own segment Pulivendula and at least Rs 65 crore will be spent on Kuppam

for its development. He said the segment was neg-lected for all these years and never witnessed any kind of development. He also said that if the Kuppam party workers worked hard and elected party candidate KJR Bharath, Jagan assured him a cabinet berth.



of vehicle manufacturers, component

manufacturers, charging infrastruc-

ture developers, and auxiliary /

#### CM STOPS CONVOY, **HELPS A WOMAN**

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy briefly stopped his convoy after spotting a helpless mother with her son trying to reach him here on Thursday. During his visit, Tanuja



constituency explained her son's health condition to the Chief Minister and sought help. He immediately ordered the Collector of Kakinada

District to solve the woman's

problem at the earliest.

#### **New AP HC judges** sworn in



PNS VIJAYAWADA

Biswabhusan Governor Harichandan administered the oath of office to the newly-appointed Judges and Additional Judges of Andhra Pradesh High Court at a programme held in Thummalapalli Kalakshetram here on Thursday.

Initially, Judges-designate Adusumilli Venkata Ravindrababu, Dr. Vakkalagadda Radhakrishna Krupasagar, Bandaru Syamsundar, Vutukuru Srinivas were sworn in as Judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court by Governor Harichandan, followed Varahalakshmi Narasimha Tallapragada Chakravarthi, Mallikharjuna Rao, Duppala Venkata Ramana, who were swornin as Additional Judges of the High

**CM** orders

safety audit in

industrial units

Aug 05 05:06 AM

to Aug 06 03:57 AM

Aug 06 03:57 AM to Aug 07 02:11 AM

Aug 04 06:48 PM

Aug 05 06:37 PM

to Aug 05 06:37 PM

to Aug 06 05:51 PM

3:33 PM to 5:08 PM

10:46 AM to 12:22 PM

12:03 AM to 01:35 AM

09:53 AM to 11:28 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:56 AM to 12:47 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered thunderstorms

**Updated:** AUGUST 4, 2022 5:00 PM

7:35 AM to 9:11 AM

TODAY

**ALMANAC Month & Paksham** Tithi: Ashtami:

Nakshatram:

Rahukalam

Varjyam:

Amritakalam:

**Temp:** 32°°

Humidity: 82%

Sunrise: 5:49 AM

Sunset: 6:38 PM

## Two workers die after inhaling gas at factory

In a tragic incident, two workers were killed after inhaling noxious gas in the Paramesh Biotech factory at Devarapalli on Thursday.

Kovvuru RDO Mallibabu and DSP B Srinath told the media said the deceased workers, Duma Beeruva (23), belonged to Odisha state and Gajula Srinu (26) belonged to Tirugudumetta village in Tallapudi mandal, entered the chemical tank to clean it. They inhaled the gas emanating from the chemical in the tank and fell ill. They were shifted to the Government hospital in Kovvur where they died while undergoing treatment. Another worker Anil

Singh fell ill and he was admitted to the hospital.

The management of the factory tried to keep the incident a secret and tried to ensure that the incident did not see light. When the media learned about the incident, they tried to go inside the factory, but the management did not allow them.

The police and revenue officials rushed to the factory.

They had started an investigation into the cause of the accident.

It was found that the workers were sent to boiler cleaning without taking proper safety measures in the factory and therefore fell ill due to lack of oxygen. The police registered a case and began an investigation.

#### coalition with the CEOs of the Electric Vehicles segment, by being **PM Modi urges** people to take

precaution dose

PNS ■ VALSAD (GUJ)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday urged people to take precaution or booster dose of vaccines against COVID-19 when the cases of the viral infection are increasing in the country.

He made the appeal after inaugurating, through video link, various projects of the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission including a 250-bed multispeciality hospital at Dharampur in Gujarat's Valsad district.





the first state under the World Economic Forum (WEF) "Moving India" network initiatives.

The participating companies belong to various sub-categories of the EV segment covering the areas

Financial Players. The virtual CEO-Ministerial Dialogue, the policy round-table initiated by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in collaboration with the World Economic Forum

(WEF) will serve as a high-level platform to explore various avenues of investments in the Electric Vehicles segment and also to support the industry leaders in the developing and implementing plans and programmes to meet climate goals, including net-zero econom-

As the State plans to expand the EV landscape at a fervor pace, accelerating EV adoption, transitioning the state towards Clean Mobility Shift turning it carbon-neutral is one of the goals of the round-table, said industries minister Gudivada Amarnath.

ic growth and green mobility.

The high-level CEO-Ministerial virtual Dialogue makes Andhra Pradesh the first ever state in India, associated with the "WEF-Moving India" network initiative by the World Economic Forum on "Shaping the Future of Mobility".



## TDP to back BJP nominee in V-P polls

PNS HYDERABAD

As expected the TDP has extended support to the BJP candidate in the vice presidential election. But the TRS has not announced its stand in the vice presidential election even though there are only two days left for the election. The TDP took the decision ahead of TDP supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu's New Delhi visit.

The four MPs of the TDP, three in the Lok Sabha and one in the Rajya Sabha, met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday and informed the TDP's decision to support the BJP candidate in the vice presidential election.

The YSR Congress has also extend-

ed support to the BJP candidate in the vice presidential election. In the presidential election too, both the YSR Congress and the TDP supported the BJP candidate.

The TDP leadership is trying to make the BJP leadership revive relations between the two parties. But the BJP leadership is opposed to any alliance with the TDP

Political circles think that the BJP will agree to have an alliance with the TDP only if it thinks that the YSR Congress will lose power in the Assembly elections. But in the BJP's opinion, the YSR Congress is still strong and will retain power in the next

AP Assembly elections. The BJP leadership also hopes that after the Lok Sabha elections the YSR Congress will extend support directly or indirectly to them if needed. In these circumstances, the BJP leadership is not ready to break its indirect relations with the YSR Congress to

have direct relations with the TDP. Meanwhile, the TRS leadership has not announced its stand in the vice presidential election. The TRS will not support the BJP candidate at any cost. The question is whether the TRS will support the joint opposition candidate like in the presidential election or not.

The difference in the presidential election is that the joint opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha had quit the Trinamool Congress before he was selected as the opposition candidate.

## AP airports' handling capacity 10 m passengers per annum

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Gen VK Singh said that with the construction of the new greenfield airport at Orvakal (Kurnool) and upgradation of five existing airports in Andhra Pradesh, the total passenger handling capacity of these airports is around 10 Million Passenger Per Annum (MPPA).

Thus, approximately 10 million passengers are expected to benefit from these airports. In a written reply in Lok Sabha to YSRCP MP, from Kadapa, YS Avinash Reddy, the Union Minister said that the upgradation/modernisation of airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other airport operators from time to time depending on the availability of land, commercial viability, socio-economic considerations, traffic demand/willingness of airlines to operate to/from such airports,



port at Orvakal (Kurnool) has been constructed and operationalised in 2021.

Besides, five existing airports, Vijayawada, Tirupati, Rajahmundry, Vizag and Kadapa have been upgraded in the last five years in Andhra Pradesh.

Oravkal greenfield airport has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 187 core by the State government of Andhra Pradesh.

Till June 2022, the Airports Authority of India has incurred an expenditure of Rs 134 crore at Vijayawada airport, Rs 131 crore at Tirupati airport, Rs. 5 Crs at Rajahmundry airport, Rs 60 crore at Vizag airport and Rs 55 crore at Kadapa airport for upgradation of these airports.

#### NHAI will construct the 1.415 km stretch spending Rs. 29 cr

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has awarded the Vijayawada (Gannavaram) Airport Flyover project worth Rs. 29 crore to Trenzent Infra Private Limited, Vijavawada, and the project will be commenced in September. As many as seven companies had filed tenders for the flyover project and Trenzent Infra Private Limited quoted the lowest bid.



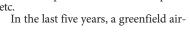
Trenzent Infra gets city Airport Flyover project

port main gate. NHAI chalked Gannavaram Airport is adiacent to the Vijayawada-Kolkata out a plan to construct a flyover National Highway and when to avoid the traffic problems on VVIPs arrive at the airport, the highway near the airport and it invited Detailed Project there is usually heavy traffic con-Reports (DPR) from the consultgestion as the traffic cops stop other vehicles in front of the airants two months ago.

Trenzent Infra has been conducting survey works to ease the traffic movement when the flyover work starts. The NHAI authorities said that they were planning to start the works in September and complete the project within nine months.

According to NHAI authorities, the length of the flyover is 1.415 km, starting at the airport gate and ending after 300 m of the Kesarapalli X Road. However, the airport's main entrance gate will be moved by 90 m towards the Vijayawada side and the Airport Authority of India (AAI) will construct another exit for vehicles.





# CM orders safety audit in industrial units

PNS AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has ordered a safety audit in all industrial units in the State.

The order comes in the wake of the suspected gas leak in the Brandix SEZ at Atchyutapuram in Anakapalli district on Tuesday, in which some 95 workers of an apparel-manufacturing unit fell sick.

It was the second time in two years that the Chief Minister has ordered the audit -- the first one was ordered after the LG Polymers tragedy near Visakhapatnam that left 12 people dead and 580 ill.

A release from the CMO said today that the Chief Minister directed that a highlevel committee be constituted to probe into the causes of the gas leak in the Brandix SEZ. Apart from establishing the cause of the leak, the focus should also be on preventing such incidents in the future. Besides, a safety audit should also be conducted in all industries across the State, the Chief Minister was quoted as telling the officials.

It was the second such incident in two months that a mys-

The order comes in the wake of the suspected gas leak in the Brandix SEZ at Atchyutapuram in Anakapalli district on Tuesday, in which some 95 workers of an apparel-manufacturing unit fell sick. It was the second

time in two years that the Chief Minister has ordered the audit -- the first one was ordered after the LG Polymers tragedy near Visakhapatnam that left 12 people dead and 580 ill.

terious gas leak from a nearby chemical industry left workers in the apparel manufacturing unit sick with nausea and vom-

On June 3, over 300 women workers of Seeds Intimate Apparel India Private Limited fell unconscious in similar circumstances but there were no deaths. On August 4, 2020, the State government ordered a special drive for full-scale inspection of all industrial units to ensure compliance with safety protocols in the backdrop of a spate of major accidents that claimed lives, particularly in the port city Visakhapatnam.

A seven-member committee.

headed by Joint Collector (Welfare), was formed in each district to carry out the special drive within 90 days, with the involvement of officials from the Factories Department, AP Pollution Control Board, Boilers Department, AP State Disaster Response and Fire Services Department, Director of Electrical Safety and Chief Electrical Inspector (Energy

Department). After the styrene vapour leak in the LG Polymers unit in May 2020, a High-Power Committee headed by Special Chief Secretary (Environment) Neerabh Kumar Prasad recommended a series of steps to

be taken by various government departments to prevent such mishaps in the future.

Based on these recommendations, we decided there is an immediate need to organise a special drive of inspections for ensuring compliance with all safety protocols and environmental norms by all industrial units, Special Chief Secretary (Industries) Karikal Valaven had said then. Thereafter, there has been not a word from the Industries Department on the inspections and the findings.

Neither Industries Minister Gudivada Amarnath nor the Special Chief Secretary responded to queries on the audit.

The opposition parties have been vociferous in their criticism of the Jagan Mohan Reddy government over its alleged failure to prevent such mishaps.

MLC and Telugu Desam Party general secretary Nara Lokesh alleged that the Jagan Mohan Reddy government was not waking up from its deep slumber though such mishaps

were occurring repeatedly.
Two incidents in two months in the Brandix SEZ clearly exposed the failure of the government in taking corrective

#### Solution to frequent traffic jams in city elusive

PNS HYDERABAD

Over 50 lakh vehicles commute through over 325 junctions in the city often causing traffic jams. But the criticism against the traffic police is that of their 'conspicuous absence' at important junctions.

This is attributed to the police personnel compromising with evicting those who occupy the road margins to sell their wares. During the past several years, a lot of infrastructural developments like construction of flyovers and deployment of Metro Rail service took place. In spite of these measures, there seems to be no let up in traffic jams in the city.

Though the traffic police take steps to reduce the traffic snarls in the city to ensure smooth travel of vehicles, the results are still a far cry, it is alleged. The police department is learnt to have been preparing an action plan on region specific measures to reduce the traffic jams.

There is a concern over increasing road accidents under the limits of the Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Ranga Reddy police commis-



## Stop sale of open spaces at Payakapuram UDA colony: CPM

#### Party leaders stage protest in front of CRDA office

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The CPM staged a protest against the sale of open spaces in the UDA layout in Payakapuram, in front of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Development Region Authority (CRDA) office headquarters in Vijayawada on Thursdav.

The protesters raised slogans against the sale of open spaces in the UDA layout and demanded that CRDA withdraw its decision. Later, party leaders submitted a representation to CRDA Commissioner Vivek Yadav. The open spaces should be used for local people, but not for business. The party leaders burned the G.O copies regarding the sale of open spaces.

Addressing the gathering, CPM State secretariat member Ch Babu Rao said that the State government should stop the

sale of open spaces meant for public utility at once. The government was selling away the lands under the pretext of developing Amaravati, but the sole intention was to fill the coffers, he said. The CRDA has neglected the development of Krishna and Guntur districts (pre-reorganisation), he added.

He further said it was unfortunate that the CRDA, which was supposed to protect the lands, was planning to sell them off at throwaway prices. The lands cost around Rs. 200 crore and the CRDA wanted to hand over the same to private companies, he alleged. The CRDA authorities were requested to stop the e-auction of the same, he added.

He added that the then Urban Development Authority developed the layout in 1993. The open spaces were earmarked for schools, parks, theatres, and hospitals. The CRDA plans to sell 16,500 square yards for Rs. 50 crore. They were selling away lands at İbrahimpatnam Truck Terminal, Nowlur UDA colony, Gurunanak Colony, and others, he said.

The Left leader said that the worth of those lands would be more than Rs.200 crore. These are public properties and the courts in various instances have found fault with the governments for misusing the layout spaces. The government should withdraw the GOs 389 and 390, which facilitate the sale of lands," he said.

Babu Rao said that the State government should mount pressure on the Central government to release funds for the development of Amaravati. The sale of open spaces is not a solution. The people would agitate against the sale if the government did not withdraw the GOs, he added.

## Collector orders suspension of officials for delay in resurvey

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Angry over the delay in the resurvey project 'Jagananna Bhoo Hakku - Bhuraksh' in the district, Krishna Collector P Ranjith Basha has ordered the suspension of those who were

negligent in the survey.

Acquisition (CCLA) Special Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad convened a video conference with all district collectors from Mangalagiri on resurvey. He ordered the suspension of the negligent officials.

Later, Collector Ranjith Basha conducted a meeting with the officials concerned

and ordered them to complete the resurvey work. He said that ground truthing was completed in 60 villages while the process was pending in 23 villages. He asked Survey Department Assistant Director Gopalakrishna why he was not completing the work

ed over five months ago.

He asked AD Gopalakrishna to direct surveyors and VROs to complete ground truthing works in the remaining 23 villages. Final ROR notification was issued in more than 12 villages. He asked them why the Draft Land Registration was pending in 12 villages.

Moreover, he said that land mutations should not be above the SLA. He said that all the rejected petitions would be reviewed and he added that he would verify the e-office system. Joint Collector R Mahesh

Kumar, DRO V Venkateswarlu, and Superintendent Harinadh

### Offices of 35 per cent companies working full swing **PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

PM Modi urges people to take...

I urge all present here to take precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccine. On the completion of 75 years of independence, the government has started a campaign for 75 days, Modi said,

Continued from Page 1

virtually. We should ensure that everybody in our family and our area or village takes the precaution dose, the PM added.

addressing the huge gathering

The appeal from the prime minister came as new coronavirus cases have steadily risen in various parts of the country in the last few days.

The hospital project will prove to be of great service to women and other needy sections of society, Modi said in his speech. Recalling his long association with the Mission, he praised its record of service and said this spirit of duty was the need of the hour during the `Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The prime minister also extolled the Mission's work in the field of rural health in Gujarat.

"This hospital and research centre will make affordable quality healthcare accessible to everyone. This is going to give strength to the vision of healthy India in the 'Amrit Kaal'. This also strengthens the spirit of Sabka Prayas (everyone's efforts) in the field of healthcare, Modi said.

In the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the country is remembering its children who made efforts to bring India out of slavery. Shrimad Rajchandra ji was one such saint whose great contribu-tion is part of the history of this country, he added.

The prime minister also referred to Mahatma Gandhi's admiration for Shrimad Rajchandra ji.

Shrimad Ŕajchandra (1867 1901) was a Jain poet, mystic, philosopher, scholar and

The health policy that India is following today concerns the health of every living being and the country is running a nationwide vaccination campaign not just for people but also for animals, prime minister Modi further

The Union government is trying to remove every obstacle which stands in the way of progress of our "sisters and daughters," the PM said.

Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital, built at a cost of around Rs 200 crore, will provide world-class tertiary medical facilities, especially to people in southern Gujarat region, Mission officials said.

Modi also laid the foundation stone of Shrimad Rajchandra Animal Hospital and Shrimad Rajchandra Center of Excellence for though the villages were hand-

About 35 per cent of companies have seen a majority (75 to 100 per cent) of

employees returning to offices. This includes the hybrid model in which

employees come to office a few times

After a gap of two years, the return

to offices has gathered momentum

with ebbing Covid-19 cases, signifying

positive office space occupier confi-

of occupiers are looking towards dis-

tributed workspaces as a strategy to

shift from location-centric to people-

centric workspaces. This will enable

flexibility to employees while enabling

Flex spaces emerged as the most pre-

ferred distributed workspace strategy

of occupiers, due to ease of adoption

and benefits for employees. Occupiers

see dual benefits in distributed work

productivity gains for businesses.

At the same time, about 74 per cent

in flex spaces. They view benefits from such a strategy will enhance employees' overall harmony, while bringing

more cost efficiencies. As per the Colliers-Awfis joint report, 8 per cent of flex space in Hyderabad was part of total leasing for H1 2022. About 53 per cent of occupiers prefer a hybrid workplace plan for their employees, with working from home and office in varying degrees.

Time and cost savings, increased vee convenience and well-being of employees are key priorities for occupiers, as they look to enable distributed workspace strategy. About 79 per cent of the occupiers who are ready to opt for flex spaces see time and cost savings as major benefits.

Ramesh Nair, the Chief Executive Officer of Colliers said, "The survey has made it clear that a distributed workspace strategy is the way to go for occupiers in this new era of workplaces, as occupiers emerge from the pandem-



ic. Flex spaces, in particular, are leading this growth, as occupiers from many sectors are housing teams in flex centres across cities. This shift in strategy also reflects in the leasing by flex operators. Flex operators leased about 3.5 million sq.feet of space in H1 2022 in top six cities, almost threefourths of the flex leasing in 2021.

