

ANALYSIS 7
WRONG TO CALL WELFARE
SCHEMES 'FREEBIES'**MONEY 8**
NITIN GADKARI BATS FOR
ALTERNATIVE FUELS FOR VEHICLES**SPORTS 11**
INDIA THUMP ZIMBABWE
BY 10 WICKETS

VIJAYAWADA, FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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LAKSHMI MANCHU MAKES
IT TO 100 MOST
BEAUTIFUL FACES
GLOBAL LIST
Page 12**SAUDI DOCTORAL STUDENT GETS
34 YEARS IN PRISON FOR TWEETS**

A Saudi court has sentenced a doctoral student to 34 years in prison for spreading rumours and retweeting dissidents, according to court documents obtained on Thursday, a decision that has drawn growing global condemnation. Activists and lawyers consider the sentence against Salma al-Shehab, a mother of two and a researcher at Leeds University in Britain, shocking even by Saudi standards of justice. So far unacknowledged by the kingdom, the ruling comes amid Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's crackdown on dissent even as his rule granted women the right to drive and other new freedoms in the ultraconservative Islamic nation.

**WORLD CUP TICKET SALES
TOP 2.45 MILLION; 500,000 STILL LEFT**

World Cup ticket sales have reached 2.45 million, FIFA said on Thursday, with more than 500,000 seats still available three months before the tournament starts in Qatar. FIFA said 520,000 tickets were bought in a first-come, first-served phase of sales that closed this week. Brazil's games against Serbia and Cameroon were among the most in-demand. The top 10 places ranked by ticket sales to their residents include Qatar and neighboring countries Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The United States, England, Mexico, France, Argentina, Brazil and Germany are also on the list released by FIFA.

**WIPRO BAGS DEAL FROM
UK GOVERNMENT TREASURY**

IT company Wipro Limited has bagged a multi-year contract to deliver service integration and management services to the UK government treasury. The service will enable seamless integration of IT services across multi-functional suppliers and partners, enhancing the user experience across HMT and its arm's length bodies, according to a statement on Thursday. Wipro and Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) will collaborate to enable end-to-end SIAM (Service Integration And Management) services, from strategy, design, and implementation to running business-as-usual services such as day-to-day coordination of service integration across HMT's vendors.

**EXCITED TO KEEP GOING IN UK PM
RACE, SAYS RISHI SUNAK**

British Prime Minister hopeful Rishi Sunak on Thursday said he is excited to keep going in the Conservative Party leadership campaign even as surveys of party voters predict a firm lead for his rival, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss. In an interview with the ITV channel's 'This Morning' programme, the Indian-origin former Chancellor said he definitely had a shot at victory as he reiterated his stance that his rival's instant tax-cutting plans would prove inflationary for the economy. "I'm really excited to keep going, I think my ideas are the right ones," he said.

PICTURE PERFECT

Locusts perched on the stem of a datura plant present a feast to eyes in a park in Vijayawada, on the eve of World Photography Day on Thursday. Pic by Ch Vijayabhaskar

NEW TWIST TO MP MADHAV'S EPISODE

Forensic certificate on veracity of video clip not authentic: CID

Addl DG of AP CID Sunil Kumar says action will be taken against those who morphed the certificate issued by US-based Eclipse Forensics

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The video clip of MP Gorantla Madhav took another turn as the AP CID found that the certificate in circulation on social media on the veracity of the controversial video is not authentic.

Additional DG CID PV Sunil Kumar, addressing the media here on Thursday, said that the certificate published by Eclipse Forensics on the veracity of the video of Gorantla Madhav is not authentic. He said that Eclipse Forensic's Jim Stafford alleged that the certificate in circulation is not original.

The Additional DG said that the CID officials communicated with Eclipse and got information. He explained that in the reply to an



email, Eclipse Forensic's Jim Stafford informed that the alleged certificate in circulation is not original. He further clarified that the certificate was not provided by him.

He quoted Jim Stafford as saying,



"I was not asked to determine the authenticity of the video being played and have not offered an opinion of it. Without examining, I cannot speculate whether it is authentic or not."

Sunil Kumar said that in the mail

sent by Jim, he also claimed that, "Pothini Prasad had requested two changes to the report. He did not wait for me to make the changes and he circulated the reports on social media."

The CID ADG said that any video can only be examined by forensic experts if the original source of the video is determined. He further said that Jim had earlier informed in the mail that the video provided to him was recorded on a mobile device while it was being played on another media device. He stated that the video in circulation is not the original content and therefore, forensics cannot determine its authenticity.



'Naidu doing politics with fake video clip'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao (Nani) has said that TDP leaders are hell-bent on creating some controversy or the other every day. Speaking to media persons on Thursday, Nani said that Chandrababu Naidu is trying to create unrest on the lines of caste and religion in the State. He also alleged that the TDP-supported media is spreading false information. Speaking to the media persons on Thursday, Kodali Nani said that Chandrababu Naidu was doing politics with a fake video of MP Madhav. Nani said that CID chief Sunil Kumar had clearly said that the report which is being circulated in the name of MP Gorantla Madhav is not original.



Ex-mayor of city Govindarajulu, 91, passes away

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Senior Communist Party of India (CPI) leader and former Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) mayor Lanka Govindarajulu (91) passed away at his son's house at Vidyadharapuram in Vijayawada on Thursday. He had been suffering from ill health for a few years.

He served as mayor for a year (1984-85) after the first mayor T Venkateswara Rao and Alitha Ramulu. He was elected as a corporator three times and held the posts of deputy mayor and Standing Committee Chairman. He was also elected as Co Option member to VMC in 1995 and continued in the post up to 2000.

Face recognition attendance system in AP govt offices soon

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Education Botsa Satyanarayana has said that a face recognition attendance system will soon be introduced in all the government offices across the state and this process has been started in the education department first. He held a meeting with teachers' unions in Vijayawada on Thursday. During the meeting, misconceptions and difficulties faced in using the app designed for the attendance registration of students and teachers in schools were discussed.

The minister said that the government is taking steps to ensure that everyone from the Chief Secretary to the office subordinates can use the face recognition app. Teachers are assured that the issues will be resolved and not to worry about the app.

He said that there was some communication gap regarding the app related to teachers' attendance in the education department, and in order to correct it, a meeting was held with the respective associations and steps were taken to clear their doubts. The minister said that the officials have been instructed to take into consideration their objections and make some changes.

Clarifying on the propaganda that if the teacher comes late to school, that



There are 1.83 lakh teachers in the state, about one lakh have registered in the app so far, and it has been decided to consider 15 days as a training period so that all the rest can also download the app and get used to the app.

day will be considered as leave, the minister said that nothing new has been added and all old rules are being implemented regarding the attendance of employees. He said that if the employee is late for the fourth time it is considered half-day leave.

The minister said that there are 1.83 lakh teachers in the state, about one lakh have registered in the app so far, and it has been decided to consider 15 days as a training period so that all the rest can also download the app and get used to the app.

'Family physician' as pilot project from next month

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

MT Krishna Babu, Principal Secretary, of Health, Medical and Family Welfare has said that the 'Family Physician' programme will be implemented across the State by the next Sankranti festival.

Addressing media persons at the APIIC building here on Thursday, he said that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had taken the initiative for the 'Family Physician' project to provide primary health protection to the rural people, and the pilot project will begin by the first week of

September. He stated that in view of the implementation of the 'Family Physician', the government has appointed sufficient staff.

Krishna Babu said that the government had established 1,032 YSR Village Health Clinics attached to the Village Secretariats and also initiated the appointment of well-trained staff including one Mid Level Health Providers (MHLP), One ANM, and three to four Asha workers to serve the villagers. A total of 8,500 MLHPs were also recruited and a notification for an additional 1,500 MLHP posts was issued. He said that there were

about 1,500 own buildings available for the Village Health Clinics while 8,500 buildings were under construction. Of them, the construction of 2,000 buildings was completed and another 3,000 buildings were in the final stage of construction. As many as 46 varieties of medicines, as well as 14 medical tests, will be available in the village clinics and all those facilities will be arranged by the first week of September.

He said that the government had allocated another 176 PHCs and their construction would be completed soon. There will be two medical

officers available to serve the people in all the PHCs across the State, so they have already issued a notification for the vacant 176 medical officers posts.

He also asserted that about 656 MMUs were available in the State and another 434 vehicles would be available by the end of November. There will be a follow-up on the patients undergoing operations under the Arogyasri along with palliative care for the unmovable patients. He said that the doctors will be given smartphones on a permanent basis under the common user group.

'Rs 1,000 cr freebies to prescribe Dolo 650 mg tablets'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Thursday was told by an NGO that the Central Board of Direct taxes has accused the Pharma company manufacturing popular Dolo tablets, an anti-inflammatory, fever reducer drug, of distributing Rs 1000 crore freebies to doctors for prescribing a dosage of its 650 mg tablets.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna was told by senior advocate Sanjay Parikh and advocate Aparna Bhat, appearing for petitioner 'Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives

Justice Chandrachud said, "What you are saying is music to my ears. This is exactly the drug that I had when I had COVID recently."



Association of India', that the market price of any tablet up to 500mg is regulated under price control mechanism of the government but the price of drug above 500mg can be fixed by manufacturer Pharma Company.

He said that to ensure a higher profit margin, the company distributed freebies to doctors to prescribe the Dolo drug of dosage 650mg capacity.

Privatisation of PSU banks can be harmful, says RBI bulletin

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Big bang privatisation of public sector banks can do more harm than good, an RBI article has warned asking the government to take a nuanced approach on the issue.

While private sector banks (PVBs) are more efficient in profit maximisation, their public sector counterparts have done better in promoting financial inclusion, the article in the latest RBI Bulletin said. "Privatisation is not a new concept, and its pros and cons are well known. From the conventional perspective that privatisation is a panacea for all ills, the economic thinking has come a long way to acknowledge that a more nuanced approach is required while pursuing it," it said.

Telugu version of 'Swaraj' on DD from tomorrow

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As the country is celebrating the 75th year of Independence, various initiatives are being undertaken by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to commemorate the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. One such effort has been the production of a mega 75-episode serial by Doordarshan— 'Swaraj' - Bharat Ke Swatantrata Sangram Ki Samagra Gatha' which highlights the journey of the country towards obtaining freedom.

Doordarshan Kendra, Vijayawada will telecast the regional version in Telugu from August 20 on its channel DD Saptagiri.

Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada on Thursday, Deputy Director General (Engineering), Doordarshan Kendra, D Ranganadham, said, "The serial seeks to recollect with gratitude the sacrifices our forefathers made. The regional version of the 75-episode

serial will be telecast at 8 pm every Saturday from August 20 and will be repeated on Sunday from 09:30 PM to 10:30 pm, and on Wednesday and Friday between 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. The serial will highlight the patriotic fervour of the freedom fighters among which many are unsung heroes of the freedom struggle, he added.



Doordarshan Kendra Programme Head, Dr Vasumathi Rajan said, apart from Telugu, the mega serial has also been dubbed in eight other regional languages, viz., Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Odiya and Assamese; the original being in Hindi and English. She said the serial will also be broadcast on All India

Radio from August 20 at 11:00 am every Saturday.

'Swaraj' - Bharat Ke Swatantrata Sangram Ki Samagra Gatha', illustrates the glorious history of India's freedom struggle beginning from the 15th century when Vasco-da-Gama landed in India. This serial will showcase several aspects of Indian history featuring the lives and sac-

rifices of lesser known heroes of the freedom struggle. The serial being presented in a docu-drama format is well-researched by a team of leading historians. Popular film actor Manoj Joshi plays a stellar role as the narrator of the serial. The serial has grand production quality and promises to be a visual treat to the viewers.

The content of the mega serial carries a rich repertoire of photographs, films, oral histories, personal memoirs, autobiographies, biographies, and multi-lingual regional literature that remained mostly unexplored and largely absent from the public consciousness. Audio-visual representations of such issues, icons, events, organisations will be produced in this larger comprehensive framework of 'search for Swaraj' and presented to the public in the form of a 75-episode serial of top-notch quality production.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham:
Tithi: Ashtami
Navami:
Nakshatram:
Kritika: Aug 18 11:35 PM to Aug 20 01:53 AM
Rohini: Aug 20 01:53 AM to Aug 21 04:40 AM
Rahukalam: 10:45 AM to 12:19 PM
Yamagandam: 3:27 PM to 5:01 PM
Varjyam: 07:44 PM to 09:31 PM
Gulika: 7:37 AM to 9:11 AM
Amritakalam: 11:15 PM to 01:01 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:54 AM to 12:44 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER
Forecast: Scattered thunderstorms
Temp: 33°C
Humidity: 75%
Sunrise: 5:52 AM
Sunset: 6:30 PM
Updated: AUGUST 18, 2022 5:00 PM

Ambedkar statue work at brisk pace: Minister

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Social Welfare Minister Merugu Nagarjuna has said that the works related to the installation of the 125-foot Dr BR Ambedkar statue are going on without any delay and all measures are being taken to unveil the statue as per schedule.

He said that arrangements had been made to ensure that the work did not stop even though the rains were causing some difficulty. The minister reviewed the progress of Dr BR Ambedkar Swaraj Maidan works with the officials at the Secretariat on Thursday.

Speaking on this occasion, Nagarjuna said that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy was very keen on the project to be completed on time. He said that they would



speed up the works to ensure that the statue could be unveiled by the upcoming Ambedkar Jayanti. He said that the construction works on PWD grounds, where the statue of Ambedkar was to be erected, and the other construction works were going on briskly.

The minister said that the works on the Ambedkar

Swaraj Maidan had also been started in place of the demolished buildings. While the concrete work had already been completed, the works related to the slab would start shortly.

He said that temporary accommodation facilities were being provided to the labourers. Floodlights have been installed so that the construc-

tion works can be carried out day and night.

Regarding the 125-foot Ambedkar statue, arrangements are also being made for a team of ministers and officials from the Ambedkar Swaraj Maidan Committee to go to Delhi to inspect the model statue made of clay and wax in the original size. The minister instructed the officials to supervise the construction works to ensure that the statue could be unveiled by Ambedkar Jayanti. The officials were advised to bring to their notice if there was any problem in this regard.

APIIC Engineer in Chief CHSS Prasad, Additional Director of Social Welfare Department Raghuram, KPC Projects Director Vasudeva Rao and other officials attended the meeting.

Elderly population prone to chronic diseases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The city doctors have noticed that the senior citizens population is rapidly growing in numbers. Elderly people are more prone to develop chronic problems affecting their health and quality of life.

As it is World Senior Citizens Day on August 21, doctors advised that the families of the elderly need to be prepared, and a health care system suited to support and take care of their problems be kept in place.

Dr Aftab Ahmed, Senior Consultant Physician, Apollo Hospital, Secunderabad, said, "The health problems faced by elderly can vary widely. They can have age-related decline in vision, hearing, cognition, mobility or immune function. But at times, they are often affected by chronic conditions like arthritis, kidney disease, urinary problems, dementia, cardiovascular disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer."



Fully automated biochemistry machine in place at BIRRD Hospital

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TTD EO AV Dharma Reddy has directed the officials to configure a mobile App for the benefit of devotees to make advance reservations for OP consultations at the BIRRD Hospital.

Speaking after a review meeting at the BIRRD Hospital on Thursday, the EO said patients are coming from all over India and such a state-of-the-art mobile App would be helpful for them to register OP in advance. He directed offi-

cials to purchase all required sophisticated equipment and the lab at the hospital.

Among others, he instructed officials to provide quality food to patients, set up a central UPS system, and complete work for automation of lab reports and call for tenders for procuring lab materials and blood bank equipment.

Later, the TTD EO unveiled a fully automated biochemistry analyser equipment costing Rs 5 lakhs donated by the Sai Pavitra medical services proprietor Katur

Subramaniam. Earlier, the TTD EO also visited the SV Ayurveda hospital women's hostel and directed officials to complete the dining hall works and provide quality food to students. He also interacted with parents of child patients about treatment and other medical services in the Children's ward.

JEO Veerabrahmam, BIRD special officer Dr Reddappa Reddy, Ayurveda college principal Dr Murali Krishna and other faculty members were present.

Speed up developmental works in Pulivendula city: CM

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has instructed officials to speed up various development works of Pulivendula municipality and further concentrate on Pulivendula city centre works.

He conducted a review meeting on Pulivendula Area Development Authority (PADA) on Thursday. He took stock of the progress of the works and said that all pending issues should be resolved immediately and that officials should focus seriously on the progress of works.

The officials briefed the Chief Minister about the progress of various development works going on in the Pulivendula constituency.

CM Jagan gave instructions to officials to grant administrative permissions for the construction of Mogamuru Aqueduct at 41st Km on GNSS



Main Canal and further instructed to grant flood victims compensation to 535 families of Paidipalem and Kumarampally villages. He directed the officials to speed up various development works related to Pulivendula Municipality and to focus on Pulivendula City Center works. The officials explained the progress of the construction of houses in Pulivendula Jagananna Housing Colony and CM Jagan directed to accelerate of the construction

of houses with immediate effect. Further, the officials explained the progress of water grid works, Pulivendula Medical College, UGD, water supply, construction of bus stand, etc. They briefed on the progress of Vempalli UGD, Degree College, Gandhi Temple development works and YSR Memorial Garden works.

CM Jagan instructed the officials to do e-crop booking for banana cultivation in both Kharif and Rabi seasons. Further discussion was held on pending issues in Mydukuru, Proddatur, Kadapa, Badvelu, and Jammalamadugu constituencies.

Kadapa MP YS Avinash Reddy, YSR Kadapa District Collector Vijayarajaram, Finance Department Special Secretary SS Rawat, Planning Department Secretary G Vijay Kumar, PADA OSD Anilkumar Reddy and other officials were present.

Free Eamcet career counselling at OU

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Human Capital Development Centre (HCDC), Osmania University, in collaboration with the University College of Engineering, is organising a free engineering career counselling on August 21. It will begin from 10am at Assembly Hall, main building, University College of Engineering, Osmania University.

It is aimed at guiding Eamcet candidates and their parents on choosing courses and colleges in the context of the changing job market trends. Experts from the industry and the academia will brief participants on career opportunities in several engineering courses in the years ahead followed by an open-house interaction session with the candidates and parents to answer their queries.

Longer loop line commissioned at Elamanchili Station

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

To enhance train operations, ease congestion and to accommodate long haul goods trains with additional wagons, Vijayawada Division has commissioned a longer loop line at Elamanchili Railway Station.