Further, the survey reveals that as occupiers straddle business goals and employee wellbeing together, about 74 per cent of the occupiers are looking at distributed workspaces, and more than half of the IT/ITeS companies (the largest occupier group) prefer a distributed work model for their

ties for flex spaces not only in metro cities but also in non-metro cities. In fact, in non-metro cities, flex spaces are likely to grow more than two-fold to 5.5 million sq.feet by the end of

The survey says that currently, 74 per cent of occupiers have adopted flex centres for their workspace needs to gain the benefits associated with flex working. In future, 77 per cent of part of their workplace strategy. We expect exceptional demand in future, driven largely by large corporates for decongesting traditional offices. Keeping employee centricity in the forefront, 79 per cent of occupiers feel that a distributed workplace strategy will be highly beneficial to saving time and money. Additionally, work-life balance, mental well-being and team productivity are fuelled through flex

#### **EFLU holds** competitions on **'Say no to drugs'**

PNS HYDERABAD

The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) in Hyderabad organised competitions on 'Say no to drugs' on Thursday. A series of competitions were organised as part of the 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan' with an objective to fight drug abuse.

Enthusiastic partnership of students was witnessed in debate, slogan-writing and essay competitions held at the new academic block on the campus.

## Jagan launches interaction...

Continued from Page 1

Bharath was instrumental in giving a body blow to TDP in the last two years in the polls to local bodies. YSRCP supremo YS

Jaganmohan Reddy, who was successful in implementing a winning social engineering formula in 2019 polls by doing a carefully crafted balancing act of castes, communities and religions had also used a similar template in Kuppam which is said to have yielded good results in Panchayat polls.

Though Panchayat polls are

fought on a non-party basis and purely at the local level YSRCP leadership especially chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy had taken Kuppam 'seriously' to send a strong message to the electorate across the state.

YSRCP leaders felt that the party was almost close to trouncing Naidu in his bastion in the 2019 polls itself like how his son Nara Lokesh had to face humiliating defeat in Mangalagiri. However, YSRCP candidate, Dr. Krishna Chandramouli, a retired senior bureaucrat, fell seriously ill a month before the polling day in

2019 jeopardised their expectations.

Dr Chandramouli later succumbed to the illness. He could not campaign at all. His son KRI Bharath, who was a political novice, had to take up the responsibility. Though Naidu won the poll, he had to face a sharp drop in the majority of

While Naidu's majority was 47121 votes in 2014 polls, it dropped to 30722 votes in 2019. There was a sharp decline of the majority by at least 17,000 votes. Naidu has been winning the Kuppam seat since 1989.

## Trenzent Infra gets...

Continued from Page 1

As per the plan, Trenzent Infra would be extending the highway by 660 m on both sides and laying two lanes for the vehicles passing from Viiavawada to Kolkata and vice versa. With the extension of the highway, vehicle move-ment would be free and traffic jams would be avoided on the highway, said NHAI

authorities. Constructing the flyover would not only solve traffic problems, but also reduce road accidents on the airport main and cross roads at Kesarapalli. After the completion of the flyover project, vehicles coming from Visakhapatnam will directly enter the flyover and they won't be affected by VVIP arrivals and the vehicles to and from the airport.

However, the vehicles from Vijayawada to the airport will pass under the flyover and enter the airport through the main gate. They need not enter the flyover.

After the State's bifurcation, the number of passengers depending on Gannavaram Airport has increased. There is also a proportionate increase in the number of flights as per the passengers' demand. According to NHAI Project

Director GV Narayana, Trenzent Infra is expected to start the works in September and complete them by June

With the construction of the flyover, traffic problems at the main gate of the airport and Kesarapalli X roads would be solved. The awardee would submit its design soon,

#### RATES ₹/KG ₹225 Dressed/With Skin Without Skin ₹235 Broiler at Farm

CHICKEN

#### RATES ₹/100 VIJAYAWADA 477 **HYDERABAD** 484

VISAKHAPATNAM 477

₹4.84

**RETAIL PRICE** 

## AP sets sights on \$4 b in EV space Continued from Page 1

"Primary objectives of the CEO-Ministerial Dialogue is to position Andhra Pradesh as the "light-house state" for advancing India's and Industry's ambition to lead the global transition to clean mobility and to develop policy initiatives in collaboration with the stakeholders, by considering their views and ideas. Given the mul-

green mobility, which include better air quality control, emissions control, and economic and employment potentials, Andhra Pradesh's transition to e-mobility is going to be a key component of India's low carbon development push," added Amarnath. As the government envisages making Andhra Pradesh the prime destination for the development and man-

ufacturing of batteries, hydrogen generation and storage, Battery EVs (BEV) as well as Fuel cell EVs (FCEV), EV components and charging equipment not only for India but also to the world, this meet shall act as another step to pave ways to sustainable transportation in

the state of AP. Helping the state fulfil its Sustainable ambitious Development Goals by way of

green mobility and green energy initiatives, this one-day virtual high-level CEO-Ministerial dialogue will act as a one-of-akind step, considering the participating group which uniquely consists of people from EV industry, advocacy institutions and the policymakers, he added.

The virtual meet will be attended by industries minister Gudivada Amarnath, AP

Transport Principal Secretary M T Krishna Babu; AP Energy Special Chief Secretary K Vijayanand; Advisor (Infrastructure Connectivity, Transport & Electric Mobility)-NITI Aayog, Sudhendu J Sinha, APEDB CEO and APIIC VC & MD Subramanyam Javvadi, World Economic Forum -Moving India Team, CEOs of EV manufacturing companies and government officials.

#### GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH ROADS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT **E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE** e' NIT No. /Corenet Capital/CE (R&B) SH & MD, APRDC/2022-23

 Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for one work in Srikakulan District vide Chief Engineer (R&B) SH & Managing Director, APRDC, 'e' NIT No. /Corere Capital/ CE (R&B) SH & MD, APROC/2022-23, Dt: 03-08-2022. The last date of receipt of tenders is 26.08.2022 upto 3.30 P.M. 2) Tenders can download the tender schedules and other details from e-market place i.e. www.apeprocurement.gov.in. <sub>Sd</sub>. Chief Engineer R&B) R.O.No: 5476/CLIADVTHH/2021-22, Dt. 04.88.2022

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## **SIDBI** joins hands with **APGB** for backing MSMEs

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), country's apex financial institution for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), has signed made a Memorandum Understanding (MoU) with the Andhra Pragathi

Gramania Fragatiii
Gramania Bank (APGB) for refinancing to facilitate credit flow to MSME clients.

SIDBI Deputy General Manager P. Rajendra Prasad and APGB General Manager PR Padgetwar entered into a partnership through an agree-

ment, here on Thursday. Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank has become the first regional rural bank in the State to initiate a unique/refinancing partnership with SIDBI. As per the agreement, SIDBI will extend the refinance facility to APGB to facilitate an improved flow of credit to

Speaking on the agreement, SIDBI Deputy General Manager Rajendra Prasad said that his bank had been playing a prominent role as an enabler in empowering the MSME ecosystem in the country. He said that this arrange-



ment with APGB would act as a tool for upscaling the MSME segment, especially in semiurban and rural areas.

"We are delighted to partner

Grameena Bank and we will, in time, expand our refinance services to other banks as well," he

## Women's panel member visits juvenile home

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Women's Commission member Busi Vineetha paid a visit to the Juvenile Welfare and Correctional Services and Welfare of the Street Children Home at Vidyadharapuram in Vijayawada on Thursday. She verified the records of the juvenile home and expressed happiness over providing good

facilities for the children.

Suneetha said that infrastructure facilities at the juvenile home would be improved. She said that the State government would provide more facilities for the children for bringing a change in them. She further said that the juvenile home officials should try to help the children so that they could become responsible cit-



## Hindupur MP Gorantla's act despicable: TDP

PNS AMARAVATI

Former MLA and senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Bonda Umamaheswara Rao on Thursday felt that the behaviour of some of the YSRCP leaders is very despicable and the video of Hindupur Lok Sabha member Gorantla Madhav that is going viral on social media speaks volumes about the reprehensible con-

duct of their party leaders. Umamaheswara Rao told media persons here that the behaviour of YSRCP MPs, Ministers, former ministers, MLAs and other party leaders is very disgusting. The YSRCP leaders are acting in a rude

When the video of Madhav sexually abusing a woman is going viral on social media, he is shamelessly denying the fact, Umamaheswara Rao said.

Can another YSRCP MP Vijayasai now tweet not to take action against Mr Madhav, the TDP leader asked.

As per the election affidavit, cases under Section 376, Section 302 and Section 506 are pending against Gorantla Madhav, Bonda Uma pointed out. In fact, it is Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy, who is responsible for this kind of sickening behaviour of his party MPs, his Cabinet colleagues, former ministers, MLAs and other YSRCP leaders, he stated.

witnessed how the video in which Minister Ambati Rambabu made some objectionable remarks against a woman. Jagan Mohan Reddy shamelessly accommodated him in his Cabinet, the TDP leader remarked.

The audio of another YSRCP leader Avanti Srinivas telling a girl, "Come in half an hour, I will send you back in half an hour" also went viral. "We all know how Mr Jogi Ramesh,

abused woman volunteers in a drunken state in Pedana," the former MLA said adding that these are the facts before the people and not allegations made by the TDP.

Observing that there is no protection for women in the State, Bonda Uma said the present condition in the State is such that women are now afraid of coming out of their houses. It is becoming difficult for women to escape from

Madhav, he remarked. When a fellow MP is threatening women in New Delhi with such objectionable vidoes what Mr Vijaya Sai Reddy is doing there, he asked.

How YSRCP leader Lakshmi Parvathi can talk about the late NTR, former chief minister Chandrababu and former minister Lokesh, Bonda Uma asked. Lakshmi Parvati should always remember that she was chased out of the TDP just

such things, he stated.

The YSRCP leaders even tried to use the death of NTR's daughter Umamaheshwari for political gain, he said and demanded that at least now Jagan Reddy order the arrest of the murders of his paternal uncle, who was killed three years ago. Also, Mr Jagan should also tell the people what action he is initiating against Mr Gorantla Madhav, Bonda Uma said.

## TDP gen secy denies YSRCP MP's charge

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) general secretary Chintakayala Vijay on Thursday flatly denied the allegation levelled against him by YSRCP MP Gorantla Madhav. Vijay told media persons here that the YSRCP MP is making a baseless allegation against him saying that he is responsible for the MP's most disgraceful video going viral on social media. "Besides indulging in a shameful act, the MP is shamelessly resorting to levelling baseless allegations against me and on the media," Vijay felt. "Addressing media persons in New

Delhi the MP held me responsible for this notorious video coming out. He should immediately clear as to how I am connected with the release of the video," the TDP

"Madhav, you know what I am and my background. You even recently tried to subject my father to some troubles and miserably failed. Now you are levelling baseless charges against me."

Chintakayala Vijay

general secretary said. As a Parliament member, he should have minimum courtesy Madhav appears to have nothing of this. Viiav maintained. Instead of answering the public the YSRCP MP is targeting TDP. "Instead of sending it to the forensic lab as he has already claimed, he is targeting me and

my party. Is he afraid of spending

it on forensic tests," the TDP leader

"Madhav, you know what I am and my background. You even recently tried to subject my father to some troubles and miserably failed. Now you are levelling baseless charges

against me," Vijay said. Instead of taking responsibility for the video and staying away from Parliament till he is found innocent, the MP is shamelessly levelling charges against the TDP. "It clearly indicates his indecent behaviours,

Chief Minister, Jagan Mohan Reddy, and the local police, the party wants the police to investigate the whole episode Also, the TDP is making an appeal to the Centre to conduct a detailed probe into the issue, he said. "The State is now really scared of Jagan as he felicitates only people like you who resort to this kind of obscene activities. He has earlier honoured leaders like you by inducting them into Cabinet," the TDP general secretary remarked. The TDP will also write to the Privilege Committee of Parliament to order a probe by the forensic wing of the Centre, he stated. "If you really feel that you are innocent, first submit your resignation as MP and after proved innocent only then you can attend

## TDP women leaders complain to police against Vijayasai

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) women leaders here on Thursday lodged a police complaint with the Ongole Taluk police against YSRCP MP V Vijayasai Reddy and YSRCP social media coordinator Gurrampati Devendra Reddy for their derogatory remarks and false allegations in the NT Rama Rao's daughter Kantamneni Umamaheshwari's

They handed over their complaint to the Circle Inspector, complaining against the MP and the social media coordinator, and demanded action for their false allegation and derogatory remarks against TDP chief N Chandrababu



Naidu's family members. Talking to the media, TDP Parliamentary Mahila general secretary B Aruna Reddy alleged that the ruling YSRCP was indulging in corpse poli-

tics. "It is unfortunate that the YSRCP leaders are making baseless allegations against the Naidu's family which is grieving and saddened with the death of a close relative", she slammed.

State TDP secretary Kamarajugadda Kusuma Kumari said that if Vijay Sai Reddy did not stop the malicious campaign against TDP MLC Nara Lokes, the TDP activists would teach a lesson

Parliament," Vijay demanded.

"Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has failed to do justice to his own mother and sister. How can he do justice to the people of the state? The people of the state have started understanding the facts now", Kusuma Kumari lashed

State TDP vice-president Arla Venkataratnam lambasted that Jagan Mohan Reddy had engaged the PayTM batch to launch a malicious campaign against the TDP leadership. The TDP women leaders urged the police to take action against MP Vijayasai Reddy and media coordinator Devendra Reddy.

# Officials focusing on govt building works: Collector

PNS VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao has told Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Principal Secretary Gopalakrishna Dwivedi that the district administration is focusing on the prioritised government building con-struction and officials concerned are conducting review meetings on the progress of the works from time to time.

Gopalakrishna Dwivedi, along with Commissioner Kona Sasidhar, conducted a video conference with all district collectors to discuss gov-ernment building works, Jal Jeevan Mission, MGNREGA, Jaganna Swachh Sankalpam, and other schemes from the Commissioner's Office on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that construction of 141 out of 268 sachivalayam building had been completed so far. As many as 72 out of 260 RBKs and 49 of 239 YSR Health Clinics were also ready. The remaining buildings are in

tion and they would be completed within the stipulated period, he added.

He told Principal Secretary Dwivedi and Commissioner Sasidhar that the district administration had given 2,682 cement bags as indent and the companies supplied 2,425 cement bags.

"We aim to complete 80 government buildings per day. Because of the rains, there was some delay in the construction works. Our officers have overcome the site problems to construct build-

ings," he told

He further explained that all
departments had been working in coordination and chalked out a plan. Constituency-level committees were formed comprising people's representatives and

DWAMA Project Director J Suneetha, Panchayat Raj Executive Engineer A Venkateswara Rao, RWS SE NV Satyanarayana, and others attended the video confer-



## Athletes from Krishna bag three gold medals

Athletes from the Krishna district have bagged three gold medals at the sixth Andhra Pradesh Modern Pentathlon, Biathlon, and Triathlon Championship held at Dr. KKR Gowtĥam School, Anandapuram, Visakhapatnam recently. Athletes D Rakesh, Ch Gnaneswari, and Ch Mounika

respective events. These three athletes have been selected for the 11th Modern Pentathlon National Championship, which will be held at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Stadium, Balewadi, Pune, in Maharashtra from

won gold medals in their

August 13 to 15. The Krishna District Iodern Pentathlon Modern Association felicitated the three medalists at the KRVR International Sports Club in Vijayawada on Thursday.



Association secretary ML International Sports Club Usharani and KRVR founder N Venkat were present.

#### SRM to host national conference

PNS AMARAVATI

SRM University-AP will host the 88th annual national conference of the Indian Academy of Sciences, on its campus here, from

November 4. It is after a gap of 21 years that Andhra Pradesh has been chosen to host the prestigious conference and SRM University-AP has taken it upon itself to organise it for three days, a university

release here said. This is one of the most prestigious conferences organised in the country. The primary purpose of the conference is to invite scientists from all over India and abroad onto a single platform for developing scientific and technological knowledge and conveying the outcome to budding scientists of the country, SRM Pro-Vice Chancellor D Narayana Rao

## UBI opens new ATM at Machilipatnam branch

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Krishna District Collector P Ranjith Basha inaugurated the new ATM set up at the Union Bank of India's (UBI) branch in Machilipatnam on Thursday. The Collector garlanded the statue of Bhogaraju Pattabhi Seetharamaih and paid tributes.

Later, he inaugurated the coin counter on the bank premises along with Union Bank of India Chief General Manager V Bhrahmananda

Reddy and distributed coins. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the new ATM would give better services to the bank's customers as well as others. The Union Bank of India has introduced several schemes for the bene-

Later, the bank officials felicitated Ranjith Basha. Dr Dhanvanthari Acharya and bank officials were present on the occasion.

fit of customers, Self Help

Group members, and MSMEs,



## Srivari annual Brahmotsavams from Sep 27 to Oct 5

#### Anticipating heavy rush, TTD making elaborate arrangements

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Srivari Salakatla (annual) Brahmotsavams will be conducted in a grand manner this year from September 27 to October 5, and all the devotees who are participating in the mega religious event will have to follow Covid protocols for their personal safety as well others, said TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy.

Addressing media persons after detailed discussions with

TTD, district and police officials on the arrangements of ensuing Srivari annual Brahmotsavams at Annamaiah Bhavan in Tirumala on Thursday evening he briefed on some important measures.

He said that on the first day

of annual fete on September 27 the Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy will present pattu vastrams to Sri Venkateswara Swamy on behalf of the state government.

Prominent 'vahana sevas' during the Brahmotsavams are Garuda Vahana Seva' on October 1, 'Swarna Ratham' on October 2, 'Rathotsavam' on October 4 and 'Chakra Snanam' on October 5.

On the first day due to 'Dhwajarohanam' event, the 'Pedda Sesha Vahana' will commence at 9 pm but on all other days 'vahana sevas' are scheduled between 8 am and 10 am 7 pm and 9 pm.

Giving priority to common devotees, all privileged, SRI-VANI, Rs. 300, 'Arjitha Sevas',



VIP Break (except protocol VIPs) Darshans have been cancelled during these nine days and only Sarva Darshanam will remain operational.

Elaborate arrangements are being made for the 'Garuda Seva' as it falls on the second

Saturday of Peratasi month, which is very special for the devotees from Tamilnadu. A buffer stock of 9 lakh lad-

dus will be maintained. Since the annual fete is set to take place after two years due to the Covid pandemic, a heavy

ed. So it was directed to hold a series of meetings exclusively with a special focus on accommodation, 'Annaprasadam', traffic management and pParking, he said. An adequate number of

pilgrim rush is being anticipat-

APSRTC buses deployed for devotees and particularly on Garuda Seva day more buses will be operated.