Speaking on the occasion, U Akki Reddy, Sr Divisional Engineer, North, said that that Elamanchili longer loop work was taken up by the Division from July 25 to August 2 duly modifying the signal system, providing new OHE lines, new track lines for accommodating long haul trains of 1500m. He said that the three longer loop works at Navabpalem, Bikkavolu and Elamanchili in the busy Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam (North Section) were completed at a cost of Rs 47 crore by the Division. He thanked the officials and staff of

Operating, Signaling, Electrical, Traction Distribution for meticulous planning and coordinated efforts in commissioning the longer loop line without any delay.

Shivendra Mohan, Divisional Railway Manager, Vijayawada Division complimented the officials of the Division on timely completion of this longer loop line with sincere and dedicated efforts.

DRM said that this longer loop will help in improving the punctuality of passenger trains by avoiding main line regulation of Goods trains, reducing wagon detentions, and also handling more trains over the Division. He instructed the officials to complete the remaining longer loop lines at a fast pace for overall improvement in operation of freight trains in the busy trunk route section.



Ex-mayor of city Govindarajulu, 91, passes away

Continued from Page 1

Lanka Govindarajulu worked for the development of the CPI in Vijayawada along with eminent communist leaders Dasari Nagabhushana Rao, Uppalapati Ramachandra Raju,

T Venkateswara Rao, Tammina Pothuraju, and Chalasani Venkata Ratnam. He was also CPI Vijayawada city secretary.

He was born at Karmika Puram in Vijayawada in 1932. He hailed from an economically backward family and studied fifth class. Later, he was

attracted to Marxism and worked for the development of the underprivileged sections of society. Lanka Govindarajulu is a role model for Communist party leaders and a disciplined worker. He participated in the land revolution (Bhu Akramana) held at Vijayawada.

The body was kept at the party office Dasari Bhavan for the party workers to pay their last respects. Former MLC Jalli Wilson, party leaders Akkineni Vanaja, Donepudi Shankar, P Durga Bhavani, Y Chenchiah, Ch Koteswara Rao, N Venkateswara Rao, G

Koteswara Rao, and others paid tributes to him.

CPI national secretary Dr. K Narayana and State secretary K Ramakrishna said that Lanka Govindarajulu's demise was a big loss to the party. The CPI has lost a great leader, they said.

Privatisation of...

Continued from Page 1

The gradual approach to privatisation adopted by the government can ensure that a void is not created in fulfilling the social objective of financial inclusion and monetary transmission, it said.

Quoting various studies, it said, PSBs (Public Sector Banks) have played a key role in catalysing financial investments in low-carbon industries, thereby promoting green transition in countries such as Brazil, China, Germany, Japan, and in the European Union.

Evidence suggests that public sector banks are not entirely guided by the profit maximisation goal alone and have integrated the desirable financial inclusion goals in their objective function unlike private sector banks, it said.

"Our results also point out the countercyclical role of PSB lending. In the recent years, these banks have also gained greater market confidence. Despite the criticism of weak balance sheets, data suggests that they weathered the Covid-19 pandemic shock remarkably well," it said.

Telugu version of...

Continued from Page 1

On-screen historical narrative framed in the larger discourse of search and establishment of 'Swaraj' in India will help the national and international audiences to understand the real spirit of the nation with a fresh and new perspective giving due recognition to the lesser known heroes of the day.

'Swaraj' is envisioned as an iconic serial of Doordarshan which will turn into a national movement inspiring the public, especially the youth about India's rich treasure of history and fill every Indian's heart with pride!

Doordarshan is also planning to revamp its regional channels by introducing new programmes and new shows with meaningful discussions on current topics. Sharing more details, Doordarshan officials informed that four more serials are in the

pipeline to be launched soon. These include 'Jai Bharati', 'Corporate Sarpanch' and 'Yeh Dil Manenge More'. These serials have messages of patriotism and women empowerment and will be telecast at prime time on DD National, Monday to Friday, starting from August 15, 2022. Another serial 'Suron Ka Eklavya' has high entertainment value as a reality music show and pays tribute to Bappi Lahiri. It will be telecast on Saturday and Sunday at prime time 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm, starting on August 14, 2022.

P. Ratnakar, Dy Director (News), Doordarshan Kendra, Dr G Kondala Rao, Asst. Director (News), All India Radio, T Henry Raj, Media & Communication Officer, PIB Vijayawada, B Venkateswarlu, Programme Executive, All India Radio, and others participated in the press conference.

Face recognition system for...

Continued from Page 1

The officials also explained to the leaders of the teachers' unions how the app works even though there were problems in the network while registering the attendance. The minister said that the government under the leadership of Chief

Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is a pro-employee government. He made it clear that all the policy decisions are taken with a positive attitude and will overcome difficulties and problems while implemented with the aim of providing good standard education for the welfare of the students.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹184
Without Skin	₹210
Broiler at Farm	₹105

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	406
HYDERABAD	405
VISAKHAPATNAM	406
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.06
(IN VIJAYAWADA)	

Continued from Page 1

Parikh added that it is an "irrational dose combination" and said that he would like to bring more such facts to the knowledge of the court after a response is filed by the Centre.

Justice Chandrachud said, "What you are saying is music to my ears. This is exactly the drug that I had when I had COVID recently. This is a serious issue and we will look into it". The bench asked Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj to file his response to the plea in ten days and gave one week time thereafter to Parikh to file his rejoinder.

It listed the matter for further hearing on September 29, 2022. A counsel sought permission

from the court to file an intervention on behalf of the Pharma companies, which the court allowed saying it would like to hear them also on the issue.

On March 11, the top court agreed to examine a plea seeking direction to the Centre for formulating a Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices to curb unethical practices of Pharma companies and ensure an effective monitoring mechanism, transparency, accountability as well as consequences for violations.

The top court had said that it wants to know what the government has to say on this issue.

Parikh had said that this is an important issue in the pub-

lic interest and there is a recent judgement by this court which said that bribe-giver or bribe-taker both are prohibited.

He had submitted that Pharmaceutical companies are saying that they are not liable as the bribe-takers are the doctors and in foreign countries, they have legislation to curb these unethical marketing practices. Parikh said that the government should look into it and the code should be made statutory in nature as "we all know what happened with Remdesivir injections and other drugs of those combinations".

The top court had then asked the petitioner why can't a representation to the government be made to which Parikh had said they have already

done it.

He had said that they have been pursuing the issue with the government since 2009 and till the time the government comes out with the code to regulate, this court may lay down some guidelines.

The plea filed through advocate Aparna Bhat sought direction that till an effective law is enacted as prayed, this Court may lay down the guidelines to control and regulate unethical marketing practices by pharmaceutical companies or in the alternative make the existing Code binding with proper and reasonable modifications/additions, which should be followed by all the authorities/courts under Articles 32, 141, 142 and 144 of the Constitution.

‘Naidu doing politics with fake video clip’

Continued from Page 1

Nani said that a fake report was brought from Eclipse Laboratory in the US and the TDP leaders are busy holding press meets. Unable to stand the popularity of CM Jagan Mohan Reddy, the TDP leaders are resorting to mudslinging politics.

Nani alleged that Naidu, his 'adopted son' Pawan Kalyan and the TDP-supported media are spreading false pro-

paganda against CM Jagan. They are conspiring, again and again, to bring Naidu to power by any means, to rob the State and increase the wealth of their families. Nani found fault with Naidu and company for creating hatred among people on caste and religion lines in Konaseema district by attacking the houses of a Dalit minister and a BC M.L.A. Kodali Nani said that Chandrababu was resorting to degraded politics by implicating women. To

gain political mileage Babu walked out of the AP Assembly and wept inconsolably dragging his wife Bhuvaneshwari to the roads.

Till now none has lodged a complaint against MP Madhav's video, if the TDP knew anyone they should bring them out and make them file a complaint, as CM Jagan Mohan Reddy had said that anyone of any stature will be sent behind bars, clarified Nani.

Nani further said that all top posts are

given to the Kamma community by Naidu and pointed out that in Krishna district ZP chairman was given to Gadde Anuradha (Kamma), the candidate for Mayor post from TDP was given to Kesineni Swetha. To comment against MP Madhav's video the TDP roped in Dalit women Anitha and Greeshma.

Nani also stated that Naidu had begged for an apology from PM Modi five times in Delhi recently.



Honorarium for 5,196 pastors released

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The State government released Rs 2.59 crore toward the first installment of honorarium 5,196 for pastors in the State along the lines of 'Archakas' and 'Imams'. The State government will pay Rs 5,000 per month to pastors.

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Minority Welfare Amzad Basha handed over the first installment of honorarium to pastors at a programme held at a hotel in Vijayawada on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy CM Amzad Basha said that as per the government

policy, the first month's honorarium was credited to the respective pastors' bank accounts. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is working for the welfare of the poor and middle-class people in the State, he said.

He further said that the Minority department is creating awareness about the welfare schemes for minorities and also, honorariums to pastors. All eligible priests get the first installment of the honorariums and the remaining eligible persons would get in the second phase, he added.

Meanwhile, he said that on par with 'Archakas' and

'Imams', pastors who belong to poorer sections should honourable lives. The State government has released the welfare schemes schedule and as per the dates which decided the schemes are implemented, he said.

Social Justice Advisor Jupudi Prabhakara Rao, Vijayawada Central MLA Malladi Vishnu, MLA Yeliya, Christian Corporation Chairman Dr. John Weslee, Minority Welfare Department secretary A MD Imtiyaz, director Dr. GC Kishore, Wakf Survey Commissioner Shareen Begum and others participated.

Nayee Brahman group meets CM

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Representatives of Nayee Brahman Corporation and Sangham called on Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and thanked him for issuing a GO, banning certain derogatory words from being used against their community.

Those who called on the Chief Minister here on Thursday include Nayee Brahmana Corporation Chairman Siddapatnam Yanadaya, Nayee Brahman Seva Sangham State



general secretary Valluri Koteswara Rao, Nayee Brahmana

JAC State president G Ramadasu, I Sridevi, Nandini and others.



Stolen mobile phones worth Rs 16 lakh recovered

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Mobile phones worth Rs 16 lakh that were recovered after being stolen have been handed over to the owners.

At an event held at Vizianagaram, Superintendent of Police Deepika handed over the recovered mobile phones to the owners on Thursday. The police have set up WhatsApp number 8977945606 to lodge complaints. Special teams have been formed to nab the culprits based on the complaints.

SP Deepika said they were able to recover all the stolen cell phones with the help of a cyber team. The police have recovered 100 mobile phones from Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Chattisgarh.

A web portal, vzmmbotrack.in, has been launched in collaboration with the Vignan Engineering College to receive and keep track of the complaints, the SP said.

55 more Sachivalayams to provide Aadhaar services

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao distributed Aadhaar enrollment kits to the grama/ward sachivalayam Digital Assistants at the collectorate in Vijayawada on Thursday. With this initiative, people need not go to Mee Seva or Karvy for making changes in the Aadhaar. Another 55 sachivalayams will be providing these services across the district, taking the total number to 65.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Dilli Rao said that the State government was bringing services to the people. Earlier, the people had to visit Karvy and Mee Seva centres for making changes to Aadhaar cards. It was a complicated as well as time-consuming process, he said.

He further said that the Aadhaar card updation had been made easy and the peo-

ple need not go outside their mandals for getting the job done. As of now, 10 sachivalayams are providing the service and 55 more are ready.

He said that about 25 ward sachivalayams were providing the service in Vijayawada city. Five sachivalayams in Vijayawada Rural have been set up and the remaining mandals have two each. Each kit costs Rs.2 lakh and the people could use it to make changes to Aadhaar cards, he said.

Later, Collector Dilli Rao appreciated Digital Assistant K Jaya Swaroop, who is working at Takkellapadu grama sachivalayam of Jaggaiahpetta mandal, for rendering good service to the people.

Aadhar center's nodal officer BV Ramakrishna and Vijayawada Divisional Development Officer Kodali Anuradha were present.



'Jagan taking credit for firms launched during TDP rule'

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

TDP official spokesman GV Reddy here on Thursday said that the Jagan Mohan Reddy government is shamelessly taking credit for the companies with which agreements were entered into during the TDP regime.

Agreements with the companies to launch their units in Andhra Pradesh were entered into during the TDP rule. The Jagan Mohan Reddy government is only laying the foundation stone for these units and is shamelessly taking credit," GV Reddy said.

Talking to media persons through zoom, Reddy said N Chandrababu Naidu, as chief minister, visited several countries and entered into agreements with companies after convincing them to launch their units in the State. The ATC Tyres company is one of them and Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy and other YSRC leaders were campaigning that it is the credit of their party to get the unit to the State, GV Reddy said.

To launch any manufacturing unit it takes a minimum of two years time and the management takes everything into account, including assessing all the pros and cons. The whole process takes a minimum period of two years and to begin production it will take another



two years time. Chandrababu Naidu held discussions with the ATC company in 2018 and entered into an agreement after making all the promises to the company, including the allotment of land and other benefits.

The company got itself registered in 2019 November and began its production now. But Jagan Mohan Reddy is publicising that it is he who is responsible for the company launching its unit here, the TDP leader stated.

Except for demolishing the already built constructions, which Jagan Mohan Reddy is doing in the past three years. Has he held discussions with any company, he asked. "Even if he has held discussions with any company, it is possible to launch its unit here in just six months?" Reddy asked.

These are not shell companies to launch their units within a such short period as Jagan Mohan Reddy is claiming, GV Reddy said and stated that after the YSRC came to power several companies have shut down their units in Andhra Pradesh, he said adding that the State stood on top position in ease of doing business from 2016 to 2019.

"If companies are ready to move to Andhra Pradesh why are the youth migrating to neighbouring States in search of employment?" the TDP leader asked. The Amar Raja Battery unit was almost ready to move out of the State only because of the harassment by the YSRC Government, Reddy said and stated that Jagan Reddy always believed that development means not building constructions and getting companies to the State but distributing money to the people. But, he is now saying that companies should come to the State and only then development is possible, the TDP leader said.

The YSRC leaders should spell out the names of the companies that launched their units after the party came to power, he asked and said that the prices of petrol and diesel are the highest in the country. GV Reddy wanted the ruling party leaders to stop taking the people for a ride at least now.

Lokesh demands steps to solve problems of energy assistants

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP national general secretary, Nara Lokesh, on Thursday demanded that the State government immediately initiate measures to resolve the problems being faced by energy assistants in the State.

In a letter to Chief Minister, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Lokesh said that the energy assistants had brought the problems being faced in discharging their duties to his notice. "After studying their problems, I understand that the issues are genuine and thus I am writing to you to initiate immediate steps to resolve them," Lokesh said.

Stating that the secretariat system has been brought into existence after Jagan Mohan Reddy came to

power, the TDP general secretary said that the 1.34 lakh vacancies in various wings have been filled of whom 7,329 are appointed as energy assistants.

Instead of making use of their services in the secretariats, they are being treated as slaves following which they are being subjected to terrible mental harassment, Lokesh said and pointed out that these employees are working with no leaves and no holidays even for festivals.

They have been drawing a meagre monthly salary of Rs 13,500 for discharging the most dangerous duties. Though employees working in 19 of the 20 wings in the secretariat system are declared probationers, these energy assistants have been left out, Lokesh said.



TDP will come out with more facts on Gorantla: Pattabhiram

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The ruling YSRC should be ashamed of supporting their party MP Gorantla Madhav by claiming that the dirty video is fake.

The TDP national official spokesman, Kommareddy Pattabhiram, through a video message here on Thursday, said that the TDP has all the evidence and details of sending the video to world renowned forensic expert Jim Stafford and the original report in which he said that it is unedited and authentic. "We

have also the evidence on the amount that we paid for him for examining and studying the video," Pattabhiram said.

It is really shameful that Criminal Investigation Department (CID) chief, until Kumar, a short while ago told a media conference that the report submitted by Jim Stafford is fake. "Despite the clear evidence why the YSRC is still supporting Gorantla Madhav," he asked.

"How shameful it is to say that cases will be booked against TDP leaders for bringing the facts to light. Chief



Minister, Jagan Mohan Reddy, has a history of even forgetting the report of IIT, Chennai, he said adding that Jagan Mohan Reddy has a background of forging and producing fake documents. The YSRC leaders are not eligible to even talk

of the TDP leaders, Pattabhi said and revealed that the party will soon come out with more facts.

"We will soon put the actual report of Jim Stafford in the public domain," the TDP leader said and made it clear that there is no need for the TDP to make false claims. It is 100 per cent fact that Jim Stafford has examined the dirty video, studied it in detail and submitted a report to the TDP.

Sunil Kumar should immediately stop making such false claims and should try to do

justice to the woman involved in that dirty video, Pattabhiram said and demanded that the video be sent to Central forensic lab for examination.

The State government should answer as to why action has not been initiated yet against the MP despite the National Commission for Women ordering it, he asked. There is no need for the TDP to learn anything from those who have fake history and the government that supports such officials and leaders, he stated.

Talks on OPS inconclusive

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Employees' Joint Action Committees (JAC) leaders have made it clear that they would not accept anything less than the Old Pension System (OPS). A meeting was held with employees' JAC and the Joint Staff Council meeting at the Secretariat on the CPS issue on Thursday and ended without any conclusion.

Minister for Education Botsa Satyanarayana, Advisor to Government (Public Affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy from the Ministerial Sub-committee and higher officials participated in the talks with the Employees' JAC leaders.

During the meeting, the JAC leaders said that they had come with the hope that the Rajasthan policy would be implemented in Andhra Pradesh and sought that CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy should keep his promise. They further said that none of the JAC leaders are against the state government. When OPS had been implemented in Rajasthan, what was the difficulty in implementing it in AP, the leaders asked.

According to the JAC leaders, Andhra Pradesh has 1.99 lakh employees of which probation has been finalized for one lakh village and ward secretariat employees. The Joint Staff Council was formed on August 1, 2019, and the Officers Council was formed on November 27 of the same year



Minister for Education Botsa Satyanarayana, Advisor to Govt (Public Affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy from the Ministerial Sub-committee, and higher officials held talks with Employees' JAC leaders

ee's share will be transferred to their PF accounts. Employees have to contribute 12% towards PF in basic.

The JAC leaders said that the calculations projected by the government for canceling CPS are wrong and said that they are against GPS. "We will not accept an alternative to OPS. CPS employees have not been given DA arrears for the last 35 months. If OPS was not implemented by September 1, the JAS leaders will lay siege to CM's house."

JAC leader Appalaraju said that they will not believe false statements anymore. They will not accept GPS made by the government. CM Jagan promised to cancel CPS within a week after coming to power and after three years of deceiving the employees in the name of GPS. He warned that the movement will not be stopped under any circumstances until the OPS is announced.

The meeting was attended by Government representatives along with AP NGO Association President Bandi Srinivasa Rao, AP Secretariat Association President Venkatrami Reddy, AP Revenue Services Association President Bopparaju Venkateswarlu, AP Government Employees Association President KR Suryanarayana, RTC Employees Union President YV Rao, Teachers Union Leaders, Leaders of CPS and others were present.



Photographers play a vital role at any event: Mopidevi

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Ruling party MP Mopidevi Venkatarama lauded the photographers for playing a significant role at any event.

AP Photography Academy organised a programme here on Thursday on the occasion of World Photography Day. Speaking on the occasion, the MP said that without a photographer no event is held. All people ask for a photographer before the beginning of the event, which reflects the vital role the photographer plays, the MP said.

The MP recalled that when he was studying 10th Class he used to take photos with a small camera. He used to take photos of sand dunes, he recalled. Sometimes, the photographers were involved in

accidents while taking pictures, the MP said.

Chief Whip Mudunuri Prasad Raju said that the art of photography is not possible for all and only some talented persons could excel in the field of photography. The Whip assured the photographers to extend the required help to them. AP State Council of Higher Education chairman Prof K Hemachandra Reddy also spoke.

Fellow Royal Photography Society general secretary Srinivasa Reddy was felicitated by the MP on the occasion. President M Ravindranath, Treasurer RV Sharma, and Andhra Pradesh Arts Academy general secretary Galla Narayana Rao were among those who attended the programme.

BJP leaders join YSRC

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A large number of BJP workers and BC leaders, led by BJP leader Maddula Raja Yadav, from the Guntur district joined the ruling YSR Congress Party at Tadepalli here on Thursday. They were inducted into the YSRC fold by the party's National General Secretary and Rajya Sabha member Vijaysai Reddy and MLC Lella Appireddy by presenting them with party scarves.

After joining the YSRC, former BJP leader Maddula Raja Yadav said that he was inspired by the administration of the YS Jagan government which is working for the welfare of BCs and taking the state to new heights of development. He said he wanted to work under the able leadership of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. He also vowed to work for the development of YSRC in the undivided Guntur district.



NTRUHS Women's Games off to a vibrant start

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences Inter-collegiate Women's Games has kicked off on a grand note. As many as 620 medicos from 27 medical and dental colleges are attending the three-day tournament that is taking place at the Dr. Pinnamaneni Siddhartha Institute of Medical Sciences at Chinna Avutapalli of Gannavaram Mandal in Krishna district. NTRUHS Vice-Chancellor Dr. P Shyam Prasad inaugurated the three-day tournament by releasing colourful balloons into the sky, on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor said it

was a great thing that women medicos were enthusiastically participating in the games, though they were very busy with their classes. "Health University is giving priority to both studies and sports and games," he added.

"All medical and dental students can enjoy playing games during these three days. If the students are active in sports and games, they will have more strength and be more energetic in the future," he said.

He further said that for the first time, medical students won the gold medal in the All-India Inter University Roller Skating Championship. He congratulated the players who participated in the champi-

onship and presented medals to the winners.

Siddhartha Academy of General & Technical Education president Dr. C Nageswara Rao, secretary P Lakshmana

Rao, guests N Lalitha Prasad, Dr. B Anil Kumar, NTRUHS Sports Board Secretary Dr. E Trimurthy, Dr. PSIMS Principal Dr. PSN Murthy and others were present.

RESULTS (DAY1)	
Ball Badminton:	Dr. PSIMS, Chinna Avutapalli beat Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam 35-18
Table Tennis:	Dr. S&NR Dental, Chinna Avutapalli beat Sibar Dental, Guntur 3-1; GSL Dental, Rajamahendravaram, beat Narayana Dental, Nellore, 3-0
Throwball:	GSL Medical College, Rajamahendravaram, beat Vishnu Dental College, Bhimavaram 15-0, 15-9; SMC, Vijayawada beat Narayana Medical College, Nellore, 15-12, 15-6, 15-12
	GEMS, Srikakulam, beat Sibar Dental, Guntur, 15-3, 15-6 Anil Neerukonda Dental, Vizag beat Venkateswara Rao MC, Tirupati 15-5, 12-3.



Govt providing new farm power connections: Kakani

PNS ■ NELLORE

Minister for Agriculture Kakani Govardhan Reddy has said that new power connections under YSR free power supply are being provided in the Nellore district. As many as 1.91 lakh farmers in Nellore district were being provided free electricity for agriculture purposes for which the government is spending Rs 70 crore, he informed.

The minister formally handed over 55 electrical transformers to utilize under YSR free agriculture power supply scheme at Podalakur village on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion he reiterated that the government is committed to the welfare of farmers stating that 1.91 farmers are getting Rs 70 crore worth of free power in the Nellore district itself.

The minister reminded that the then Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy had given



seven hours of free power supply to the farmers and now YS Jagan Mohan Reddy headed government is providing 9 hours of free power supply to the farmers.

He said that the then Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy had launched a free power supply scheme to the farmers and for this purpose, two power plants with a capacity of 1600 MW each were established in

the Nellore district. "Besides providing free power to the farmers, the government is able to provide quality power for the domestic needs. Power connection is being to the farmers who paid deposit money previously," he informed, adding that 476 farmers in Sarvepalli Assembly constituency submitted applications for free power of which 301 farmers deposited money.

In order to provide them with free power, the 55 electric transformers were handed over to the farmers today through the electricity department. The minister said that 3,336 farmers were sanctioned for power connection in the Sarvepalli constituency for which Rs 32 crore was spent.

The minister said that the state government is implementing many programs to provide financial support to the farmers keeping in view the welfare of the farmers who make their living from agriculture. As part of the 'Gadapa Gadapaku' programme, when they went to villages, they were asked to construct cement roads and drainage canals, and provide electricity facilities.

The electricity department officials sent their proposals for 5984 electrical poles to be erected across the district to provide new power connections.

Minister lays stone for shopping complex

PNS ■ NARASARAOPET

Minister for Municipal Administration Audimulapu Suresh laid the foundation stone for the construction of a mega Municipal Shopping Complex in Vinukonda town on Thursday. He also unveiled the plaque on the occasion.

The shopping complex would be constructed at a cost of Rs 35.40 crore. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Suresh said that all required help would be extended for the development of Vinukonda town. He said that the shopping complex would come in sprawling 28 acres of NSP land.

The minister said that Vinukonda town is rapidly expanding and it needs massive development also. He lauded that local MLA Bolla Brahmanaidu had striven hard for the construction of a municipal complex in Vinukonda. In the previous TDP regime, the development of the town was ignored, he alleged.

The minister said steps were being taken to tackle the drinking water scarcity efficiently, to construct CC roads and a stadium in the town. Vinukonda would play a vital role in the newly formed Palnadu district, he added.

MLA Bolla Brahmanaidu assured to beautify Vinukonda by carrying out various development works. He said that the government lands which were lying waste were being handed over to the municipality with the government's approval for



development, he said.

The MLA dismissed the TDP leaders' claim that Rs 160 crore was sanctioned to meet the drinking water shortage in the town. The MLA questioned the TDP leader about what they had done during the last 10 years for the development of Vinukonda town.

The MLA informed that the mega shopping complex consists of 206 shops. He also said that the construction of shopping complexes and parks along with many development works has been undertaken at the RTC bus stand and Karampudi

Road.

He warned of strict action if anyone encroaches on government lands and roads. He promised to construct 40 feet of roads all over Vinukonda town and steps would be taken to resolve the traffic congestion in the town.

Municipal Chairman Dr Dastagiri, Vice-Chairman Telakula Rajesh Khanna, Betham Gabriel, Market Yard Chairman Gandham Balireddy, MPP Jayashree Venkatarami Reddy, Municipal Commissioner B Srinivasulu and DEE Venkaiah were present in the programme.



Expedite investigation into atrocity cases under SC/ST Act: SP

PNS ■ BAPATLA

Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal directed the district police officials to expedite the investigation of the SC/ST Atrocities cases.

The SP held a review meeting with the DSPs of the district regarding SC/ST Atrocity cases on Thursday. The officials were asked about the investigation, progress, arrest of the accused, filing of charge sheet and the manner of investigation after thoroughly examining each case file.

After examining the SC and ST case files where the stay order is pending in the Andhra Pradesh State High Court, after thoroughly considering the issues contained in the stay order, the officials explained to the SP that if a counter-petition is filed in the

court to vacate the stay in the said cases, there is a possibility of lifting the stay order.

In the SC/ST Atrocity cases, the police officials were informed to get the caste certificate from the concerned authorities as soon as possible, speed up the investigation, file the charge sheet in the concerned court and get the SC number as soon as possible.

On this occasion, the District SP told the officials that the complaint was received on the crimes against the SCs and STs, the investigation should be started quickly and action should be taken against the accused who were involved in the crime. Bapatla District SC/ST Cell DSP A V Ramana and other dignitaries participated in this programme.

Madhav's video shameful: Balayya

PNS ■ ANANTAPUR

Hindupur TDP MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna described MP Gorantla Mahav's alleged nude video as a shameful act.

Balakrishna participated in the 'Badude Badudu' programme at Lepakshi in the Sri Satya Sai district on Thursday. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, he said that the MP's act was shameful to society. The people of the state voted the YSRCP to power but the YSRCP leaders had betrayed them.

"Instead of being involved in the service to the people and resolving their grievances, the MP indulged in a shameful act



by appearing nude in the video," he alleged and demanded that the Chief Minister tell people what action had been taken against the MP.

The people of the State were

facing hardships with the inefficient governance, he slammed. The government is being run by borrowing huge amounts of loans. The government had failed to supply fertilizers and

seeds to the farmers on subsidized prices, he lashed out.

Earlier, Balakrishna was accorded a warm welcome at the Thumkunta checkpoint by a large number of TDP activists. He, along with his wife Vasundhara Devi, inaugurated NTR Arogya Radham at Chalivendula village.

The ruling party yielded to the Centre by voting for the NDA candidate, he said and recalled that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy promised the people if he would exert pressure on the Centre to accord Special Category Status if 25 MPs were given. Now the YSRCP had forgotten the SCS issue, he charged.

AP top in EoDB for last 3 years: MLA

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Central MLA Malladi Vishnu has said that Andhra Pradesh has retained the first position in the Ease of Doing Business for the past three years consecutively. The State government is implementing and following the easiest methods for the establishment of industries in the State, he said.

MLA Vishnu conducted 'Gadapa Gadapaku Mana Prabhutvam' at Ramalingeswara Pet under 232nd ward sachivalayam of 32nd division in Vijayawada on Thursday. During the door-to-door campaign, he explained the State government's development and welfare schemes to the people.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Vishnu said that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy took several investments for the State, and that the TDP had no right to talk about his CM. The Opposition party had been making false allegations regarding investments, he



said. Because of CM Jagan's vision, many industries have been coming to Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, and Tirupati, he added.

Further, he said at the time of the TDP rule, industrial development was on paper only. They were told about Rs.20 lakh crore investments would come to AP, but none came. After YSRCP came to power, investments to the tune of Rs.34,696 crore came in 2019, Rs.9,840 crore in 2020, and Rs.1,039 crore in 2021, he added. For another Rs.1.25 lakh crore, an MoU was signed in Davos, he

said. "Andhra Pradesh has been standing in first place in Ease of Doing Business for three consecutive years. CM Jagan is creating confidence in industrialists," he added.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Deputy Mayor Avuthu Sri Sailaja, Co Option Member G Subhashini, Zonal Commissioner In charge Ambedkar, DE (Water & UGD) Ramakrishna, RI (Revenue) Prasad, YSRCP leaders G Sundar, G Venkateswara Reddy, Shyam, Veeranki Nagu and others were present.



Officials directed to make fool-proof arrangements

PNS ■ NELLORE

Minister for Agriculture Kakani Govardhan Reddy directed the officials concerned to make elaborate arrangements for the immersion of Ganesha idols. The minister held a review meeting with the SP Vijay Rao, MLA Kotam Reddy Sridhar Reddy, and other officials here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that instead of immersing the Ganesha idols in the river Penna, the Ganesha idols would be immersed in the Swarnala tank near Irukala Parameswari Ammavari Devasthanam this year. The Minister asked all the organizers of the Vinayaka Chavithi festival to take note of this change.

Similarly, police permission is required for installing Ganesha idols and public audio systems. Electricity authorities were directed to take measures to provide an uninterrupted power supply at Ganesha pandals and at the immersion sites. The minister directed the officials to take steps to weed out the hyacinth creeper from the Swarnalata irrigation tank and keep the area clean. He also

asked the officials to ensure that there is sufficient water in the irrigation tank.

MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy called on all to make efforts to complete the Ganesha festival successfully without any ego. Coordinated efforts are needed to organise the immersion programme successfully as lakhs of people participate in it, he said. The MP announced that he would allocate Rs 25 lakh from his MPLAD for the programme.

Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy said that in order to organize the Vinayaka Chavithi festival happily and grandly, an immersion committee is being formed in support of the Vikrama Simhapuri Ganesha festival committee. NUDA chairman Mukkula Dwarakanath said that Rs 20 lakh would be released from the NUDA funds to organise the Ganesha festival and immersion in a grand manner. Mayor Potluri Sravani, deputy Mayors Rup Kumar Yadav, Khalil Ahmad, SP Vijaya Rao, Joint Collector R Kurmanath and municipal Commissioner Harita were among those who attended the meeting.

Indoor shooting range inaugurated at INS Karna

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The first-of-its-kind Composite Indoor Shooting Range (CISR) was inaugurated by Vice Adm Biswajit Dasgupta, AVSM, YSM, VSM, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, at INS Karna, on the Eastern Seaboard on Thursday. The CISR is a state-of-the-art, self-contained, 25-metre, six-lane, live firing range for all primary and secondary weapons in the Navy. With advanced target systems with associated control software, this range would enable personnel to hone their firing skills, enabling them to challenge and take on adversaries in demanding scenarios.

The range has been set up with contemporary interna-



tional standards by an Indian firm and is a shining example of Atma Nirbhar Bharat in the year of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The entire facility was set up in a record time of

120 days from the award of contract to the firm.

INS Karna is the first in the Navy and perhaps the only military unit in the country to set up and use CISR. The facility

would significantly enhance the operational capability of the Naval personnel of ENC, enabling them to better undertake the wide gamut of tasks that they are mandated to per-

form over the entire area of responsibility by allowing uninterrupted training in controlled conditions for a wide variety of weapons and simulated situations.

'GADAPA GADAPAKU' PROGRAMME Balineni gets rousing welcome

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Ruling party MLA and former Minister Balineni Srinivasa Reddy has received a rousing welcome when he visited the NTR colony in the Gadapa Gadapaku programme.

The minister visited the NTR colony on Thursday along with large number of YSRCP leaders and activists under the Gadapa Gadapaku Ku Mana Prabutwam programme.

The women of the colony welcomed him by offering

traditional 'harathi'. The dwellers of the colony brought to the notice of the MLA about the problems they were facing in the colony.

The colony residents told Balineni that they were getting the benefits of welfare schemes. Corporators Vennapusa Sobharani, Venkata Reddy, BC Cell district president Katari Shankar, Commissioner M Venkateswara Rao, A Ghanashyam other leaders were among those who accompanied MLA Balineni.



8 injured as bus overturns

PNS ■ ANANTAPUR

As many as eight people were injured when the private travels' Volvo bus in which they were travelling overturned at Chilamatturu village in Koduru mandal on the National Highway in the wee hours on Thursday in Sri Sathya Sai district.

Police said that the private Volvo bus was going to Hyderabad from Bangalore. The bus veered off the road and overturned at a field after hitting a stationary lorry. As many as 36 passengers were travelling in the bus when the mishap took place of which six were injured. The injured were admitted to the Government hospital in Hindupur. The bus passengers said that speed and reckless driving were the reasons for the accident. The police held the bus driver and registered a case.

MLC inaugurates basketball tournament



PNS ■ GUNTUR

Ruling party MLC Lella Appireddy inaugurated the State level basketball tournament being played in the NTR stadium here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLC assured to make Guntur as a hub for sports. He said that the NTR stadium is being developed as one of the best stadiums in the state by

providing all facilities. The MLC said that he was haunted by the feeling that the Guntur district was not getting enough recognition. That's why in the first days of his election as MLC, he thought of building a new basketball court at NTR Stadium, he said.

Appireddy appreciated that this tournament is being organised by all irrespective of

their affiliations to various groups and it was a good sign that many such tournaments could be held here.

Sports should not be linked with politics, he said that tournaments should be held transparently and players should be selected based on their talent. State Basketball Association president Chengalrayudu called upon the players to play with team spirit.



INDIA CORNER

Inappropriate advances rejected, 46-year-old Guj man kills teen girl

A 46-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing a teenaged girl in Kheda in Gujarat after the latter stopped talking to him recently, a police official said on Thursday. Raju Patel was angry after the girl, who was his niece's friend, stopped talking to him when he said he was attracted towards her, the official added. On Wednesday evening, Patel attacked the 16-year-old girl with a paper cutter in Traj village, said Kheda Superintendent of Police Rajesh Gadhiya. "She was returning home with another girl and had stopped to buy cold drinks. Patel attacked her with a paper cutter that he had bought from a stationery shop. He fled after slitting her throat and slashing her wrist. The girl died on the spot," the SP said. Patel was nabbed on Thursday morning, the SP said, adding that the accused is a divorcee who lived with his mother and elder brother's family in the village. The girl used to talk to him when she visited his niece, but stopped coming to their house to avoid his inappropriate advances, which angered him, the SP added.



Teen commits suicide after being beaten up by school principal

Days after he was allegedly scolded and beaten up by his school principal in Haryana's Adampur, a 14-year-old boy committed suicide by jumping in front of a train, police said on Thursday. On the complaint of the boy's family, the principal of the private school has been booked, they said. In the complaint, the family alleged that the teenage boy, a student of class 9, was scolded and thrashed by his principal a few times, saying he was not fit to study. On August 10, the boy jumped before a passenger train in Hissar district, SHO of Government Railway Police, Hissar, Naresh Kumar said. The family initially thought that the child had taken the extreme step due to some other reason, he said. However, after his sister and some classmates told the family that the boy was scolded and beaten up by the principal during the past several days, the family lodged a complaint against him, he said. They said the boy was unable to bear the torture. The CCTV footage revealed that the said incident happened on August 8 and 9, Kumar said.



Red alert in parts of Odisha due to possible formation of new depression

A fresh spell of torrential rain over the next two days, owing to with the formation of a new low pressure area on Thursday, may exacerbate the flood situation in Odisha. The weather system, third in two weeks, took shape over the northeast Bay of Bengal in the morning and is set to concentrate into a well-marked low pressure, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said. It is expected to intensify into a depression over the northern Bay on Friday morning and move northwestwards across the Gangetic West Bengal, north Odisha and Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand, according to a bulletin. The Met office asked fisherfolk who are in deep sea to return to the coast by Thursday. They have been advised not to venture off the coasts of Odisha and West Bengal for the next two days as the sea can be very rough. Squally weather with wind speed of 45-65 kmph is expected over the northern Bay. The weatherman issued a red alert of extremely heavy rain in parts of Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj on Friday.