As this year nearly 4-5 lakh pilgrims are being expected for Garuda Seva, 20 thousand vehicles are also anticipated.
But once the holding capacity of vehicles in Tirumala is completed, separate parking facilities will be arranged in Tirupati and devotees will be transported to Tirumala

through RTC buses.

To meet the pilgrim requirements German sheds will also be erected at sone vital places with temporary washroom facilities As a safety measure on

'Garuda Seva' day and the next day, the two-wheelers movement on the ghat roads will be stalled from 11 pm of September 30 till 12 noon on October 2.

The artists from tribal, rural and backward areas will be given opportunities to perform before the 'vahana sevas' this year to encourage their folk arts apart from inviting artistes

from other states. About 3,500 'Srivari Sevakulu' will be invited to serve devotees during Brahmotsavams



## Water will be released from **NS** right canal on Aug 15

District Collector AS Dinesh Kumar said that water would be released to the fields from the Nagarjuna Sagar Right Canal on August 15.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday with district Agriculture Advisory Board chairman Alla Ravindra Reddy, the Collector said that 1,33,567 acres of registered wetland and 1,50,625 acres of registered upland are cultivated in 14 mandals in 5 constituencies in the district under the NSPRC ayacut.

He said that 103 drinking water tanks had been filled up to 70 per cent with water by releasing 4 TMC of water at NSRC 85/3 point during June and July months.

The Collector said that as per the allocation of water by the Krishna River Water Management board to

be released to cultivate 2,84,192 acres under the NSPRC from August 15 and the water release continued till the end of March

Collector Dinesh Kumar informed that the water from the NSPRC would be released 15 days in advance this year for the Kharif. He also stated that water for the irrigation purpose would be released from the medium irrigation project, the Mopadu reservoir from September 1.

Collector Dinesh Kumar said that the irrigation, agriculture, revenue and police offiThe scientists suggested the farmers raise the BPT 5204, 2270, MTU, 1262, BPT, 2411, NLR, 3392 and BPT 2595 varieties of paddy keeping in view

purposes.
"Repairing works are being taken up on war footing to plug major leakages to the canals. The farmers should cooperate with the officials in this regard. The water in the drinking water tanks should be used only for drinking

cials would oversee the utiliza-

tion of water for irrigation

He made it clear. The Collector called upon the farmers to make arrangements for the sowing operation for the Kharif season as the water would be released from August

Junior College **PNS** ■ GUNTUR

Collector Dinesh Kumar

said that the secretariat

employees were instructed to

send indents to the govern-

ment for seeds and fertilizers.

the weather conditions of the

The scientists also suggested that groundnut, red gram, maize, and black gram would

be raised as alternative crops to

He asked the farmers to

enroll their crops in the e-crop

and warned the officials of sus-

pension if they resort to irreg-

ularities in enrolling crops in

Water Resources depart-

ment SE Lakshma Reddy and

agriculture JD Srinivasa Rao

were among those who were

the e-crop system.

paddy, the Collector said.

district.

along with former MP Modugula Venugopal Reddy, formally inaugurated the junior college in the ZP high school premises at Ankireddypalem village on Thursday. The ZP high school was

YSRCP MLC Lella Appireddy,

MLC inaugurates

upgraded as a junior college. Speaking on the occasion, the MLC said that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had brought revolutionary reforms in the education sector. Appireddy said that the aim

of junior colleges is to make stu-dents more knowledgeable and prepare them to climb higher peaks. He said that their duty is to increase the skills that are in line with the goals and interests that they choose in life.

The MLC expressed complete satisfaction that a junior college of all importance was established in his hometown. Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy had made it clear that if they send their children to school today, he would take care of everything until they get employment opportunities.

# 800 litres of jaggery wash destroyed, one arrested

The police conducted a cordon and search operation and destroyed 800 litres of jaggery wash meant to distil countrymade liquor and arrested one person and also seized 8 litres of illicit liquor at two places.

The police said that on the directions of district SP Vakul Jindal with the instructions of Addl. SP P Mahesh, under the supervision of Chirala SDPO P Srikanth and Chirala Rural Inspector A Mallikarjuna, Chirala Rural Police Station SI P Janardhan and Vetapalem Police Station SI Suresh conducted a cordon and search at Vadarevu village under Chirala Rural Police Station limits and seized 8 litres of illicit liquor.

SI D Ramakrishna with their police personnel conducted a raid at Jillepalli Village outskirts under Nagaram Police Station limits and destroyed about 800 litres of jaggery wash and arrested one person.



SP Vakul Jindal said that many types of health problems arise due to the consumption of illicit liquor and in some cases, there is a possibility of death, so people are requested not to

restore the distilling of illicit liquor. The SP warned of invoking the PD Act against those who indulge repeatedly in brewing and sale of illicit

## Orders being issued for 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of 'Nadu-Nedu': Collector

Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh said that the orders for carrying out works of the second phase of 'Manabadi Nadu-Nedu' are being issued.

Education department special principal secretary B Rajasekhar held a video conference and reviewed the Nadu-Nedu works with the Collector here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the works under the 'Nadu-Nedu' first phase were being carried out satisfactorily.

Prasanna Collector Venkatesh explained the progress of the works undertaken by the 'Nadu-Nedu' in the district to the Special Chief Secretary. On this occasion, the Special Chief Secretary said that the full level administrative approvals for the second phase of the Manabadi-Nadu-Nedu program should be completed by the 10th of this month.

The Collector said that in the second phase of the Manabadi-Nadu-Nedu programme in the district, they had prepared a list of necessary infrastructure facilities to be provided to some of the government schools and they were issuing administrative approvals for the works imme-

"Actions are being taken to carry out the approved works immediately. Regarding infra-structure works, steps have been taken without any shortage of sand and cement. Vidya Kanuka kits are being distributed to all the students," the Collector told the special sec-

## Govt balancing development and welfare, says Civil Supplies Minister

Minister for Civil Supplies Karumuri Venkata Nageswara Rao has reiterated that the government is giving priority to developing the State and implementing various welfare schemes simultaneously. The minister participated in the 'Kapu Nestham' and disbursement of pension programme held in Subramanyaswamy Kalyana Mandapam in Attili on Sunday.

On this occasion, the minister said that the government had ensured that all eligible people get the benefits of the welfare scheme.

The minister said that the volunteers go to the doorsteps of beneficiaries and provide welfare fruits irrespective of caste, religion, region, and parties and all should appreciate it. He said that all the states of India are looking towards Andhra Pradesh for the volunteers and secretariat system



which emerged as an ideal system to be followed by all states.

In the erstwhile TDP regime, only a section of people had got the benefits of welfare schemes, he alleged. The former Chief Minister late Dr. YS Rajasekhar Reddy introduced free electricity, fee reimbursement, and Arogyasri schemes for all and he remained forever in the hearts of all, he claimed.

The Minister said Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan

Reddy is implementing all the assurances. In the 5th phase of the Jagananna Todu scheme, in the Tanuku constituency 3,602 beneficiaries were disbursed Rs.3.60 crore and over 17,400 beneficiaries were disbursed Rs 17.4 crore in the district, he informed. Under the 'Kapu Nestham' scheme, Rs 22.42

beneficiaries. He said that 1,805 people had been granted pensions recently and they were dis-

crore was disbursed to 14,946

bursed Rs 45.11 lakh. He said that 38,139 people have disbursed Rs 361.99 crore in pensions in the district every

The minister said that as part of The minister said that as part Azadika Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' program was being carried out on a large scale across the country and asked people to hoist the national flag on their houses from August 13th to 15th.

## Badminton tourney concludes

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The three-day Krishna District Badminton Championship concluded at the Dandamudi Rajagopala Rao Municipal Corporation Indoor stadium in the city on Thursday. About 600 players participated in the tournament.

Later, a prize distribution function was held and the guests presented medals, and trophies to the winners and the runners-up.

Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Corporation Managing Director Ahmed Babu, YSRCP Vijayawada East constituency in charge Devineni Avinash, tourna-Kidney Centre MD Dr. Ammanna, Andhra Pradesh Badminton Association secretary Ankamma Chowdary, Krishna District Badminton Association president Ramineni Rammohan, treasurer J Shankar Gupta, organising secretary Dr. E Trimurthy, conveners Parasa Srinivas, and Trinadh Raju

were present. **RESULTS** Under-11, Boys: K Suhas beat

Mokshagna Sai, 15-11, 15-11, Doubles: Akhil and Mokshana beat Gowtham and Prajwas, 15-7. 15-6 Girls: V Swetha beat G Sreshta, 15-7, 15-6, **Doubles:** S Kavya and V Swetha beat G Sreshta and Bhavitha, 15-9, 15-7 Under-13 Boys: K Lohith beat Shoaib, 15-8, 15-13,

Doubles: K Lohith and T Harshal beat K Suhas and P Shashish, 15-14, 15-13 Girls: R Yaswitha beat D Tejaswini,

15-13, 15-13, **Doubles:** D Tejaswini and R Jaswitha Sai beat K Gagana Sri Chowdary and Thanvee

15-8, 16-14 Under-15 Boys: V Tarak beat K Yuvatej, 15-8, 15-13, **Doubles:** K Yuvatej and K Tanuhya

21-20 Girls: K Sai Hasini beat Haasana Sree, 15-13, 15-10, **Doubles:** D Tejaswini and Tanjhya beat Anvitha and Deekhita, 15-6,

Under-17 Boys: T Surya Charisma beat B Rithvika Sai, 15-6, 15-6, **Doubles:** G Dilip and Trivikram beat Irhan and Nataraj,

15-10, 15-10 Girls Doubles: Harana Sri and Aradhana beat Hasini and Tanuja, 15-2, 15-2.

## BJP to exploit 'dynastic politics' of Congress, TRS

■ HYDERABAD

The BJP is against dynastic politics. During its recent Executive Committee meeting held in Hyderabad, the BJP had vowed to end dynastic politics in the country.
But most of the leaders in

the Congress and the TRS want to continue dynastic politics and want to promote their close relatives in politics after them. Now the BJP which is

against dynastic politics is planning to exploit the dynastic politics of the Congress and the TRS to weaken both the parties before the Assembly elections.

In the Congress and in the TRS some MLAs and MPs want to promote their family members in the next Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. Some of the leaders of both parties have told this to their respective leader-

Even though the high com-



mands of the Congress and the TRS is in favour of dynastic politics they will think twice before giving party tickets to the family members of their leaders.

In both the Congress and in the TRS some leaders want to retire if their family members are given tickets in their place and some leaders are expecting tickets for them as well as their family members too.The BJP is collecting data about Congress and TRS leaders who are interested in dynastic politics. If the Congress or the TRS will not give tickets to them the BJP will attract them by offering

tickets. For example, a Congress leader wants an Assembly ticket for him and his son, but the high command may The BJP wants to admit the leader who is denied the ticket by offering him an Assembly ticket.

The BJP will thus create political rivalry in the family and party cadres will get confused. Like the family, party cadres may also get spilt between the father and the son. As a result, the party can become weak and it will benefit the BJP.

The next Assembly elections are very crucial to the TRS and the Congress as their future will be decided by it. Both parties are planning to give tickets to only "win-

ning horses."

The TRS leadership is reportedly thinking of replacing about 40 sitting MLAs. The TRS wants to give Assembly tickets to fresh faces in place of the sitting MLAs. The BJP wants to concentrate on such MLAs and give tickets to them or their family members. The BJP will apply the same policy to the Congress also.



## Foundation stone laid for Sri Prasanna Venkateswara temple

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Sarpanch of Pathapadu of Vijayawada Rural mandal Devagiri Sujatha and her husband Devagiri Omkar Reddy laid the foundation stone for the Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy Temple on the premises of Sri Panchamukha Veera Vijaya Anjaneyaswamy Temple Seetharampuram on Thursday. Sarpanch Sujatha and Omkar Reddy performed special pujas as part of the Bhumi Puja.

Speaking on the occasion, Sujatha said that the temple would be constructed with Rs.1 crore and that several people were giving donations for the temple construction. The temple is close to Payakapuram and Rajivnagar,

she said. This temple would be constructed on the lines of Sri Venkateswara Rao Temple in Tirupati, she added.

Temple priest SP Sheshu Kumar Acharyulu, Pathapadu former Sarpanch Devagiri Ramakoti Reddy, donors Sadham Bhimavarapu Sampath Reddy,

online loan app scams, and

other frauds are done and how

to proceed with the investiga-

tion in case of such crimes and

how to detect them using the

technology. Later, the police

officials and staff raised various

doubts about cyber crimes and

ASP (Admin) K. Nageswara Rao, ASP (Crime) SV Sridhar

clarified them.

Dilli Srinivasa Rao, and others

## 1,200 land losers may contest in Munugode by-poll

TO PROTEST AGAINST TRS GOVT

PNS HYDERABAD

The 1,200 land losers near Kistarainipally Charlagudem reservoirs are planning to follow the line of fluorosis victims and turmeric farmers by filing nominations in the Munugode bypoll to protest against the TRS government for not paying

them full compensation. The government is constructing five reservoirs under the Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme and the land losers of the Kistarainipally Charlagudem reservoirs did not get full compensation for their lost lands. Around 1,200 people are planning to contest the Munugode bypoll to lodge their protest against the government for

It may be recalled that 458 fluorosis victims had filed nominations in 1996 in the election held for the Nalgonda Lok Sabha seat attracting the nation's atten-

not paying them compensa-



turmeric farmers filed nom-

inations in the Nizamabad

Lok Sabha election held in

2019 in which TRS candidate

Kavitha lost and BJP candi-

date Dharmapuri Arvind

However, the government successfully blocked field assistants who tried to contest the Huzurabad by-poll.

The question now is whether Kistarainipally and Charlagudem land losers will succeed in filing nominations in the Munugode by-poll or not. It is not yet known whether field assistants would file nominations or not as their problem has not been solved by the gov-

ernment.
The BSP has announced that it will field a candidate in the Munugode by-poll.

## Police should keep abreast of tech to tackle cyber crimes: SP

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Prakasam district Superintendent of police Malika Garg asked the police officials to use the latest technology to curb the cybercrimes and update themselves in dealing with the cybercrimes.

A special workshop was organised on 'Cybercrimes for the Police Officers and Technology Assistants' at Rise Engineering College, Vallur on Thursday on how to identify and detect cyber crimes and measures to be taken to control them.

Addressing the officers on the occasion, the SP said that some cybercriminals were a victim of cyber fraud.

nology to cheat people and usurp their money in many modes, so the police officers should be fully aware of various types of cyber crimes and hone up their cyber investigative skills so that they could quickly respond to cyber crimes and solve them swiftly to deliver justice to the victims.

District SP Malika Garg asked the people to be aware of cyber crimes, to realize that no one gives money easily, not to fall prey to cyber traps with avarice, to follow appropriate precautions to avoid being victimized by cyber criminals, and to report to the police promptly if anyone is



cers and personnel about the

various modes of cyber crimes

taking place in society nowa-days, how to deal with them at the primary level, investigative techniques to detect them deftly and how to make public aware of cyber crimes. clearly explained

Instagram, Twitter, OTP, SMS, various online link frauds, online gambling, QR code scanning scams, KYC update,

frauds/scams on Facebook, Kumar, multi-level marketing scheme scams, porn sites, OLX, job participated.

Rao, SEB ASP Y. Suryachandra Rao, DSB DSP B. Mariadasu, Ongole DSP U. Nagaraju, Darsi DSP Narayana Swamy Reddy, Markapuram DSP Kishore Kumar, DTC DSP Ramakrishna, CIs, SIs, IT core staff and technology assistants

#### **Dawood gang member arrested** in terror funding case

he Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested an associate of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim in an alleged terror funding case, an official said on Thursday. The First Information Report registered by the ATS also named Anees Ibrahim, Dawood's younger brother and another fugitive. Parvez Zuber Vaid Memon (47) was arrested on Wednesday by officials of the ATS's Kalachowki unit from his house in suburban Versova, the official said. Memon was involved in "anti-national activities" along with Anees, he added. On Tuesday, an FIR was registered against "Anees Ibrahim and others" under section 121 (A) of the Indian Penal Code (waging war against

government of India) and sections 17,18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for providing financial support to banned organizations involved in unlawful activities against India. Memon's involvement in the case came to light during investigation, the ATS official said. He allegedly disclosed during interrogation that he was involved in trafficking of drugs such as MDMA, ketamine and 'Parvati tears' (LSD).



#### **Over 10 thousand cases pending in Supreme Court for over 10 years**

ver 71 thousand cases are pending with the Supreme Court, out which over 10,000 are awaiting disposal for over a decade, Rajya Sabha was informed on Thursday. In a written reply Law Minister Kiren Riiiiu said 71 411 cases as on Thursday. In a written reply, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said 71,411 cases as on August 2 were pending before the top court, which included over 56,000 civil matters and over 15,000 criminal matters. He said of the total 71,411 pending cases in the

apex court, 10,491 were pending for more than ten years. Over 42,000 cases were pending for less than five years and 18,134 between five and 10 years. In reply to another question, Rijiju said while 40,28,591 cases were pending in the various high courts in 2016, their numbers went up to 59,55,907 as on July 29 this year -- a rise of 50 per cent. The district and subordinate courts also saw a 50 per cent hike in cases between 2016 and July 29 this year.



#### 'Modishahi' reaching a new low: **Cong on Kharge's summoning by ED**

he Congress Thursday said Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge's summoning by Enforcement Directorate during the working hours of Parliament was an "insult" to the legislature and alleged that "Modishahi" is reaching a new low. The opposition party also said its MPs will march to the Rashtrapati Bhawan on Friday at 11 am to meet President Droupadi Murmu and raise the issue of the prevailing economic

situation in the country. The Congress has planned a mass protest against price rise, unemployment and the GST hike on essential items on August 5, wherein it will take out a march to the Rashtrapati Bhavan and 'gherao' the prime minister's residence. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh raised the issue of summoning of Kharge by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), saying he was called by the probe agency when Parliament is in session and he left around 12:20 pm and presented himself.



## Modi gave all-reaching, allinclusive govt in 8 years: Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave an all inclusive and all reaching government in the last eight years.

Taking a swipe at the erst-while UPA government at the Centre, Shah alleged that there was "policy paralysis" then, while a number of scams also happened.

'În eight years PM Narendra Modi gave a 'Sarva Sparshi, Sarva Samaveshi' government to the country. There isn't any area where reforms didn't take place. We have taken an oath for the welfare of the entire society," he said.

Shah, who also holds the cooperation portfolio, was speaking at the 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry here to celebrate 75 years of Indian independence.

In an apparent reference to the erstwhile Congress-led UPA government, Shah said, "there was a time before 2014



when the Prime Minister was not considered as a Prime Minister as every minister believed he or she" was the PM.