India, Philippines to expand ties in fintech, education

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and the Philippines have vowed to expand their ties in sectors like civil aviation, fintech, education, and defence and security.

The decision was taken at the 13th India-Philippines Foreign Office Consultations and fourth Strategic Dialogue that took place in Manila on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Indian delegation at the talks was led by Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The bilateral defence and security ties between India and the Philippines have been on an upswing in the past few years.

In January, the Philippines concluded a USD 375 million deal with India for the procurement of three batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile.

India signed a framework agreement with the Philippines in March that provided for government-to-government



deals for the supply of defence hardware and equipment.

On the two-day talks, the MEA said both sides expressed their desire to advance bilateral relations and expand engagement in areas such as agriculture, trade, pharmaceuticals, fintech, education, defence and security, and people

to people ties. "It was also agreed to work to expand engagement in other fields such as space, development cooperation and civil aviation," the MEA said in a statement.

The MEA said the two sides agreed to convene bilateral mechanisms in different sectors

at an early date.

"During the Strategic Dialogue held on August 18, the two sides discussed India-Philippines defence and security cooperation and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest as well as ASEAN related matters," the MEA said.

PM Modi working to make Arunachal a gateway to East Asia: Jitendra Singh

PNS ■ ITANAGAR

Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working to make Arunachal Pradesh a major gateway to East Asia.

He said the work culture of Northeast has seen revolutionary transformation in the last eight years.

As a result, the minister said, now the projects in Northeast are getting completed within a fixed timeline and the utilisation of central funds is almost 100 per cent.

"Every state is connected to the Union capital by railway and each of the eight states is coming up with its airport whereas Guwahati has turned into an important international airport," Singh said.

Inaugurating a two-day regional conference on the theme "Bringing Citizens and Government Closer through Administrative Reforms" here along with Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Singh said, prior to 2014, the North Eastern region suffered



economically due to myopic policies of successive central governments.

But soon after the Modi government took over in 2014, the prime minister had stated that every effort would be made to bring the region at par with the more developed areas of the country, the minister said.

Singh said Prime Minister Modi is working to make Arunachal a major gateway to East Asia.

"Modern infrastructure is set up, seeing Arunachal's role regarding national security. Nature has endowed Arunachal with a lot of its treasures and the Centre is also trying to take the tourism potential of Arunachal to the whole world, he said.

All options open, including joining BJP: RCP Singh

PNS ■ PATNA

Former JD(U) national president RCP Singh, who was in the eye of a political storm in Bihar, on Thursday said he was keeping "all options open", including a formal entry into the BJP.

The former Union minister also lashed out at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for the latest political u-turn that saw the de facto JD(U) leader dumping the BJP and realigning with the "Mahagathbandhan" of the RJD, Congress and the Left.

"I have all options open", said Singh and when pointedly asked whether he would like to join the BJP, he quipped "why not?"

The bureaucrat turned politician, who had to give up his ministerial berth upon denial of another Rajya Sabha term by the JD(U), maintained that Kumar, the de facto leader of the party, "will not become the prime minister even if he were to be reborn seven times".



"These are not times of political instability in the country when Chandra Shekhar, H D Deve Gowda, I K Gujaral etc. could enjoy brief stints as PM, said Singh.

The JD(U) accused Singh of having become a mole of the saffron camp.

He denied allegations of having acted against the JD(U)'s interests at BJP's behest in the last assembly polls of 2020, and a few months later, having become a Union minister without the consent of the Bihar CM.

"Why was the alliance not called off immediately after assembly polls if there was sabotage (bhitarghaat)? Why did senior party leaders congratulate me if my becoming a minister was an act of defiance?", asked Singh.

He alleged that Kumar "had made up his mind to betray the mandate of 2020 when people had voted the NDA back to power. I am just being used as an alibi to justify yet another volte face. I wonder how many times can he switch sides".

Swamy takes swipe at BJP over Parl board rejig

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



A day after the BJP revamped its parliamentary board, its former MP Subramanian Swamy took a

dig at its leadership for "lack" of organisational elections to fill office-bearer posts and alleged leaders are nominated to every post with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's approval. "In early days of Janata Party and then BJP, we had party and parliamentary party elections to fill office bearers posts. Party Constitution requires it. Today in BJP there are no elections whatsoever. To every post is nominated a member with the approval of Modi," he claimed in a tweet. BJP sources, though, said it has always been the convention within the party that its president nominates party members to different positions. The party national executive or other appropriate bodies then ratify the appointments, they added. The maverick politician, who has long been critical of the Modi government over a number of issues, also met Trinamool Congress leader and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Thursday.

Bhim Army chief detained at Jodhpur airport again

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar Aazad was once again detained at the airport here while on his way to Jalore to meet the family of a Dalit boy who died allegedly after being beaten up by his schoolteacher for touching a water pot.

He was detained at the Jodhpur airport for over three hours on Wednesday and allowed to leave around 7.30 pm after he assured that that he would not go to Jalore, around 150 km from the airport.

However, as he came out of the airport, Aazad told

reporters that he won't return without meeting the boy's family.

On Thursday, he came to Jodhpur in a flight from Delhi and police took him to the police station near the airport.

"Talks are going on at the police station," an official said. Meanwhile, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Chirag Paswan reached Jalore from Delhi via road to meet the boy's family members.

The probe into the case has so far could not establish that the boy was beaten up because he touched a water pot.

"The investigation is going

on but it could not be established so far that he was beaten because he touched a water pot," Jalore SP Harsh Vardhan Agarwalla said.

Indra Meghwal, a student of a private school in Surana village of Rajasthan's Jalore district, was beaten up by his teacher on July 20 for allegedly touching a drinking water pot.

The boy succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Ahmedabad on August 13.

Additional police force has been deployed in his village in view of the visit of Bhim Army leaders.

CBI searches 25 locations over coins worth Rs 11 crore going missing from SBI vaults

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday conducted searches at 25 locations in connection with a case of coins worth Rs 11 crore going missing from the vaults of an SBI branch in Karauli in Rajasthan, officials said Friday.

The central agency had registered the case on April 13 following an order of the Rajasthan High Court, they said.

The searches were spread



across 25 locations in Delhi, Jaipur, Dausa, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Alwar, Udaipur and Bhilwara at the premises of around 15 former bank officials and others, they said. The matter came to light

after the State Bank of India (SBI) branch decided to carry out counting of money after a preliminary enquiry indicated discrepancy in its cash reserve in August, 2021.

The counting was outsourced to a private vendor which revealed that over Rs 11 crore worth of coins were missing from the branch.

Only 3,000 coin bags carrying about Rs 2 crore could be accounted for and were transferred to the RBI's coin holding branch.

Kerala Police detain Customs officer; gold and currency seized

PNS ■ KOZHIKODE (KERALA)

A Customs officer was detained by the Kerala police after their investigation into a gold smuggling through the Karipur International Airport here reached him, police said.

The Superintendent ranking officer was taken into custody from outside the Airport on Thursday while he was allegedly waiting for two carriers without knowing the fact that they were already apprehended by the police.

As much as 320 grams of gold was recovered from him on the spot and later seized an amount of Rs 4,42,000 from a room where he was staying.

While being taken into custody, he had not disclosed his official identity, they said. Police came to know about his identity during the search of his room.

According to police, the customs officer allegedly helped the carriers, who landed

at the airport from Dubai in an early morning flight, to smuggle 320 grams of gold they had brought, out of the airport.

When the duo was apprehended with a certain amount of gold, they were getting repeated calls from a number to which police set a trap and asked the caller to come to a specific spot.

When the man reached the spot to meet the carriers, the police detained him. The Customs officer, who was not in his official uniform, and recovered gold

from him. The officer was not arrested as the police do not have the mandate to do so but the procedures have been initiated under CrPC Section 102 (Power of police officer to seize certain property) against him and the matter will be reported to the Customs authorities.

The customs department has not reacted to the developments.



'Netaji': Book offers unmatched portrait of Subhas Chandra Bose

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A new book "Netaji" offers a rare in-depth account of Subhas Chandra Bose's political motivations, his personal relationships, and the daring military campaigns he undertook to secure India's independence.

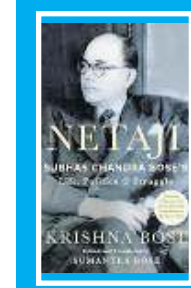
Originally written in Bengali by the late scholar and Bose's family member Krishna Bose, the writings reveal the "human being alongside the revolutionary and freedom fighter", traversing Bose's life from childhood to his death in August 1945.

The writings were compiled, edited and translated by her

son Sumantra Bose.

"I have long felt that a prime selection of my mother's best writing on Netaji, the INA and the struggle for India's freedom should be available in English. . . My mother was so full of vitality till the end of her life, despite some physical infirmities due to advanced age, that I had expected her to live a few years longer, into her nineties," writes Sumantra in the book, author of recently published "Kashmir at the Crossroads: Inside a 21st-Century Conflict".

"But there can be no better time for the publication of this volume -- which presents a unique, composite portrait of



"There can be no better time for the publication of this volume -- which presents a unique, composite portrait of Subhas Chandra Bose -- than the 75th anniversary of India's independence."
— Sumantra Bose

Subhas Chandra Bose -- than the 75th anniversary of India's independence," Sumantra Bose added.

August 18, 2022 marks the 77th death anniversary of Netaji, who -- notwithstanding

the mystery surrounding his demise -- is widely believed to have died in a plane crash in Taiwan.

Aiming to bring an end to the controversies and conspiracy theories surrounding the

freedom fighter, the over 300-page book gives a detailed and evidence-based account of Netaji's death in one of its chapters.

Featuring 95 images and letters from family albums and Netaji Research Bureau archives, this nuanced and revelatory portrait of Netaji contains intriguing accounts of his personal relationships as well as those with his key political contemporaries from Nehru and Gandhi to Tojo and Hitler.

"It also contains a detailed account of the women who influenced Netaji (his mother, adoptive mother, wife, and close friends as well as the sol-

diers of the all-women Rani of Jhansi regiment), an eyewitness account of Netaji's epic struggle in Europe and Asia, his secret submarine journey and escape from his Calcutta home . . . and the Andamans where Netaji raised the national tricolour," read publishing house Pan Macmillan's description of the book.

Krishna Bose, a former MP from West Bengal, was married to Sisir Kumar Bose -- the son of Netaji's older brother and lifelong confidant Sarat Chandra Bose. After Sisir's death, she served as Netaji Research Bureau (NRB) chairperson for two decades until her death in 2020.

Guv requests Centre for separate IAS cadre for Arunachal Pradesh

PNS ■ ITANAGAR

Arunachal Pradesh Governor Brig Dr B D Mishra (Retd) on Thursday requested the Centre for creating a separate Indian Administrative Service (IAS) cadre for the state.

The governor took up the issue of a separate IAS cadre for Arunachal Pradesh, when Union Minister of State for Personnel and Public Grievances, Jitendra Singh called on him at Raj Bhavan here.

During the meeting, the governor said that a separate cadre would go a long way in laying a strong foundation of public administration and

good governance in the state.

Till that is done the minimum tenure of IAS and IPS officers being posted to Arunachal Pradesh should be a minimum of 5 years, Mishra urged the minister. The present tenure of IAS and IPS officers posted in Arunachal Pradesh is three years.

Mishra commended the Centre for organizing the two day regional conference, which aims to implement good governance practices.

He said that it would reinforce Prime Minister's commitment towards transparency, Justice for All and the people friendly reforms.

Correct decision

The government blocks eight YouTube news channels, one Facebook account, and two Facebook posts

The Narendra Modi government has done well by blocking eight YouTube-based news channels, one Facebook account, and two Facebook posts. While seven blocked YouTube channels are Indian, one is run from Pakistan. The government has said it has proscribed the platforms spreading disinformation related to India's national security, foreign relations, and public order. A quick look at some of the posts, screenshots of which are in the official press release, suggests that they were indulging in something worse than fake news. Fake news can also be the result of a lazy reporter's credulity, but some of the stories these folks have been posting were, to put it mildly, preposterous. Loktantra Tv, for instance, gave the 'news' that Modi has banned Bakr-eid celebrations. Also, a holy war has started in India and Shankaracharya Nishchalananda Saraswati will lead the attack on Mecca and Medina. Another YouTube channel U&V TV posted that Modi is facing treason charges. AM Razvi's YouTube channel reported about



not just disturbances in Ajmer Dargah but also that the Army had to be deployed. Gouravshali Pawan Mithilanchal, another YouTube channel, reported even more sensational and incredible: that India and Egypt have attacked Turkey. Pakistan's News ki Dunya posted that 100 crore Hindus will kill 40 crore Muslims, and that Muslims should go to Pakistan or Bangladesh. Another post showed that India's Qutub Minar mosque has been demolished. No journalist, however incompetent, would run such outlandish 'news' stories without checking several times the source and the authenticity of such 'news.'

The government has correctly pointed out that the purpose of the content published by some of these YouTube channels was to spread hatred among religious communities in India. Free speech is a right that needs to be protected everywhere, but it is also constrained by the harm principle: that is, you cannot use freedom of expression to hurt others. The content mentioned in the press release is capable of causing a great deal of harm to people by creating disharmony in society, even triggering communal riots. The YouTubers should also learn a lesson from the government action. Social media platforms offer a lot of opportunities to non-journalists to present news and views; many of them have also gained in the process. However, they must remember that while Article 19 of the Constitution grants the freedom of speech and expression, it also imposes reasonable restrictions "in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence." There is another problem: if the users of social media platforms don't behave themselves, it gives the authorities a pretext to come up with restrictive rules and regulations. It is time that irresponsible YouTube-based news channels, and even some mainstream media channels, didn't abuse free speech.

PICTALK



Children dressed as Lord Krishna and Radha during a fancy dress competition on Janmashtami at ISKCON temple

Confusion at highest level

Government's stand on refugees remains ambiguous, especially on the Rohingyas

India's refugee policy remains confused and rudderless, to say the least. Often the ministry and the minister are at a cross purpose giving a red face to the government. An unnecessary controversy erupted over providing residential flats to the Rohingya refugees living in Delhi in the Bakkarwala area of Delhi. In fact, Hardeep Puri, minister for Housing and urban affairs tweeted several times on Wednesday morning flaunting the government's decision to provide the flats to the Rohingyas. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs in a press release reverted Minister's decision saying that all the Rohingya were illegal immigrants who were to be returned to their home country and that the refugees would continue to stay at their present location. The Home Ministry communique said that the Delhi government has been asked not to move the refugees who would remain in their present location. The MHA



calls the present location of Rohingyas a 'detention center' and Rohingyas 'Illegal foreigners'. In fact, it went on to direct the government of Delhi to declare officially the present address of Rohingyas as a detention center. The MHA decision left him no choice but to chew his words. Puri had gone on to say that it was a landmark decision and that the refugees would be provided with the basic amenities, identity cards (issued by the UNHCR), and security. So the government raised the hopes of Rohingya refugees in the morning and dashed them by the evening.

Rohingyas made their way to India to escape the Myanmar Army's pogrom that has been termed by the UN as one of the worst genocide in history. In Delhi, After a mysterious fire broke out in the Okhla settlement of the Rohingyas, KalindiKunj area in New Delhi they were shifted to their present location. Curiously Rohingya refugee camps in India have witnessed four fires in 2021 alone. Between 2016 and 2021, 12 mysterious fires broke out in Rohingya camps. Most of these fires show a trend, they broke at night and were preceded by threats of eviction or bigotry but are blamed on the short circuit. Whether we should allow these refugees to live in our country is subject to debate and a policy decision of the government but till they are deported it is the duty of the government to provide them basic amenities and safety and security which are enshrined in the UN. Each individual even an illegal immigrant has the right to life and it is our duty to safeguard it, regardless.

Surviving in the times of zealotry

The attack on Salman Rushdie raises many questions. Love is perhaps the only way to deal with hatemongers, hate begets hate



INDIRA SHEKHAR SINGH

Salman Rushdie lives! Stitched up and sedated, he does talk and hasn't lost his sense of humour. But there is some question India@75 must answer. How do we react when one of the most famous Indian-origin people alive is brutally stabbed in a public event in the US? We must begin to question.

After watching the video a few times and reading a dozen articles with eye-witness accounts the picture got murkier. But let's do a quick recap, to get the fact clear. Rushdie is no ordinary writer, he has been under threat for decades due to a death fatwa issued against him by a religious leader in Iran. He was living in Britain then, and for years under the protectorate of the British secret service. The British government no doubt used him as a pawn in the geo-political cat and mouse with Iran and the EU, but nevertheless protected his life from assailants in Britain and the world at large. Even Rushdie salutes the heroic efforts of security personnel that protected him over the years. Meanwhile, the British foreign office along with concerned citizens and nations successfully pressured Iran to not enforce the Fatwa.

Post the non-enforcement stance taken by Iran, Salman Rushdie began returning to his normal life and eventually moved across the pond to the US. He was even been allowed into India.

But let's go back to the attack now. First question if the attacker wanted to kill Rushdie, why didn't he use a gun? Thank god he didn't use it, but why didn't he? Buying a small caliber weapon is as easy as buying candy in many parts of America, so why didn't the attacker use one? If the attacker was not a 'lone wolf' his handlers would have no trouble getting the attacker a gun. One can easily wonder was the attacker just trying to injure Rushdie.

The Attacker wouldn't have gotten the bounty if Mr Rushdie was merely injured. So the use of the knife was quite ill-thought, especially as there were almost no



security checks at the institute. He could very easily carry a gun inside.

The second question stems from the first, why didn't the policeman on Rushdie's security detail, take preventive disarming actions? Especially when the attacker ran across the hall and climbed the stage to attack Rushdie. The US police system has gained much notoriety for being a trigger-happy force. So why didn't the policeman on duty shoot the assailant? If not on the body, at least on the leg? What happened in Chautauqua Institution in western New York, is a flagrant violation of every security protocol, especially by American standards. Rushdie is a high-profile target who addressed the Uber-liberal democrats, it was only SOP to have some security there.

So now the question is - was this an intentional lapse? Let's move away from Rushdie for a minute now and focus on the US foreign policy agenda. Despite even Henry Kissinger calling Anthony Blinken's foreign policy driving the "US to the brink of war" with "Russia and China", the Biden admin-

BUT WHAT SHOULD WE DO? JOIN THE HATERS AND CELEBRATE THIS ATTACK. DO WE BLAME RUSHDIE FOR WRITING HIS HEART OUT OR EMBRACE RUSHDIE AND SUPPORT HIM AND ADD TO THE IRAN BASHING?

istration has been making all the right moves to antagonise them further and also strengthen their ranks.

This attack on Rushdie may be a coincidence or a mad-hatter conspiracy, but this public stabbing brings Iran back into the news cycle and reinforces the negative public opinion against Iran suddenly. Iran has been US's favourite punch bag for some time now, and with the Salman Rushdie attack, the US foreign policy politicians can add Iran to the "new axis of evil" — Iran, Russia, and China. The debate is slowly shifting away from Rushdie and more towards Iran bashing. It is regretful that yet again Rushdie has become a pawn in the great power politics.

But what should we do? Join the haters and celebrate this attack. Do we blame Rushdie for writing his heart out or embrace Rushdie and support him and add to the Iran bashing? The answer is not a straight one. A Muslim didn't attack Salman or an Iranian. It was an individual. Let's keep the blame where it belongs and not allow the

machinations of warmongers to piggyback on it.

India and her people, our civilization is a major theme of Rushdie's books. And any readers of Joseph Anton, Rushdie's memoirs will verify his love for this land. Yet we banned his books, canceled his visas, and made him a pariah, at a time he needed his people the most. The armed assailant didn't only attack Rushdie, he attempted to destroy the stories and ethos of the subcontinent that Rushdie writes, about and will fictionalize in the future. And the only way to beat the attacker is to love Rushdie. We need to unban all his books, so the people of our country can make a decision for themselves. We need to battle hate and violence with love, for without it neither Rushdie nor us have any chance. That's why perhaps Allah made the good Muslims live and sent the bad ones to prison.

(The author writes on agriculture and environment, and is a former Director — Policy & Outreach, National Seed Association of India. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JANMASHTAMI CELEBRATIONS

Sir — Janmashtami 2022 will be marked on the eighth day of the dark fortnight in the month of Bhadrapada (July - August) in India. This year, there has been a lot of confusion about whether Krishna Janmashtami will be celebrated on August 18 or August 19. The Hindu festival of Janmashtami, which is also known as Krishna Janmashtami, Krishnasthami, or Gokulashtami, marks the birth of Lord Krishna.

As per the Vedic Panchang, Ashtami Tithi will begin at 9.21 PM on August 18 and will end at 10.59 PM on August 19, 2022. So, Janmashtami 2022 will be celebrated on both days while the Nishith Puja time will begin at 12.02 am on August 18 and ends at 12.48 PM on the same day. As per Hindu Mythology, Lord Krishna loved curd, white butter, and milk during his childhood days.

Krishna along with his friends used to steal it from the neighbours. The villagers went to his mother to complain about this. She advised villagers to hide the freshly churned Makhan in an earthen pot at some height. However, the idea did not work as Krishna and his friends started making human pyramids to reach the handi. To celebrate Krishna's mischievous tricks, every year on Janmashtami, people organize Dahi Handi and make a human pyramid to break the earthen pot kept at height. The charm of Krishna is forever!

Divyansha Sharma | ujain

AN EGREGIOUS REMISSION

Sir — The remission leading to the premature release of 11 Bilkis Bano case convicts from prison has come in for a lot of flak from people and rightly so. It was apparent that the Gujarat government facilitated remission for political reasons without sparing a thought to what Bilkis Bano underwent and without empathizing with her. The grant of remission sends the wrong message that even gang' rape and mass murder convicts become eligible for

The Prisoners of War



Once again the barbaric brute forces in Kashmir have gunned down a Kashmiri Pandit Sunil Kumar in an apple orchard in the chotigam area, Shopian district of South Kashmir. This dastardly and gruesome killing of an innocent Kashmiri Pandit has shattered the whole KP community. The government has miserably failed to protect the precious lives of Kashmiri Pandits and other non-locals in Kashmir. Since the abrogation of article-370

and 35-A, the situation in Kashmir has turned volatile as the attacks on Hindu minorities are happening day in and day out without any respite. Selective and targeted killings of Hindu minorities and other nonlocals have created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among all Hindu minorities. Thus rightly the PM package migrant employees are protesting for the last 100 days in favor of their one-point demand of relocation outside the valley as they feel very apprehensive about their safety and security in Kashmir. Since the martyrdom of Rahul Bhat, these hapless and unfortunate Kashmiri Pandit package employees are on the roads and are agitating for their survival and existence. It is high time now that the central government must immediately relocate/deploy all PM Package employees to Jammu province to stop any further bloodshed. Is anybody listening is the million-dollar question?

Vivek Koul | New Delhi

BAD NEWS FOR INDIAN FOOTBALL

Sir — The suspension of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) by the world governing body FIFA will likely have serious implications on Indian football. The national teams become ineligible to participate in continental tournaments.

The AIFF is in a state of topsy-turvydom due to the mismanagement of its administration after long-serving former chief Praful Patel stayed in office beyond the maximum term of 12 years, without holding fresh elections. This needs to be addressed ed quickly for the AIFF, so that elections can be held immediately and play This is the first time that the AIFF has received suspension by FIFA in its 85-year history. It is unfortunate that soccer turns sombre for Indian football, and let us hope it resurrects itself

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

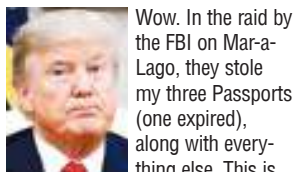
Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Every country will try to ensure the best deal possible to cushion high energy prices and India is doing exactly the same.



Foreign Minister —S Jaishankars



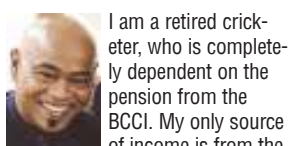
Wow. In the raid by the FBI on Mar-a-Lago, they stole my three Passports (one expired), along with everything else. This is an assault on a political opponent at a level never before seen in our country.

Ex US President —Donald Trump

It was my childhood dream to be part of Hindi films.



Actor —Gulshan Devaiah



I am a retired cricketer, who is completely dependent on the pension from the BCCI. My only source of income is from the Board, for which I am really thankful and grateful.

Cricketer —Vinod Kambl

It has been 75 years of independence. We achieved a lot, But there's anger, a question among people that several small nations who attained independence after us, surpassed us...Why did India lag behind?



Delhi CM —Arvind Kejriwal

FIRST COLUMN

EXTERNAL CHALLENGES
GROW IN AMRIT KAAL

Foreign policy must evolve to meet economic clouts



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Imran Khan, the ousted Prime Minister of Pakistan, recently praised India's autonomous foreign policy in a political meeting. He complimented India for choosing a path of calibrated diplomacy in the aftermath of the ongoing war in Ukraine. While Khan's praise may not be the most sought after accolade for India's foreign policy strategy, it does reflect the directional shift in our external relations, in the nearly 75 years of being an independent democratic republic.

India's foreign policy stance in the last 75 years has been a matter of careful choices made as result of its colonial past and a cold war era world order cleaved in the middle. India in 1947 was an infant republic, which had almost overnight chosen the path of democracy to govern one of the largest, diverse crowds of citizens around the globe. It meant, laying the foundations of democracy first, thereby bringing in political empowerment, before economic prosperity.

The founding architects of the Indian republic also had socialist bent of mind and believed in the idea of a welfare state. That meant the state would be the biggest job creator and would be present in every domain of public life. This inward focus of the state meant India's foreign policy remained an ambiguous bunch of principles, better left for the most seasoned bureaucrats and statesmen to tackle.



Jawahar Lal Nehru was the longest serving external affairs minister of India, besides being a Prime Minister. All his successors in the next 50 years were in the hot seat of managing external relations for less than four years.

However, this changed in 2014 when the Narendra Modi-led BJP government came to power and an articulate Sushma Swaraj occupied the seat for five years. The change and the willingness to showcase India's diplomatic prowess had started somewhere in the early 2000, when India realised it must have an independent foreign policy.

The 1960s hangover of the nonaligned era, which was the underlying template for India's foreign policy, was slowly beginning to wane. India had chosen nonalignment along with a few other like minded countries as the stated strategy to engage with the external world, which had been split between the US and the USSR blocs.

The neutral stance underscored India's bilateral, and plurilateral engagements on the global stage. It also meant India never tried to engage with its global counterparts beyond a couple of issues (such as Kashmir and relations with its neighbour Pakistan).

India and China had a bitter military faceoff in the 1960s, but it didn't leave a lasting dent in the bilateral relations beyond the decade. In fact, many subsequent leaders since the first faceoff, tried to bunch India China as two Asian powers which could be a formidable force for the rest of the world. An aggressive

China gobbling up islands in the Indian Ocean Region, coercing smaller nations into binding aid for development of infrastructure (Belt and Road Initiative), the growing distance between China and the US and finally the military faceoff between China and India in 2020 in Galwan ensured India's foreign policy architecture has a permanent China docket.

India in 2022 is a nearly \$3 trillion economy and making steady progress towards being the third largest economy in the world by 2030. This economic power means a vociferous say in global affairs and an assured seat on multilateral high tables. India in the 75th year of its Independence has to keep realigning its foreign policy to match the changed status.

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator.)

Wrong to call welfare schemes 'freebies'



VANAM JWALA NARASIMHA RAO

State governments must work for the welfare of the poor, for their empowerment and providing them with basic amenities

Delivering the Independence Day address at the Historical Golkonda Fort in Hyderabad, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao (KCR) criticized the Center for insulting States' welfare schemes by labelling them as 'freebies'. He added that public welfare is the foremost responsibility of the government and hence Center's remarks are highly objectionable.

Disagreeing vehemently with the Center's concept of freebies, KCR said that it also amounts to weakening the nation's cooperative federal spirit and running down welfare schemes of States. Centre, which is supposed to fulfill that social responsibility, has done miserably over a period, observed KCR.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remark on 'revdi culture' perhaps is at the center of CM KCR's observations similar to some of his counterparts in the country. According to Modi, attempts are being made in the country to bring a culture of garnering votes by distributing revdis, a sweet popular in North India, distributed during festivals, which is very dangerous for the development of the country.

Criticizing some opposition parties for engaging in the politics of freebies, the PM said that they are obstacles to India's efforts to become self-reliant while also being a burden on taxpayers. Notwithstanding this, the Independence Day was celebrated across the country with several chief ministers making a slew of welfare scheme announcements and countering Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'revdi culture' remark.

Unfortunately, PM Modi seems to have failed to take into account that social welfare schemes that subsidize the populace are a universal phenomenon now and, in a democracy, these are but natural. For instance, in the USA, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is the largest federal nutrition assistance program that provides food-purchasing assistance for low and no income people.

Similarly, the Singapore Government provides financial aid to any family making less than \$1,900 a month, besides providing aid in other forms such as making education more affordable, tax exemptions for impoverished families and more affordable housing.

We defined our country as a welfare state, which is a form of government in which the state protects and promotes the economic and social well-being of the citizens, based on the principles of equal opportunity and equitable distribution of wealth. The welfare state is a way of governing in which the state or an established group of social institutions provides basic economic



THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES FINANCIAL AID TO ANY FAMILY MAKING LESS THAN \$1,900 A MONTH, BESIDES PROVIDING AID IN OTHER FORMS SUCH AS MAKING EDUCATION MORE AFFORDABLE, TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR IMPOVERISHED FAMILIES AND MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(The author is Chief Public Relations Officer to Chief Minister, Telangana.)



security to its citizens.

By definition, in a welfare state, the government is responsible for the individual and social welfare of its citizens. A fundamental feature of the welfare state is social insurance and social security. This is exactly or perhaps even more as envisaged in the definition of a welfare state. Welfare encompasses those government programs that provide benefits and economic assistance to no or low-income people living in Telangana.

Welfare programs of Government of Telangana aims to improve the quality of life and living standards of the poor and underprivileged. People are able to stand on their own feet with an assured monthly or annual income making them prosperous. KCR's preference is social insurance. It may sound a bit philosophical, but the schemes conceived and being implemented by the KCR Government takes care of every stage of a human being's life true to the saying caring from 'cradle to grave'.

In the letter and spirit of the welfare state, the Telangana Government implements a number of welfare programs. To name a few identified priority areas of welfare of Telangana Government, there is Kalyan Laxmi, Shaadi Mubarak, Aasara pensions, Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bhima, Sheep distribution, Fish breeding, Free Double bedroom houses, Residential school education, Dalit Bandhu, etc.

Despite spending huge amounts on these schemes, Telangana has emerged financially strong in the country. The Government's top priority has been to extend a real helping hand to the needy, helpless and poorest of the poor strata and

accordingly, welfare programs were conceived and implemented. The Aasara Pensions, aimed at providing security to life, are being given to every poverty-stricken individual, identifying them either as old or widow or single woman or a beedi worker or a handloom worker or an old age artist or a filarial affected person or AIDS patient or for that matter any one below the poverty line.

This social security pension scheme is now extended to 10 lakh new beneficiaries from August 15 for a total of 46 lakh beneficiaries. Should this be called a freebie or a social security measure?

The large-scale distribution of sheep substantially enhanced the livestock wealth of Golla and Kurumas communities. The investment support scheme for agriculture, the Rythu Bandhu meant for providing financial assistance to farmer towards crop investment enthused the hearts of farmers. These are not freebies but welfare aimed at social security for the poor farmer.

The Dalit Bandhu Scheme, yet another welfare measure, is bound to change the life and financial status of Dalits in Telangana forever. In the long run, it will become a model policy for other states to emulate. It will herald a sea change in the lives of Dalits and will become torchbearer for Dalits elsewhere in the country.

The Telangana Dalit Bandhu Scheme would help Dalits to define their own development and become partners in the development. This is certainly not a freebie but by all means a social security measure.

Empowerment is the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and in communities, enabling

them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority. It is the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights.

CM KCR is laying a strong foundation for future generations' prosperity and making all sections of the society become economically self-reliant. Why call them freebies?

In a democratic society like India, people have several hopes, purposes, aspirations, ambitions, desires, requirements, passions, problems, needs and so on. People from time to time elect the party, which in their view will fulfill their needs. The contesting parties make promises in the form of election manifestos keeping in view the people's welfare in focus.

Voters consider them and choose a particular party and elect it to power. The Government thus elected by them to keep their promises has to initiate and implement a number of welfare programs and they cannot be dubbed as freebies. Unfortunately, most of the parties after coming to power fail to keep up their promises. In the case of KCR, he has not only fulfilled all the promises and even gone beyond though not mentioned in the election manifesto.

CM KCR firmly believes that mere growth has no meaning and even legitimacy, if the deprived sections of the society are left behind. Inclusive growth should not only ensure a broad flow of benefits and economic opportunities, but also encompass empowerment and participation. And hence it's all public welfare, please don't call them freebies, Modiji.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

TODAY DELHI'S SHAMELESS CM IS COMPLETELY EXPOSED. HE SENT A LETTER ASKING FOR FLATS IN BAKKARWAL FOR ROHINGYAS & IS NOW DOING GUTTER LEVEL POLITICS.

—BJP MP
GAUTAM GAMBHIR



THE CENTRE WAS TELLING THIS NEWS AS ITS ACHIEVEMENT IN THE MORNING IT IS NOW TRYING TO LAY THE BLAME ON THE DELHI GOVERNMENT.

—DY CM DELHI
MANISH SISODIA

How to promote information processing by students

The 5 strategies for better student engagement are - visuals, simple language, procedures, analogies, and organised content

Effective student engagement and classroom management are two important pedagogical strategies that teachers learn about in teacher education programmes. With technological advances, there are innumerable new ways of keeping students engaged.

By sticking to basics, five fundamental strategies are seen that reduce the sensory and cognitive loads on students to promote better processing of instructions and information. Any teacher can use these strategies to retain the attention of students.

According to the Information Processing Theory, during the learning experience in the classroom, first, students receive information through their senses by listening, seeing



RADHIKA ZAHEDI

(The author is school Director, The Green Acres Academy.)

information visually on the screen or board or through the teachers' gestures and demonstrations and when hands-on experiences are used through other senses.

Secondly, all this information is being processed mentally by students: What does this word mean? What should I do next? What should I remember? How do these items connect? Finally, when students have processed and made sense of the information, with repeated recall and practice, some of it may get stored in the long-term memory.

Thus, three aspects are key to student attention; students first receive information through their senses; if there is too much sensory information coming in at the same time, some of it may be lost because it is too much for

the brain to attend to at the same time; students then process this information taken in through the senses using the short-term memory or working memory in their brains.

Students make sense of the information by decode it, make connections, decide what is important, etc. Here too, there is a limit to how much information can be processed at one time, which is called cognitive load. Both sensory and cognitive overload can have negative effects on students' attention and engagement.

Therefore, teachers should recognise that sensory and cognitive overload is undesirable and should incorporate strategies that reduce the load on students.

Broadly, there could be five strategies that can reduce sensory

and cognitive overload for students.

Visuals: Never underestimate the power of a good visual to anchor classroom instruction such as a digital presentation, a chart or well-structured board work. Visuals that organise the most important instructions or information can reduce cognitive load on the brain by making it available for students instead of requiring them to hold all of it in their minds, i.e., use their working memory. Reading about design principles beyond just the educational field - for example gestalt principles, colour, and sizing - can be very helpful in creating visual aids that promote student engagement.

Simple and Concise Language: Planning instructions and the specific language can reduce

cognitive load for students. This ensures that student attention is focused on the learning instead of all of it being exhausted on trying to understand complicated instructions. Teachers should keep their sentences simple and concise when giving out instructions and avoid sharing too many instructions in one go. Thinking about which specific terms you will use beforehand and using the same terms consistently help reduce cognitive load.

Routines and procedures: Having regularly used routines or 'classroom protocols' in place of things like getting into groups, taking resources out, doing classwork, etc., is another teacher strategy for reducing cognitive load. Teachers can get students to understand what needs to be

done just by using a single sentence or routine name. This means that students are listening to fewer instructions and using less cognitive load to understand the instructions leaving more for attending to the learning that is happening. **Analogies:** Using analogies to explain new content aids information processing because students can attach the explanation to a model that they are familiar with instead of trying to make a sense of something that is completely new. Using analogies or even prior knowledge to make connections to something that students already know leads to greater storage of information in the brain with less cognitive load.

Organising content: The way we organise information can impact cognitive load and there-

fore engagement. Chunking content into logically arranged sections when presenting with clear titles is much better for cognitive processing than presenting it as one giant paragraph. This can be further extended by providing students with graphic organisers to help organise and process the content.

The strategies listed above are all focused on reducing sensory and cognitive load to aid attention and engagement. There are many other great teacher strategies that increase student attention by using emotional engagement strategies like using stories as a hook, asking questions to keep students actively engaged, providing opportunities for students to work with peers and aligning content to areas of interest for students.