There was a policy paralysis in the country and there were Rs 12 lakh crore (worth) scams. These scams used to make daily headlines of the newspapers. The CVC, CBI and the Supreme Court used to investigated these irregularities," the union minister

Shah also claimed that crony capitalism and price rise were Goods and Services Tax (GST). The maximum exports and foreign direct investment took place in 2022, Shah pointed

The Home Minister said the India has set its economic goal by introducing two slo-gans - Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self Reliant India) and Make in India' and laid the foundation for Amrit Kaal' (platinum era), which is the next 25 years, when the country completes 100 years of its indepen-

I can say with confidence that no one can take India lightly anymore. There will be no one, who will not recognise India's rising power in the next 25 years, the Home

Minister remarked. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world, everyone was directionless and worried, because there was no vaccine available. The lockdown impacted not only Indian but also the global economy, badly hitting the supply chain, Shah

#### **VP POLL**

#### Margaret Alva appeals to all MPs to vote without fear

PNS NEW DELHI

Ahead of the August 6 vice presidential election, Opposition's joint candidate Margaret Alva on Thursday appealed to all MPs to vote without fear or political pres-sure for the "best suited" can-

In a video appeal, she claimed she is the "best candidate" as she has the experience and will work impartially from the chair, besides committing herself to forge consensus on issues of national importance.

"I appeal to each member of Parliament to vote for me in the election on August 6 without any fear. For, truly there is nothing to fear but fear itself. "With your support if elected Vice President, commit myself to forge consensus on issues of national importance and to work with you - respected members to restore the glory

## Pandemic increased problems faced by children, says Satyarthi

people will be pushed into

chronic poverty due to the Russia-Ukraine war. It is cre-

Goals', he found these prob-

was to solve them through an

interconnected world rather

Satyarthi said he and sever-

al others, including Nobel

Laureates and world leaders,

have formed a group demanding the creation of a global

added.

than isolation.

The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated several problems faced by many countries in the world, including slavery and trafficking of children and child prostitution, Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi said on Thursday.

Addressing the media on the sidelines of the diamond jubilee celebrations of Armed Forces Medical College's graduate wing here, Satyarthi said there is a challenge to provide freedom, better education, better health to every child.

"Due to the pandemic, many problems existing in India and the world have not only been exposed but exacerbated. Slavery of children, trafficking, child prostitution, and online child sexual abuses have increased alarmingly. This is a serious issue that has not been dealt by the international community with the required sense of urgency and resources," he

"Around 200 million people have already been pushed into chronic poverty globally and another 40 to 50 million

social protection mechanism to benefit children from lowincome countries. Child sexual abuse, particularly digitally and onlineenabled sexual abuse, is increasing alarmingly in India and globally. We had done research that when the first

> pornographic material had doubled," he said. He added that National Crime Records Bureau data showed five children are subject to sexual abuse every five minutes and three are raped.

lockdown was in place, it was

revealed that in a 10-day peri-

od, the demand for child

ating crisis of food and fuel, break of supply chain etc for poor and marginal people in Asserting there was need for low-income countries," he a strong specific law to tackle human trafficking, especially those involving children, he Satyarthi said, as a member of the United Nations' said a bill that had been draft-Sustainable Development ed by his organization along with the government on the lems to be huge and the need matter was pending.

"It is imperative to have such an Act when we are celebrating the 75th year of our Independence," Satyarthi said.

He appreciated the Union government's move to increase the marriageable age of women

## CBI seeks maximum jail term for former Coal Secy Gupta, others

PNS NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday sought maximum punishment from a Delhi court for former Coal Secretary H C Gupta and former joint Secretary in the Ministry of Coal (MoC), K S Kropha in a coal scam case related to irregularities in the allocation of a coal block in

Maharashtra. Special Judge Arun Bhardwaj, who reserved order on the quantum

of punishment for August 8, had on July 29 convicted Gupta and Kropha for criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, cheating, and corruption in the case related to the allocation of Lohara East coal block.

During the argument on Thursday, the probe agency told the court that due to the impact of the scam, companies are not coming forward to mine the coal blocks and despite ample coal provided by the mother earth, we are not able to extract coal and consequently, there is a shortage of coal, and we are compelled to import coal from Indonesia and Australia.

Unfortunately in the last few years, the country has seen an alarming rise in white-collar crimes which has affected the fibre of the country's economic structure. These cases are nothing but private gain at the cost of public, and lead to economic disaster, the agency told the court.

It termed the coal scam as one of the biggest scams of the country, which allegedly caused a loss to the tune of Rs 1.86 lakh crore to the government exchequer, as per the CAG report.

The convict persons face a maximum of seven-year term, which may increase if the jail

term is ordered to run 'subsequently' for each offence. The defence counsel, meanwhile, urged the court to award minimum punishment considering the convicts' old

age and poor health condition. The court had also convicted Grace Industries Ltd. (GIL) and it's then Director Mukesh Gupta for criminal conspiracy and cheating.

The trial of the case was



conducted by senior advocate R S Cheema, Deputy Legal Advisor for CBI Sanjay Kumar, and senior public prosecutor A

Singh. H C Gupta was earlier convicted in three other coal scam

cases and his appeal against those convictions is pending before Delhi High Court. He is currently on bail, along with other convict persons in

According to the CBI, between 2005 and 2011, the accused persons hatched a criminal conspiracy and cheated MoC, and the Government of India by dishonestly and fraudulently inducing the MoC to allocate 'Lohara East Coal Block' in favour of GIL based on false information about net worth, capacity, equipment, and status of procurement and installation of the plant.

CBI also stated that the company, in its application, claimed its net worth as Rs 120 crore whereas its networth was only Rs 3.3 crore and that the company also falsified its existing capacity as 1,20,000

TPA against 30,000 TPA. The Supreme Court on August 25, 2014, cancelled the entire allocations of coal blocks. This is the 11th conviction in coal scam cases secured by the prosecution.

## India, ASEAN discuss key challenges in ministerial meet

India and the 10-nation rity.

"A productive ASEAN-Breaken Ministers' combating the threat of terrorism and the developments in Ukraine and Myanmar, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday.

at the peak and the ease of doing business had hit rock bottom then. The fiscal deficit

"These developments made

the country take a unanimous

decision to install the Modi

government with majority.

After a long duration of 30

years, the country decided to

have a decisive government,"

he said about the BJP's victo-

ry in the 2014 Lok Sabha

India is now the fastest

growing nation and we have

was also high.

Jaishankar made the comments after attending an India-ASEAN ministerial meeting in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh.

The external affairs minister also said that India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) also have similar views on connectivity projects, dealing with the

COVID-19 pandemic and

Meeting at Phnom Penh. Thank Singapore FM @VivianBala and ASEAN colleagues for a good discussion. Strong convergence on Indo-Pacific, UNCLOS, Connectivity, Covid-19, Terrorism, Cyber Security, Ukraine and Myanmar," Jaishankar tweeted.

The external affairs minister said identified the digital domain, health, agriculture, education and green growth as the areas which drive the partnership between the two sides.

"Digital, health, agriculture education and green growth will drive our partnership. Act East unfolds steadily," he

Singaporean foreign minis-

ter Vivian Balakrishnan is the country coordinator for India in ASEAN. The foreign ministers also discussed the situation in the

South China Sea, a resourcerich region that has been witnessing increasing Chinese muscle-flexing.
It is learnt that the meeting

also underlined the need to follow the principles of the UN Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in the South China Sea region.

#### Biswa urges all states to include Lachit in syllabi

PNS GUWAHATI

Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday wrote to his counterparts in other states requesting them to include a chapter on Ahom general Lachit Borphukan in the school and college syllabus.

Sarma, in his letter, said that despite being a shining example of patriotism and love for one's motherland, Lachit Borphukan's accomplishments remain comparatively unknown in many parts of the country.

## Will Lalu continue to head RJD?

of the national president in October, amid uncertainties surrounding its frail founding chief Lalu Prasad, who has held the top post since the party came into being.

As per the schedule released by the party at its state headquarters here, elections for units at booth, panchayat, block

and district levels will start from August 16 and conclude by September О

September 21, elections will be held for state presidents and members of the state executive besides the party's apex body the national coun-

The council will meet in Delhi on October 11 for the all-important election of the national president.

Prasad, who is on the wrong side of 70, recuperating from a shoulder injury and looking forward to getting a kidney transplant abroad, had floated the RJD in 1997, split-

ting the Janata Dal.

Always elected unopposed The Rashtriya Janata Dal is to the top party post, Prasad gearing up for organisational is at present enjoying his 11th national president. The last time he got elected was in 2019, in abstentia, because of jail term he was serving in fodder scam cases.

It has been a matter of speculation for some time as to whether the ailing septuagenarian would consider

stepping down. The party rank and file has accepted Prasad's younger son apparent Tejashwi Yadav as its facto

leader. The young leader's stature has grown since he steered the party to a

handsome performance in the 2020 assembly polls, wherein the RID emerged as the single largest party, though falling far short of the major ity mark.

The elevation of Tejashwi, currently the leader of the opposition, will signal a generational shift, signs of which have been visible in moves like upper castes and women being given a greater share.

## Times like these remind us of Mughal-era 'Jizyah': AAP MP

PNS NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

AAP MP Raghav Chadha met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday and sought a rollback of the 12 per cent GST on inns near the Golden Temple in Punjab's Amritsar, saying it is a reminder of the Mughal era "Jizyah" tax.

In a memorandum submitted to Sitharaman, the Rajya Sabha MP of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) from Punjab said the imposition of 12 per cent



Goods and Services Tax (GST) on "sarais" (inns) will increase the cost of visiting the Golden Temple for people

Chadha said the Golden Temple often witnesses more than one lakh devotees visiting the shrine from around the world in a day.
Inns like Guru Gobind

Singh NRI Niwas, Baba Deep Singh Niwas and Mata Bhag Kaur Niwas run by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) provide a shelter to the devotees and are operated for "seva of sangat (community service)", not as profit-making ventures, he added.

The AAP's Punjab unit, in a tweet, said: "Rajva Sabha MP from Punjab Raghav Chadha met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and submitted a letter regarding withdrawal of the decision of imposing 12 per cent GST on 'sarais' located near the Golden

Temple in Amritsar.' Chadha, who was recently appointed as the chairman of a temporary advisory panel set up by the Punjab government, contended that these inns are not commercial entities.

#### SMALL SATELLITE LAUNCH

## With SSLV launch on Aug 7, ISRO eyes share in market

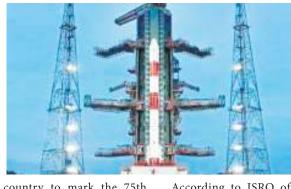
PNS NEW DELHI

The Indian Space Research Organization on August 7 will launch its smallest commercial rocket -- SSLV -- to put in orbit two satellites, offering cheap rides to space and eyeing a share in the burgeoning small satellite launch market.

The 34-metre Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is 10 metres shorter than ISRO's warhorse rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and can put payloads up to 500 kg into

500 km planar orbit. Unlike the PSLV, the SSLV uses solid fuel hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene to fire the three stages of the rocket which takes the pay loads to the desired altitude. The liquid-propelled Velocity Trimming Module (VTM) then inserts the satellite into

orbit. In its maiden launch, the SSLV will place in orbit the 145 kg Earth Observation-2 satellite and AzaadiSat, a 8kg cubesat designed by 750 girl students from government schools across the



country to mark the 75th Independence.

According to ISRO officials, the SSLV has a low turnaround time and can be

assembled within a fortnight, allowing the space agency to provide launch on demand service in the fast growing low earth orbit launch sector.

The SSLV D-1 will soar into the skies at 9:18 am from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota on Sunday and place in orbit the two payloads at the end of its 13.2 minute flight.
The SSLV is 34 metres in

height with a vehicle diametre of two metres and a lift off

mass of 120 tonnes. The PSLV, on the other

hand, is 44 metres tall, 2.8 metres in diametre and a liftoff mass of 320 tonnes. It has the capacity to put up to 1,800 kg payloads into orbit.
"The SSLV is a ready to

transfer vehicle with modular and unified systems and with standard interfaces for end-to-end industrial production," an ISRO official said.

The key features of SSLV include a booster motor segment with open joint configuration to minimise segment assembly and launch integration time.



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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Shun freebies**

Freebie culture is a political disease and has to be cured politically. There is no need to involve the judiciary in it

here is something odd about Bharatiya Janata Party leader Ashwini Upadhyay's petition in the Supreme Court urging it to restrain parties from distributing "irrational freebies" before elections. Did he raise the issue at any of the party's forums? Or elsewhere? Besides, what political parties do before or during poll campaigns is, or should be, a matter among them. Why drag the highest court into that? On Wednesday, the Supreme Court suggested a panel comprising members from the Niti Aayog, the Finance Commission, ruling and Opposition parties, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and other stakeholders. The court also sought the views of senior counsel, Rajya Sabha member, and former law minister Kapil Sibal. Politicians are often unable to sort out political matters, so they seek judicial assistance. But then they also grumble about judicial overreach or hyper-activism. Worse, they are unable even to act on matters of national interest. One need not be an economist to know that freebies are dangerous



not just for public finance but also the economy and even polity; and yet no political party is able or willing to take a principled stand against them. On July 16, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke against what he termed as the "revdi culture." He correctly pointed out that this is "very dangerous" for economic development. At the level of states, the danger is acquiring alarming dimensions, as governments under all parties indulge in mindless populism and offer freebies with impunity.

It was, however, not the first time that attention was drawn to this phenomenon. A couple of weeks before the Lok Sabha election results were announced, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had

expressed concern over states' fiscal profligacy. An RBI report, in November 2021, highlighted the same thing. It said that in recent years, states' outstanding debt showed a gradual upward movement due to implementation of Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY), farm loan waivers, and economic slowdown in 2019-20, all leading to rising debt-GSDP ratio. GSDP is to a state what GDP is to a country. In April this year, NK Singh, chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, pointed out that both the economics and politics of freebies are deeply flawed. It is a "race to the bottom" and "a quick passport to fiscal disaster." Unfortunately, the economics and politics of freebies and populism continue unabated. They cost money and have consequences, one of them being costlier petroleum products. Hurling allegations and counter-allegations at each other all the time doesn't do any good to anyone, surely not to the nation. Instead of scoring brownie points, all political parties should chalk out red lines of populism that they pledge not to cross. They can do it without seeking the assistance of the judiciary. For this, something that is dead or dying needs to be resuscitated—meaningful dialogue across party lines. Only this can stop the race to the bottom.



A beach volleyball match underway between Australia and Cyprus at Smithfield at the Commonwealth Games

## Love in the times of war!

The marriage of a Russian boy with a Ukrainian girl gives a glimmer hope in worst of times

n extraordinary marriage took place in the serene mountains of Himachal Pradesh , a couple of days back. Everything about it was Indian except for the couple which tied the knot.Sergei Novikov, a Russian boy married a Ukrainian girl Elona Bramoka in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh. It was a love marriage and the couple had been in love for quite some time, even before their countries of birth Russia and Ukraine went to war around six months. They chose the tranquil Himalayan town of Dharamshala to tie the knot far from the din of war in their own countries. That the couple chose love over war and did not let their politicians decide their fate is a great feat in itself. The common people like Sergei and Elona are living testimony to the indomitable human spirit which shall prevail while the people in power shall play their



power games. It has always been common people who have brought about changes in the world despite the machinations of the powerful people, - tyrants, autocrats, and what have you. They are the source of positivity that keeps human civilization ticking. It is love and cooperation that shall keep the planet a safe and habitable place rather than the guns and missiles created to destroy it.

In the classic novel, 'War and Peace', Leo Tolstoy beautifully depicted the impact of the war on the people. The war leaves behind nothing but misery, dead bodies, broken houses, and broken people. And the only thing that can stop it is the

resolve of the people to live a peaceful life. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "there is enough for everyone's needs but not enough for one man's greed."It is not that countries at loggerheads do not cooperate. They do. Russia collaborates with the West in the space station, Pakistan offered relief material to India to fight Covid 19, and China and the USA set the agenda for fighting climate change in the Paris declaration. Indeed there is always room for sanity but then some vested interests try to upset it and create chaos to use it to their advantage. Such forces need to be nailed. Meanwhile, as Ukraine and Russia battle it out, the hope was getting a chance, far from the eastern borders of Ukraine where the fierce battle continues. No wonder the place where their love blossomed is in India. The locals extended a helping hand to the couple to perform the rituals as pundit Raman Sharma recited Sanskrit hymns and solemnized their marriage. It happens only in India!

# The rise and rise of omnipotent ED

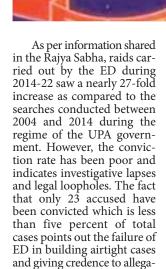


The ED today is being frowned upon by the Opposition parties for its alleged misuse. But didn't all parties in power misuse it?

n the face of allegations of the opposition parties that government agencies are being used by the ruling party against its opponents, the recent landmark judgment of the Supreme Court upholding the sweeping power of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for search, seizure, arrest, and attachment of property under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), has become a bone of contention. The verdict was pronounced on 242 petitions filed by many including Anil Deshmukh, Karti Chidambaram, and Mehbooba Mufti, challenging the stringent provisions of the PMLA.

While the opposition has questioned the timing of the pronouncement of the judgment when a host of top opposition politicians including Congress leader, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, P. Chidamabaram, his son Karti Chidamabaram, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, TMC MP and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee and Delhi Minister Satyender Jain are among those under the ED's scanner for alleged money laundering, the ruling NDA has attributed the surge to its 'commitment to preventing money laundering and 'improved systems for gathering financial intelligence as well as better interagency cooperation.

It is claimed that the Centre's twin purposes-disposing of pending investigations in old cases and completing the probe in new cases in a time-bound manner under the PMLA have led to 3,010 searches in the past eight years resulting in the attachment of proceeds of crime to the tune of about Rs 99,356 crore and the filing of prosecution complaints in 888 cases. The ruling party justifies its action because money laundering is one of the heinous crimes which not only affects the social and economic fabric of the nation but also tends to promote other heinous offenses related to the



tions of ulterior motives and

settling of political scores.

Moreover, searches are largely confined to non-BJP ruled states targeting the leaders of the opposition parties. The PMLA was enacted during the UPA regime in 2002 and implemented in July 2005 to tackle the problem of money laundering. Over the years, it emerged as a matter of international concern and India made some commitments in this regard. The court has ruled that various provisions of this Act that have been challenged are indeed constitutional. To understand the real significance of PMLA, we need not focus on the details of the Act,



INFORMATION SHARED IN THE RAJYASABHA, RAIDS CARRIED OUT BY THE ED **DURING 2014-22** SAW A NEARLY 27-FOLD **INCREASE AS** COMPARED TO THE SEARCHES CONDUCTED BETWEEN 2004 AND 2014 DURING THE REGIME OF THE UPA GOVERNMENT.

but, look at the big picture of the law that it conveys.

ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORS

During the past few years, ED, which was formed in 1956, has become a prime agency. Even the Supreme Court had acknowledged the sweeping powers of the ED under the PMLA. This is apparent from the fact that the ED is empowered to start an investigation without complaint or application.
Although filing an FIR is a mandatory provision under the Indian Penal Code but, the ED officer is not required to abide by it.

Under the PMLA, the ED officer has to simply file an Enforcement Information Report (ERIC) which is not shared with the accused and serves as an internal document. An IO can also issue summons without giving any specific reason. Under the PMLA, statements made before the officers of the ED are admissible in court and bail provisions place a reverse burden of proof on the accused, requiring them to show a lack of guilt even conscious keeper of society. before the trial commences. The apex court said that the nizations should not be comstringent conditions for bail under the Act are legal and arbitrary.

All governments are function freely.

guilty of misusing central investigation agencies like ED and CBI to settle political scores. The congress government under Indira Gandhi in the 70s made started the trend and the PMLA was brought in by an NDA government and made more stringent by amendments during the UPA regime. The extensive use of ED against political opponents has risen during the present govern-ment. During the past few years, the ED had made highprofile arrests including the former Home Minister P. Chidambaram and his son Karti Chidambaram, Anil Deshmukh, Chhagan Bhujbal, senior NCP leader and former Minister, Nawab Malik and recently senior Shiv Sena leader, Sanjay Raut. There has been a list of leaders who have been summoned and questioned for long hours including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. The media, gave them special coverage. The central investigation The credibility of these orga prised. Their functioning should be above board and they should be allowed to

#### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

#### **DOUBLE STANDARD**

Sir —It is appreciable that without any loss of time, the Central Government has directed Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to write to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressing grave concern over the alleged irregularities in teachers' recruitment and asking her to take corrective action. Contrary to this, the ruling dispensation has not pursued the mega Vyapam scandal involving thousands of crores of rupees where many of the top BJP leaders were alleged to be involved with the same vigour and enthusiasm.

Even though it was very clearly proved that BJP'S vice president Bernard Mark was arrested on charges of running a sex racket in his farm house, BJP has tried to defend him and his heinous crime by calling it a case of vendetta. The local state unit has also tried to persuade Governor to remove the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of police of West garo Hills who have exposed the sex racket run by the BJP Vice President is a case in point. What a double standard by the saffron party! Tharcius S Fernando | Chennai

**MAKING A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLE HILL** 

Sir — Just 8 cases out of 1.3 billion! How to describe MMPP (Medics, Media Politicians and Pharmaceuticals) wasting their and other's time for something not worth a mention? Their obsession with every such new disease results in spreading fear. Notably, as all these entities stand to become richer and get to exercise extraordinary power over people from the spread they will not keep silent.

With the disease spreading only through close and deep contacts, no specific community is at risk and it can be easily prevented from spreading. Let us not make mountain out of molehill in making Monkey Box a dreaded disease. But at the same time we have to be on the guard against the diseases that brate our Independence Day on the feast

#### FIGHT SUICIDIAL TENDENCIES

uicides and deaths at young age is unfortunate in this modern scientifically advanced era of internet, google etc. the cause of suicides is generally depression and aimlessness. Developing a hobby can fill a void. One can search for a favorite club and join it. Joining mind boggling training classes such as Abacus (children), speed maths (anyone above primary school), quiz etc. can stop suicides. There are many clubs available such as debating, arts, gym, quiz, laughing, sports, cooking, film stars fans associations, ladies clubs, gents clubs etc. Mind boggling games clubs like crossword, sudoku, maths, fun maths, puzzles, juggling words, quiz too are available. You can join one or more of the above clubs which can really motivate and inspire you to appreciate life and live it wth purpose.

you can also start your own team / group on internet, Email, Facebook, LinkedIn, what's



App etc. You can make videos of your liking and show it to the world if you feel that no one cares about you. Many house wives are selling pickles, chapathis, curries etc. via internet and home supply. So! Clubs, skills, hobbies no time to breath plus happy, healthy life. Moreover investing your personal developmentby meditating and keeping fit you could get a positive mindset whichis so essential for living a happy life Unhappy management gives unhappy and suicidal thoughts.

Madhu PV I Secunderabad

spread during monsoon season. We are often fixated at the diseases which make international headlines rather than the diseases like malaria and dengue which patron saint. kill thousands of people in India. We must make preparations to fight them. Gundu K Mahniam | Trichy

#### **TWO GREAT EVENTS**

Sir — On August 15, we Indians celebrate two great significant and related events. One is the Assumption of Our Blessed Virgin Mary and the other is Independence Day.

The reason as to why these two events are related is because they are both about freedom. Independence Day is celebrated as freedom from foreign rule and domination to self-rule and governance of our country and the feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother Mary may be seen as freedom from this limited and incomplete life to bliss of eternal and perpetual life. There is indeed a happy coincidence to celeday of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother Mary. It is to our Blessed Mother that we dedicate our country as she is our

Jubel D'Cruz | Mumbai

#### **DELHI HC GIVES CLEAN CHIT TO IRANIS**

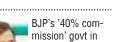
Sir — Sir, Its quite ludicrous that Delhi High court had to defend promptly in favour of Smriti Irani and her daughter aren't owners of the Silly Souls Cafe & Bar in Goa. Zoish Irani' herself once admitted to food writer KunalVijaykar that she is the owner of that bar in an interview needs no evidence. Delhi HC' observations on this case is bias and parochial towards Smriti Irani who isn't ready to accept that two wrongs don't make a right. One wonders what makes judiciary show the fastrack conclusion on highprofile cases refers to political leaders

whereas for others it's exactly reverse. Janga Bahadur Sunuwar | Jalpaiguri

> Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

We are in grave danger for the generation that graduates out of schools over the next 10 years.







is worship. Congress is united in its efforts to uproot this corrupt and inefficient govt. Congress leader

—Rahul Gandhi There was a time



Flautist, Composer —Hariprasad Chaurasia



India Should Have Played Virat Kohli in Every International Match Possible

Cricketer — Sanjay Manjreka

Today, we recommit to preserving the memory of the Roma and Sinti people who were murdered by the Nazis during the

Holocaust. Together, let us honour them by working to ensure that such

vile acts of hatred never happen

Canadian Prime Minister

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## **FIRST COLUMN**

#### **MALDIVES PRSIDENT SEEKS DEEPER TIES WITH INDIA**

India is helping Maldives have a better maritime surveillance system



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

resident of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih was in India this week, where his itinerary included meeting the President, Prime Minister, other senior government ministers and business delegations in Delhi and Mumbai. This high-level visit by the Maldivian President comes at a time when the relations with India are on a path of reconstruction.

Solih's main challenges in retaining robust economic and strategic ties with India stem from his principal opposition, ex-president Abdulla Yameen and current Parliament speaker Mohammed Nasheed.

Abdulla Yameen, the second democratically appointed president of the island nation and head of opposition party, Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM), was known to be openly pushing for a pro-China policy vis-à-vis Indian interests. His five-year tenure from 2013 to 2018 has been widely criticised for infringement on human rights, freedom of speech and expression.

He was charged with money laundering and put in prison. However, a local court acquitted him of the charges last year. This acquittal has emboldened his party to pursue the 'India Out' agenda, where the expresident is widely seen sharing stage with anti-India supporters.

Yameen has stated that if his party returns to power in 2024, they will cancel all ongoing agreements with India. India had in 2021 signed an agreement for providing financial assistance and developing the largest infrastructure in Maldives called Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP)



The GMCP will involve building a nearly seven kilometres long bridge and other links from capital city Male with three neighbouring islands. Almost 40 per cent of Maldives' population resides in the capital, while the rest are spread over across the 1200 islands dotting the Indian Ocean. Remote islands rarely have healthcare or educational facilities for the residents and many have to travel to the capital for most of their needs.

Boats and ferries are the principal means of transport from the capital to these islands and a rough Indian Ocean during most times of the year makes things difficult. A link via bridge has been seen as a crucial requirement for uplifting the lives of citizens in this island country.

India is also developing and maintaining a coast guard base at Uthuru Thila Falhu, which, according to both governments, is being done to help Maldives have a better maritime surveillance system in place. During the recent visit of Solih, both governments signed at least six MoUs and India reviewed another USD 500 million worth of financial assistance

India also announced gifting 24 utility vehicles and replacement of an old ship, CGS Huravee, to Maldives defense force. This security cooperation between the two countries has been singled out by the ex-president Yameen, who has termed it as Maldives selling its sovereignty to India and providing unfettered access to Indian soldiers in the region.

The second challenge Solih, who leads the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), faces is with his partner in government, who is also Parliament Speaker Mohammed Nasheed. It is understood that the Speaker, who has also been an ex-president, seeks a Parliamentary system of

Solih has far resisted the move, which could be a cause of concern going forward, given the fact he was a coalition choice.

Geographically, Sri Lanka and India are two closest South Asian neighbours of Maldives. Located at a strategic juncture in the Indian Ocean, Maldives serves as an important post in the global maritime trade and traffic flows. It is worth noting that the fate of Sri Lanka has fallen with its huge dependence on Chinese money for building key infrastructure projects. Maldives can also be similarly persuaded to tilt towards China, unless India continues to enhance its strategic and economic ties.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal)

# States' borrowing spree a recipe for disaster



The RBI report on state finances is worrisome, for some of the states have resorted to unconstitutional ways of borrowing

expenditure again, the committed

expenditure on salaries, pension

and interest payments accounted

for more than 35 per cent for

Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West

Bengal, Kerala and Punjab, further limiting the scope of developmental revenue expenditure on

Despite pension expenditure

social and economic services.

he paper in the RBI Bulletin of June 2022 titled 'State Finances: A Risk Analysis,' in which the public finances of the 10 most heavily indebted states of India were analysed using the usual vulnerability indicators, may have rather been called a 'State Bankruptcy Report'. It is a well-recognised fact that the pandemic has taken a heavy toll on the finances of all governments, but it has affected the state finances extremely severely.

Before the onset of the pandemic, while most states could manage their gross fiscal deficits (GFD) within the cap of three percent of their gross state domestic product (GSDP) mandated by their Fiscal Responsibility Legislations (FRBM Acts), even then four states, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab and Rajasthan were exceeding this limit by more than 0.5

The pandemic dried up the revenue streams of all states due to the protracted lockdown and other containment measures, while expenditure went up due to the subsidies that had to be provided to the poor and the vulnerable to survive. As a result, almost all states ended up beaching the FRBMA limit, with Bihar's GFD: GSDP ratio reaching as much as 11.3 percent, and those of Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh reaching 4.6, 5.2 and 4.3 per cent, respectively. This led to higher borrowing by states and swelling of their debt ratios (debt as a percentage of GSDP) much above the safe limits.

Once the pandemic waned, there were hope and even signs of a faster recovery, but then the Russia-Ukraine War broke out, impeding the recovery process. As per the 2022-23 (BE), the debt ratios have exceeded 33.3 per cent suggested by the 15th Finance Commission for Bihar, Rajasthan and West Bengal, while Punjab registered a debt ratio of 52.3 percent in 2021-22 (RE). But this has not deterred these states from continuing with their populist expenditure that is sure to drag them towards an irreversible insolvency which will also affect other states through contagion effect.

Taking a cue from what is happening in Sri Lanka as a result of its unsustainable debt and the precarious finances of states, the paper has warned, "Given this parlous situation, the tendency towards handing out cash subsidies, in normal times, provision of free utility services, revival of the old pension scheme by some states and extension of implicit and explicit guarantees by various state governments in India act like swords of

These ten states, including Harvana, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh in addition to those named above, account for half the total expenditure made by all states. Revenue expenditure accounted for 80 to 90 per cent of their total expenditure, leaving little room for the growthenhancing capital outlay. Of the revenue



**BETWEEN 2019-**20 AND 2021-22, ANDHRA **PRADESH** RAISED RS 23,899 CRORE, UP RS 17,750 CRORE, PUNJAB ₹2,879 CRORE, MP RS 2,698 CRORE, AND HIMACHAL RS 90 CRORE, **BYPASSING** 

ARTICLE 293

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

alone exceeding 10 percent of revenue expenditure—around 3 per cent of GSDP—for the most heavily indebted states, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have switched back to the old pension scheme (OPS) to their own peril, by delinking from the New Pension Scheme (NPS), which reduced the pension burden of govern-ments substantially, while West Bengal remains the only state in India never to have switched over to the NPS. Some more states are also contemplating to revive the unfunded OPS which is financed entirely by taxes and hence leave a burden for poster-ity, while the NPS limits government's liability towards pension

account. It was primarily the soaring pension expenditure of defence personnel for whom the NPS does not apply that forced the Union Government to launch the Agnipath scheme; salary and pension alone account for more than half the defence budget, which is

through a matching contribution

only during the service tenure of

the employee, without creating

any future liability on that

nothing short of insanity. The highly indebted states also spend heavily on subsidies which further add to their debt

to be financed only through borrowing. One can understand the need for subsidies and freebies during the pandemic times, but now these should be carefully targeted to reach only the neediest. Yet populist pressures and the propensity to please the vote banks have seen these states spending more than 10 percent of revenue expenditure on subsidies and free-

Freebies for Andhra Pradesh and Punjab exceeded two per cent of the GSDP, while for Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, it was between one and two percent of GSDP. While some states have managed their finances rather well, like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Odisha, besides the Union Territory of Delhi, the paper has identified Punjab to be in the worst position with a debt ratio likely to rise to 45 per cent by 2026-27. Rajasthan, Kerala and West Bengal are also projected to exceed the debt-GSDP ratio of 35 per cent by 2026-27.

This is a sure way to doom and insolvency, but instead of taking corrective steps to control expenditure and contain the rising debt, now an ever more disturbing report has surfaced. It points out that unable and unwilling to control expenditure, these states have been borrowing from banks against the collateral of future revenues by creating escrow accounts which is clearly unconstitutional, and by also pledging government assets.

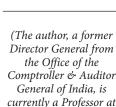
An escrow account is one that is kept outside government accounts and managed by the bank till the liability is cleared, and burden, for such expenditure has into which future revenues will go

directly, instead of going into the consolidated fund of the states as mandated by the constitution. At least five states – and possibly more - have escrowed their future revenues in this manner to raise

Between 2019-20 and 2021-22, Andhra Pradesh raised ₹23,899 crore, UP ₹17,750 crore, Punjab ₹2,879 crore, MP ₹2,698 crore, and Himachal ₹90 crore. By doing so, they were trying to bypass article 293 of the Constitution which requires the states to take permission from the Centre to raise loans from the market if they are indebted to the Centre, which

All these amount to off-budget borrowings, and states are even offering sovereign assets when loans cannot be collateralised by future revenue streams. This makes no financial sense as the lenders may not be in a position to sell such assets, say, a government office or a public park, in case of default in repayment. Most of these loans have been given by the public sector banks, including the SBL and RBI has now issued a directive to them to stop this practice forthwith and report compliance within three months.

Centre also used to indulge in large scale off-budget borrowings in the past, mostly through its public sector, but over the last two years, this practice has by and large been stopped. Since populist governments cannot be stopped from spending recklessly regardless of the demands of constitutional propriety or financial prudence, it is perhaps only for the judiciary to restrain them.



Comptroller & Auditor currently a Professor at the Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management)

MODIJI SENT ME SOME OF THE PROCEEDS AFTER **AUCTIONING HIS RS 10 LAKH SUIT. I BOUGHT A** HANDBAG AND USED THE REST TO PAY LAWYER FEES. MAHUA MOITRA





MARIE ANTOINETTE MAHUA MOITRA HIDING HER EXPENSIVE **BAG DURING A DISCUSSION ON PRICE RISE- HYPOCRISY** HAS A FACE & IT'S THIS!

- BJP SPOKESPERSON SHEHZAD POONAWALLA

## Learner-centric classrooms may enhance outcomes

#### Interactive learning approaches employing various methods can give a quantum jump in learning outcomes

Most adults have experienced sitting passively in classrooms, as the teacher delivered monologues. Today we know such experience is not optimal and must be replaced with interactive, student-centred learning environments.

In the last few decades, educators have recognized the importance of interactive learning approaches. Research has established that learning rarely happens effectively in one-way lectures. In interactive learning environments, students are actively engaged. This can be done in a variety of ways; asking the students questions; making students work with peers and in teams; introducing hands-on experiences.

The students are actively engaged by 'speaking' or 'doing'



(The author is Director, The

Green Acres Academy)

leverage individual student qualities for deeper learning. Student-centred learning, also called Learner-centred approaches, is another pedagogical approach, gaining importance.

Student-centred approaches acknowledge that students are unique individuals with diverse interests, strengths and preferences for learning, while affirming that one size does not fit all. Good teaching requires us to know students well, and use this knowledge to make instructions more effective. This can be done by incorporating students' interests into the lessons, connecting the contents to their surrounding contexts to make them relevant, while differentiating

The positive impact of

interactive learning can be enhanced further when Student-centred pedagogy is incorporated. This can be done at three levels - body: behavioural, sensory engagement; mind: cognitive/ intellectual engagement; and heart: emotional/ motivational engagement.

To promote behavioural engagement, we must have a learning environment or strategies that enable students to stay on task during the learning process. It's promoted by interactive learning strategies such as asking questions to help students stay attentive and using multi-modal interactive media to engage the senses.

Engaging students cognitively means that students are actively thinking about what they are learning. Students must also be intellectually engaged in the process for deeper learning.

among students.

Interactive strategies like questioning and group work can promote intellectual engagement. The students can be given opportunities to express their thinking, as interactive pedagogy is more powerful when it encourages stu-

making the learning more stu-

dent-centred, and teachers can

co-create the rules or classroom

agreements with their students.

This builds a sense of owner-

ship and shared responsibility

during the learning process. learning to suit different paces Student-centred classrooms and preferences of learning, etc. classroom rules, which helps in opinions and listen to others. Group work and digital polling tools can also be used to give students the opportunity to share their ideas at the same time. When students are intellectually engaged they are more likely to retain it for longer.

Different students learn at varying paces. One-size-fits-all make the students rush through the process, which leaves gaps in foundational knowledge. Differentiating the pace of instruction can promote better learning for all. Advances in technology now give us options to curate learning resources that can be accessed asynchronously. This can promote a great deal of self-

paced learning. Emotionally engaging stu-The students can be given dents' participation, nudging dents means making them

excited, curious and motivated. We do not want students to learn simply, because they are being watched by a teacher or only for a grade on a report card. Learners should be driven by their curiosity and passion. Interactive learning strategies like collaborative learning and hands-on, project-based learning can promote this.