REDUCING IMPORT OF CRUDE OIL

Nitin Gadkari bats for alternative fuels for vehicles

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday pitched for the use of alternative fuels for vehicles to reduce the import of crude oil as well as cut down on pollution.

As much as 35 per cent of the pollution in the country is due to diesel and petrol, Gadkari said, adding, "this is why we need import-substituting, cost-effective and pollution-free and indigenous products".

At the launch of the country's first electric double-decker air-conditioned bus, the Minister for Road Transport and Highways said that electric automobiles are greatly cost effective when compared to diesel ones.

"In the Indian situation, import of crude oil is a big challenge. We are already experiencing the way rates are increased. It is also very difficult for the common man..." he said.

According to him, it is time to start using alternative fuels like electricity, ethanol, methanol, bio-diesel, bio-



CNG, bio-LNG and hydrogen for the automobile sector.

Further, he said the current size of the Indian automobile industry stands Rs 7.5 lakh crore and it has maximum employment potential besides giving maximum taxes to central and state governments."My dream is to make this industry Rs 15 lakh crore by the end of 2024, and this is possible," he said.

Switch Mobility, the electric vehicle division of Hinduja group's flagship Ashok

Switch India has already secured an order of 200 electric double-decker buses from the BEST and it is looking at a dominant space in the electric double-decker segment across key regions in the country, the company said.

Leyland, unveiled the country's first electric double-decker air-conditioned bus EiV 22. These buses, with a seating capacity for 65 passengers, will replace the existing double-decker fleet of the BEST (Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport) undertaking.As of now, Switch is operating its twin-floor electric AC buses in the United Kingdom.Switch India has already secured an order of 200 electric double-decker

buses from the BEST and it is looking at a dominant space in the electric double-decker segment across key regions in the country, the company said.

"We already have an order for 200 electric double-decker AC buses in Mumbai. We will deliver 50 of these buses this financial year. Many more cities are discussing with us for these buses," Mahesh Babu, CEO Switch Mobility India and COO at Switch Mobility Ltd told.

DPIIT to hire consultants to work towards ease of doing business

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The commerce and industry ministry is planning to hire consultants to study business environment and compliances and suggest steps to promote ease of doing business in the country.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has invited applications from eligible qualified professionals for engagement as senior consultant and consultant for three years for working in the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Reform Secretariat.

The secretariat has been established in the DPIIT.

Interested candidates can apply online by end of this month. The work responsibilities of these consultants include conducting a detailed analysis of existing acts/rules and their provisions; review and analyze the legal and regulatory frameworks dealing in different jurisdictions in India; and devise an action plan with a focused approach on the reforms required towards improving regulations.

Oil at six-month low: Petrol at breakeven, losses continue on diesel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

International oil prices have hit a six-month low, helping Indian fuel retailers breakeven on petrol but they continue to lose money on diesel - the most used fuel in the country, officials said.

The world's best-known crude benchmark, Brent was trading at USD 94.91 per barrel on Thursday after concerns of a global recession led to it slipping to a six-month low of USD 91.51 on the previous day.

The current rates are a relief to India, which is 85 per cent dependent on imports for meeting its oil needs.

The fall in prices has meant that fuel retailers such as Indian Oil Corporation are now breaking even on petrol but there are some losses on diesel, officials with knowledge of the matter said.

State-owned fuel retailers IOC, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) have not exercised their right to adjust the retail selling price of petrol and diesel in line with the international costs for four and half months now to help the government manage runaway inflation.

At one point, they were los-



ing Rs 20-25 per litre on diesel and Rs 14-18 a litre on petrol as international oil prices soared. These losses have been trimmed with the fall in oil prices.

"There are no under-recovery (losses) on petrol now. For diesel, it will take some time to reach that level," an official said. But this is unlikely to translate into an immediate reduction in rates as oil companies will be allowed to recoup losses they had accumulated on selling fuel at below cost in the last five months, another official said.

Under-recovery on diesel is

ow down to Rs 4-5 a litre.

IOC, BPCL and HPCL are supposed to revise the retail price of petrol and diesel daily in line with cost. But they froze

rates for a record 137 days beginning November 4, 2021, just as states like Uttar Pradesh went to polls.

That freeze ended on March 22 this year and rates went up by Rs 10 per litre each in just over a fortnight before a new freeze came into effect from April 7.

Petrol currently costs Rs 96.72 a litre and diesel Rs 89.62 in the national capital. This is down from Rs 105.41 a litre price on April 6 for petrol and Rs 96.67 a litre for diesel as the government cut excise duty to cool rates.

The Rs 10 a litre increase, effected between March 22 to April 6, wasn't sufficient to cover the cost and the new freeze meant accumulation of more losses, officials said.

MONEY MATTERS

Indian apps, games record 200 % increase in active monthly users



Indian apps and games saw a 200 per cent increase in active monthly users in 2021 compared to 2019, a Google Play official said in a blog post on Thursday. Google Play Partnerships Director Aditya Swamy in the blog said there has been an 80 per cent increase in consumers spends in 2021 compared to 2019 on Google Play. "Indian apps and games saw a 200 per cent increase in active monthly users and an 80 per cent increase in consumers spends in 2021 compared to 2019 on Google Play. Local developers are also finding global audiences with Indian apps and games seeing a 150 per cent increase in time spent by users outside India in 2021 compared to 2019 on Google Play," Swamy said. Swamy said that India has crossed a major milestone of 100 unicorns, and a significant portion of these as businesses powered by apps. He said the enterprising and thriving ecosystem of developers and startups in the country has helped Google Play, which has completed 10 years in India, create a vibrant ecosystem of amazing apps across categories. "Especially in the past two years, we have seen apps across categories such as education, payments, health, entertainment, and gaming witness stupendous growth," Swamy said. He said that there has been great momentum in gaming too with Ludo King becoming one of the first Indian games to cross 500 million downloads.

Carlsberg India's sales rise 50 per cent



Danish brewing major Carlsberg India witnessed a "strong recovery" in the first half of 2022 as its business grew 50 per cent during the same period. The growth was on account of hot summer and a low corresponding comparable base. The company, which sells Carlsberg and Tuborg brands in the Indian beer market, had a "strong recovery" after a difficult start to the year due to the coronavirus pandemic. The volumes for the first half of this year was "above the pre-COVID level in 2019", Carlsberg Group said in its earnings statement on Wednesday. "After a soft start to the year, our Indian business recovered strongly and grew by almost 50 per cent," it said. Both the Carlsberg and Tuborg brands grew strongly, and "we gained market shares in our key states, the company said. In markets such as China, the group's business was impacted by the pandemic restrictions during the April-June period. The group reported an organic volume growth of 8.9 per cent, driven by Western Europe And Asia in the first half of 2022. During the period under review, its premium brands had "solid volume growth". The brands include Tuborg, Carlsberg, Grimbergen, Somersby and Brooklyn.

'Elevated inflation warrants appropriate policy response'



Inflation is persistently at elevated levels that warrants appropriate policy responses to anchor expectations going forward, said an RBI article published on Thursday. Retail inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI) softened to 6.71 per cent in July, mainly on account of moderation in food prices. The Reserve Bank has increased the benchmark lending rate (repo) in three quick successions by 140 basis points to tame inflation, which remains above its tolerance level for the seventh month in a row. "...perhaps the most heartening development in recent times has been the easing of inflation in July 2022 by 30 basis points from June 2022 and an appreciable 60 basis points from the average of 7.3 per cent for Q1-2022-23." This has validated our hypothesis that inflation peaked in April 2022," said the article on the 'state of the economy'. For the rest of the year, the RBI's projections scent a steady easing of the momentum of price changes, it said. The article has been authored by a team led by Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra. The RBI said the views expressed in the article are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Reserve Bank of India. "With the trajectory of outcomes largely in line with projections, we expect momentum to ease from 3.0 per cent in Q1 to 1.7 per cent in Q2 and further to 1.3 per cent in Q3 and turn mildly negative in Q4 before picking up modestly and on seasonal food price effects to 2.2 per cent in Q1: 2023-24," according to the article. If these expectations hold, inflation will fall from 7 to 5 per cent in Q1 next financial year - within the tolerance band, hovering closer to the target, but not yet positioned for landing, the authors said.

India adds record 7.2 GW solar capacity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Solar capacity installations in the country rose by 59 per cent to record 7.2 gigawatt (GW) during first half of 2022, according to Mercom India Research.

In January-June or H1 of 2021, the country had added 4.5 GW solar capacity, the research firm's 'Q2 2022 India Solar Market Update' released on Thursday said.

The solar installations in April-June period of 2022 also increased by 59 per cent to over 3.9 GW compared to 2.4 GW installed in second quarter of 2021.

"The sector has witnessed the highest ever quarterly and half-yearly solar capacity additions," it said.

India's cumulative installed solar capacity now stands at 57 GW.



"Even with mounting challenges from supply constraints and rising costs, India had its best quarter and first half ever for solar," said Raj Prabhu, CEO of Mercom Capital Group.

Cumulative large-scale solar PV installations in Rajasthan reached almost 13 GW as of June 2022, and the

state accounted for almost 27 per cent of the total installations in the country.

In the first half of 2022, Rajasthan and Gujarat were the top states for large-scale solar, accounting for 53 per cent and 14 per cent of installations, respectively, followed by Maharashtra with 9 per cent.

Federal Bank inaugurates 15 new branches

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Private sector Federal Bank under its expansion drive has inaugurated 15 new branches across the country, the Kerala-based bank said on Thursday.

Among the 15 branches, seven are in Tamil Nadu taking the overall presence to 171 branches in the State. "After opening 10 branches in a single day last June, we are opening 15 branches across various locations.

The bank would continue to focus on territories like Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat. ", Federal Bank Head-Branch Banking, Nandakumar V said. According to him, the seven branches in Tamil Nadu were opened at Acharampattu, Kilacheri, Kumbakonam, Perambalur, Ponpathi, Salem Gugai and Tiruvavur, the statement added.

Sensex maintains momentum for fifth day; Nifty nears 18k

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex ticked higher for the fifth straight session on Thursday, helped by flag-end buying in select blue-chip stocks amid a largely negative trend in global markets.

A depreciating rupee and rising crude prices in the international market capped the gains in domestic equities, traders said.

In a largely choppy session, the 30-share BSE index ended 37.87 points or 0.06 per cent higher at 60,298 after starting the trade on a weak note. During the day, it hit a high of 60,341.41 and a low of 59,946.44.

Logging its eighth consecutive gain, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 12.25 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 17,956.50.

"Nifty on August 18 extended its winning streak for the eighth day, the longest in 20 months.

Nifty opened lower and

swung between gains and losses for the bulk of the session before closing near day's high," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Kotak Mahindra Bank was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 3.45 per cent, followed by Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India and ITC.

On the other hand, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Wipro, Infosys, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank and Nestle were among the laggards.

"After opening on a negative note, the market showed high volatility in the early to mid part of the session. Intraday weakness of mid-part was reversed, and the market shifted into an upside bounce in the second half of the day." A reasonable positive candle was formed on the daily chart, that paced beside the long bull candle of the previous session.

Over 30 % of Indian employees want to change jobs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 30 per cent of Indian employees want to change jobs while 71 per cent feel they are being overlooked for career advancement, said a PwC India report.

Workplaces in India have changed significantly over the past couple of years, with considerable mindset shifts for both employers and employees.

While employers have been more focused on building a resilient workforce strategy, employees on their part are driven by opportunities for fulfilment, creativity, innovation and authenticity, apart from financial rewards, said PwC's India Workforce Hopes

and Fears Survey 2022.

The report is based on the findings of PwC's Global Workforce Hopes and Fears Survey 2022. The survey included 2,608 participants from India and 93 per cent of them were full-time employees.

As per the survey, 34 per cent of respondents in India believe they are extremely/very likely to switch to a new employer as compared to 19 per cent globally.

Further, 32 per cent said that they plan to leave the workforce.

Millennials are the most likely to seek new employment, with 37 per cent indicating that they are likely to switch employers in the next



12 months.

While Gen Z employees are less likely to quit, about a third of them are extremely or very likely to ask for a reduction in work hours.

Chaitali Mukherjee, Partner and Leader, People and

Organisation, PwC India, said that the disruptive landscape of social, environmental, economic and geopolitical changes has had profound consequences on organisations and their workforce strategies. Leaders need to

consider these disruptions while drawing up their short- and long-term plans for the organisation as well as their people, Mukherjee said.

"For an organisation to be fit for future, it is imperative that employee perspective dovetails with the employer's perspective to accelerate transformation keeping in mind the workforce dynamics, with well-defined tangible measures to bring about greater alignment between both these aspects," Mukherjee said.

More than half of the respondents in the survey were concerned about the lack of opportunities to work with or learn technological skills from their colleagues.

This learning gap begins at the top, with more than 50 per cent of CEOs perceiving a lack of opportunities for learning technological skills, it said.

It further said sensitive social and political topics are occupying an increasingly important place in workplace conversations, with 75 per cent of employees having had conversations of this nature, highlighting the need for employers to actively create safe spaces for such conversations.

The survey also highlighted that employees expect more transparency and support in incorporating Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations into their work.



Coal Secretary A K Jain was of the view that coking coal is a fuel for the steel sector and reforms are required to track investment in the industry, especially in the coal abundant areas.

'Govt keen to understand industry's issues on coking coal mine auctions'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The auction of coking coal blocks has elicited a tepid response from iron and steel players, and the government is keen to understand the problems faced by the industry, Union minister Pralhad Joshi said on Thursday.

The government has been making efforts to increase the domestic coking coal output to reduce the country's dependence on imports.

"The coking coal block auc-

tion has received a lukewarm

response from industry and the Ministry of Coal is keen to understand the issues faced by industry in this regard," Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi said. He was addressing a workshop on coking coal strategy for the Indian steel sector. Joshi also invited suggestions from stakeholders for finding technology solutions and using available domestic coking coal. In the last few years, there has been an increase in coking coal

import.

Coal Secretary A K Jain was of the view that coking coal is a fuel for the steel sector and reforms are required to track investment in the industry, especially in the coal abundant areas.

Steel Secretary Sanjay Singh said the government has begun working on a strategy for having domestic coal use in blast furnaces and washeries, and to increase domestic coal blending to 25-35 per cent.

Rihanna's beau A\$AP Rocky pleads not guilty to assault and weapons charges



Rapper A\$AP Rocky pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to assault and weapons charges stemming from a fight he had with a former rapper friend in Los Angeles.

Rocky, who wore a navy blue suit and sparkling diamond earrings, was trailed by three bodyguards as he arrived at LA criminal court for his arraignment, reports nypost.com.

The 33-year-old Manhattan native, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, is accused of firing two gunshots in the direction of one time 'A\$AP

Mob' rap collective member A\$AP Relli in November.

He walked with a swagger to the podium inside the courtroom and struck a pose with his head cocked back before entering the plea through his lawyer, Sara Kaplan.

He said only "I do, your honour" and "I understand that" as Judge Victoria Wilson set a date for his next court appearance on November 2.

The court issued a protective order against A\$AP Rocky, forbidding him from contacting members

of the 'A\$AP Mob,' and Kaplan asked that the order go both ways.

"I would request the protective order be mutual because my client is also in danger," she told the judge, who responded that Kaplan would have to file documents to get the order.

The *Praise the Lord* rapper was hit on Monday with two counts of assault with a semi-automatic firearm with allegations of personally using a firearm in the altercation, according to prosecutors.

"Discharging a gun in a public place is a serious offense that could have ended with tragic consequences not only for the person targeted but also for innocent bystanders visiting Hollywood," said Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascon.

The new charges came after the rapper was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon linked to the same incident after arriving at LA International Airport with girlfriend Rihanna in April. He was released on \$550,000 bail.

Gwyneth Paltrow to make guest appearance on Shark Tank alongside Doordash CEO Tony Xu

Gwyneth Paltrow is set to make her first-time appearance as a guest Shark in Season 14 of ABC's *Shark Tank*. Doordash CEO and co-founder Tony Xu will also mark his first guest appearance this season.

The famed actor in films such as *Iron Man*, *Shakespeare in Love* and *Se7en*, Paltrow's guest role will mark her first TV appearance in the business realm. In 2008, Paltrow founded the lifestyle brand known as Goop. She became CEO of the company in 2016. Alongside its book imprints, skincare and fragrances lines and live events, Goop has two shows on

Netflix: *The Goop Lab with Gwyneth Paltrow and Sex, Love & Goop*. Now, Paltrow will join longtime sharks Mark Cuban, Barbara Corcoran, Lori Greiner, Robert Herjavec, Daymond John and Kevin O'Leary in their search for the next big thing.

Other guest sharks returning for this season includes Emma Grede, founding partner of Skims; Peter Jones, a dragon on the BBC's *Dragon's Den*; Daniel Lubetzky, founder of Kind and co-founder of Somos Foods; and Kendra Scott, founder, executive chairwoman and chief creative officer at Kendra Scott, LLC. *Shark Tank* Season 14 will pre-



miere with a live episode on Friday, Sept. 23 at 8 p.m. ET on ABC. Episodes are also available on demand and on Hulu the day following their premieres.

The series is produced by MGM Television and Sony Pictures

Television. Mark Burnett, Clay Newbill, Yun Lingner, Max Swedlow and Phil Gurin, Brandon Wallace, Mark Cuban, Barbara Corcoran, Lori Greiner, Robert Herjavec, Daymond John and Kevin O'Leary are the executive producers of the show.



Sidharth Malhotra says 'Sex without pyaar is nothing'

Bollywood actor Sidharth Malhotra got candid about how getting physical without love is actually meaningless.

Vicky Kaushal and Sidharth Malhotra recently appeared on *Koffee With Karan* and as usual, set the couch on fire. The two not just brought the Punjabi flavour to the episode but also shared a few things about their

love lives.

In one of the segments, show host Karan Johar read a few comments by netizens for Vicky Kaushal.

One of them mentioned, "Vicky Kaushal has such a warm vibe, Katrina wouldn't need a comforter."

Vicky was quick to respond with, "I like this comment".

KJo, who is often told by his guests that he sexualises everything

on the show, pointed out that that comment was comparatively less sexual than others.

At this moment, Sidharth chimed in saying, "Pyaar bhi hona chahiye. Sex without pyaar is nothing."

The statement since then has left Sid's female followers swooning over him.

Koffee With Karan is currently available to stream on Disney+ Hotstar.

Arjun Kapoor's statement over boycott trend irks MP's Home Minister

Arjun Kapoor recently spoke out against the boycott trend that seems to have plagued almost every Bollywood film of late. His comments have irked the Home Minister of Madhya Pradesh Narottam Mishra, who called the Bollywood personality a "flop actor".