Students should be given opportunities to learn with peers, which promotes interaction. But beyond that, peer learning, with the right classroom culture of course, can create safe learning spaces in which students are encouraged to reach out to peers to demonstrate or clear doubts. It is much less intimidating to reach out to a peer for support instead of always asking the

Also the students should be given opportunities to make interest-based choices during the learning process. Having a say in what they learn makes learning more motivating and helps build self-directed learning habits. Student-centred approaches like project-based learning provides students with voice and choice' in their projects along with sustained inquiry and reflection. Studentcentred approaches can enhance one-size-fits-all interactive learning approaches to promote engagement that goes beyond compliance or participation. It extends to cognitive engagement (mind) that intellectually stimulates and emotional engagement (heart) that motivates. This higher level of engagement leads to deeper, enduring learning for students.

## 'Post-auction spectrum harmonisation process done; allocation by Aug 12'

PNS NEW DELHI

Within days of conducting 5G auctions, the government has completed the spectrum 'harmonisation' process, paving the way for players' holdings to be streamlined within a particular band for greater efficien-cy, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said.

The spectrum harmonisation process, critical for 5G services, brings together a bunch of radio wave holdings within a band into one contiguous block with the consensus of all telecom service providers. Vaishnaw told PTI that the

government is on course for the timely allocation of radiowaves bought by players (in the auction) by August 12. The process of approvals from the Committee of Secretaries has also been completed.

"In one single day, we have completed the spectrum harmonisation process, which happens after every auction," the minister said.

The harmonisation of the spectrum leads to greater efficiencies for players, as chunks of radio-wave holdings in one band are brought together or consolidated with the consen-



sus of all players

"The promise we made that we will allocate spectrum by August 12...we are on time, Vaishnaw said.

A telecom department official, explaining the concept of spectrum harmonisation, drew a parallel with distributed land holdings with gaps being brought together into contiguous holding.

India's biggest ever auction of telecom spectrum that concluded on August 1 (Monday) received a record Rs 1.5 lakh crore of bids, with Mukesh Ambani's Jio cornering nearly half of all the airwaves sold with an Rs 88,078 crore bid.

Richest Indian Gautam Adani's group, whose entry in the auction was billed by some as another flash point in the rivalry with Ambani, paid Rs 212 crore for 400 MHz, or less than one per cent of all spectrum sold, in a band that is not used for offering public tele-

Telecom tycoon Sunil Bharti Mittal's Bharti Airtel made a successful bid of Rs 43,084 crore, while Vodafone Idea Ltd bought spectrum for Rs 18,799 crore.

Of the 72,098 MHz of spectrum offered across 10 bands, MHz and 26 GHz. Adani Data Networks Ltd obtained a 400 MHz spectrum in the 26 GHz band, suitable for captive networks.

Bharti Airtel has obtained 19,867.8 MHz in 900, 1800, 2100, 3300 MHz and 26 GHz bands. Vodafone Idea Ltd bought 6,228 MHz spectrum in 1800, 2100, 2500, 3300 MHz and 26 GHz.

Spectrum refers to the radio frequencies allocated to the mobile industry and other sectors for communication over the airwaves. This includes FM or AM radio broadcasts and even other wireless forms of communication like Bluetooth and Wi-Fi.

Mobile phones also use this radiowaves to transmit voice calls and data. These frequencies come in different bands, supporting specific technologies, as well as governing the speed of transmission. The quantum of spectrum in each and is measured in MHz.

Typically, 5G offers speeds about 10 times faster than 4G, lag-free connectivity, and can enable billions of connected devices to share data in real-



## REC sanctions Rs 22,000 cr to discoms under LPS rules

State-owned NBFC REC Ltd on Thursday said it has sanctioned Rs 22,000 crore to power distribution companies (discoms) to clear their outstanding dues.

The financial assistance has been provided to discoms of Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Jammu & Kashmir under the government's Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters Rules 2022 (LPS rules).

The Ministry of Power had brought in electricity LPS rules 2022 to address mounting dues of the state power utilities, which have now crossed Rs 1,50,000 crore, REC Ltd, erst-

while Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, said in a statement."Under new LPS Rules...REC has provided financial assistance of approximately Rs 22,000 crore on 3rd

Jammu & Kashmir," it said. Major states -- such as Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, J&K, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh -- with pending power purchase dues to the tune of almost Rs 96,000 crore are

August 2022 for clearing the

outstanding dues by the distri-

bution licensees of Jharkhand,

Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and

complying with the rules. In line with the same, the distribution licensees of the above states will be paying electricity suppliers on August According to REC, the new

rules will be applicable to outstanding dues of generating companies, inter-state transmission licensees, and electricity trading licensees (suppli-

As per the rules, the total outstanding dues, including late payment surcharge, by a distribution licensee may be cleared in a maximum of 48 equated monthly instalments (EMIs).REC Ltd, under the Power Ministry, is a nonbanking finance financial company (NBFC), focusing on power sector financing and development across India.

#### **MONEY MATTERS**

#### **Dabur Q1 profit marginally** rises to Rs 441 crore



Thursday reported a marginal increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 441.06 crore for the June quarter as the inflationary the period. The company had

438.30 crore in the April-June quarter a year ago, Dabur India said in a regulatory filing. Its revenue from operations was up 8.07 per cent at Rs 2,822.43 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs 2,611.54 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. The company continued to demonstrate "agility and resilience" to deliver steady revenue growth despite consumer sentiments dwindling in the face of significant and increasing inflationary headwinds, said an earning statement by Dabur India Dabur mitigated the impact of unprecedented inflationary pressures and supply chain constraints through disciplined cost control and judicious price hikes across categories," it said. The company said its domestic FMCG business reported a 5 per cent volume growth. Dabur India's total expenses were at Rs 2,358.52 crore, up 10.81 per cent in the June quarter. The same stood at Rs 2,128.32 crore last year. In April-June period, Dabur's consolidated revenue from the consumer care business segment was down 1.47 per cent at Rs 2,135.90 crore compared to Rs 2,167.93 crore in the year-ago period.

#### L&T group aims Rs 2.7 lakh cr revenue by FY26: Chairman



Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Group is targeting Rs 2.7 lakh crore revenue by financial year 2025-26, its Chairman A M Naik said on Thursday. "We are targeting group revenues of Rs 2,70,000 crore...by FY26. The group recorded revenues of Rs 1,56,521

crore during FY 2021-22, registering a growth of 15 per cent," he said at the company's 77th Annual General Meeting (AGM). As of March 31, 2022, the company's order book was at Rs 3,57,595 crore. Currently, the Middle East constitutes 76 per cent of the international order book of Rs 95,227 crore. In 2021-22, profit after tax was Rs 8,572 crore, a year-on-year (y-o-y) growth of 23 per cent. Naik said the company has also launched 'Lakshya 2026' plan which includes exit from non-core businesses, developing innovative business offerings, scaling up digital and e-commerce businesses, focus on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and shareholder value creation. The Rs 2,70,000-crore revenue target is also a part of the plan, he said. Naik further said India is expected to post "top quartile growth" among emerging markets in the medium term.

#### **Rupee falls 17 paise to close** at 79.32 against US dollar



to close at 79.32 (provisional) against the ÜS dollar on Thursday, weighed down by disappointing macroeconomic data and US-China tensions. At the interbank foreign

exchange market, the local currency opened at 79.21 and finally ended at 79.32, down 17 paise over its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee had slumped by 62 paise to close at 79.15, marking its worst single-day fall in the current fiscal year. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.27 per cent to 106.22. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.69 per cent to USD 97.45 per barrel. According to Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, volatility for the rupee will remain high following increasing tensions between China and Taiwan. Moreover, traders may also remain cautious ahead of the RBI's monetary policy decision on Friday."We expect the USD-INR (spot) to trade sideways and quote in the range of 79.20 and 79.80 in the short-term," Somaiya added. On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 51.73 points or 0.09 per cent lower at 58,298.80 points, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 6.15 points or 0.04 per cent to 17,382.00 points. Foreign institutional investors remained net buyers in the capital market on Wednesday as they purchased shares worth Rs 765.17 crore, as per exchange data. Forex traders said the rupee is underperforming among Asian currencies amid a record high trade deficit and safe-haven demand for the dollar as investors weigh risks associated with the US-China tensions.

## GAIL Q1 net profit rises 51 pc on marketing margin

PNS NEW DELHI

GAIL (India) Ltd, the nation's largest gas utility, on Thursday reported a 51 per cent jump in its June quarter net profit on the back of bumper margins from gas marketing.

GAIL posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 3,250.95 crore, or Rs 7.34 per share, in April-June compared to Rs 2,157.15 crore, or Rs 4.81 a share, net profit in the same period a year back, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Sequentially, the profit was lower than Rs 3,473.77 crore net earnings in the January-March quarter.

The rise in year-on-year profit for the nation's largest gas transporter and seller was

SAT quashes insider

against Biocon official

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has quashed the insider trading

charges against Shreehas P

Tambe when he was senior

vice president of Biocon

He is currently deputy chief executive of Biocon

In addition, the appellate

tribunal has also set aside

the capital markets regula-

tor Sebi's order that had

restrained Tambe from

accessing the securities

market and prohibited him

from being associated with any listed company for

The latest order came

following an appeal filed by Tambe against the

Securities and Exchange

Board of India (Sebi) order,

contending that he had executed the trades while not

being in possession of

unpublished price-sensitive information (UPSI) and

had also taken pre-clear-

ance from Biocon Ltd as

per applicable procedures.

three months.

trading charges

Shreehas Tambe PNS NEW DELHI



amazon

Rs 1 lakh fine on Amazon for

selling sub-standard cookers

on the back of bumper earnings from natural gas marketing. The firm reported a pre-tax profit of Rs 2,317.91 crore from natural gas marketing in the first quarter of the current fiscal, as compared to Rs 449.84 crore pre-tax profit a year back and Rs 1,976.23

PNS NEW DELHI

quality standards.

The Central Consumer

Protection Authority (CCPA)

has imposed a penalty of Rs 1

lakh on e-commerce major

Amazon for selling pressure

cookers that did not meet

Amazon to notify the consumers of all these 2,265 pres-

sure cookers sold through its

platform, recall the products

and reimburse the prices to

buyers, the Department of

Consumer Affairs said in a

statement. The authority, head-

ed by Chief Commissioner

Nidhi Khare, recently passed

an order against Amazon for allowing sale of domestic pres-

sure cookers, in violation of

The CCPA had initiated

mandatory standards, on its e-

commerce platform.

The CCPA also directed

official, explaining

the concept of

harmonisation,

drew a parallel

with distributed

land holdings with

gaps being brought together into contiguous

51,236 MHz, or 71 per cent,

After every auction, the sep-

arate holdings of an individual

player in a band are brought

together through the harmon-

isation process. All the players

have to be in agreement for

such shifting and consolidation

to take place, a process that

we have completed the har-

monisation process in one sin-

gle day. The team has worked

very meticulously," Vaishnaw

Reliance Jio Infocomm has

obtained 24,740 MHz spec-

"It is a difficult process but

normally takes months.

was sold.

spectrum

The margin on gas marketing made up for a 12.5 per cent decline in earnings from the gas transportation business and a 74 per cent drop in petrochemicals earnings.

Turnover more than doubled to Rs 38,033.30 crore in the April-June quarter, from Rs crore in the preceding quarter. 17,702.43 crore a year back, the

suo-moto action against e-

commerce platforms for sale of

domestic pressure cookers in

violation of compulsory stan-

The authority had issued

notices to major e-commerce

platforms, including Amazon,

ShopClues and Snapdeal as

well as the sellers registered on

response submitted by the

company, it was observed that

total 2,265 pressure cookers

not conforming to mandatory standards were sold through Amazon after notification of the QCO (Quality

The total fee earned by the

Amazon on sale of such pres-

sure cookers through its plat-

form was Rs.6,14,825.41," the

"After examination of the

these platforms.

Control Order).

order said.

Flipkart, Paytm Mall,

filing showed.
GAIL said the earnings per share have been adjusted on account of a buyback of 1.28 per cent shares by the compa-ny.Last month, the board of directors of the company had recommended the issue of one bonus share for two existing equity shares.

Later in a press statement, GAIL said standalone net profit rose 91 per cent to Rs 2,915 crore in Q1 FY23 (April 2022 to March 2023 fiscal) as against Rs 1,530 crore in the corresponding quarter of last fiscal.

"The positive results were mainly on account of increased gas marketing and transmission volumes, better marketing spread and higher product prices," it said.

#### **Sensex snaps 6-day rally** ahead of RBI's rate decision

PNS MUMBAI

The Sensex and Nifty snapped their six-session rally to close marginally lower on Thursday as investors booked profit in banking, finance and energy counters ahead of the RBI's policy decision.

The Reserve Bank of India's rate-setting panel will announce its bi-monthly monetary policy on Friday amid expectations of at least a 35basis-point hike in the interest rate to check high inflation.

A depreciating rupee further weighed on sentiment, traders said. In choppy trade, the 30share BSE Sensex ended 51.73 points or 0.09 per cent lower

at 58,298.80. The broader NSE Nifty dipped 6.15 points or 0.04 per cent to 17,382.NTPC was the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack, slipping 3.10 per cent, followed by SBI, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, PowerGrid, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank and HDFC.In contrast, Sun Pharma, Nestle India, Infosys, Dr Reddy's, Wipro, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Steel were among the major gainers, climbing up to 2.46 per cent."Profit-taking finally came into play after 6-session gains, as rate-sensitive sectors like banking and realty faltered ahead of the RBI's policy meet

## Return to office highest in telecom, consulting sectors; IT lags: Survey

Majority of employees in telecom and consulting sectors have returned to office with significant fall in COVID-19 cases but the IT sector is lagging, according to a survey by Colliers and Awfis.

Property consultant Colliers India and co-working operator Awfis' joint report explores the status of return to work across different sectors.

As the third wave of COVID-19 started waning in February, the return-to-office gained momentum. As a result, by June 2022 about 34 per cent of the companies saw about 75-100 per cent of the employees back in office (includes hybrid work)," the report said. About 41 per cent of occu-

piers stated that only up to 25 per cent of their employees have returned to office. The survey showed that

telecom and consulting sectors saw the highest (75-100 per cent) rate of return to office while IT and new technology companies saw the lowest (0-25 per cent) rate of return to



"The survey has made it clear that a distributed workspace strategy is the way to go for occupiers in this new era of experiential workplaces, as occupiers emerge from the after-effects of the pandemic. Flex spaces, in particular, are leading this growth, as occupiers from varied sectors are housing teams in flex centres across cities," Colliers India CEO Ramesh Nair said.

Flexible workspace operators leased about 3.5 million square feet of office space in January-June this year across the top six cities, almost threefourths of the flexible space

damages sometimes occur to

leasing in entire 2021, he

The survey was conducted during May-June among occu-piers to understand their strategies regarding distributed workplace. The respondents were from different sectors such as IT/ITeS, BFSI, engineering and manufactur-

ing and others.
Total 150 responses were received from C-Suite executives spanning Founders, CEOs, COOs and CHROs of various companies. The company size of the respondents varied, starting from a range of 1-500 employees to companies having over 10,000 employees.

## Over 21 cr two-wheelers, 7 cr four-wheelers registered

PNS NEW DELHI

The country has more than 21 crore two-wheelers and over 7 crore four-wheelers and above category of vehicles registered, Parliament was informed on

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Road Transport and Highways minister Nitin Gadkari said out of the total vehicles, 5,44,643 are electric two-wheelers while 54,252 are electric four-wheelers and above, as per the centralised data base -- VAHAN -- as on August 3, 2022.Data further revealed that there were 2,95,245 two-wheelers and 18,47,539 four-wheeler and above category of vehicles with fuel types of CNG, ethanol, fuel cell hydrogen, LNG, LPG, solar, methanol etc.



Replying to a separate ques-

(MoRTH) is primarily respon- Highways. National Highways tion, he said the Ministry of sible for development and are generally maintained in Road Transport and Highways maintenance of National traffic-worthy condition.

National Highways in few places due to flooding, landslides, heavy downpour etc. But the restoration works are promptly carried out and traffic restored to normal, he added. The minister noted that development and upgradation of National Highways is a continuous process.He said MoRTH has been taking up projects such as the construction of expressways, capacity upgradation of existing National Highways, rehabilitation and reconstruction of existing pavements, rehabilitation and reconstruction of existing bridges and structures and construction of Road Over Bridges (RoBs) on existing National Highways depend-

ing upon traffic demand.

#### Gold rises Rs 487; silver gains Rs 426

PNS NEW DELHI

Gold in the national capital on Thursday gained Rs 487 to Rs 52,566 per 10 grams amid a rise in international precious metal prices along with rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

The yellow metal had closed at Rs 52,079 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also rose by Rs 426 to Rs 58,806 per kg from Rs 58,380 per kg in the previous trade. The rupee depreciated 36 paise to 79.51 against the US dollar in opening trade on Thursday, as disappointing macroeconomic data and US-China tensions weighed on investor sentiment.



# what's brewing?



## 'I was confident about the numbers during **Dhadak**

Kapoor has recently opened up about the pressure that she feels about the box office collections of her films, on their opening days. She shares with her latest film Good Luck Jerry, it was a different situation itself.

The actress who rose to fame with Dhadak says that she was even less worried about the box office numbers when her debut film Dhadak, was released in July 2018. The daughter of the filmmaker Boney Kapoor and late actor Sridevi, said that she was overconfident that people will come to watch her debut film at least to see

Sharing how she feels on Fridays, Janhvi told Pinkvilla, "It's different when it's an OTT release. Because when you do a media preview, you get a sense of how the audiences are going to react to your films, and so that pressure of the numbers isn't there so much. So once you get the audience's reaction you are a little at ease. So Friday night, I had already kind of heard that people are responding positively to me and the film. To acchi neend aavi thi mujhe (So I had a good night's sleep). There was not that tension whether it will earn Rs 5 crore,

or Rs 3 crore or Rs 2 When asked if that

pressure existed when Dhadak had released in theatres, Janhvi said, "During Dhadak I was very unaware. I think it was the naiveness but there was also the overconfidence that 'pehli film mein dekhne ke liye to aayenge hi (people will definitely come to watch my first film to see how I am).' So I was confident about the numbers.

Dhadak, the

remake of the 2016 Marathi film *Sairat*, had earned approxi-mately Rs110.11 crores at the box office. Apart from Dhadak, Janhvi's only film that was released in theatres was the 2021 film Roohi, which could not do good business.





# Actress Upasana files case against Miss Universe Harnaaz

pasana Singh, a face familiar to many as 'Bua' of *Kapil* Sharma's comedy show, has filed a case against Miss Universe Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu for allegedly "breach of contract" in the District Court of Chandigarh.

Advocate Karan Sachdeva and Irvan Neet Kaur, filling the suit, mentioned that their client signed a contract in the year 2020, with Sandhu after

she won Femina Miss India. Sandhu entered into an agreement with Santosh Entertainment Studio LLP being run by her to produce a Punjabi feature film *Bai Ii* Kuttange. She signed Sandhu as the lead artist.

Through this agreement, it was specifically agreed between the parties that the artist would make herself available throughout the promotional activities of the film both by being present in person during the events as well as virtually.

However, Sandhu evaded all her professional and contractual commitments of being the female lead artist in the film by completely ignoring all the communications made to her by the production house as well as all other concerned stakeholders by being absent from all the promotional events and distancing herself from the cast and

## Jennifer Coolidge quips she slept with a lot of men after American Pie

ctress Iennifer Coolidge got 'a lot of sexual action' after starring in the comedy American Pie.

The 60-year-old actress took on the role of Jeanine Stifler or 'Stifler's Mom' in the 1999 coming-of-age comedy, and joked that she has slept with hundreds of people since playing the part, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I was so happy for American Pie and the MILF thing. I got a lot out of being a MILF and I got a lot of sexual action from American

Pie," she said.
"There were so many benefits to doing that movie. There would be like 200 people that I would never have slept with (had I not done it!)." Meanwhile, *The* White Lotus star is also known for playing manicurist Paulette Bonafonte in the Legally Blonde movies opposite Reese Witherspoon and has to deal with fans coming up to her to do impressions of her ditsy

character's famous line. In Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde, Paulette

says, "Oh my God, you look like the Fourth of July! Makes me want a hot dog real bad." Coolidge is set to reprise her role as Paulette once again in the upcoming Legally Blonde 3. However, she claimed that she is vet to

see a script for the movie. She said, "Everyone keeps talking about it. I'm very excited about the script that is coming my way but I haven't seen it yet."



#### Chrissy Teigen and John Legend announce pregnancy

hrissy Teigen has announced that ✓ she is expecting her third child with her husband, John Legend, almost two years after losing a baby during

pregnancy.

The US model, aged 36, shared an Instagram post showing herself vis-ibly pregnant, saying she was feeling 'hopeful and amazing.'
"Joy has filled our

home and hearts again," she added. In September 2020, she lost a baby, whom the couple had named Jack, after suffering complications and bleeding.

Teigen previously said that the loss was "the

greatest pain I could ever imagine."

At the time, she wrote that she and her husband were "shocked and in the kind of deep pain you only hear about, the kind of pain we've never felt before. The last few years have been a blur of emotions to say the least, but joy has filled our home and hearts again," Teigen wrote on Instagram in her latest

post.
"1 billion shots later (in the leg lately, as u can see!) we have another on the way. Every appointment I've said to myself, 'OK if it's healthy today I'll announce' but then I breathe a sigh of

relief to hear a heartbeat and decide I'm just too nervous still. I don't think I'll ever walk out of an appointment with more excitement than nerves, but so far, everything is perfect and beautiful and I'm feeling hopeful and amazing," she added.

The couple are already parents to daughter Luna, aged six, and son Miles, aged four.
In December 2020,

following the loss of the baby, Teigen said on Instagram that she was sad she would never be pregnant again - but did not clarify in her post why she believed that would be the case.



#### **ARCHIE**

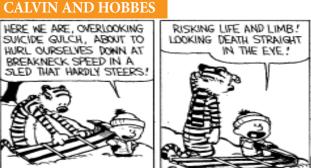








REALITY CHECK







#### GARFIELD









GODZILLA MEETS HIS MATCH THE TEENAGE GIRL



CGI ANYMORE.

#### **CROSSWORD**

ACROSS

9 Decays

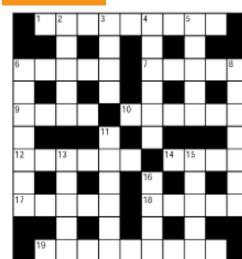
2 Grown-up

aeroplane without this

6 A compass direction

12 Sampled by mouth

17 Places where people live 18 Parts of a sentence



## NANCY



**GINGER MEGGS** 

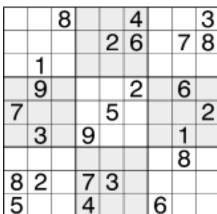








YOU NOT?



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person to annoy them 7 Time of darkness 13 Where Samoans live 15 Mistake 10 A large seal-like animal 16 A brother or sister born

with whiskers and long tusks on the same day as you 14 Where Peruvians live





GINGER.







# Tiayawaaa

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Friday August 5, 2022

# Maniesh, creating a revolution in hosting

vnonvmous with hosting on stage as well as on television, fondly regarded as the sultan of the stage, Maniesh Paul has established himself as a successful host and actor over the years.

Beginning his career as an RJ, VJ, and then creating a revolution in hosting on television, he has scaled an impressive journey. Recently turning into a nationwide sensation with the humingous success of JugJugg Jeeyo, he also garnered recognition and love for his vibrant, energetic, and entertaining character as Gurpreet in the latest release.

He throws shade, "Having hosted numerous awards shows, live stage events, and reality shows, I was irked by the placement of the host on stage and decided to take charge which has now remained my trademark." Revealing an incident from the early stage of their career, he shared, "I used to see a lot of hosting on television. One thing I really used to feel bad about was, why is it that the host is standing in one corner and all the heroes come center stage? I said I would like to change that. I remember I was hosting a very big award night show and they told me that Maniesh when you come on stage, that's the corner for you. I said, if you

don't mind, I don't want to stand there. He asked where do you want to stand. I said center stage. So, I remember, I started hosting from there, and I felt so good. And now thankfully nobody tells me to stand in a corner. They say that Maniesh stands wherever the show is

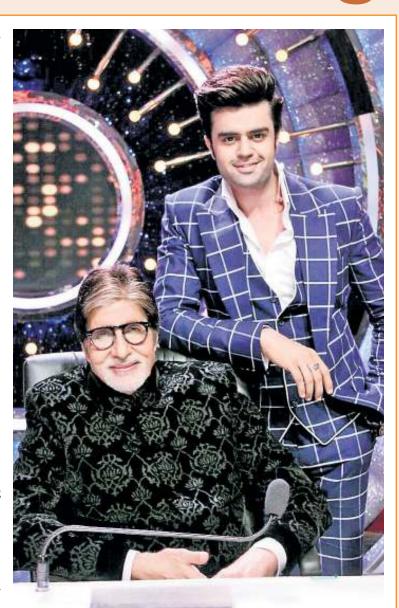
yours." Love leads to major changes in one's life, one such change instigated in Maniesh Paul's life around his graduation was inspired by his then-girlfriend, now wife Sanyukta Paul. Maniesh revealed, "I finished my graduation. She said I'll marry you only if you are a graduate."

Now the actor is not only a graduate but also one of the most loved actors of the industry and the most successful host in India. And then, there's nothing greater than parents' love and support in achieving

big dreams.
"I was a young boy from Malviya Nagar in Delhi who aspired to achieve great heights and make it big as an actor, however, the path wasn't easy. What made it easier was the constant support of my mother, right from childhood. My mother acknowledged the creative side of her son and offered wings to my dreams. I'll tell you how I used to be in all the fancy dress competitions, sometimes becoming Amitabh Bachchan, Raj Kapoor from

Mera Naam Joker. I remember she used to work really hard. I don't think there's any shade of lipstick she's left that she hasn't used on me to dress me for fancy dress competitions, but yes, I feel good today. Because now when I look back, that

worked." Moving ahead, for an outsider with big dreams, Bollywood isn't an easy path. "From photoshoots to auditions, the road was filled with experiences and madness. Like any other actor, I carved my journey with bitter-sweet moments that now stay etched as strong memories in my life. For my first ever photoshoot, my wife would steal ties from her father's wardrobe and put it back after the shoots, to support her childhood sweetheart. My singing talent also bloomed when I hosted a singing reality show. The same was identified by Salman Khan, who encouraged me for singing debut Harjai with Lulia Vantur," he ceased. He even hosts Salman Khan's yearly Salman Knans yearry
Dabangg Tour. But he is
presently busy charming
the audience with his acting chops. Much like his onscreen character in the movie, his fashion game is also on fleek. A look at his social media and one can guess that he loves to experiment with bright colours and there's no denying the fact that this guy has a game of its own.



#### Thoughtful gifts for your sibling this Rakhi 'in budget' Raksha Bandhan, which is perhaps the most celebrated and ing their rooms on special occasions. If you have a sister who likes the same, this is an apt gift. Moreover, there is an exceptional show of love most seasoned celebration of India is not far off. Celebrated upon the for things that are vintage. Bring home some beautiarrival of the full moon in the period of Sravan as indicated by the lunar schedule, it is the celebraful vintage and antique furniture from PritiHome tion of the love and affec-

tion of the sibling love. We understand that with the ongoing pan-demic, festivals may not be just about as terrific as they used to be, yet you can in any case invest quality energy with your brother/sister and fill their heart with joy exceptional with a gift

they would cherish!
In case you are confounded about what to get for your dearest kin, and chocolates appear too standard, here are a couple giving thoughts that your sibling will undoubt-edly cherish:

#### Wall reading light for your nerd sibling:

Everybody has a bibliophile sibling. For someone who is always engrossed in books, this is the most considerate gift. Also, Book nerds have a special inclination towards reading accessories, so go out and shop this beautiful gift from WoodenStreet for your brother/sister this Rakhi. Price: Rs. 1504

Vintage furniture for your aesthetic sibling:

Girls generally love decorating and redecoratand choose from their exciting variety.

#### **Explore the ethnic** wear collection:

Price: Rs. 3699

Somebody once said that women never have enough clothes. The statement is true to this date. S check out a beautiful collection of women's wear ranging from ethnic formals to western wear to loungewear at 'Aachho.com'. They are offering huge discounts for the occasion.

#### Price: Rs. 2700

#### **Pick out luxurious** fragrances for your sibling:

A Fragrance Reed Diffuser is one of the greatest products for gifting your beloved ones this RakshaBandhan. An aromatic atmosphere brings one sense to calm, composed and warmth. Pick out this perfect gift for your sibling at this festiral. A sophisticated, festive fragrance of elegant mulberry enriched with a smooth base of patchouli, nutmeg and vanilla. It softly imparts a sweetsmelling formula with rather sweeter undertones for added temptation.

Price: Rs. 1592

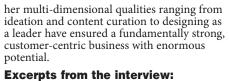
# Aesthetic products, from bookmarks to home decor

TEJAL SINHA

anding in the long queues in the supermarkets, waiting for your turn to check-out, has been the worst challenge, of course. The June Shop, a Kolkata-based online store, is this one-stop destination. You will find anything and everything. Right from a highlighter to some amazing quirky products for home decor, you can find anything and everything at an affordable price.

The Pioneer connects with the CEO of June Shop, Vansikha Nahata, a young 25-year-old entrepreneur, who leads the brand and is steering the expansion, content, branding, and marketing aspects of the business. She is responsible for driving

the business's critical mandates and



#### Tell us more about The June Shop?

The June Shop is the brainchild of the two co-founders, Rishav and Pranav, and they are also childhood best friends who always shared the passion to start a business together. With thorough research, they found out that there's a huge gap in the impulse buying B2C sector. After a year of inception, they realised the growing demand for design-oriented home decor products. Nowadays, people are majorly indulging themselves and their

homes in innovative and unique accessories and products that make their homes look good.

#### What is your USP?

Our USP is our designing team. There's an immense amount of research that goes into studying the demands in the market before research comes into the picture. The design team sits with it. then they brainstorm and ideate on how we can extract data from the research and bring the

products to life. Rishabh, the co-founder, actively participates in the procurement process. We have recently started in India, where we have branched all over India. We

have tied up with multiple manufacturers because we do see ourselves promoting the local artisans.

#### What's the price range?

The price starts as low as Rs 299 and goes up to Rs 25,000. We have recently expanded to the premium and luxury sec-

#### Starting around the pandemic, what were the challenges?

We started in December 2019 and soon after its inception, three months later, we were hit by the pandemic. One of the major challenges was definitely the operations. The team was very newly formed. The team was a little erratic; some people worked from home, while others had to come to the office, but the timings were a little off. I believe we were extremely fortunate that the operations team remained at the headquarters and strictly adhered to the COVID protocols. While many e-commerce websites faced difficulties in, let's say, delivery, we didn't face as much because the team stayed back.

#### Where do you see The June Shop in the upcoming years?

I see June's shop being primarily in the home decor space. We do see ourselves catering to any and every customer in some way or the other, because we amp

up any given space. I think

any customer would

sort of ben-



efit from landing on the June Shop, and the product range is also affordable, even if the demographic is such that an age group would sort of purchase from the June Shop and they become repeat customers.

#### Being young entrepreneurs, what has been the key to success?

I think the success has been the team along with the co-founders are always on the go, always willing to learn and upskill. None of us come from an e-commerce background so it's a learning for all of us. It's definitely been a challenge for us to understand how things go around or work. Everything that we learn or know it firsthand.

#### Your recently launched products are these unique and quirky rakhis. What would you like to tell about

We studied the market demands and we studied how consumer behaviour. We found that there's a lot of demand for the rakhis on our website that's when our team got into place and started designing the rakhis. So everything that you see on the website everything is designed by our team. Again we do take pride in the fact that we are doing rakhi's all by the local artisans and taking the help of their expertise. In some way, we are trying to give back to the community.

# INDIAN EVES QUALIFY FOR SEMIFINALS

edium pacer Renuka Singh ran through Barbados' top order with a four-wicket haul as India beat their lowly opponents by 100 runs to qualify for the semifinals of the women's T20 cricket at the Commonwealth Games here on Wednesday.

Invited to bat, India posted a competitive 162 for 4 on the back of a fine unbeaten half-century from Jemimah Rodrigues (56 not out off 46 balls) and a 26 ball 42 out off 46 balls) and a 26-ball 43 from opener Shafali Verma.

The Indians then restricted Barbados to 62 for 8 in 20 overs with Renuka bamboozling the Barbados batters with an impres-

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur, Sneh Rana, Meghna Singh and Radha Yadav chipped in with a Kyshona Knight was the top-

scorer for Barbados with 16 while Shakera Selman made 12. Seven of their batters failed to reach double-digit figures. Barbados were dismissed for 64 in their nine-wicket defeat

against Australia in an earlier match. With the win, India finished second behind Australia (6 points

from 3 matches) in Group A with four points from two wins. They had beaten Pakistan and lost to Australia in their earlier match-

The semifinals will be played on Saturday.

Renuka struck in the third ball

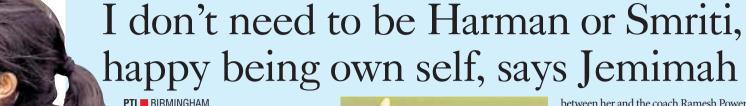
ing opener Deandra Dottin for a duck. She then dismissed captain Hayley Matthews (9), Kycia Knight (3) and Aaliyah Alleyne (0) in quick succession to reduce Barbados to 19 for 4 in nine overs.

During the Indian innings, opener Smriti Mandhana (5), who hit a half century in India's win over arch-rivals Pakistan, fell cheaply but Verma and Rodrigues stitched a 71-run stand for the second wicket to prop up the innings.
India were, how-

ever, in a spot of bothcaptain Harmanpreet (0) departed just three balls after Verma's dismissal. But a 70run partnership between Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma (34 not out) for the unbroken fifth wicket took India to a good total.

Barbados, Shanika Bruce, Hayley Matthews and Shakera Selman took a wicket

India: 162 for 4 in 20 (Jemimah Rodrigues 56 not out, Shafali Verma.43; Shanika Bruce 1/17) **Barbados:** 62 for 8 in 20 overs (Kyshona Knight 16; Renuka Singh



remimah Rodrigues knows her strengths well and finds no reason to change her nat-ural game in order to ape power-hitters like

skipper Harmanpreet Kaur or elegant timers of Smriti Mandhana's ilk. Jemimah played an important role in India's thumping 100-run victory opver Barbados with an immensely important knock of 56 off 46 balls, which was different in its construction from how Harmanpreet or a Shafali Verma

"Smriti had told me long back in the IPL [Women's T20 Challenge] in 2019 that you don't have to be a Harmanpreet Kaur or a Smriti Mandhana. You have to be a Jemimah Rodrigues. I think I have understood that role and it's helping me," Jemimah said after the match. For Jemimah, people's percep-

tions doesn't matter much. The team has given me a role. If I can play that role, it doesn't matter how other people look at it. If the dynamics suit our team, we have Shafali, Smriti, Harman, so I just want to play the best role I want to play for the team," she added.

She has no qualms in admitting that power-hitting isn't her forte but she is still working on that particular skill-set in order to contribute



more in the shortest format of the game.

"Definitely, I've worked on my power game, but more than that, I've understood my game better. I'm not a power-hitter, I'm a placer. I can hit the (gaps for) singles and doubles well; I know how to manoeuvre the field. I think that is my strength," she said.

Jemimah is confident that even without

hitting a fair amount of sixes, she can still firm up the strike-rate at a decent pace.

"My game is not very flashy but even without that, I end up with a good strike rate. That is what I have realised I don't have to be someone else; I have to be Jemimah Rodrigues to score. This is what has helped me," she went

She also highlighted the equation shared

the latter's role in promoting her at number three, which she belives, is her ideal position to flourish.

"Ramesh [Powar] sir had told me after the last game to be prepared for No. 3," she said. "Honestly, when I was preparing, I was ready for both. Even when I was preparing in the nets, with our side-arm (throwdown) specialist, I was prepared for both, because you never know, the team can need me anywhere and I should be ready for that," Jemimah said.

"But definitely, I love No. 3. It's my position. [I'm] glad I got to play there and contribute to the team, contribute to the plan, and it worked out well for the team," she added.

The Mumbai-born cricketer also went on to add that the opportunities she got at The Hundred tournament for the Northern Superchargers last year has played a pivotal role in helping her grasp the English conditions and given her ample confidence to perform at the CWG in Birmingham.

"The best thing about the 'Hundred' was the opportunity to get to play in English conditions, which I wouldn't have gotten normally," Jemimah said.

"Any match, even if it's a domestic game, I think when you go out there and score runs, you get confidence. And that is what happened to me. I was blessed that I got to play for the

Northern Superchargers.

"I had a good season there, and I just wanted to continue that because the more I play, the better I do and the more I learn. I just want to apply that whenever I play for India," she



## **Hendricks sets up South Africa's win**

AP BRISTOL

Deeza Hendricks hit his as South Africa defeated Ireland by 21 runs in their series opener at Bristol on Wednesday.

Hendricks, who hit three half-centuries in the Proteas' recent 2-1 series win over England, top-scored with 74 in a total of 211-5 and shared a third-wicket partnership of 112 with Aiden Markram (56).