During a press event, the footage of which he also shared on his Twitter, Mishra said, "Instead of threatening people, Arjun Kapoor should rather focus on his acting."

"Actors targeting Hinduism in their films and supporters of the Tukde-Tukde gang should not try to threaten the public," he added.

Earlier, in an interview with 'Bollywood Hungama',



Arjun Kapoor had said, "I think we made a mistake by being silent for so long. Our decency was taken as our weakness. We always believe in alet the work speak for itself, all this doesn't matter."

He also mentioned that

the film industry needs to come together and get to the root cause of the issue.

Talking about the cancel culture on social media affecting Bollywood, Arjun Kapoor added, "We tolerated a little too much. Now peo-

ple are used to it."

Post his comments around the boycott trend, Arjun, who was recently seen in *Ek Villain Returns*, is being brutally trolled online.

The boycott trend, of late, seems to have affected Bollywood. While a huge negative campaign ran against Aamir Khan's *Laal Singh Chaddha* over the film's lead actor's 2015 remark around growing intolerance, Akshay Kumar's *Raksha Bandhan* too faced the boycott heat as trolls dug out the film's writer Kanika Dhillon's tweets.

In addition, the boycott *Vikram Vedha* also trended on social media because the film's lead actor Hrithik Roshan supported *Laal Singh Chaddha*.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



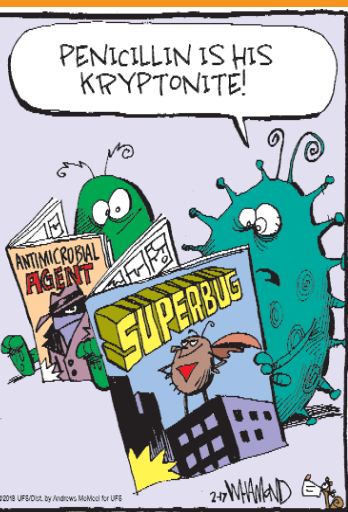
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GINGER MEGGS



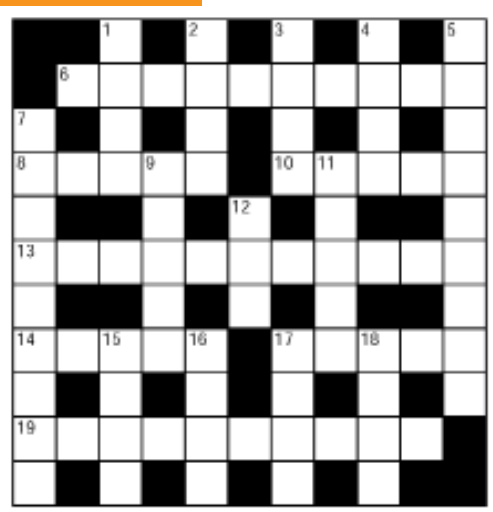
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Transport for someone who cannot walk
- With nothing in it
- The outside ends of something
- Vanished
- Opposite of outer
- The country with Tokyo
- In all places
- Annoy or bother someone for fun
- A play
- Secret agent
- Require
- Sunbeams
- A boy's name
- Meat from a pig

DOWN

- A large boat
- Extremely
- A throbbing pain
- The sound of an explosion
- The leader of the USA
- Large-lettered words above items in a newspaper





SHIKHA DUGGAL

An undercover agent, caught in the middle of enemy crosshairs, unleashes a story filled with fast-paced action dotted with emotion. *Rashtra Kavach Om* marked yet another addition in the line of films that Bollywood had adopted these days as a safe bet.

Om, because was dying to do an action film and everything that goes with it. Even now, never want to quit rather want to put myself through that again."

Kapil Verma's film was initially titled *Om - The Battle Within*. With no apparent provocation, it was changed to *Rashtra Kavach Om*.

And, "I wished the film would have been released before the pandemic. Aditya did everything that he could to transform from his lover boy image to an action hero avatar. He left no stone unturned, it was a very tough ask for his first full-blown action film, and he achieved it. That's another matter that our film didn't work at the box office."

On the other hand, *Yeh Jawani Hai*

Om was a very positive set-up and surrounding yourself with the right people brings out the very best in yourself as a director. Om is my first baby step to a long journey ahead. On a personal note, Hritik Roshan is one actor who portrays the right balance

I WAS LOW ON WATER & SALT DURING CLIMAX: ADITYA ROY KAPUR

In conversation with both the actor and the director, who were oozing patriotism out of their pores, went on to tell us about the film.

"It's okay if the movie didn't do well in the theatres, at least streaming platforms allow the audience to view content at their own pace, you can watch a movie at home or while you are traveling to work or just chilling with friends. Post pandemic, the audience viewing habits have completely changed towards cinema, being aware that even theatrical releases will become available over OTT eventually," says the director.

Whereas Adi tells, "I don't think I ever wanted to give up, but there were some moments like the last two reps of my workout session, I used to think that why am I doing anything at all? You know those existential questions that come to your mind but they quickly pass by because I know that this is what I want to do and then kind of signed up for

Deewani fame says, "There were a bunch of emotional scenes, I felt like those weren't that tough because they were very well written which makes it much easier for an actor. The toughest was the action, the climax was physically very demanding. We shot it over 10-11 days, I was low on salt and on water which made me completely dehydrated. Above that, I had to recite dialogues when I was dehydrated and the mind wasn't working and it was very tricky."

What was existential was thus transformed into patriotic. The director elaborated, "I have worked with action heroes in the past who are known to have a body of work in action films but Om was an experiment with a fresh pairing of two actors who had never played these roles in their careers and performed the kind of stunts that they did here. Being my first directorial project, there were several learnings along the way.

between emotion and body language in any action genre. Then Jackie Chan is the only action figure who has portrayed action with comedy seamlessly. His stunts are dangerous but he makes it look easy."

In conversation with *The Pioneer*, Kapil Verma, and Aditya Roy Kapur, who joined their hands for the recently released *Rashtra Kavach Om*, give us some insight about the film.



Comedian Raju Srivastav declared brain dead

Ace comedian and Actor, Raju Srivastav, has been admitted in a hospital for the past few days. On August 10, the comedian was admitted at the Delhi's AIIMS hospital, after a cardiac arrest.

His friends have been constantly updating his fans and the audience about his health. While recently, it was updated that his health has been stable, on Thursday, comedian and a very close friend of Srivastav, Sunil Pal

shared an update on his health through a video.

In the video, Sunil Pal shares that the condition of Raju Srivas has become critical and his brain has stopped functioning. He has urged his fans to pray for his health, as the doctors too are unable to do anything now.

Raju Srivastava, often credited as Gajodhar, rose to fame after he ventured into stand-up comedy with the talent show *The Great Indian Laughter Challenge*.

Sustainable health: Stability without compromise

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines a Sustainable Healthcare System as a system that improves, maintains, or restores health, while minimising negative impacts on the environment and leveraging opportunities to restore and improve it, to the benefit of the health and well-being of current and future generations.

In other words, healthcare that is accessible, affordable, and least negatively impactful on the environment may be termed sustainable.

Globally, 800 million people spend at least 10% of their household budgets on healthcare, which is either driving them further into poverty or for those who cannot afford it all, putting healthcare beyond their reach. Add to this the fact that evidence suggests between 75% and 90% of waste produced in health care may pose a wide range of environmental challenges.

Healthcare must be made sustainable both in terms of the wallet and the environment for it to be viable. This calls for systemic changes approach that ensure sustainability becomes a core element in the business aspect of healthcare.

Dr Nikhil Mathur, Chief of Medical Services, CARE group of

Hospitals shares a few cost aspects that a sustainable healthcare model can address:

Care vs Cost conundrum

While a regular business may enjoy the large profit margins stemming from high pricing, it is a different story in the healthcare sector. Strategic partnerships in rural and semi-urban clusters can help smart healthcare providers absorb small costs, rendering their services far more affordable.

Compensation model

The cost of quality healthcare cannot be passed on to the community at large, if it cannot support the price index. While specialists rightly need to be compensated for their expertise, compromising the remuneration of other professionals in the healthcare sector will affect the quality of care being provided.

Capacity planning

A large hospital does not necessarily translate to greater financial viability despite having greater bed capacity. The solution is again better planning to utilise existing capacity more effectively. This is where efficient resource mapping would prove handy as it would help the management ascertain how best to optimise inbuilt facilities.

ven sustainability model with interventions could promote teleconsultation for remote patient monitoring, enhancing patient engagement while freeing up on-ground resources.

Affordable medication

The need of the hour is finding a way to make prescription medicines and overall healthcare services within reach of those who need these the most. Better monitoring of generic medication could be a solution. Policy changes at the grassroot level could be another solution.

Reinvesting in the future

For a sustainable healthcare system to work effectively in the long run, a percentage of profit must go back into improving the infrastructure, redefining strategy, and processes, and thereby making better services available. It is the only long-term plan that will make the healthcare system more efficient and benefit the community it was set up for.

Chemical safety practices

LCD displays, fluorescent lamps, CRT monitors, flame-retardant mattresses, wheelchair cushions and even baby bottles comprise chemicals that are notoriously hazardous to the environment. Hospitals must therefore make environmentally conscious purchasing decisions and enforce a robust recycling policy for non-biodegradable products.

Waste disposal protocols

The biohazards of medical waste require are an undeniable fact. Strict disposal processes must be mapped out to avoid noxious fumes being released into the atmosphere. A wise move would be to invest in green waste disposal solutions such as autoclaving and chemical treatment to minimise the harm.

Scaling with technology

Technology can be a great intervention in optimising use of healthcare resources. Digitisation of healthcare processes marries ease with scalability. A great technology dri-



Review:

Duranga: Indianised version of Korean show

PNS | HYDERABAD

Duranga is one of those shows that completely catches you off-guard. It is an intense, unique combination of romance, thriller, and a gripping storyline.

Spanning over nine episodes, the show is a slow-burn thriller, cleverly crafted that not only subverts expectations but also takes the audience to nearly every genre that too without deviation from its main premise.

It is indeed something new for the Indian audience on OTT and admittedly, Zee 5 is bringing a gamut of well-crafted shows this year. While there are a couple of bumps in the narrative that just holds the show back from hitting the perfect tenth spot it could have claimed but it is definitely safe to say that it is a great attempt.

The story itself plays out as an amalgamation of both a procedural crime drama and a cat and mouse thriller. Sammit played by Gulshan Devaiah is a man with a very dark past. On the surface, he is quite happy in his marriage to crime branch officer Ira, played by Drashti Dhami, with a loving daughter offering up a semblance of normality for him. He seems to be living a happy family man life.

However, It is in the backdrop of a series of unexplained murders that puts up Sammit as the culprit behind all. Wearing a facade and unable to feel any emotions, it soon becomes apparent that Sammit is not at all what he seems. Could he be the murderer? Or is he hiding something bigger? Is he a good husband, son-in-law and father? Or is he faking it all?

This is one twisty-turny thriller you'll want to watch through to the end. There are moments when the



narrative will push the audience to use every possible logic to find out the reality and that's exactly the trope of a successful thriller.

We also go back and forth to understand how Ira and Sammit got together. At times, too much of twists and turns become problematic to keep track of, but with the help of the larger premise of the story, we manage to remain unmoved. The story can also be called a beautifully woven stream of consciousness, as the story moves ahead and as we learn more about Sammit's true intentions, so too does the tone shift slightly. It is as if the narrative is forcing the audience to put themselves in place of the protagonist. Coming to rescue is action-packed penultimate episode that wraps up

many mind-boggling plot points.

The finale does take the wind out the sails a little, used primarily to wrap everything up with a neat bow whilst also leaning into a couple of tried and tested K-drama tropes. Despite that though, this is definitely one of the stronger dramas released this year and certainly a must-watch.

Actor Gulshan Devaiah, well-known for his work in *Hate Story* and *Drishti Dhami*, gives exemplary performance and both of them are given a lot of range with their roles to really lean into the emotional put-up they give. And it won't surprise us at all if Gulshan Devaiah wins the best actor next year as he delivers a show-stopping performance every episode. He seems to have encompassed every possible bit of Sammit's character and you will be bound by it.

There's a constant looming threat of life-and-death, torn in between is Ira, as she finds herself struggling between her duty and her relationship with Sammit. There's a good amount of action-packed up in the show. Undoubtedly, it is Sammit and Ira's relationship that drives the narrative forward.

Duranga means two colors, and dual personality and that's pretty much what the entire show is about. No one is completely black and white, rather every one has some grey shade to their persona. Since it's a suspense thriller and certain templates have to be kept in mind, the show manages to win over the little loopholes.

Directed by Pradeep Sarkar and Aijaz Khan, *Duranga* is a Hindi adaptation of the South Korean series *Flower of Evil*. It is interesting to note that this is the first time, an Indian show is coming up as an adaptation of the much-loved k dramas.

INDIA THUMP ZIMBABWE BY 10 WICKETS

PTI ■ HARARE

Pacer Deepak Chahar made an impressive comeback to international cricket with an incisive spell and openers maintained their consistency as India out-classed Zimbabwe by 10 wickets in the opening One Day International, here on Thursday.

Donning the blue jersey for the first time in six months after a long injury lay-off, Chahar hit the straps right away with figures of 3/27, which was instrumental in India restricting Zimbabwe to a sub-par 189 in just 40.3 overs.

With very little scoreboard pressure, it was a walk in the park for the Indians as the in-form opening pair of Shikhar Dhawan (81 not out) and Shubman Gill (82 not out) knocked off the target in just 30.5 overs.

With skipper KL Rahul foregoing his spot at the top of the order to let the in-form pair maintain its momentum, Dhawan and Gill scored their third half-centuries in last four games. Not to forget that it was also their third century-plus stand from the start of the West Indies series. Their lowest opening partnership had yielded 48 runs in second ODI in Caribbean.

On a track that had something for the bowlers, the Indian openers did start in a sedate fashion but with very little on the board, it did not take them much time to accelerate.

Dhawan played his signature square cuts off seamers and lofted shots off the slow bowlers during his 113-ball knock while Gill played within himself for the first 30 deliveries before starting to chance his arms and surpassed his senior partner in terms of strike-rate, facing only 72 balls.

He played some eye-catching strokes on either side of the wicket, including a huge six over deep mid-wicket off Wessly Madhevere. Between them, they hit 19 boundaries in all.



CHAHAR SETS UP

It didn't take long for Chahar to find his rhythm on a Harare Sports Club track that offered steep bounce. The balmy morning conditions aided quality swing bowling.

He was well supported by Mohammed Siraj (1/36), who worked up brisk pace while bowling the ideal 'Test match length'.

Prasidh Krishna (3/50) and Axar Patel (3/24) also got their share of middle and lower-order victims while Kuldeep Yadav (0/36) was restrictive despite going wicketless.

It was the record ninth-wicket

stand of 70 runs between Brad Evans (33) and Richard Ngarava (32) that took Zimbabwe close to the 200-run mark.

None of the Zimbabwe batters looked comfortable during those opening overs as Chahar got a lot of deliveries to dart back late while some straightened after pitching.

Opener Innocent Kaia (4 off 20 balls) saw a ball climb up from back of length and Sanju Samson caught it on second attempt.

His left-handed partner Tadiwanashe Marumani (8 off 22 balls) drove a fuller-length delivery that swung late and Samson had an

easy catch.

Chahar's best delivery was the one that got Wessly Medhevere (5) which seemed like drifting on pads but swung away late squaring up the right-hander, who was found plumb in-front.

Once Siraj had Sean Williams caught at first slip by Shikhar Dhawan, there wasn't much resistance left in the Zimbabwean batting although skipper Regis Chakabva (35 off 51 balls) tried to put up a brief fight before Axar castled him.

Just at the start of his spell, Chahar was struggling a bit with his run-up but once he got his first

wicket, it seemed that he could take wicket with every delivery he bowled.

The banana inswing was back and more importantly, he was getting to move the ball late, causing a lot of doubt in batters' mind.

While Chahar has been kept on stand-by for the Asia Cup with Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the first 15, the tables could well turn once the Indian team touches base in Australia. This is because there will be at least one spinner less in the final composition of the squad as side's won't require four spinners for pitches Down Under.

Good to see bowlers putting balls in right areas: Rahul

PTI ■ HARARE

India captain KL Rahul was Ivery impressed with his bowling unit which fashioned a 10-wicket victory over Zimbabwe by restricting the hosts to under 200 in the first ODI here on Thursday.

Rahul, himself was making a comeback to international cricket after more than two months but decided to continue with the crack opening pair of Shubman Gill and Shikhar Dhawan, who added 192 runs for an unbroken opening stand.

"Picking up wickets was crucial. There was swing and seam movement as well. But it was good to see them (bowlers) put the ball in right areas and be disciplined," the skipper said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Three players in the first XI, Rahul, Deepak Chahar and Kuldeep Yadav were making a comeback after long rehabilitation process.

"As good as it can be, I am on the field and I am happy. We do play a lot of cricket, injuries are going to be a part of it," Rahul said.

"Being away from the game is hard. Rehab and everything everyday gets boring. We'd rather be playing 365 days than be with the physio. For a few of us, it is great to be back in the Indian dressing room."

laying international cricket after a gap of six months is really tough and he was nervous at the onset, seamer Deepak Chahar said after a successful comeback with figures of 3/27.

"When you are playing an international game after six-and-



a-half months, you are always nervous. Before coming here I played four-five practice games. But playing for the country, you wanted to do well and the mind and the body was not working together," he said about the start of his spell where he looked unsure about his run-up.

"That ball I wanted to bowl a bouncer and the spikes didn't go through and I slipped. The landing area was little hard and my nails were not going in and were slippery," Dhawan is enjoying a purple patch in ODI cricket and his partnership with Gill is much talked about.

"I am enjoying batting with the youngster (Gill) and I feel like a youngster too. I enjoyed the consistency from the West Indies. I knew that once I was set, I would go after the bowlers," Dhawan said after scoring unbeaten 81 off 113 balls.

"I wanted to rotate the strike as well and then plan was to accelerate. My rhythm with Gill has settled nicely. The way he bats and times the ball is lovely to watch. He has shown the consistency in converting fifties into big fifties.



Rabada takes five wickets as SA dismiss England for 165

AP ■ LONDON

South Africa fast bowler Kagiso Rabada completed a five-wicket haul as England were dismissed for just 165 on the second day of the first Test at Lord's on Thursday.

Rabada, who had been doubtful for the opening match of the three-Test series, finished with figures of 5-52 in 19 overs — the 12th time he has taken five wickets in an innings.

Only Ollie Pope, with 73, offered prolonged resistance among England's top order.

Rabada, 27, did the early damage in England's innings by removing openers Alex Lees and Zak Crawley for single-figure scores on the rain-shortened opening day.