"I think I've been working really hard," said Hendricks, now one of just five batsmen to have scored four consecutive half-centuries at this level, during the presentation ceremony. "Momentum is important. I've been enjoying English condi-

Lorcan Tucker (78) and George Dockrell (43) kept Ireland in the hunt but when the pair were dismissed off successive balls their side's hopes of victory went with them.

'Death-bowling' specialist Wayne Parnell proved his worth for all he was hit for six off the last ball off the innings by tailender Barry McCarthy as Ireland finished on 190-9.

Left-arm paceman Parnell returned figures of 2-36, standin Proteas captain Keshav arm spin and leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi 2-37

For Ireland, it was yet another case of close but not close enough as they suffered a seventh successive T20 defeat having been competitive against India, New Zealand and now South Africa this

"We were in the game for a long time," said Ireland cap-tain Andy Balbirnie. "The two wickets in two balls made the difference."

Hendricks's latest fifty came off 32 balls, including seven fours and a six, while Markram got to the landmark in 25 balls including six bound-

The pair fell to consecutive deliveries, with leg-spinner Gareth Delany having Markram caught at deep square leg before Hendricks holed out

Ireland, however, did not help their cause by bowling 13 wides — more than two extra

## IOC to consider cricket's inclusion in 2028 LA Olympics

**9PTI** LAUSANNE

ricket's much-anticipated inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics received a shot in the arm as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) shortlisted it for a review along with eight other sporting disciplines.

Cricket has only featured once at the 1900 Paris Olympic Games, with Great Britain and hosts France as only participants. According to ÉSPN Cricinfo, the development comes a day

Leicester keeper

Kasper Schmeichel

eicester goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel is to join

The 35-year-old, whose 11-year spell with the

Leicester captain Schmeichel, whose 479 appear-

ustralia's Daria Saville upset top-Aseeded defending champion Jessica Pegula 7-5, 6-4 on Wednesday at the ATP and WTA Washington Open, where Hubert Hurkacz and Simona

World number 88 Saville ripped the

seventh-ranked American in hot and humid conditions while Romanian

third seed Halep retired down 7-5, 2-0 to Anna Kalinskaya with illness.

"I stayed really composed," Saville

said. "I managed the energy really well.

against Canadian qualifier Rebecca

everyone so get on with it.

Ligue 1 side Nice from Leicester City, having been

a mainstay of the most successful period in the

Foxes saw him win the Premier League, FA Cup and

Community Shield, will join the French side for what

ances are the third most in the club's history, was a

key figure in the their shock 2015/16 Premier League

title triumph and maiden FA Cup final win in 2021.

Leicester said was "an undisclosed fee".

**AP** ■ WASHINGTON

Halep also exited.

joins OGC Nice

Premier League club's history.

after the International Cricket Committee (ICC) was formally invited by both the LA28 and IOC to submit presentation in order to make their case consid-

However, a final decision is expected to be announced ahead of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Mumbai sometime in mid-2023.

The other eight sports in consideration for the showpiece event are baseball/softball, flag football, lacrosse, break dancing, karate, kick-boxing, squash, and

In February this year, the IOC said that a total of 28 sporting events will be part of the Los Angeles Games and also added that the 'potential new sports' will be considered with a focus

As per IOC diktat, a sport should clear some set of criteria in order to be considered for inclusion.

This includes priorities to cost and complexity reduction, engaging the best athletes and sports with safety and health

first, global appeal, host country interest, gender equality, youth relevance, upholding integrity and fairness to support clean sports, and long-

term sustainability.

Cricket is currently being featured in the ongoing Commonwealth Games with the women's T20 format being played among eight nations, albeit only the women's teams

are participating in it. However, for a sporting event to be featured at the Olympic Games, it must be for

both men and women. ICC CEO Geoff Allardice

said he was pleased the way the cricket was viewed during the Birmingham Games and the sport has been a "star attraction" at the showpiece "We've seen from the

Commonwealth Games how much the world's best players have enjoyed playing in front of big crowds and what I'm sure will be large TV audiences," Allardice told the web-



Galtier expects more signings as PSG near Sanches deal

**AP** PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain coach Christophe Galtier said Thursday he hopes for three more signings before the end of the expected arrival of Portugal midfielder Renato Sanches.

Galtier, appointed last month to replace Mauricio Pochettino, has seen the Ligue champions bring in Portuguese international Vitinha, French defender Nordi Mukiele and young striker Hugo

Sanches, 24, is set to be reunited with Galtier having worked with him at Lille.

But ahead of PSG's first game of the new league season away to Clermont on Saturday, Galtier called for further reinforcements before the end of

"I want a certain number of players in my squad, players who are very similar in level, to perform well throughout the season and to create healthy competition," he said at a news confer-

"But are these three players going to arrive quickly, later or not at all? I don't know. I know the club is doing all it can to have

## Indian teams eye glory as Chess Olympiad enters business end

 $T^{
m he}$  Indian teams have been at the forefront in the 44th Chess Olympiad thus far with India 'A' at the top of the standings in the women's section and the 'B' team in third position in the Open event after six rounds.

The tournament has now

entered its business end. The Koneru Humpy-led India 'A' is unbeaten in six matches and takes on Azerbaijan on Friday. A win would further the team's cause and probably help pull away from the rest of the field.

The other two home teams appear to have fallen behind after starting well and will need some

catching up to do.

As Humpy said after the win over Georgia on Wednesday, they will "have to play many more tough teams like Ukraine and so on in the days to come.

Also, one of the players has risen to the occasion at various stages and the experienced Tania Sachdev has provided the allimportant win a couple of times as has R Vaishali.

LED INDIA 'A' IS **UNBEATEN IN SIX** MATCHES AND TAKES ON AZERBAIJAN ON **FRIDAY** 

"Our team spirit is high and whenever in need of a victory, always any one player from the team would shine," she added.

Having started as the No.1

seed, Humpy and Co are expected to land a medal given the manner in which they have played in the first half of the Olympiad.

However, it is important that the players keep their composure and continue to perform as they have so far.

In the open event, the India 'B' team which includes a bunch of talented teenagers Praggnanandhaa, in-form D Gukesh and Raunak Sadhwani apart from the experienced B

Adhiban saw its five-match win-

ning streak halted by Armenia in

out in his second-round match at the US Open hardcourt tuneup, falling to Finland's Emil Ruusuvuori 6-4, 7-6

His third-round foe will be Sweden's Mikael Ymer, who ousted 15th seed Aslan Karatsev 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 after elim-

Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka ousted

US third seed Taylor Fritz beat

inating three-time Grand Slam cham-

Aussie 11th seed Alex De Minaur 3-6,

7-6 (8/6), 6-2. The world number 96 will

next face seventh seed Karen

Australia's Alexei Popyrin 6-4, 6-3 to

book a third-round match against

British 16th seed Daniel Evans.

pion Ăndy Murray in round one.

Khachanov.

Gukesh has been on a splendid streak, winning all his six games so far and will be expected to lead the 'B' team's charge in the coming days. The squad needs to maintain the high standards to lay its hands

on a medal.

The second-ranked India 'A' team which is in sixth spot will also be eyeing a strong finish and, given the pedigree of the squad members, it could be in the reckoning for a medal.

Interestingly, the 'A' team would run into the host's 'C' team in the seventh round and a keen match is on the cards. Though the No.2 seeds with P Harikrishna, Vidit Gujrathi and Arjun Erigaisi in the ranks should be favourites, they would not be taking their opponents lightly. With five rounds still to be played in the sport's showpiece, the contests are expected to become stiffer.

Indian teams' pairings for Round 7: Open Section: India 'A' vs India 'C', Ĉuba vs India 'B'

Women: Azerbaijan vs India 'A', India 'B' vs Greece, India 'C' vs a very competitive squad.'

## Medvedev makes triumphant return in Mexico with landmark 250th win

Pegula, Halep and Hurkacz fall



**AP** LOS CABOS

World number one Daniil Medvedev, playing his first match in six weeks, beat Australian qualifier Rinky Hijikata 6-4, 6-3 on Wednesday at the ATP hard court tournament in Los Cabos, Mexico.

It was a milestone 250th match win of the reigning US Open

champion's career.

'Someone told me this a few days ago," Medvedev said after the match. "Otherwise I would not have known. That's nice, a mile-

"I want more victories, but tournament since bowing out of the quar-

that's nice to have 250. We'll try to ter-finals at Mallorca on June 23. He missed Wimbledon because of its ban of Russian Medvedev is playing his first and Belarussian players in the wake of



It was very hot. But I thought it's hot for Saville booked a quarter-final match Petkovic 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. Polish second seed Hurkacz crashed

> Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Medvedev next faces Ricardas Berankis of Lithuania, who beat Argentina's Facundo Bagnis 7-6 (7/4), 6-

Second-seeded Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime also advanced, beating Mexico's

### Badosa, Jabeur reach San Jose WTA QFs

Second-seeded Paula Badosa survived a scare on the way to a 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (7/5) victory over US qualifier Elizabeth Mandlik on Wednesday in the WTA hardcourt tournament in San Jose, California.

Badosa will next face the winner of Thursday night's marquee clash between four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka and sixth-seeded American Coco



first tournament since falling in the first round of the French Open, where she was battling a left Achilles tendon injury. Gauff, the French Open runner-up, is seeded sixth. Third-seeded Tunisian star Ons Jabeur, playing her first

match since her historic runner-up finish at Wimbledon, pulled away late to beat American Madison Keys 7-5, 6-1.

## **RUKSHAR DHILLON:** Soft, independent & full of life

TEJAL SINHA

his beauty has been climbing the ladder of success like a supersonic express train. She has won hearts ever since her debut in the Tollywood film world with films including Aakatayi, Krishnarjuna Yudham, ABCD: American Born Confused Desi, and Ashoka Vanamlo Arjuna Kalyanam. Not only did she make a remarkable name in the Telugu film industry, but also *Bhangra Paa Le* in Hindi and *Run Antony* in Kannada.

Ever since the makers of the film *Spark* announced taking on-board Rukshar as the female lead, her fans are super excited for the film's release.

We couldn't wait and quickly connected with Rukshar, who shares with us some exclusive details of her character, her memorable moments from the shooting so far, her take on two of the most controversial happenings in the film industry and much

In the film, Rukshar will be playing the character of a student named Ananya. Sharing more on the same, she says, "My character, Ananya, is a student who is studying research in science. She is this young city girl who has the heart to help people and does social services for everyone around her. She is a smart, strong person, and she makes her own decisions

As the shooting for the film is said to be underway, she shares that, so far, her experience while shooting has been really great. She says, "The team is very young and fresh. The way they execute things on screen is very real, and it's something that the audience wants to watch today. They are very dedicated and very particular about getting the perfect shot, so it looks amazing on screen. It's been really amazing working with Vikrant and Aravind sir. I am sure we are going to create a great product that the audience will love.

She further continues sharing her most memorable moment from the set of Spark, and that is her introduction shot.

"The composition, the mood, and the feeling that Aravind Sir has created to intro duce me in the film has been one of my most amazing introductions so far. It creates this very serene, very mesmerising girl who has her head on her shoulders. It depicts every shade of me. The soft side, the independent side, someone who is full of life. So the way it was composed and shot, and the amount of time we took to shoot that perfect entire introduction scene, I think that was my most memorable moment," she says

Apart from being an eccentric star, Rukshar shares that she loves living and enjoying a simple life. She further reveals good meal for her family. She says, "I am a very homely person, but I still love going out. I love travelling. Every time I am home, I love to cook something for my family and get them a good meal. Besides that, I just love all the little things in life. I am just not someone who is really big on spending a lot of money or buying a lot of expensive things. For me as a person, it's always the little things that matter. I just love being around people who I can give joy and happiness and have a good time with. So yes, very simple, straight and very chill." Over the past years, we've seen actors connect on a different level with their fans and audience via social media. So, as an actor, is it manda tory to be popular on social media? Rukshai explains to us her take on this, and says, "As an actor, and especially being in the public eye, you need to grow up with the audience And, if the audience is on social media, I believe it is a good way to connect, and being on social media will allow you to reach a much larger audience. At the end of the day, they come to the screen to watch you. They give that time, they invest in you, and they encourage you, so being connected with them is the thing I believe is the most amazing thing. Initially, when social media didn't exist, it was actually more difficult. But since it exists now, it has become such a big and amazing platform for the entire audience and the fans. So definitely, we should make the most use of this, and I think we all are. It's a great way to communicate and a great way to be put out there, know what your audience likes, and interact

It has great benefits, and I seriously enjoy it. No doubt, the most viral topic and the talk of the town have been Ranveer Singh's latest photoshoot. The *Befikre* star has always been a true befikra, who never regrets putting himself as he is in front of the public. As many celebs from B-town have come forward to support him, Rukshar also has a message for the public in regard to the same. "I have always believed that everyone, be it a man or a woman, should have freedom in what they want to do. We live in a country where we have so much freedom and so much exposure. Whatever we personally feel is the right thing to do. We should go ahead and do it. As long as there's an intent behind it, there's nothing bad or bitter. I feel some people would like it, some won't. You cannot please everyone. The only thing is you can please yourself. You should go ahead and do what you like. While there's this continuous debate on

South Indian vs. Bollywood films, where every day, a new celeb comes forward talk ing from either side, Rukshar shares, irrespective of the region, it's the Indian film industry that's growing, She says, "There's definitely been a debate about it, but I feel personally the larger our cinema grows to The larger film industry will grow. And

In an exclusive interview with The Pioneer, Ashoka Vanamlo Arjuna Kalyanam fame Rukshar Dhillon reveals some exclusive tidbits about her character in her next Spark, her most memorable moment from the set, her opinion on Ranveer Singh's controversial photoshoot and

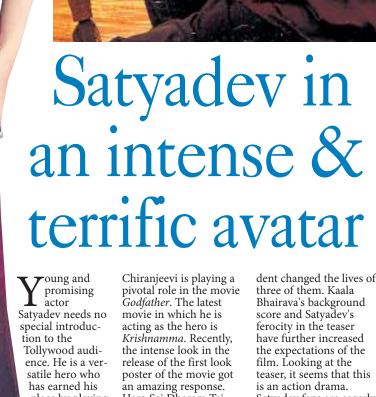
much more.

that's what is happening. So when someone who's done a Hindi film and not a South film goes to another country, when they say they've come from a land of making Indian cinema, they collectively represent Indian cinema. I don't think people ask you which part, where, or category. We also shouldn't do that because right now the aim is to grow Indian cinema and not to grow cinema from a specific region in a country. The more we grow as an Indian cinema, the more our position as an Indian cinema will grow, and that's the larger picture that we need

On the work front, along with *Spark*, Rukshar has been working on her next Hindi film. She says it's an interesting project and she's really looking forward to it.

"It has amazing content and I am playing a very dif ferent role compared to what I've done before. I also have an Amazon show coming up. I have already finished shooting for

is a lot of exciting stuff to watch all of it," she signs off.



tollywood

an amazing response. Hero Sai Dharam Tej released the teaser of Krishnamma on Thursday and congratulated the film unit. The teaser revealed how intense and rustic the film will be. In the teaser, Satvadev is narrating the story with a voice-over. Creating a fear of not knowing his voice. The teaser shows the reason behind the

title with the powerful dialogue 'like this Krishnamma, no one knows when or where we were born'. The movie Krishnamma is about the conflict between three friends in small town and a vil lain—how a small inci-

Bhairava's background score and Satvadev's ferocity in the teaser have further increased the expectations of the film. Looking at the teaser, it seems that this is an action drama. Satvadev fans are eagerly waiting for the release of the movie. Their wish to see their favorite hero in a full-length action movie will soon be fulfilled. Presented by renowned director Koratala Siva, Krishna Kommalapati, Krishnamma is being produced under the banner of Arunachala Creations under the direction of VV Gopala Krishna, Preparations are being made to release the movie in theaters soon. Kala Bhairava has composed the music, and the postproduction activities of nis film are going on at a fast pace.





## Dulquer Salmaan's film Sita Ramam banned in Gulf countries



ita Ramam, direct-

Ragahavapudi and

starring Dulquer

Salmaan, has been

banned within the

ed by Hana

Gulf international locations,

previous to its launch on August 5. The film is a

Prabhas, who graced the event as the evening's chief guest, said, "The trailer looks incredible. One of the nation's most attractive heroes is Dulquer. What a fantastic

> movie is just so flawless." The Baahubali actor, requested all of his fans and other movie lovers to watch Sita Ramam, and said, "Even though we all have deities in our households, we still visit temples to

pray to God. For me, theatres are like temples. Despite the OTT releases, a true movie lover can only watch such great movies at the theatre only.

Prabhas then continued, "The performances of Dulquer and Mrunal are being praised by everyone. All I want to do is watch the movie soon. Making a movie with such passion and a big budget is not simple."

'It appears that the movie will also have a war scene in addition to the love story. Simply put, the movie has other components and is not a love story."

Prabhas talked about the Sita Ramam director and said, "I saw movies by Hanu Raghavapudi. He makes a gorgeous director."

His presentation of the movie is poetic. He is one of the most attractive directors in the business," Prabhas remarked.

Sita Ramam stars Mrunal Thakur and *Pushpa* actress Rashmika Mandanna as the female lead opposite Dulquer Salmaan, and is all set for its grand release on August 5.

romantic drama, revolving across the lifetime of lieutenant Ram, performed by

The film is the Mollywood actor's second stint in Tollywood, after Mahanati that includes Keerthi Suresh. The film is banned from releasing in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE. Although the precise cause is unknown, it's assumed that the ban is in place on grounds that it damage non secular senti-ments. The makers have utilized for a re-censoring of the movie. The transfer is predicted to be an enormous blow because the Gulf international locations are an enormous marketplace for Dulquer Salmaan's movies. His romantic hero picture

has additionally elevated his attraction amongst followers, globally. The film has been shot in Kashmir and Hvderabad, Mrunal Thakur and Rashmika Mandanna play the feminine leads,

Prakash Raj, and different actors are additionally a part of the solid. The movie will launch in three languages — Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam. The film is bankrolled by Vyjayanthi whereas Gautham Menon,



actress Bhatt awaits the OTT release of her next film. Darlings. The Hindi-language film is going to stream on Netflix from August 5. #BoycottAliaBha

tt has been trend-

ing on Indian

Thursday. Netizens are angry with the Brahmastra actress for doing a film that allegedly normalizes domestic violence.

As noted by a website in its trailer review, "Badrunissa Shaikh beats her husband Hamza Shaikh violently and repeatedly, all

of which is supposed to be revenge for the latter abusing her in the past. Domestic violence scenes in the neo-noir dark comedy are played by laughs. Netizens are miffed with the trailer of the film and are pre-judging the content of the film based on the

trailer.