South Africa captain Dean Elgar won the toss on a green-tinged pitch and in overcast conditions that aided his four-man pace attack but his quicks backed up that call with a skilful display.

Express quick Anrich Nortje had followed up Rabada's initial good work by taking three wickets, including the prized scalp of in-form Jonny Bairstow for a duck.

England have won all four of their Tests under their new leadership pairing of captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum after switching to a mode of all-out attack.

But the policy did not work against a quality four-man pace attack that has helped South Africa climb to the top of the World Test Championship table.

England resumed on 116-6 on Thursday, with Pope 61 not out.

Pope, who had reached a 69-ball fifty on the opening day, was quickly into his stride on Thursday, pulling the third ball of the day, from Rabada, for four.

But he should have been out three balls later for 67 when he edged Rabada straight to first slip, only for Sarel Erwee to floor a routine chance despite four juggled attempts to keep hold of the ball.

Stuart Broad, nought not out overnight, got off the mark when he edged Nortje over the head of wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne for four.

Rabada then got the wicket he deserved when Pope chipped on to a full-length ball for 73 to end a 102-ball innings, leaving England 134-7.

Rabada showed there was more to his game than sheer speed when he undid Broad (15) with a clever slower ball that the tailender lobbed to Elgar at point.

Siraj to play Warwickshire's last three County games

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

India fast bowler Mohammed Siraj will join the English county bandwagon as he gears up to play Warwickshire's last three first-class games in September.

Siraj is currently playing the ODI series in Zimbabwe but is not there in India's T20 scheme of things.

"Warwickshire County Cricket Club has signed India international fast bowler Mohammed Siraj for the final three matches of the County Championship season. The 28-year-old will arrive at Edgbaston ahead of the Bears home fixture against Somerset on Monday, 12 September," the county club stated in a media release.

The right-arm fast bowler took 4/66 in the first innings of the fifth and final Test between India and England at Edgbaston in July, before adding a further six wickets in three ODI matches that followed.

A natural swinger of the ball, Siraj has played for his country 26 times in all formats, taking 56 wickets. In total, he has taken 403 wickets in 207 career matches with 194 of those in first-class cricket.

"I can't wait to join up with the Bears squad. I have always enjoyed playing in England with India and I'm excited to experience County Cricket," Siraj said.

"Edgbaston is a world class stadium and the atmosphere it created this year for the Test was special. I am really looking forward to



making it my home in September and hopefully helping the Bears end the season well.

"I would like to extend my gratitude to both Warwickshire County Cricket Club and BCCI for this opportunity."

Siraj will be the second Indian player to represent Warwickshire this season after Krunal Pandya signed up for the Royal London Cup One Day Championship.

Pakistan beat Netherlands by 7 wickets in 2nd ODI, seal series

AP ■ ROTTERDAM

Mohammad Rizwan and Agha Salman made unbeaten half-centuries as Pakistan eased to a seven-wicket win over the Netherlands in the second one-day international in Rotterdam on Thursday to complete a series victory.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam, the world's top-ranked ODI batsman, scored 57 off 65 balls before Rizwan and Salman led the tourists home in their pursuit of 187 with 16.2 overs to spare.

Dutch seamer Vivian Kingma removed openers Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq cheaply as Pakistan stuttered early, but Azam and Rizwan steadied the innings before Salman finished it off by blasting his first ODI fifty.

Zaman, who made 109 in the first ODI, was caught and bowled by Kingma for three and Imam was lured into a loose drive four balls later to reduce Pakistan to 11-2.

Azam passed fifty for the 38th time in 89 ODI innings but top-edged off-spinner Aryan Dutt to Bas de Leede at midwicket, ending an 88-run stand with wicketkeeper Rizwan.



Rizwan adopted a relatively cautious approach as he compiled 69 off 82 deliveries, in contrast to the fireworks delivered by Salman, who clubbed the final ball of the match for six to finish 50 not out in just his second ODI.

Haris Rauf and Mohammad Nawaz took three wickets apiece to dismiss the Netherlands for 186 in the second of a three-match series.

De Leede (89) and Tom Cooper (66) struck battling half-centuries to lift the Dutch from 8-3 but only one batsman

passed double figures for the hosts.

Naseem Shah removed Vikramjit Singh in the second over as the teenage opener edged behind and Max O'Dowd followed when he drove Rauf straight to Azam at mid-off.

The 38-year-old Wesley Barresi was bowled by Naseem for three, two days after scoring just two in his first international innings since 2019.

De Leede and Cooper set about restoring order and put on 109 for the fourth wicket.

Windies beat NZ by 5 wickets in first ODI



AP ■ BRIDGETOWN

Shamarh Brooks scored 79 and shared a 75-run partnership with captain Nicholas Pooran which guided the West Indies to a five-wicket win over top-ranked New Zealand in the series-opening ODI.

Brooks reached his fourth ODI half century from 58 balls and had faced 91 deliveries when he was out in the 34th over with the West Indies closing on New Zealand's inadequate total of

190.

Jason Holder (13) and Jermaine Blackwood (12) were at the crease when the home team reached its target with 11 overs to spare.

Earlier, Akeal Hossain took 3-28 and Alzarri Joseph returned 3-36 as the West Indies bowled out New Zealand for 190 in 45.2 overs after choosing to bowl in the first of three ODIs at the Kensington Oval.

It was the first time New Zealand has been dismissed

in a 50-over match since March 2020.

"Watching the Kiwis bat I realized it was a bit tough going early for them," Brooks said in a television interview. "I guess credit must go to our bowlers for reducing them to a score of 190."

"I was just focused on going out there, getting some partnerships and getting that total off."

Rain breaks punctuated the West Indies innings but couldn't disturb the steady momentum set by Brooks. The first came in the opening over of the innings and the second in the 29th when the West Indies were only 42 runs from victory. At that point the West Indies already were well ahead of a winning total under the Duckworth-Lewis system.

Pooran was out for 28 immediately after the second rain break but Brooks retained a strong guiding hand on the run chase.

The second game will be played Friday at the same venue.



Ireland secure T20I series win vs Afg

AP ■ BELFAST

George Dockrell edged Ireland to a T20I series victory over Afghanistan in a tense conclusion to a rain-affected decider in Belfast.

Dockrell hit the decisive run as the home side clinched a 3-2 win by seven wickets after reaching a reduced target of 56 with two balls of their seven allotted overs to spare.

Having won the toss and put the Afghans in, Ireland got off to a good start when Mark Adair removed openers Hazratullah Zazai, who had dispatched the two previous balls to the boundary, and Rahmanullah Gurbaz in his first over. When Adair had Ibrahim Zadran caught by Barry McCarthy, he had 3-16 and the tourists had been reduced to 26

for three inside four overs.

Usman Ghani steadied the ship, but Josh Little had Najibullah Zadran and Mohammad Nabi caught behind by Lorcan Tucker off successive deliveries in his second spell, but with Ghani unbeaten on 44 and his side having reached 95 for five from 15 overs, rain intervened.

Paul Stirling needed just five runs to reach 3,000 in T20Is as Ireland's reply got under way, and he made it within three balls, cutting Naveen ul Haq for four off the first and taking a single from the third. Fellow opener Andrew Balbirnie was trapped in front for nine attempting to sweep Mujeeb Ur Rahman with the score on 17, Mujeeb had Stirling caught at deep midwicket for 16 to give his side hope, and Tucker soon followed for 14.

Neeraj in list of Diamond League Meeting competitors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who pulled out of the recent Commonwealth Games due to a minor injury, figured in the list of competitors for the Lausanne Diamond League Meeting on August 26.

But he is yet to take a call on his participation in the prestigious competition.

The 24-year-old had missed the Birmingham CWG due to a "minor" groin strain he suffered while winning a historic silver in the World Championships in Eugene, USA last month. He was advised one-month rest.

"Neeraj is working on his rehabilitation and his team will take a call about the Lausanne Diamond League closer to the event," said a source.

Birmingham Commonwealth Games silver medallist Avinash Sable figured in the men's 3000m steeplechase event.



Enthralling first half, mind-numbing second half

K. RAMYA SREE

Highway is touted to be an enthralling suspense crime thriller that has Anand Deverakonda playing the lead role, Malayalam actress Manasa Radhakrishnan playing his love interest, *Paatal Lok* famed Abhishek Bannerjee playing the psycho killer, and Saiyami Kher playing a police officer. The film is bankrolled by Venkat Talari, and the music of the film has been composed by Simon K King. The plot of the film is that there is a psycho killer (Abhishek Bannerjee) who is being hunted by the police, yet he is on a killing spree

and roams scot-free. The film is all about how Vishnu (Anand Deverakonda) gets involved in this hunt. The film begins with the serial killings of a man, played by Abhishek Bannerjee, who holds a grudge against women and goes on a killing spree. The reason for this will be revealed during the climax shot. Anand Deverakonda plays a still photographer. His story explores while he is on his way to Bengaluru to cover an event, where en route he meets a girl who is naive and is travelling to meet her father, whom she's never seen. Simultaneously, there are other scenes where Saiyami, along with her assistant, will be travelling all over the city and

outskirts in search of the killer, leaving all their other work. It's a simple, clean story, but somewhat clichéd as you can guess what's going to happen next, including the climax. There are no twists and turns that a thriller film like this needs. And yes, as usual, logic also goes for a toss. The first half of the film was truly engaging, while the second half was a damp squib. The slow-pace in the second half leaves you a little bored for sure, as it has no interesting elements except for hunting the killer and saving the heroine. While they are surely capable of doing more, everyone delivered mediocre performances. However, Manasa and

Abhishek's stints will be remembered. One thing we loved the most about this film is its high technical values and picturesque locations that are extremely beautiful and eye-pleasing. Locations in this film deserve a special mention. They can be your next holiday destinations. Speaking of music, it is not something that one would remember by the end of the film. Over all, this is a one-time watch for those who like thriller films. A better screenplay and direction could have made Highway a memorable film. Over all, this is a one-time watch for those who like thriller films. A better screenplay, direction, could make Highway a memorable film.



Lakshmi Manchu makes it to 100 most beautiful faces global list

Of late, South Indian film personalities have been going places. Now, popular actor, producer, and host Lakshmi Manchu has been nominated in the '100 Most Beautiful Faces List' by TC Candler.

The list includes personalities from all around the world, covering over 40 countries having actors, TV personalities, internet sensations, K-pop artists, etc. The list is more inclusive and diverse.

The '100 Most Beautiful Faces List' is released by TC Candler and The Independent Critics annually since 1990 and is an internet sensation.

This global list includes artists like Ryan Reynolds, Beyonce, Tom Hardy, Shawn Mendes, Sebastian Stan, Taylor Swift, Mahira Khan, Ram Charan, Manushi Chhillar and many

more. Lakshmi Manchu has had a successful career as an actor and producer across industries. Lakshmi is currently dabbling in multiple projects including a Telugu film where she is playing a cop. She is also working with her father Mohan Babu as an actor-producer in *Agninakshathram*. She is now all set to make her big Malayam debut with superstar Mohanlal.

Apart from being an actor-producer Lakshmi has been a philanthropist and has lent her support to many organisations. Her organisation 'Teach For Change' works for the betterment of the education for children. Lakshmi has also enjoyed a successful stint as a host with shows such as *Coming to Life with Lakshmi Manchu* and *Aha Bhojanambu*.

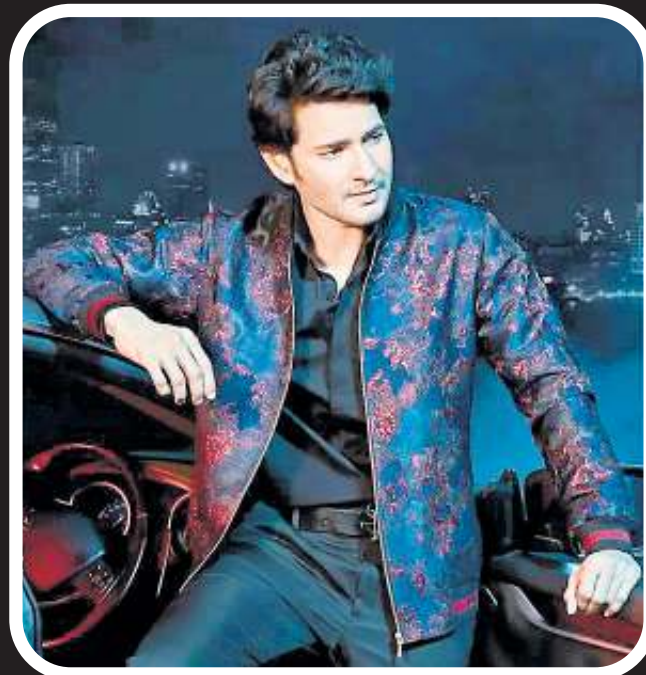
Maahesh Babu, Trivikram's SSMB28 locks release date

Haarika and Hassine Creations' *SSMB28*, headlined by Superstar Maahesh Babu and directed by filmmaker Trivikram, is one of the most anticipated projects by movie buffs and fans alike. Actress Pooja Hegde plays the female lead in the film bankrolled by leading producer S. Radha Krishna (China Babu). Much to the delight of film enthusiasts, the makers of the film came up with an update today.

It's official that *#SSMB28* will hit theatres across the globe on April 28, 2023. It's interesting that the 28th film in Maahesh Babu's career will be released on a date with the same number in April 2023. A special video was unveiled by the production house, confirming the news. The film will go on

sale soon. The pre-production formalities of the much-awaited project are progressing at a brisk pace. Trivikram is churning out a script that'll appeal to audiences across all age groups and tastes. The *#SSMB28* will be edited by national award-winning technician Navin Nooli, with art director AS Prakash, national award-winning music director Thaman, and cinematographer PS Vinod also on the team.

Maahesh Babu and Trivikram's earlier collaborations, *Athadu* and *Khaleja*, are celebrated among crowds even today, and expectations are running high for *#SSMB28*, which is slated to be a wholesome entertainer. The team will announce more details about the project shortly.



Telugu movie *Sita Ramam* starring Dulquer Salmaan, is making news for more reasons than one. Apart from putting up a good performance at the box office, the movie is also receiving critical acclaim from different quarters.

Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu who saw the movie on Wednesday was so impressed that he took to social media to express his thoughts.

"Watched the movie *Sita Ramam*. Good acting performances combined with technical expertise have come together to manifest in

sheer visual poetry on screen. Unlike routine love stories, this movie has a brave soldier who leads to a plethora of emotions. A must-watch movie for everyone," Naidu tweeted in Telugu.

Naidu's obvious enjoyment of the movie, brings to mind former Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani who was known to relish movies in his heydays.

"It's after a long time that I have had the pleasure of watching a good movie thanks to *Sita Ramam*," Naidu tweeted in Telugu. He also complimented director Hanu Raghavapudi, produc-

er Aswini Dutt and his Swapna Movie Makers team for coming out with a movie devoid of disturbing noises, and full of eye-pleasing visuals. *Sita Ramam* which released on August 5, has come as a relief to Tollywood which has been reeling under a series of box office disasters in recent



times. The romantic drama set against the backdrop of war follows the love story between a soldier played by Dulquer Salmaan and his lady love, played by Mrunal Thakur. Rashmika Mandanna plays the very significant role of Afreen. The story spans the period between the sixties and eighties.



Sudheer Babu collabs with Mohanakrishna

Sudheer Babu's upcoming collaboration with Mohanakrishna Indraganti is titled *Aa Ammayi Gurinchi Meeku Cheppali*. The rom-com is heading to theatres on September 16. An event was held on Wednesday in Hyderabad to launch a song from the movie.

Speaking about the movie, actor Sudheer Babu said, "Indraganti garu is a director who always does justice to the subject he is dealing with. I am always happy to work with him. Krithi Shetty has got an awesome role in this movie.



If *Uppena* gave her many offers, this film is going to further cement her position in Tollywood. This is my fourth film with cinematographer

PG Vinda. Vivek Sagar's wonderful music is going to impress the audience. In terms of visual richness, this one is on par with Mahesh

Babu's movies. Besides being a love story, this film is a family drama."

Director Indraganti praised Vivek Sagar's musical talent. He also lauded Dinesh's choreography for the song *Meere Hero Laa*. The *Sammohanam* and V director also thanked Mythri Movie Makers for backing the movie. Art director Sahi Suresh also came in for mention.

Director Hanu Raghavapudi, who was a guest, said that he is a fan of Indraganti's movie sensibilities. "I like his *Grahanam* a lot," the *Sita Ramam* director added.

Karthikeya 2: Post Pro's first Pan-India project is a win

From dubbing to other crucial crafts, Post Pro is becoming a preferred destination for filmmakers.

Karthikeya 2 is its first pan-India project. It's at this studio that the Nikhil Siddhartha-starrer was dubbed in all languages simultaneously. This is a

first in Hyderabad. Dubbing artists and writers from other languages were brought to the city to carry out hassle-free post-production in a time-bound manner. Everything was done to make it easy for the producers in a cost-effective and convenient way.

Vasanth, the founder of Post Pro, has thanked the film's producers TG Vishwa Prasad, Vivek Kuchibotla and Abhishek Agarwal, besides director Chandoo Mondeti, for keeping faith in his company. The company is now handling a few huge projects.



Yash sets a new benchmark while encouraging the youths

The stardom of Rocking Star Yash has been constantly touching new skies with time.

The star has not only given a whole new definition of stardom but he also cemented his name on the list of favorite superstars of the audience which has just taken to the next level post the release of *KGF Chapter 2*.

The success of the second chapter of *KGF* is well explained with its release itself when the film booked the biggest opening at the box office. Recently while celebrating 75th Independence Day, Rocking Star Yash was seen with Karnataka Chief Minister at a Youth Festival organized by the university of Mysuru as part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.

Moreover, the rise of Yash's stardom was seen when he attended the opening of 'Yuvajana



Mahotsava' (Youth Festival) at the Maharaja College Grounds in Mysore.

The actor was seen having a chat with the Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai, who was present there to inaugurate the

event. The actor also gave a speech to the students where he spoke about his student life and how he feels immense love to interact with the students of this generation. The actor also motivated the students

about fine-tuning little things in life which lead to bigger results. The superstar also mentioned the importance of self-confidence and how he takes immense pride in the Kannada film industry for the kind of respect it is garnering all across the nation and worldwide. Such speech from the star added an extra star to his raging stardom which shows he deserves it all where he is today.

Other than this, the star is also entitled widely as Rocky Bhai all around the corners post the release of his blockbuster, *KGF*. The film set a benchmark with its success when it crossed the figure of 900 Cr. In the domestic market and doing business of around 27 million dollars in the International market. While other than this, even on the OTT platform the film is also earning a lot of love from the masses.